

## SECTION VII

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

#### THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

##### Recommendations to the 2021 Annual Conference

Each and every disciple of Christ is called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank all United Methodists in South Carolina for their generosity in 2020. We achieved a 87.16% collection rate on apportionments. We praise God for our churches and the resiliency they have shown during the pandemic. We celebrate the Rock Hill district for collecting the highest percentage at 97.54%. The largest percentage point increase was in the Orangeburg district at 2.04.

The biennial stewardship summit is scheduled for March 19, 2022. A location and speaker will be announced at a later date.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference for calendar year 2022. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and faithful reflection. The Council is aware that the target is to have a budget at or around 15% of total Conference average net funds. It is aware that this percentage had been creeping higher and we are making progress reversing this trend.

The recommended budget for 2022 is reduced by \$529,913 and is estimated to be 13.9% of average net funds. The Council anticipated having a more significant reduction in the total budget brought about by reduced apportionments from the General Church. However, because General Conference 2020 is postponed to 2022, we continue to be held to the apportionment formulas and budgets passed at General Conference 2016. It is expected that if the next General Conference passes the apportionment formula changes and reduced budgets, the apportionments for the remainder of the quadrennium will be adjusted for the excess amount calculated for 2021 and 2022.

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

May God continue to bless and guide all the ministries of our beloved SC Annual Conference!  
*The Reverend Mitch Houston, President, Council on Finance and Administration*

##### Report No. 1

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2022 will be set at \$104,545, a 1.5% increase. (DS compensation for 2020 was \$103,000 and for 2021 is \$103,000.)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% (\$15,682) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2022 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. 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 requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2022 will be as follows:

District	2020 Membership	Amount
Anderson	13,418	2,800
Charleston	22,039	3,200
Columbia	33,367	4,300
Florence	15,743	2,800
Greenville	20,478	3,000
Greenwood	13,933	2,800
Hartsville	16,270	2,800
Marion	18,538	2,900
Orangeburg	15,875	2,800
Rock Hill	15,785	2,800
Spartanburg	13,756	2,800
Walterboro	13,032	2,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>212,234</b>	<b>35,800</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	.011701
Charleston	25,000	40,000	65,000	.006026
Columbia	25,000	35,000	60,000	.003084
Florence	30,000	40,000	70,000	.008928
Greenville	30,000	35,000	65,000	.004792
Greenwood	40,000	40,000	80,000	.010634
Hartsville	40,000	40,000	80,000	.010069
Marion	10,000	35,000	45,000	.004200
Orangeburg	25,000	30,000	55,000	.008111
Rock Hill	15,000	35,000	50,000	.006428
Spartanburg	35,000	25,000	60,000	.007444
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.010885
<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 16, 2022
  - Golden Cross Sunday – February 6, 2022
  - UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – March 27, 2022
  - Native American Awareness Sunday – May 1, 2022
  - Peace with Justice Sunday – June 19, 2022
  - Epworth Children's Home
    - Mothers' Day – May 8, 2022
    - Work Day – September 11, 2022
    - Church school offering first Sunday each month
  - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 7, 2022
  - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 18, 2022 (youth offering)
  - World Communion Sunday – October 2, 2022
  - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 6, 2022
  - United Methodist Student Day – November 27, 2022
- 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 2022 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2020 and 2019. 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 2019 and 2020.
  - 8) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2

reports for use in future year calculations by providing written explanation of the correction to the Treasurer.

- 9) Total apportionment funding for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 11, Report No. 9) is reduced to reflect changes in funding after Methodist Oaks is sold to a for-profit entity. Methodist Oaks requested the Conference continue assistance for four individuals in residence there. Based on the monthly assistance requested and the life-expectancy of the individuals, an expected need has been projected. For 2022, the apportionment request and the allocation of funds among the participating homes remains the same as in 2021. The recommended allocations are:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</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 2022, exclusive of a designated housing allowance, as allocated for utilities and maintenance ("utilities exclusion"), not including maid service. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- 16) That local churches of the conference incorporate. An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org). After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

### Report No. 3

As noted in our report to the 2009 Annual Conference, economic uncertainties led to the reduction in apportioned budgets for the Senior Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund. The trend of reducing the budgets for these significant ministries continues. In an effort to increase the funds available for these ministries without adding to the apportionment budget, the voluntary asking Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes was increased from \$600,284 for 2017 to \$625,000 for 2018. Council recommends the 2022 Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes voluntary asking remain at \$625,000 with adjustments to how the funds are allocated (see below). We ask churches with sufficient resources to continue to support the Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

	<b>2021 actual</b>	<b>2022 recommendation</b>	<b>Notes for 2022</b>
Senior Scholarship Fund	67%	67%	One-third to each: Claflin 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 Initiative
  - 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 Initiative
  - 5) no investment may exceed the then-current limit on FDIC or FSLIC insurance without approval of CF&A, with the exceptions of: the primary checking account(s); collateralized certificates; or funds on deposit with The United Methodist Development Fund, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or 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 2020 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2022 apportionments.

<b>District</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2020</b>
Anderson	7,264,313	Hartsville	7,945,572
Charleston	10,786,548	Marion	10,715,517
Columbia	19,452,570	Orangeburg	6,781,054
Florence	7,840,171	Rock Hill	7,778,204
Greenville	13,564,766	Spartanburg	8,060,375
Greenwood	7,522,987	Walterboro	5,971,662
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>113,683,739</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:

Fund	Approved for 2021	Requested for 2022	Recommended for 2022	% Change
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	17,063	17,063	17,063	0.0%
3 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
4 Director of Administrative Services Office	776,017	770,989	770,989	-0.6%
5 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
6 Conference Expense Fund	244,855	245,689	245,689	0.3%
7 Administrative Committees	4,900	4,900	4,900	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	44,287	44,287	44,287	0.0%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	36,055	36,858	36,858	2.2%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	254,596	257,070	257,070	1.0%
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>\$ 1,614,348</b>	<b>\$ 1,613,431</b>	<b>\$ 1,613,431</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>

**Report No. 8**

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

Fund	Approved for 2021	Requested for 2022	Recommended for 2022	% 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>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-100.0% *</b>
<b>4. Operations (100% guaranteed)</b>	<b>\$ 1,624,116</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,453</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,356</b>	<b>-7.1% *</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>\$ 119,700</b>	<b>\$ 113,715</b>	<b>\$ 113,715</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>\$ 2,249,326</b>	<b>\$ 2,182,678</b>	<b>\$ 2,097,581</b>	<b>-6.7%</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	12,000	12,937	12,937	7.8%
4. Committee on Episcopacy	2,300	3,000	3,000	30.4%
5. Episcopal Residence	23,000	23,000	23,000	0.0%
6. Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract	27,583	28,686	28,686	4.0%
7. Ordained Ministry				
a) Operations	90,000	85,000	85,000	-5.6%
b) Career Planning Programs	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>\$ 209,383</b>	<b>\$ 207,123</b>	<b>\$ 207,123</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$ 2,458,709</b>	<b>\$ 2,389,801</b>	<b>\$ 2,304,704</b>	<b>-6.3%</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.

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Approved for 2021</b>	<b>Requested for 2022</b>	<b>Recommended for 2022</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Conference Apportionments:</b>				
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,458,709	2,389,801	2,304,704	-6.3%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,400,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-28.6%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,236,000	1,254,540	1,254,540	1.5%
4 Equitable Compensation	565,000	565,000	535,000	-5.3% *
5 District Administration	819,000	819,000	819,000	0.0%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,614,348	1,613,431	1,613,431	-0.1%
7 Congregational Development	946,184	948,724	948,724	0.3%
8 Campus Ministry	650,595	655,023	655,023	0.7%
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,000,000	1,000,000	950,000	-5.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	618,967	618,967	588,018	-5.0%
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>12,028,603</b>	<b>11,584,286</b>	<b>11,388,240</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>
<b>General Church and Jurisdiction Apportionments:</b>				
13 World Service **	2,268,426	2,326,903	2,326,903	2.6%
14 Episcopal Fund **	671,773	689,091	689,091	2.6%
15 General Conference Administration **	269,357	276,301	276,301	2.6%
16 Ministerial Education **	766,169	785,920	785,920	2.6%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	59,920	61,465	61,465	2.6%
18 Black College **	305,618	313,496	313,496	2.6%
19 Africa University**	68,396	70,159	70,159	2.6%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	32,554	29,328	29,328	-9.9%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 4,442,213</b>	<b>\$ 4,552,663</b>	<b>\$ 4,552,663</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 16,470,816</b>	<b>\$ 16,136,949</b>	<b>\$ 15,940,903</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>
Average Net Funds for Apportionments	<b>\$115,519,710</b>	<b>\$113,683,739</b>	<b>\$113,683,739</b>	
Budget as percentage of Average Net Funds	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	
Asking: Extra Mile (reference Report No. 3)	625,000	625,000	625,000	

\* 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**

*So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all,  
and especially for those of the family of faith. – Galatians 6:10*

When the Conference Connectional Ministries (CCM) of the South Carolina Conference met February 22, 2020, to prepare for the 2020 Annual Conference, it was a bittersweet occasion. We were coming to the close of a quadrennium. Many members of CCM would be rotating off at the end of the cycle – some after serving eight years. We made plans to welcome and orient a new class of CCM servants, and took a moment to acknowledge the work of those who were stepping away. The Rev. Kathy James, who had served as our Director of Connectional Ministries for eight years, also was among those to whom we said a fond farewell as she transitioned to her work at Epworth Children's Home.

Yes, it was a bittersweet occasion – but we also anxiously anticipated the budding of a new season in the life of Connectional Ministries.

Less than a month after our meeting, though, the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread across our state and local communities. The pandemic affected CCM in the same way it affected all other areas of our lives. CCM had just begun the process of transitioning leadership from one quadrennium to another, and the uncertainty and unfamiliarity of these days left me, our executive committee, and our conference staff a bit perplexed.

I want to thank the Rev. Jim Arant for his leadership through this uncharted time, serving as CCM's interim director from March through August 2020. The work of our CCM staff, including our congregational specialists, also must be acknowledged. The commitment of these individuals to our local churches and to the Annual Conference brought much-needed stability to a less-than-stable season of life.

The Rev. Millie Nelson Smith began her service as our director of Connectional Ministries in September 2020 – and what a blessing she is to our work! She brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to this work. Combined with her love for Christ, the church, and the work of Connectional Ministries, she has steered us through this moment in time.

After what seemed like the longest year many of us have felt in quite some time, CCM met again on February 20, 2021. This time we gathered through Zoom. The question lingering before us: "What do we do now? What do we do during a time of uncertainty?"

As we always do, we began our time together by centering on scripture. We read from Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, focusing on Galatians 6:7-10:

*Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

This passage provided Spirit-led direction for our question of identity – "Who are we if we are uncertain of what we are called to do or how to do it?" Paul's words are powerful for this time, at least for CCM, because they remind us why we have been brought together to serve in the name of Jesus Christ – we have been brought together to bring glory to God, not to ourselves.

As we move forward with the work of CCM during still-uncertain times, we refocus our hearts and minds on why we have come together to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. We strive to glorify God!

Paul's writing, particularly in Verse 10, enabled us to identify our blessing: "So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." God brought us together to bring glory to God and – by working for the good of all, especially for the family of faith – we are blessed to glorify God.

As CCM steps into a new season of life, I am excited to see how this work continues to develop. I am excited for all of us to witness God working powerfully through our Annual Conference and CCM.

At our February 2021 meeting, Connectional Ministries adopted "The Four Priorities" developed through the collective work of Bishop Holston's leadership teams. These priorities further clarify the hopes and prayers at the heart of our Annual Conference – and our local churches. What a gift amid a time of uncertainty! The Four Priorities will help CCM engage in work that will ultimately serve to glorify our Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ, through the strength and power of the Holy Spirit!

E. Rossiter Chellis, Convener  
March 1, 2021

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

- In collaboration with Bishop Holston and The Cabinet, Connectional Ministries helped develop "Our Response to Racism." This important resource provides groups within the South Carolina Conference tools through which they can learn about the history of racism in our nation, how to listen and hear often-difficult personal stories, and how to lead discussions that will form and strengthen relationships. Details: [umcsc.org/endoracism](http://umcsc.org/endoracism).
- Our Congregational Specialists team created a new chapter for the Forward Focus process: "Moving Forward After COVID-19." This resource is appropriate for use by churches that already have gone through Forward Focus, and presents an opening for churches that have not gone through Forward Focus to begin that process. Details: [umcsc.org/forwardfocus](http://umcsc.org/forwardfocus).
- After AC2020 adopted a resolution calling for a 36 percent cap on interest rates for payday and title loans in South Carolina, the Advocacy Area began working with other nonprofit groups to encourage the S.C. General Assembly enact such a law. Included in this work is the creation of a video to highlight how the poor are affected by predatory lending practices. Ethnic Local Church Concerns provided grants to three ethnic local churches and two ELCC scholarships – totaling nearly \$15,000 – and provided recorded training from The Summit on the Black Church for each black church in the conference.
- The Discipleship Area added a third season to the "Come, Follow Me" discipleship sermon/discussion guide series: "Grace in the Life of a Disciple" (Advent). A fourth season is in the works, designed for use this summer. Details: [umcsc.org/comefollowme](http://umcsc.org/comefollowme). South Carolina Ministries With Young People launched new "Coaching Cohorts," which offer youth workers the chance to participate in youth ministry training and personal and

corporate spiritual reflection. Details: scmyp.org. SCMYP also took Revolution 2021 online, reaching hundreds of youth from 75 churches across the conference with the theme “Mosaic.” Wesley Foundations also found creative ways to connect virtually in ministry with the college students they serve.

- The Lay Leadership Area centered its efforts on becoming more aware of and sensitive to the needs of lay leadership at the district and local church levels. Lay leaders from across the conference met several times virtually with Bishop Holston, helping him share information and encourage conversations in the districts. We also created the Lay Leadership Advisory Committee, a broad-based group of laity from across the conference who provide input and support to the conference lay leader.
- The Outreach Area awarded grants totaling nearly \$33,000 to assist local churches through our Golden Cross, Hunger, and Health and Welfare ministries. It also supported the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission with a \$2,500 donation, and authorized extensions to congregations that were not able to complete Belin Trust-funded projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

The primary objective for Connectional Ministries in the coming year will be to organize our work around The Four Priorities:

- Developing Leaders
- Engaging Our Communities
- Connecting With and Growing Disciples
- Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities and Missional Possibilities

Our initial conversations generated numerous potential actions that will help us better center our work on The Four Priorities, including:

- Create a Lay Academy in the South Carolina Conference
- Acknowledge the theological and sociological meaning of Jubilee in the life of the Annual Conference
- Create a sharing hub for ideas/resources/ministries for ministry leaders
- Offer quarterly discipleship training across the conference
- Connecting intentionally with local church lay leaders
- Provide tutorials to grow our understanding of available resources
- Educate local churches about what ministry grants are available and how to apply for them
- Create an Outreach page at umcsc.org with ideas local churches can implement to help them effectively engage their communities

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

Connectional Ministries voted unanimously to recommend that the South Carolina Annual Conference adopt The Four Priorities as the focus of its work moving forward.

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

As we navigated multiple seasons of change in our church and our communities over the past few years, we now know that God was preparing us for a most critical time to come – the COVID-19 pandemic that has dominated our lives for more than a year.

Moving forward, centering our work on The Four Priorities will make a difference in our churches. In the lives of the members of our congregations. In the communities we serve. It will help us leverage what we have learned through this trial to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**REPORT 2 – PART 1  
SPECIAL DAYS for 2022**

**A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR) .....	January 16
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC) .....	January 23
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC) .....	January 16-23
Black History Month .....	February 2022
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM) .....	February 13
Women’s History Month.....	March 2022
World Day of Prayer.....	March 4
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM) .....	March 13
UMCOR Sunday .....	March 13
Holy Week .....	April 10-16

Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM).....	April 17
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month .....	May 2022
Christian Home Month (GBOD) .....	May 2022
Older Adult Recognition Day (any day in May)	
National Day of Prayer.....	May 5
Aldersgate Day/Heritage Sunday (Archives and History) .....	May 22
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS).....	May 29
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM).....	Sept. 15-Oct.15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR).....	October 2
Children’s Sabbath: A National Observance .....	October 16
Laity Sunday (GBOD).....	October 16
Reformation Day.....	October 30
Native American Heritage Month .....	November 2022
All Saints Sunday.....	November 6
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM).....	November 13
National Bible Week .....	November 20-27
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM) .....	November 27
World AIDS Day.....	December 1

**B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS**

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday.....	March 6
Mother’s Day for Epworth Children’s Home.....	May 8
Advocate Awareness Sunday .....	May 15
United Methodist Men’s Day .....	June 5
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday.....	August 7
Call to Ministry Sunday .....	August 14
Work Day for Epworth Children’s Home.....	September 11
Youth Service Fund Sunday .....	September 18
Advance Special Ministries Sunday .....	November 6

**REPORT 2 – PART 2  
RECOMMENDED ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES for 2022**

**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, Bethel United Methodist Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Level Green United Methodist Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Shiloh United Methodist Church, Smyrna United Methodist Church, Saint Michael United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership less than 2,500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a

vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission, and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Bethlehem Community Center – Columbia**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Bethlehem Center Spartanburg**

The Bethlehem Center is a 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. Their goal was to establish a collaborative method of administering assistance to those in need, while also preventing duplication of services. Since then TCM has grown to encompass congregations of all faiths, over 120 partnering agencies, and countless civic and social organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals. We believe in the honor of all work, we show individuals the respect they deserve.

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

**Interfaith Community Services**

Interfaith Community Services 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 daycare 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 daycare 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 daycare 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 daycare businesses. We are the only faith-based family home daycare sponsor organization in SC.

**Killingsworth**

As a ministry of the United Methodist Church Killingsworth provides transitional housing to adult women who are going through significant life changes. In 1947 Corrie Killingsworth's vision of a safe, supportive Christian home for young women leaving home for the first time became a reality. In 1972 our focus shifted to women who had experienced significant

life crises and were preparing to transition back into the community as more stable, responsible citizens.

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

#### **Jubilee Academy**

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

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

There is nothing more critical to a community's long-term sustainability 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 strength 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 Solihun Institute. The Solihun Institute accredits counseling centers, which have a theological purpose, offer basic counseling services, utilize a holistic perspective, and require staff to have professional credentials. The Institute's mission is to help affiliated centers provide team-oriented, cost-efficient counseling, education, and consultation, which emphasize the interrelatedness of mind, body, spirit, and community.

#### **The Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT (General Instruction for Tomorrow)**

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

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

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

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

### **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission- South Carolina UMVIM-SC**

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

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

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

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

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

UMVIM-SC meets the first Tuesday of each month. (For the time being, Due to Covid 19, UMVIMSC is meeting virtually via Zoom. If you would like to be added to our email list and receive reminders and the Zoom Login information, please contact Cathy Trevino, UMVIMSC Secretary, at [umvimsec@gmail.com](mailto:umvimsec@gmail.com).) All are invited to attend even if you have not participated in UMVIM before.

### **United Ministries of Greenville**

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) gently 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:**

Continuing the work of Lay Leadership in the midst of a pandemic was hard but we did it! We made every effort to move forward as we know the work of making disciples never slows down. We learned Zoom, used it in ways we never knew were possible and achieved success in keeping groups connected.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

## New District Lay Leaders:

- Katrina Patton – Charleston District
- Michael Jennings – Columbia District
- Tracy Johnson – Florence District
- Chandra Dillard – Greenville District
- Sarah Horace-Johnson – Hartsville District
- Michael Toms – Marion District
- Sheila Shanklin – Orangeburg District
- Karen Kendo – Walterboro District

## District Lay Leaders continuing for four more years:

- Jeff Fogle – Anderson District
- Tony Watson – Greenwood District
- Stacey Newlon – Rock Hill District
- Rick Hammett – Spartanburg District

After the 2020 Annual Conference, we spent time orienting the new District Lay Leaders (DLLs) to their roles and getting to know one another better. We have shared personal stories and ideas as a way to become more sensitive to the needs of the districts. At monthly meetings, we discussed and reviewed matters such as the DLL job description, encouraged them to make contact with local church lay leaders in their districts, and discussed creative ideas for supporting local churches.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

We have met several times with Bishop Holston through virtual retreats and other meetings. The United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men and Lay Servant Ministries groups all have been together several times with Bishop Holston as we work to get more information and conversations back in the districts.

Now, we are working to get our laity educated on and engaged with the Four Priorities:

- Developing Leaders
- Engaging Our Communities
- Connecting With and Growing Disciples
- Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities and Missional Possibilities

Another addition to Lay Leadership in 2020 was the creation of the Lay Leadership Advisory Committee. The Conference Lay Leader established this committee to identify and update issues related to the written guidance of Lay Leadership, Lay Leadership nominations, and to serve as counsel to the CLL. It is composed of District Lay Leaders, representatives from UMM and UMW, and at-large and young adult members. It includes representatives from all the major lay-led groups in the Annual Conference.

## The 2021 Lay Leadership Advisory Committee:

- Lisa Fusco – Chairperson, At-Large Laity Representative (Orangeburg District)
- Marlene Spencer – Past President, S.C. UMW (Rock Hill District)
- Herman Lightsey – Past President, S.C. UMM (Columbia District)
- Jeff Fogle – District Lay Leader Representative (Anderson District)
- Tyler Cattenhead – Young Adult Representative (Florence District)
- Sylvia Harris-Greene – Lay Servant Ministry District Director Representative (Columbia District)
- Cassie Watson – At-Large Laity Representative (Charleston District)
- Conference Lay Leader

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

Although it has been a different kind of year, it has been a productive year on many fronts. I am appreciative of the work done by the Conference Lay Leader Nominee Valerie Brooks-Madden, who will become the CLL when the new quadrennium begins. She has been a tremendous asset to me, and I am grateful for her leadership.

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

My thanks also go to Bishop Holston for the time and attention he gives to Lay Leadership, and to the members of the Cabinet and Extended Cabinet for all they do to support the work of Lay Leadership in the districts.

I consider it an honor to serve as your Conference Lay Leader.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader  
conferencelayleader@umcsc.org, 864-350-6600

## LAY LEADERSHIP-LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

### **Purpose:**

Lay Servant Ministries 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 Ministries strive to help disciples become aware of their gifts by offering education to enhance and develop the skills necessary to bring them to fruition. It is an excellent way to assist with achieving the mission of the church.

Key moments from the previous year:

- Although district schools were postponed for a while, many began occurring through Zoom and other online media.
- We held the Virtual LSM Worship Service in which Bishop Holston spoke, along with participation from others.
- Although we could not hold a LSM Luncheon this year, outstanding lay servants were recognized virtually, and awards presented virtually.
- The LSM Academy (Train the Trainer) was virtual and included not only information on teaching adults and classes on individual topics, a "Zoom 101" class was offered by Rev. Cathy Joens, so that our instructors could better prepare to teach classes using zoom.
- We honored our retiring Director, Jackie Jenkins, and thanked her for her service for these past 8 years as Conference Director of LSM.
- We welcomed several new District Directors.
- Excited to continue the Local church Lay Servant, Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker and Certified Lay Minister

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

Objectives for the coming year:

- To continue the great work LSM is already doing.
- To hopefully return to in person training for schools soon, and perhaps to offer hybrid types of classes in the future.
- To develop a Conference Wide Data Base of Lay Servants and the classes completed.
- To incorporate the Four Priorities into the work of LSM.

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

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

Although speaking from the pulpit has always been one important role of the lay servants, many never speak from the pulpit, however they support by:

- Caregiving love and service
- Crisis ministries and hospital visitation, nursing home
- Specialize ministry in their community.

Lay Servant ministries is a great support agent for the local church while helping Christians to claim their spiritual gifts, talents, and skills. Lay Servants are engaged and partnering with Clergy with the goal of making disciples.

### **Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

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

## ALDRSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

### **Purpose:**

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

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

The pandemic had a huge organizational impact. Our homes are licensed like long-term care facilities, and safety was our priority. This included monitoring the frequently changing regulatory guidelines. Our residents' activities and normal routines were halted. Visitation with their loved ones was limited. Yet our dedicated staff stepped up, creating new activities and ways for those entrusted to our care to safely connect with their families.

A work group made progress to recruit representatives within the United Methodist community to join our grassroots coalition. Another work group made progress researching the feasibility of establishing a congregational respite program. The goal would be to provide a short-term break for caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities. A program needs assessment is underway.

While there is no current government funding for additional homes similar to our models, we are hopeful this may change. In the meantime, a work group focused on assessing possible alternative options.

August 9th was designated for churches to collect a special offering for the ministry. We are grateful to the many participating churches. ASNMM 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 our effort 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 organization and the industry within their church communities. They will also share needs related to serving those with developmental disabilities with ASNMM enabling us to become more of an educational resource as our ministry grows.

We are excited about the potential opportunity to start a congregational respite program to provide a short-term break for caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities. Respite helps family caregivers relax, relieve stress and maintain their own physical and emotional well-being.

We look forward to continuing to share ministry updates through our newsletter which we started in 2020.

We also look forward to a successful Aldersgate Sunday on August 8, 2021.

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

1. Vote on our Board of Trustees
2. Vote on Bylaws amendment below

Amend Article Three-Board of Trustees, Section 1, to include:

- C) Honorary Members, maximum of two
- Honorary members shall not be counted for purposes of a quorum and shall not have the right to vote but shall have the right to seat and voice. Honorary members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board for a two-year period.

**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'll be poised to have a greater impact on the lives of adults with special needs and their families.

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

**Narrative:**

**Xavier's Story**

Xavier had a difficult start in life. He received limited life skills training that affected his attendance in school, as well as his learning environment. After hearing about his situation, his aunt moved Xavier in with her. With medical concerns of her own, she worried about his future.

By working through the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, she found Xavier a home at Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. "Since being at Aldersgate, Xavier is more independent," she said. "He has goals and is learning new skills. Knowing he's in a loving home while getting the attention he needs brings me comfort."

Xavier is very polite, respectful and expresses himself through gestures and eye contact. He has great relationships with his housemates and staff. Xavier enjoys all activities and loves to be complimented on his attire.

When you ask Xavier if he likes living at Aldersgate, his answer is always, "Yes!"

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Mathis, Executive Director,  
asnmm-sc@att.net, 843-754-8936  
2021-2022 Executive Committee  
Secretary – Mike Simpson, Treasurer – W.C. Hammett

## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of Epworth Children's 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:**

- I. Epworth Children's Home marked its 125th anniversary of serving children and families with the celebration of the date January 20th, 1896 that the first two children arrived on campus in Columbia. This date kicked off a year long birthday party and thanksgiving observance of the Methodist people in South Carolina who established Epworth Orphanage at the Annual Conference of 1895.
- II. Epworth opened regional hubs in the Greenville and the Spartanburg Districts, and received outstanding leadership support from superintendents, pastors, and church members.
- III. Epworth established a counseling center on the campus of Highland Park UMC in Florence and is in the process of establishing a regional Hub in the Florence District. Excellent leadership and help in that district was received as well.
- IV. Epworth was awarded regional contracts for providing Homebuilders ® services in the Upstate, Midlands, and lower state regions of South Carolina. Homebuilders is a certified Evidence Based program where in-home services are provided to families to both prevent the dissolution of the nuclear family while enabling family members to find resources that help strengthen families for long-term stability.
- V. Epworth's Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing continues to grow in scope and individuals served in spite of Covid-19. The Centers under the Umbrella of the Institute are:
  1. The Early Intervention Center (home based and campus-based programs) serves preschool age children who have developmental delays.

\* see additional key moments in the next section

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

- I. Establish district Hubs in at least two additional districts.
- II. Complete the Every Child is a Miracle campaign during the year 2021. This will enable Epworth to continue to expand God's transformative work through Epworth Children's Home.
- III. Complete the training of employees for the Homebuilders program and establish Homebuilders in three regions of the state.

\* additional key moments

2. The Independent Living Center serves youth 18-23 years of age who are transitioning from being high school graduates to college, job training, or the world of work.
3. The Family Care Center serves mothers who struggle with substance abuse issues and their children to provide a safe environment in order for moms and their children to learn how to create a healthy family life.
4. The Center for Family Engagement recruits, trains, and case manages strong foster parents who provide healthy and nurturing environments for children in DSS custody.
5. The Epworth Counseling Center with locations in Columbia and in Florence, serves individuals and families who present with a variety of situations where licensed clinicians are available to lend aid and comfort.
- VI. Church giving increased for the 14th year in a row in spite of the majority of churches being closed for both Mother's Day and Work Day. The United Methodists of South Carolina responded in a variety of ways to make certain the ministry to children and families did not suffer.

\* see additional key moments in the next section

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

\* additional key moments

- VII. The Industrial and storage building burned because of an electrical malfunction. The supplies for the children who live on campus were consumed by the fire. People rallied all across the state to resupply the campus.
- VIII. The residential population was dramatically reduced when federal judge Richard Gergel issued an order that children should be removed from group homes because of a fear that group care could be a breeding ground for Covid. This turned out not to be the case, but the order continues to be in effect.
- IX. Epworth maintained the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound financial management, and its commitment to accountability, and transparency for the ninth year in a row. The four-star is the highest rating awarded.

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

Epworth is operating in its 125th year of providing quality care and other foundational services for children and families from across South Carolina in a faith-centered environment. Epworth, while continuing to strengthen its traditional residential services, is also investing heavily in preventive and home-based services that help families thrive. Epworth continues to deepen the commitment to help "all the people we can, as well as we can, with all the resources we can gather."

**Narrative:**

An historical moment captured in the Epworth Record in September of 1966 was titled "Preparing for Tomorrow." "Epworth students have already begun their school year. They join the throngs of Dreher High School, Hand Junior High, and Schneider grammar school. Several are away at colleges and universities. School days remind us of the preparation for life in all its meaning and fulfillment. True in the past, true now, true tomorrow – preparation is the necessity of life."

The article goes on to say, "The opening of school means to our children an opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends. The coming of school days means an intensified program of work. But more than these there is the fellowship and the satisfaction and fellowship that comes from the whole experience. In all, the experience of daily living, education, and religion unite in building the foundation for the great day ahead, and our students find in the world that is made possible by those who support Epworth Children's Home an opportunity which might otherwise pass them by."

And so, it has been for 125 years and continues to be, "an investment in childhood's dreams is the true definition of education in its finest."

Respectfully submitted:

John Holler, President/CEO  
jholler@epworthsc.org, 803-256-7394

**THE UNITED METHODIST MANOR**

**Purpose:**

Our mission is to provide an extraordinary Retirement Community that offers an exceptional selection of living options and personalized services. We recognize that aging is a normal process which people experience in different ways. We want to provide a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

For Methodist Manor 2020 has been an extremely challenging year with the COVID-19 virus. Our population of residents are the most vulnerable group of individuals impacted by this pandemic. Our building has been closed and quarantined for roughly 10 months out of the year. This as many of us know has been the most difficult for our residents, the isolations and restrictive visitation from family and friends and even at times fellow residents. For The Manor, it changed the way we delivered services such as dining, activities, socializing, even medical care. Staff had to also learn new ways to perform their jobs under extremely challenging circumstance, but also had to alter their personal lives as to not bring the virus into the building and ultimately our residents.

Despite all of the challenges Covid-19 brought to our campus, residents and staff, we are extremely proud of our record in having one of the lowest cases of Covid-19 among our Residents and Staff in the State of SC.

We have provided Residents Assistance to 3 residents who have resided at The Manor for over 10 years each and as they have gone through our various continuum of levels of care have exhausted their personal funds. Through our Residents Assistance and Benevolence Fund we have been able to provide financial assistance for these residents to continue to live out their lives in their homes at The Manor.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Completions of our 2nd Floor Renovations which will continue to enhance the lifestyle of Residents through amenities and services. This area will contain exercise and movement rooms, art workshop space and gallery to display residents work, Family Life Center with game tables, living room spaces and dining and catering area, enabling multi generations within a Resident's family to spend quality time and have larger spaces for such visits.

Continue to provide Benevolence to any residents that may need financial assistance at any level within our Community.

Add more ministerial opportunities to our Residents population at all the various levels of care. We have over 230 residents campus wide and the needs are many and varied, being

able to recruit additional pastoral personnel and volunteers would assist us in covering all spiritual needs.

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

We humbly ask for continued financial support from the United Methodist Conference to assist us in providing the financial assistance to our Residents Assistance and Benevolence Fund, enabling us to continue to support Residents that may have exhausted their financial resources as many seniors are living longer but often times at higher levels of care requiring and more medical care, treatments and therapy that some residents had prepared for.

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

We are appreciative of the United Methodist Conference of South Carolina for their annual donations to assist in the support of our Residents Financial Assistance and Benevolence Fund. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. We are also seeing our Senior population as a whole live longer than previous generations and tend to need the full continuum of Care; Independent, Home Health, Assisted Living, sometimes Alzheimer's and Dementia Care, and Skilled Health Care that is offered at Methodist Manor

**Narrative:**

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

Respectfully submitted:

Teresa L. Reich (Tabor), President and CEO  
treich@themanorseniorliving.com, 843-644-0700

## 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:**

The Methodist Oaks was impacted by the COVID Pandemic as was the rest of the world. Because of the dedication of staff and volunteers, The Oaks was able to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and continued to provide for the hundreds of seniors served at the main campus, PACE Center and in the community. The pandemic also delayed the sale of The Oaks to The Oaks of Orangeburg for many reasons including slowed regulatory approvals and the generally difficult environment. As of the time of this writing, a closing date has been set for March 31, 2021 to consummate the sale. By the time Annual Conference convenes, it is anticipated that The Oaks of Orangeburg will be the new owners of The Oaks.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

To continue to serve seniors until the sale of The Oaks is completed.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None

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

Although The Oaks will be sold, it will still continue to serve Orangeburg and surrounding communities with new ownership.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

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

## WESLEY COMMONS

**Purpose:**

Master-planned CCRC in Greenwood, South Carolina. Legacy of continuous reinvention creates active lifestyle neighborhoods enhanced by exceptional services and amenities. The finest in hospitality living, wellness, assisted living, skilled nursing, specialized Alzheimer's care, as well as critical therapy/post acute programs. A destination community, Wesley Commons' reputation and market reach attracts consumers from across the US.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

While our nation, state and community were ravaged by the global pandemic; 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 at high alert protocols for an entire year, we have also navigated through the correlating financial impacts related to those safety efforts. While taxing, we are grateful to have traversed through this awful storm and now see the hint of clear skies ahead. As of this writing, our campus vaccination clinics (giving vaccination access to residents and staff) are almost complete. We are very happy with the vaccination levels for our Wesley Commons family and are hopeful about a better 2021.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

As our country moves forward with vaccination distributions for all citizens and incident rates of infection begin to decline, we will look forward to our country regaining some semblance of normalcy. Furthermore, Wesley Commons looks forward to celebrating our 50th year of service in 2021, as we also experience two completely reimagined campus amenities. In conjunction with normalizing our own operations this spring season, we will reopen a completely remodeled Wellness Complex with enhanced experiences for aerobics, yoga, water aerobics, weight training, etc. and we will reopen our community garden that will offer better access to flower and vegetable beds, an interactive, human sized sun dial and a hidden garden for meditation. After the year we have all been through, it is a joy to anticipate such enriching spaces for our wellbeing!

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

We are grateful for the support of the Methodist Conference. The support of the Conference enables Wesley Commons to provide support 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 support 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 you for your continued financial support of those who built our great nation and deserve our fullest attention.

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

We are a grateful and blessed community that continues to fulfill our mission and growth through both, the good and the bad, times. We are only able to do this through God's Grace and our acknowledgment of such. Our employees, residents and greater community 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:**

Respectfully submitted:

David Buckshorn, CEO  
dbuckshorn@wesleycommons.org,  
8642277258

**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:**

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$20M to Clafin, the largest gift in the university's history. Scott's gift will support student success and retention, sustainability, community work-force and economic development.

Clafin and Zoom, a leader in the video communications industry, established a multifaceted foundational program that represents \$1.2M in educational and financial investments. Program components include paid internships, merit and need-based scholarships, curricula development support, faculty and student advisory, support for Clafin's general operating fund, and alumni engagement.

Clafin launched its Center for Social Justice in May 2020. The role of the Center is to: serve as a resource to unite, educate, and advocate against social injustices that impact Clafin, as well as local, national, and global communities; support and engage students, faculty, and staff to be transformational leaders in their communities; develop innovative curriculum, encourage creative expression and thought, and cultivate programs that engage, affirm, and uplift those most impacted by systems of oppression; and expand relationships and partnerships throughout the greater Orangeburg community, the state of South Carolina, and beyond.

U.S. News and World Report ranked Clafin ninth in its 2021 list of the nation's top HBCUs. U.S. News and World Report also ranked Clafin ninth overall among the schools in the Best Regional Colleges in the South ranking.

Clafin was awarded \$525,000 from Gilead Sciences Inc., to support initiatives and programs conducted by the university's Center for Social Justice. Clafin was selected because of its recognition as a high-impact organization that is working to tackle racial inequities affecting Black communities across the United States.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Process of developing new Strategic Plan: Five C's (Cutting Edge Academic Enterprise, Continual Improvement in Student Engagement, Student Success and Technology Infrastructure, Collaborative Economic and Workforce Development, Creative Global Strategies, Consistent Friend-raising and Fundraising.

Launch Master of Science in Nursing (Fall 2021)

Launch Pathway from Prison Program for incarcerated individuals. Clafin will offer bachelor's degree programs in criminal justice, psychology, and organizational management through its partnership with the SC Department of Corrections. Students also will be able to obtain minor and certificate credentials. (Summer 2021)

Clafin's Mass Communications program was selected to participate in NBCU Academy, a new, innovative, multiplatform journalism training and development program for four-year university and community college students coordinated by NBCUniversal. The program will offer on-campus training, online programming, a curated onsite curriculum for hands-on learning experience with world-class NBCU News Group journalists, funding for accredited journalism programs and scholarship opportunities. (Fall 2021)

Clafin will join South Carolina State, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and city and county officials to establish the Regional Orangeburg Innovation Center. The center will be the organizing force for startup companies specializing in technology innovation and other high growth areas in the Orangeburg region. (Fall 2021)

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

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

Support from The United Methodist Church is critical to Clafin'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:**

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, President  
dwarmack@clafin.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 strong liberal arts and professional programs emphasizing service, social justice, and leadership development.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Perhaps the most important accomplishment during the past year was the successful transition to entirely remote learning in March 2020 followed by the successful transition to in-person activities in August 2020. Despite daunting infection numbers across the country and our region, we experienced low numbers of positive test results. Thus, we were able to safely operate in an environment as close to normal as possible, facilitating the best possible situation for our students.

We announced in March that men would be admitted to what had formerly been the women's college beginning the fall semester of 2020. This was a late start for recruiting, but three men enrolled in what is now called the undergraduate day program, making the entire college inclusive of all people. Another important first was the launch of an innovative master's program in trauma-informed education. This program combines social work and education to help professionals build the trust needed to be effective in a world where high percentages of people have experienced some form of trauma. Who could have known when the program was developed and submitted to our accreditor in November 2019, that the entire world would be traumatized by the time of its public launch in June 2020? We filled our first cohort of 50 students and still had a waiting list, which was reflected in the strong enrollment of 38 students in our second cohort that started in January 2021.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Beginning in August, we will have male students living on campus. Our residence life staff thoughtfully developed gender-inclusive policies so that our residence halls will truly be welcoming environments for all of our students. We expect to enroll about 50 men in the undergraduate day program.

During the summer of 2020, the campus community came together to develop a shared vision: "Columbia College empowers our students to change the world with Courage for Innovation, Commitment to Social Justice, Confidence through Service, and Competence in Leadership." We are completing a strategic plan to highlight top priorities for implementing that vision. Planning work will be completed later this year and making progress on the top priorities will begin immediately.

One important activity will be to finalize our institutional self-study report for our decennial reaffirmation of accreditation. A key dimension of that work is to define a "quality enhancement plan" (QEP) that is designed to improve the environment for student learning. Our QEP topic is "streamlining and integrating the student experience for holistic development." This topic reflects the growth in the scope of program offerings during the past decade, as the college has moved from a primarily residential and traditional undergraduate school to a comprehensive institution both in scope of programs and in modes of delivery.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None

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

Columbia College is proud of our historic and ongoing affiliation with the United Methodist Church. We continue to emphasize service, social justice, and leadership development as part of our holistic approach to educating students. Our students thrive in a setting that values each of them as unique individuals.

As the college prepares for the future, it remains responsive to the needs of the community and to the dynamic environment in higher education. We are an important asset for equipping students who will add value to our campus, the community, the region, and the world.

**Narrative:**

Our focus is to help students develop in multiple dimensions. Heather Woolard is a senior business major who exemplifies our approach. She was a finalist in the 2020 SC Innovates Inaugural Statewide Pitch Competition. There were 77 entries from 16 schools across the state and she excelled as one of the top 15. Beyond the classroom and the entrepreneurial arena, she is also an important part of our highly successful cross-country and track teams. And importantly for this church-related college, Heather is a person of faith. During her time at Columbia College, she has operated 2FlowersCo, a company whose mission is "to spread the love of God through products that allow women to see their own beauty the way our Heavenly Father does." After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Christian Education.

Respectfully submitted:

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

**SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE**

**Purpose:**

Spartanburg Methodist College is a two-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 withstood the COVID – 19 pandemic due to the hard work and persistence of our outstanding faculty and staff. The institution provided fully online instruction in the fall of 2020 as well as a hybrid program in the Spring of 2021. Our facilities were refitted to provide the best protection possible for our students and staff, and all members of the campus community followed our safety guidelines for behavior.

SMC graduated our first class of Bachelor's Degree students in May, a major milestone for our institution.

Our admissions department continues to excel under difficult circumstances, once again exceeding previous class sizes, meaning that we are reaching more students who need the education we provide. SMC implemented a test-optional admissions policy in response to COVID-19, and will continue that policy for the next few years.

SMC renovated the top floor of the Burgess Student Center which now houses the SMC Experience, our 3 revamped student services department. We believe this refreshed facility will pay great dividends in improving our student experience and helping students to connect to each other and their desired future.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

SMC has developed a plan to return to face to face learning on campus in the fall of 2021.

We are looking at innovative strategies to provide office space for our growing faculty and staff that is needed to support our larger classes.

We continue to add to our course offerings and schedule with an eye towards accommodating our 3rd and 4th year students. Our faculty have developed multiple new course offerings for in person learning as well as our growing online program.

SMC currently has a Science building that is in dire need of updating. We are currently investigating renovation of that space. A group consisting of representatives from across the campus community is reviewing our master plan to adjust our priorities due to the changes our institution has undergone.

SMC is reviewing and adjusting our alcohol policy due to the presence of 21 year old students. The new policy will have a strong focus on education, addiction prevention, and restorative justice.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** No action is required.

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

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

It is our belief that the ongoing work to move into offering a four-year option at SMC will enable us to better reach these students. Time and again, we have heard from graduating students that they wish they could remain at SMC in our familial, supportive atmosphere. Now we can offer them that opportunity to continue to grow in knowledge, citizenship, and faith while continuing to be nurtured by our committed, caring faculty and staff.

**Narrative:**

What makes SMC special are our students and the hard work they put in to make their dreams come true.

One of our Sophomore students has embodied that work ethic. She comes from a challenging home situation in which she is the primary caregiver for her child as well as her critically ill grandfather. On top of her home challenges, she also works multiple jobs to support her extended family.

She has not let these responsibilities hold her back from making the most of her college experience, however. She has been a full time student, an athlete, and a college ambassador during her first two years at SMC. Even in the midst of all that work, she has excelled - being named to the Dean's List twice during her Freshman year!

This student is an example of the determination to succeed and grow towards a bright future that SMC students embody. Thank you for your support of our work with students like this one.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Timothy C. Drum, II, Chaplain and  
Director of Church Relations  
drumt@smcsc.edu, 1-846-587-4282

**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:**

Chief among the 2020 challenges were navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and a heightened focus on racial justice and equity.

The Wofford College community rallied, following wellness guidelines and adopting shared safety commitments, so the majority of the 2020-2021 academic year occurred on campus with in-person classes. A 16-member committee consisting of staff and faculty was formed in the spring of 2020 to plan for the return to campus of students and employees. This Working Group considered every aspect of campus life and met throughout the academic year to monitor conditions as well as the guidance of local healthcare advisors and public health officials.

Wofford embraces the work required to provide an inclusive learning community. The college created a 16-member steering committee focused on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) to help create a strategic plan and vision for an equitable and just Wofford for the future. The committee's work includes collecting and reporting relevant disaggregated data, facilitating listening sessions, and amplifying and building on equity work already being done.

In addition, the college is among 51 higher education institutions that are inaugural members of the Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance (LACRELA) launched by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center.

In preparation for the November 2020 election, students participated in voter registration efforts in the Spartanburg community. A few student researchers also developed a podcast, "Voices of Latinx" to better share information gathered from research with people in the community.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Wofford's future was transformed on February 24, 2021, when 1959 graduate Jerome J. Richardson announced a \$150 million gift to the college — the largest in the college's history. It brings Wofford's endowment to \$395 million and will support need-based scholarships and experiences for students, ensure support staff earn a minimum of \$15 an hour and provides for the maintenance of buildings. The gift will be transitioned into the endowment.

Wofford will continue addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Its JEDI committee will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in May. Wofford's Multicultural Scholarship has been revamped and renamed the GOLD Scholarship to attract high achieving students from underrepresented populations with \$5,000 per year scholarships that are stackable with other aid.

Wofford continues to be 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, associate 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.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 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 2020-21 academic year, Wofford distributed more than \$71 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 percent of Wofford students receive some form of financial assistance. Specifically, the college's 246 United Methodist students (14 percent of the student body) shared in more than \$9.1 million in financial aid this year (100 percent of the South Carolina Annual Conference's contribution goes toward financial assistance for these deserving students).

**Narrative:**

At Wofford College, we have faced the challenges of 2020 together and found ways to innovate and persevere that will benefit us well into the future. We remain committed to our mission and core values, and we remain hopeful for brighter days to come. 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

## THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

### **Purpose:**

To make disciples of Jesus for world transformation on the 5 major campuses in Charleston. We seek to help students to grow in their faith and proclaim the truth of the Gospel as articulated by the historic doctrines of the UMC. We welcome all who join us on this journey regardless of where they are.

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

1. CWF baptized 4 students this school year and had several professions of faith, celebrating their step of faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to growth as His disciples.
2. The global pandemic only allowed on campus activities at The Citadel. In spite of this, attendance grew to nearly 350 weekly across three worship gatherings.
3. Even in the pandemic, CWF engaged with over 3,000 students through outreach events across three campuses we were able to engage on this year. Our access to the College of Charleston and Charleston Southern was extremely limited, and we were not able to engage with MUSC or Trident Tech.
4. CWF is fostering 13 students exploring calls to vocational ministry. These students have heard God's call and are prayerfully discerning how God is calling them to fulfill this call. Two are in the beginning stages of the process to become ordained elders in the UMC. One is being appointed as a licensed local pastor this year. 5 other graduates are pursuing ministerial calls outside of the UMC. Two graduates are entering Chaplain Candidate programs in the military.
5. While local church support dipped significantly, CWF has been able to adjust and creatively engage despite the \$25,000 less in support received this year. We have plans to reengage fundraising to allow ministry to continue to thrive.

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

1. Transition to the new director, Aly José. She has been a part of the CWF family for 6 years and will make a fine director. This will be her first ministerial appointment, so the Board of Directors will need to nurture her as she starts this ministry venture.
2. Continue development of the Wesley Lounge (an intentional Christian community space at Trinity UMC). Even in the pandemic we were able to launch this space and it has been a huge success with our college students, serving up to 40 students per week.
3. Relaunch The Way, a contemporary United Methodist worshipping community located at Trinity UMC. We were able to launch The Way this school year. The pandemic severely hampered the ability for students and the community to attend, but good progress was made. This summer will allow for time to prepare to relaunch this fall.
4. Continue to develop student leadership and discipleship programming, including relaunching missional efforts as the pandemic subsides.
5. Secure adequate funding for campus pastoral staff. With the fluctuation in fundraising connected with the pandemic, CWF needs to secure more reliable sources of income (specifically the Annual Conference funding an associate position would be ideal) to allow CWF to focus on discipleship development with adequate pastoral staff for the hundreds of students connected to our ministry.

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

While CWF and the students we serve would benefit tremendously from an appointed associate minister, we have been told that the annual conference will not consider such an investment and we would be required to retract this need on the floor of Annual Conference in order to avoid a floor debate as was done at the last in person conference. While this investment in CWF would radically increase an already fruitful ministry for the benefit of the conference and the Kingdom of God, we are compelled to not ask for an appointed associate unless the annual conference has reconsidered such an advantageous investment.

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

While many churches have pulled back and struggled during the pandemic, CWF has thrived and grown in spite of the many roadblocks over these past few months. Our students have found avenues to responsibly place in-person worship and Christian community as central part of the Christian life, and done so in safe ways, practicing good precautionary measures. This has allowed the CWF community to grow during the pandemic and be a shining example of the fearless hope held by those experiencing the Christian faith and life.

### **Narrative:**

I look back with gratitude for the many things God has done over the last seven years that He has blessed me to lead CWF. I couldn't have imagined He would have taken those 15

students and grown them into a community of hundreds. I find joy in the numerous students who have come to faith and chosen to follow Jesus against the current of the surrounding culture. I am proud of the numerous mission trips that our students have gone on and that CWF has a missional spirit as a part of its core identity. The strength of the CWF community is a testament to the vibrancy of the Gospel. The constant calls to capitulate to the prevailing mores of societal trends and perspectives as a necessary are proven false by lived example of CWF. By proclaiming historical Wesleyan theology and missional focus, with a bold stance for justice and love, the CWF community has grown and will remain strong.

This year, participation has grown numerically. We launched a worshipping community, created a lounge that hosts intentional Christian community, sent several students go into vocational ministry, had students come to faith, get baptized and grow into leadership roles and disciple others. We have watched outpourings of the Spirit lead to students breaking from their bondage and proclaiming truth against inequity. We have watched our students surround each other in the midst of tragic loss and violence with the love of Christ and help them see and live into the better way of the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted:

Aaron Meadows, Director/Campus Pastor

aaron@weslechs.org, 8433453832

Alexis José – Alexis has served as a part time campus pastor for CWF for two years now and will be appointed as the full-time director at Annual Conference.

Ja'Brion Grice – Part Time Campus Pastor

Haydn Miller – Part Time Campus Pastor

William José – Worship Leader

## CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

### **Purpose:**

Clemson Wesley is a Christ centered community that seeks to welcome all students, treat them like family from day one, challenge them to grow in their faith and encourage students to love God and neighbor in concrete ways. We emphasize radical hospitality, growth and service.

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

Welcome to the great outdoors! This statement defined much of what our ministry looked like this year. Ministry in a pandemic has been different but also inspiring. We spent the first half of the semester worshipping outdoors. Lauren Hundley, junior from Fort Mill and worship leader, noted, "Outdoor worship was our way of staying grounded and connected to each other through the chaos of starting a new semester during COVID. We were all so grateful to be able to meet and worship together as a community while staying safe." CW met outdoors for worship, meals, small groups, bonfires and other physically distanced events. We knew that we couldn't be in close proximity to one another physically but that didn't stop us from being close to each other on a personal level. Small groups continued to be an integral part of Clemson Wesley's mission and our students adapted so well. Allie Randazza, junior from Duluth, GA, commented, "As a small group leader, I learned how to adapt and try to make the most out of bad situations. Being able to discuss God and other random things with my Wesley family has definitely been the highlight of every week!"

This has been a difficult year for many of us as we had to navigate our way through a global pandemic and a polarizing national election. However, CW continues to be a vibrant ministry even in the midst of it all. Through worship and discipleship opportunities we are in ministry to an average of 145 students each week.

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

In many ways this upcoming year is filled with great opportunity. The global events of this past year forced us to examine what is important to our ministry and it also required us to rethink how we live our calling as a campus ministry. The students of Clemson Wesley are excited to launch new ministries and creative ideas for reaching students as we, hopefully, move out of this pandemic.

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

We are grateful for the support we receive from the SC Conference. We look forward to a continued partnership as we reach students on our campuses.

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

Campus ministry at Clemson Wesley is alive and well! Even a pandemic can't keep us down. With your support we are continuing to provide welcoming place for students to find community,

faith growth and service opportunities. We are also sending graduates into ministry both in the church and community. This is a vital ministry that when supported will provide dividends for the church for years to come.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Steve Simoneaux, Executive Director  
steve@clemsonwesley.org, 864-650-3177

**METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK – COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION**

Like most faith communities this past year, COVID 19 has been a major shaper of ministry. Pastoral concerns, physical/mental well-being and related societal issues have been crucibles for spiritual formation. COVID did not happen in isolation. The pandemic exposed racial, economic disparity and further polarized the nation and Christians and churches. So here at the Methodist Student Network-Columbia Wesley Foundation we have been trying to realize a Christian community where we attend to one another, allow ourselves to be graciously vulnerable with each other while also focusing on the world around us and the great social justice issues of this time that call us to prophetic action.

We spent Spring Break 2020 (March) serving in Ecuador with an optometry and medical clinic as well as work/ministry with children. Upon returning to USC we immediately became a virtual community though there was still some in person ministry on campus as some students remained and did not go home. When USC reopened in person in August, we adapted to hold our ministry activities in person (with a mix of zoom and FB Live) with all the COVID precautions.

One thing that became apparent was that students were hungry to be with one another in person (and online) and that the pandemic with attending issues had revealed a spiritual thirst for meaning and purpose and order. We have focused on small groups and also on meeting in twos and threes over coffee and tea. Our small groups have been guided by several books. "The Awakened Life" addressed issues of spirituality, mental health and prayer and helped to equip young adults to find resiliency and wellness in faith traditions. We also read together, "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" and personally reflected on the state of racial, economic inequities in our nation and in the church and challenged ourselves to be Christians who work to address and eliminate these inequities. In the fall we also spent time on religion and politics and the place of faith and discipleship in that volatile combination. Included was a zoom program with Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe from the Board of Church and Society. In fact, the zoom platform allowed us to bring in a number of guest speakers who we normally would not have had as immediate and easy access to. Students have expressed great interest in learning Christian meditation and bible study has been in unusual demand.

Much of our ministry has been outside on our front patio. We worship and eat outside often. Our Table of Abraham (Christian, Muslim and Jew) group meets outside. The Jewish group Hillel that now shares the renamed building with us (Carolina Faiths Center) also made space outside. The majority of our service projects have moved to being outside which has allowed for some creativity and new experiences. Some retreats were accomplished through camping. So the pandemic has reminded us that too much of ministry and church has been defined by a local brick and mortar structure.

Thanks to the students/servant leaders, staff, churches, the CWF board, Sunday school classes, UMWs and alumni who have encouraged and supported through this challenging year. We have needed much grace and have tried to offer grace-grace upon grace.

**THE WESLEY FOUNDATION, ALIVE IN CHRIST, FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY**

**Purpose:**

The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University is a student-led campus ministry and open to all students who are interested in the Christian Faith. Our purpose is to minister to students where they are in their faith and let them experience God's love through our ministry.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Our ministry has had many challenges this past year, including how to get information to students about our organization, because the university held no student organizational fair nor many of the other normal activities. We asked permission for our group to have a table (our own student organizational affair) out on the lawn for one afternoon. The request was granted. It was very successful in helping us to reach new students. Therefore, our plans are to continue, doing our own organizational fair on the lawn next year too, in addition to the one planned by Francis Marion University. Our Monday night meeting had to be adjusted to make sure we stayed inside of the safety guidelines set forth by the university. With so many things not

happening on campus, students involved our ministry were grateful for the ministry operating, even though there were a lot of changes and things we could not do. A continuing challenge is the meeting space for our students.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

However, the students are asking for retreats, mission events, small groups, fun fellowship etc. to return next year. While all these events are not new, they are an important objective for next year. We will be ready to minister in all of these ways again, in order to meet the needs of our students. We will continue to use old ways and seek new ways to reach new students to be involved in our ministry, such as the way already mentioned, our own student organizational fair next year. Each year we have a student survey that students in the group fill out to provide us with feedback on the previous year. The information from this survey is taken into consideration when making plans for the upcoming year. Also, we look at our social media we use and make sure we are using the platform that most of our students are using.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference: None**

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

Thank you for all the support Alive in Christ, The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University receives. Many of you know the importance of this ministry. Whether it is praying for our ministry, giving financial support, bringing suppers or offering words of support, we are grateful for your help. Thank you and God's Blessings to you.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Lou Jordan, Campus Director  
mjordan@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 has obviously been a crazy year for collegiate ministry, and Furman Wesley is no different. With COVID restrictions, we were not allowed any off-campus activities or gatherings over 30 people. However, there are still many reasons for our Furman Wesley to feel blessed. Our focus this year was Connections, as we realized that COVID could cause isolation and we felt it was vitally important to stay connected. We had to begin each semester with virtual Weekly Gatherings and Freshmen Groups, but after time were allowed to meet in-person. We enhanced our student-led small groups, and began a new Daily Devotional Bible Study, in which we all read a daily devotional and then virtually chat about our insights. 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. I believe this is the hardest year, in my 13 at Furman, to do ministry; however, these students embraced the challenge and have done an incredible job. 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. And while many of our normal activities and events could not happen with COVID restrictions, we still believe our group offered students an opportunity to grow in their faith and life.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Obviously, our biggest priority is the sustainable ministry with young adults at Furman University. We have been blessed in our ministry with gracious supporters who see the value in our ministry. However, we recognize the importance of being proactive in the ever-changing environment of the UMC and the world in which we live. Our Wesley Board is continually looking at ways to remain a healthy and vibrant ministry. Another priority continues to be finding 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. Our hope is that we can help each student find their voice in the mission of Christ. One of the things we continue to emphasize to our leadership team is the value of caring for self; it is hard to lead when you have nothing to give. Finally, it is our

strong desire at Furman Wesley Fellowship to find ways to engage the larger Greenville and UMC communities. We recognize the connectional nature of our church, and honestly our world, and desire to reach beyond the walls in order to give back to the people who are so gracious in supporting our ministry.

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

"Wesley means family and home to me. It's a place where I can be myself and show my true colors. Every Tuesday night, we gather together to worship and have fellowship. These nights are my favorite days of the week because I get to praise God and see my best friends. When I come into the Garden Room, I know that I will truly be accepted for who I am. I can be open and honest with everyone about what has been going on in my life. If I am having a bad or quiet night, I know that I can just relax, and everyone will not judge me for my minimal interactions. I also love Thursdays because this is the day that we all get to eat lunch together. There is just something special about communal bonding around the table. We all get to laugh, smile, and have intentional conversations together. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the highlights of the week for me." [Natalie Anderson, Atlanta, GA]

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Edward Lovell 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.

## THE 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:**

- Bible Study program for Claflin University during Power Hour
- Bible Study for SCSU at lunchtime
- Provide opening prayer to SCSU ROTC during their Branching Ceremony.
- Established a UMW Limitless ministry for female students.
- Students supported the SC UMW Limitless program in Columbia in February 2020.
- Students provided community service in support of the Granville Hicks Academy
- Supported Claflin University for the MLK Jr. Program in January 2021
- Supported SCSU Massacre commemorate day February 2021.
- Students performed "God's Trombones Reading" for Black History Month for Claflin University
- The W.O.O. celebrated Founder's Day with a fundraiser to support the financial needs of the ministry.

**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.
- Establish a 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 2021 Annual Conference:**

- Change the position of the Campus Minister/Director from interim to permanent appointment.

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

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

**Narrative:**

Since my arrival at The W.O.O. considerable amount of time has been spent in bringing awareness of the Wesley Foundation's ministry to African American churches throughout the state as well as to the students of Claflin University and South Carolina State University. As one of the students pointed out in her reflection of her time spent at The W.O.O., she said, "I really love the program and atmosphere; it is a place to go just to hang out and take a break from school. It really gives you a peace of mind. Rev. Shirley is the best person ever, and I really do appreciate her. So, if you are wondering about The W.O.O., you need to check it out". So, come check us out, and check out our new website and connect with us on the realm.

Respectfully submitted:

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

**THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

**Purpose:**

To serve as the Annual Conference board related to higher education, including collegiate ministry, campus ministry, United Methodist colleges and universities, and more.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

This year we saw several key leadership changes underway. After an incredibly fruitful year in her post at the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation, Rev. Shirley Gordon transitioned from interim campus minister to the fully-vested minister to Claflin and South Carolina State Universities. The Winthrop Wesley Foundation also saw a leadership change roughly one year ago as the Rev. Charlie Farnum took up the role of campus minister, relocating to South Carolina from the Michigan Annual Conference.

Third, the Charleston Wesley Foundation has only just completed the search for a new campus minister, as Rev. Aaron Meadows transitions into the role of Chaplain at the Citadel. Rev. Aly José is the new director, with a presence on the campuses of College of Charleston, the Citadel, Charleston Southern, and more. This is Aly's first appointment, after serving as assistant campus minister in Charleston. She is an excellent candidate for this work.

Similarly, both Claflin University and Columbia College celebrate new leadership. We welcome President Dwaun Warmack of Claflin, and President Tom Bogart of Columbia College. With all of these changes, join us in praying for fruitfulness in service and discipleship.

This year, with COVID-19, has been one of the most unique and trying times in recent history. Imagine how much more challenging it's been on college campuses everywhere. Our United Methodist educational institutions and campus ministries have been incredibly creative and dedicated for the duration, so thanks be to God for their faithfulness!

**Objectives for the coming year:**

To help ease new leadership into place, and continue evaluating the potential for new and existing campus ministry to work together for the best of South Carolina's students.

To prepare to navigate our denominational struggles as they become evident in the coming months and years, including as much local sustainability as possible from Campus Ministries.

To disciple new, younger, and more diverse disciples in the primary setting available to the church: college ministry.

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

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

Collegiate ministry is alive and well, despite recent challenges, and should continue to be a major priority for United Methodists in South Carolina.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Joshua McClendon, Chair  
jtmclendon@umcsc.org, 8039849662

## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Every clergy and laity on the Board of Ordained Ministry is a highly dedicated and faithful servant, who gives of his or her time and unique gifts to the ministry of leadership development. Together, they prayerfully seek to affirm the calling of each candidate for ministry, with compassionate nurture and accountability. We are grateful for each member of the Board of Ordained Ministry who serves to encourage, provide, and develop fruitful leaders in various ministry settings.

This past year, as we have all had to pivot and adapt frequently during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included extending the appointment of members of the Board of Ordained Ministry due to the postponement of General Conference, the board has effectively continued to be faithful in its two primary responsibilities: leadership development and clergy credentialing.

On Sunday evening, June 6, 2021, 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. Seven persons will be ordained Full Elders; ten persons will be commissioned Provisional Elders; one person will be commissioned a Provisional Deacon.

### 2021 Ordination Class:

Wanda Diane Altman-Shirah	FE
Shannon Renee Bullion	FE
William Isaac Dusenbury	FE
Tammy Nicole Grey	FE
Susan Marie Pennock	FE
Nicholas Daniel Perez	FE
Justin Lee Ritter	FE

### 2021 Commissioning Class:

Peter Kent Berntson	PE
Carsten Aubrey Bryant	PE
Mason Heyward Cantey	PE
John Clarence Elmore, Jr.*	PE
Alisha Christine Hansen	PE
Joseph Daniel Kovas	PE
Amanda Geddings Richardson	PE
James (Jim) Brunson Rogers	PE
James William Smith	PE
Thessa Goodwin Smith	PE
Margaret (Maggie) Rosa Cantey	PD

\* previously ordained in another tradition who's orders are being recognized and is being received as a Provisional member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We give thanks that each has responded to a call to ministry and a commitment to the ministry process, and we ask God's blessing on their continued journey in mission and ministry. We encourage local churches and other ministry settings to invite persons to explore a calling to ministry, and to nurture that calling into ministry leadership.

Also, through the generosity of the churches in SC Annual Conference, the BOM 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 Recipients:**

Grayson Edward Fallow	\$3,000.00
Sterling Teunta Harris	\$3,000.00

#### **Bessie Bellamy Parker Scholarship**

Sharon Britz	\$5,000.00
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The BOM would also like to recognize those who have reached a milestone in their continued preparation for effective ministry.

The following persons completed the five-year Basic Course of Study in 2020/2021:

George Palmer Hudson	12/31/2020
Glenn Williams Ribelin, Sr.	12/31/2021
Jacob Melvin Thompson, II	12/25/2019
Jerry Russell Godfrey	12/31/2019
Lindora Flemming James	12/31/2019
Palma Duncan Thomas	12/31/2020

Rebecca Lewis Forrest	05/15/2020
Richard Dale Toy	12/31/2019
Scott Douglas Nurse, Sr.	12/31/2019
Stanley Bernard Ritter	12/31/2020
Toney Bernard Richardson, Sr.	08/14/2020

As always, we are grateful for the churches and the Annual Conference for ongoing support for the Ministry Education Fund. Through your generosity, the BOM has been able to provide financial assistance to students reducing the cost to them for seminary and Course of Study. This past year \$38,350.00 were disbursed for seminarians, and \$39,150.00 for the Course of Study, totaling \$77,500.00. We invite you to continue to be generous in your support of our seminarians and local pastors as they remain faithful in their leadership development toward excellence in ministry. Your offering may be sent 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 greatly appreciated.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry that are committed to meeting often with all candidates for ministry. They have an extremely important role in nurture and accountability of persons in the ministry process. The BOM is grateful for the hard work of every District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

As you have heard, we celebrate God's call on lives to the unparalleled vocation and joy of ministry.

There is also other business as it relates to ministry that necessitates our meticulous and particular attention. 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 also recruit and engage seminarians as potential and hopeful leaders in the SC Conference, discern and process Extension Ministry requests, participate in Approval for Service requests, 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 - just to name a few of the ongoing responsibilities of the board. Above all, as your South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we strive to faithfully attend to the nurture and accountability of every person called to ministry and those serving Christ in these strange and hope-filled times in which all find ourselves.

The Board of Ordained Ministry modifies and updates our South Carolina Annual Conference policy as needed in accordance with the changes in the General Conference. This year, as a part of our report, we request that the Annual Conference approve the conference policy modifications that will:

- Clarify the existing policy as stated in *The Discipline of The United Methodist Church* as it relates to Approval for Service;
- Clarify the existing policy as stated in *The Discipline of The United Methodist Church* as it relates to the Transfer Process for clergy from other conferences and denominations;
- Lengthening the amount of time for status approval based on BOM sub-committee outcomes following candidate examination by the board.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are grateful for the faithful and consummate leadership of the Rev. Mel Arant, Coordinator Clergy Services, and Mr. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant, Clergy Services. The work of the BOM could not be done as smoothly and effectively without the blessing of their guidance, leadership, knowledge, professionalism, and love for the Church.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Fran M. Elrod  
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 **\$846** 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 2022. (This rate was **\$829** for the year 2021.) 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), **\$5,750,530** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
2. For 2022, 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 2021.) 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 2022, 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, or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one-time reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pensions or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hookup fees in the new residence. This amount was **\$1,800** for 2021.

**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 Clergy-persons 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 2020, 2021, and 2022 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  
2022 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>2021 Budgeted</b>	<b>2022 Estimated</b>
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit Amount	\$2,483,819	\$2,399,950
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	\$1,161,582	\$1,191,972
CPP Welfare Plan (3%) or Benefits Funding	\$1,075,054	\$1,158,608
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$4,720,455</b>	<b>\$4,750,530</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Direct Bill Payments	\$4,720,455	\$4,750,530
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$4,720,455</b>	<b>\$4,750,530</b>

*Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chairperson  
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

**THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS  
GROUP INSURANCE SECTION**

**Report Number One**

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

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

1. Those employed and funded by a local church either as Full or Three-Quarter (3/4) time Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members, Local Pastors, Provisional Elders,

within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.

2. Ministers who are full time or three-quarter time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
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 2020-2021 the South Carolina Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, the Board recommends the following:

**A. HealthFlex Exchange**

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

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

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

**B. Dental/Vision Coverage**

Eligible participants are also able to select from two optional benefits: an expanded vision benefit and a dental plan. This will be in addition to 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<sup>st</sup> of any year must be completed with the Wespath Benefits & Investments during open enrollment 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.

**B. Eligibility Requirements**

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

**C. Billing**

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

**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>2021 Budgeted</b>	<b>2022 Estimated</b>
Active & Non-Medicare Retiree Group	\$7,979,412	\$7,746,709
Medicare Eligible Retiree Group*	\$997,712	\$850,000
Other Unfunded Benefit Obligations	\$402,288	\$150,000
<b>Total Estimated Requirements</b>	<b>\$9,379,412</b>	<b>\$8,746,709</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Billing to Salary Paying Units	\$7,979,412	\$7,746,709
Apportioned to Churches	\$1,400,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$9,379,412</b>	<b>\$8,746,709</b>

\*to be apportioned.

**Report Number Six  
2022 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 \$7,746,709 be billed to the local church/charge and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2022.

**2. Apportionment Request**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,000,000 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, 2022**

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

**a. Health Benefit Fee**

Churches/Charges who have an eligible appointed clergy will be billed a health benefit fee of \$1,025.00 per month or \$12,300.00 annually. This fee remains the same as 2021. This fee is billed regardless of the clergyperson participating 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 \$838 per month (\$10,056 annually).
- ii. Premium Credit for Participant + one dependent coverage is expected to be \$1,519 per month (\$18,228 annually).
- iii. Premium Credit for Participant plus family coverage is expected to be \$2,013 per month (\$24,156 annually).

**4. Total Premiums**

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

Plan	Participant	Participant +1	Participant + Family
B1000	\$1,142	\$2,170	\$2,969
C2000	\$1,096	\$2,083	\$2,849
C3000	\$955	\$1,813	\$2,480
H1500	\$1,068	\$2,030	\$2,777
H2000	\$967	\$1,839	\$2,516
H3000	\$843	\$1,601	\$2,191

**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 CDH C3000 P2 plan. **Note: This does not constitute a recommendation by the Annual Conference, in fact, it probably is not the best plan for most participants, but is merely a plan default.**

**6. Optional Coverages**

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

**7. Dental Care Premiums**

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

**8. Vision Care Premiums**

Plan	Participant	Participant +1	Participant + Family
Vision Core	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vision Full Service	\$7.96	\$12.86	\$20.34
Vision Premier	\$14.16	\$22.94	\$36.38

**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 2022 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, 2022.

**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. 2021 HealthFlex Exchange Rates**

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

<b>Plan Elected</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Participant +1</b>	<b>Participant + Family</b>
B1000	\$304	\$651	\$956
C2000	\$258	\$564	\$836
C3000	\$117	\$294	\$467
H1500	\$230	\$511	\$764
H2000	\$129	\$320	\$503
H3000	\$5	\$82	\$178

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

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

<b>Plan Elected</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Participant +1</b>	<b>Participant + Family</b>
B1000	\$1,085	\$2,062	\$2,821
C2000	\$1,041	\$1,979	\$2,707
C3000	\$907	\$1,722	\$2,356
H1500	\$1,015	\$1,929	\$2,638
H2000	\$919	\$1,747	\$2,390
H3000	\$801	\$1,521	\$2,081

**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 clergy-person 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 2021 to 2022 as follows: The 2021 DAC is **\$74,199**. The 2022 DAC is **\$75,570**.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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 2022

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DB	\$2,399,950
Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DC	\$1,091,000
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)	\$0
Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$0
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$108,977
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy	\$225,636
Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations	\$27,762
Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations	\$0
Health—Active Participants	\$5,400,000
Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$225,564
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$822,636
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$1,123,459

#### Ongoing Funding Contributions

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

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Chris Lollis	05/17/2021
Conference Treasurer	E.G. Westbury	05/17/2021
Conference Board of Pension Chair	Valerie Brooks-Madden	05/18/2021
Council on Finance and Administration Chair		



### Opinion on **South Carolina Conference 2022** 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) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Accounts

<b>Wespath Accounts</b>		<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2019</b>	<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2020</b>	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$14,338,594	\$15,429,146	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Short-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	54.57%
			Fixed	29.39%
			Short-term	16.04%
<hr/>				
H M E P ACCOUNT		\$14,341,961	\$20,920,180	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Intermediate-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	52.76%
			Fixed	28.41%
			Short-term	18.83%
<hr/>				
<b>\$</b>	RETIREE HEALTH CARE	\$20,248,395	\$24,716,935	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Intermediate-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$24,716,935	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%
<hr/>				
SOUTH CAROLINA SUPERANNUATE		\$999,514	\$1,201,280	
<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) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

<b>Non-Wespath Accounts</b>		<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2019</b>	<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2020</b>	
Health Insurance Conference Held		\$1,660,476	\$1,910,603	
<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		\$543,319	\$833,564	
<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/>				
Prudential Refund		\$0	\$0	
<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)  
2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Incoming Money**

**Primary Sources**

**Estimated amount for 2022**

Apportionments \$880,000

Annual Apportionment \$1,000,000

x Expected Collection Percentage 88.00%

Direct Billing

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

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Deposit Account	H M E P Account	South Carolina Superannuate	Health Insurance Confere	Pension Fund Conference Held
<b>Available Balance</b>		\$15,429,146	\$20,920,180	\$1,201,280	\$1,910,603	\$833,564
<b>Total Allocated</b>		\$0	\$225,564	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Remaining Balance</b>		\$15,429,146	\$20,694,616	\$1,201,280	\$1,910,603	\$833,564
<b>Plan Contributions for 2022</b>						
CRSP DB	\$2,399,950					
CRSP DC	\$1,091,000					
MPP						
Pre-82						
UMPIP Lay	\$108,977					
UMPIP Clergy	\$225,636					
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$19,235					
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employee	\$8,527					
Health Active	\$5,400,000					
Health Additional	\$225,564		\$225,564			
Post-Retirement Medical	\$822,636					
CPP	\$1,123,459					
<b>Ongoing Funding Contributions</b>						
Pre-82						
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0					

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2022 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>		\$880,000		\$26,171,090	\$24,008,679
<b>Total Allocated</b>		\$822,636	\$10,376,784	\$0	\$0
<b>Remaining Balance</b>		\$57,364		\$26,171,090	\$24,008,679
<b>Plan Contributions for 2022</b>					
CRSP DB	\$2,399,950		\$2,399,950		
CRSP DC	\$1,091,000		\$1,091,000		
MPP					
Pre-82					
UMPIP Lay	\$108,977		\$108,977		
UMPIP Clergy	\$225,636		\$225,636		
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$19,235		\$19,235		
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employee	\$8,527		\$8,527		
Health Active	\$5,400,000		\$5,400,000		
Health Additional	\$225,564				
Post-Retirement Medical	\$822,636	\$822,636			
CPP	\$1,123,459		\$1,123,459		
<b>Ongoing Funding Contributions</b>					
Pre-82					
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0				

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

<b>Plan Contributions for 2022</b>		<b>Funding Needed</b>
CRSP DB	\$2,399,950	\$0
CRSP DC	\$1,091,000	\$0
MPP		\$0
Pre-82		\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$108,977	\$0
UMPIP Clergy	\$225,636	\$0
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$8,527	\$0
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$19,235	\$0
Health Active	\$5,400,000	\$0
Health Additional	\$225,564	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$822,636	\$0
CPP	\$1,123,459	\$0

<b>Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2022</b>		<b>Funding Needed</b>
Pre-82		
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0	\$(1,161,676)

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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>	439.00
<b>CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)</b>	
Required contribution for 2022	\$2,399,950
<b>CRSP Defined Contribution (DC)</b>	
Expected average future annual increases	2.40%
Estimated contribution for 2022	\$1,091,000

### Rationale for each change

Reduced the amount based off of December 2020 billing.

### CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2020

Total plan liability	\$(2,075,403,337)
Total plan assets	\$2,237,383,068
Total plan funded status	\$161,979,731
Total plan funded ratio	108%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.7595%

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

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

Discount rate	7.00%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	2.50%
COLA increases for actives	2.00%
Mortality	RP2014, generational projection using MP2016

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2020.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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 2022	\$0

#### MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2020

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,721,464,249)
Total plan assets	\$4,147,098,325
Total plan funded status	\$425,634,076
Total plan funded ratio	111%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.5353%

#### Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2020

Total participant account balances	\$3,373,198,931
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$93,244,287

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

Discount rate	6.25%
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	RP2014, generational projection using MP2016

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2020.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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)	846
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	2.00%
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	75 %
Discount rate	5.5000%
Minimum contribution for 2022	\$0
Advanced funding contribution for 2022 payable in 2021	\$0

#### Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2020	\$(52,783,974)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$73,486,762
Funded status	\$20,702,788
Funded ratio	139%
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2021	\$23,042,720
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2022	\$0

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2020**

Total plan liability	\$(1,942,016,256)
Total plan assets	\$1,980,170,672
Total plan funded status	\$38,154,416
Total plan funded ratio	102%

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2020.*

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Health—Active Participants**

**Elections and Estimates**

	<b>Final</b>
Health plan offered to actives	Self-Funded - HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2020	\$4,781,670
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2021	\$5,177,724
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2022	\$5,400,000
Expected average future annual increases	3.00%

**Rationale for each change**

Change for 2020 to reflect actual paid. Change to 2021 and 2022 to reflect realistic projections based off current census and cost for 2021 and projected cost for 2022.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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 12/31/2019	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2020
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$110,214	\$159,588
Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants	\$129,996	\$125,166
<b>Total</b>	\$240,210	\$284,754

### Annual cost calculation

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

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2020		\$284,754
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	1.3393
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2020	=	\$212,616
Expected average future annual increases	x	3.00%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2022	=	\$225,564

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

#### Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Willis Towers Watson as of 12/31/2019.  
Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 12/31/2021.

#### PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 12/31/2019

Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$19,867,265
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$17,604,551
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$281,448
Annual plan benefit cost	\$822,636
Intention regarding PRM	Retain current plan benefit

Participant counts by category	
Active participants	496
Active dependents	356
Retirees	245
Surviving spouses	67
Dependents of retired participants	104
<b>Total participants</b>	<b>1,268</b>

Key actuarial assumptions	
Census date	12/31/2019
Discount rate	2.95%
Expected return on assets	0.00%
Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	6.75%
Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	5.00%
Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2027

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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	0.00%
Projected annual plan benefit cost as of 2022	\$822,636

#### Rationale for each change

Reduction in covered participants due to death.

#### Funding Plan Contribution

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

Net PRM assets		\$24,008,679
APBO net plan sponsor cost	-	\$17,604,551
Funded status	=	\$6,404,128
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 2022	=	\$0

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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	2.00%
Estimated premium for 2022	\$1,123,459

#### Rationale for each change

Amount adjusted based off of current census and billing

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 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

	<b>Final</b>
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2022	\$108,977

#### Rationale for each change

Increase in elections from lay employees

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

#### Elections and Estimates

	<b>Final</b>
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2022	\$225,636

#### Rationale for each change

Change of clergy employees, reduction in conference clergy positions.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Estimated annual contribution</b>
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$19,235

**Description**

Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability

	<b>Final</b>
Expected average future annual increases	2.50%
Estimated contribution for 2022	\$19,235

**Rationale for each change**

Change adjusted for current census.

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Estimated annual contribution</b>
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$8,527

**Description**

Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.

	<b>Final</b>
Expected average future annual increases	-5.00%
Estimated contribution for 2022	\$8,527

**Rationale for each change**

Change based off of current retiree census.

## THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **Purpose:**

Encourage preservation of the history of Methodism in South Carolina by encouraging the study of Methodist history and providing resources to local churches. To serve as a "ministry of memory" helping the church remember how God has worked through the Wesleyan-inspired Methodist Movement.

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

The Society faced the same challenges of other groups and was forced to cancel programs. Nevertheless, work continued. We provided the majority of the financing for rebuilding the Burdine Lodge, now almost complete, as a place to tell the story of early Methodist circuit riders. Prior to the pandemic, the Society President gave a presentation to the Rock Hill District Clergy on the importance and practice of preserving local church history. We provided historical education and encouragement through newsletters to Society members, as well as a monthly column in the SC UMC Advocate. Work continues in documenting the history of more than 40 sites in the state with historical significance that will form the nucleus of a "historical trail" for interpretation of Methodist history.

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

We plan to sponsor one or more programs either through an online platform or in person. Our expectation is that we can complete documentation of the historical trail during 2021. We also hope that a celebration to reveal completion of the Burdine Lodge may occur either in late 2021 or by Spring of 2022.

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

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

Protection of the historical record is not merely an esoteric study of the past, it is an education for the future. We must remember both our successes and our failures so that we can be better servants of Christ. History teaches us the difference.

### **Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce E. Plyler, President  
joyce@charlotte.twcbc.com, 7048476096

## THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (Form Report)

### **Purpose:**

The main purpose for the Commission on Equitable Compensation is to make sure that full time ministers in the South Carolina Conference are paid to meet the minimum wage which this committee establishes each year.

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

2018 and 2019 presented challenges for this committee through various circumstances. We went over budget to live up to our mission which is described in the purpose. Plus, we worked with Congregational Development to help open new churches/church plants. With the help of the Cabinet, in 2020, this Commission was able to be come under budget

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

Foremost, to meet any challenges which 2021-2022 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. To build back up the reserves that were used in 2018 and 2019. By the *Discipline*, we are required to maintain a reserve of \$300,00 to be used as an emergency fund.

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

The Commission for the year 2022 has recommended not to increase the cost of living for minimum salaries due to the difficult financial conditions many experienced during 2020. As stated in the journal, if a church accepting Equitable Compensation Grants decide to give a pastor a raise, while we solute such an effort, the grant will be reduced by the amount of the raise proposed by the church. Equitable Compensation asked for \$565,000 from CF&A for 2022. This is the same amount the committee asked for 2021.

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

The Commission of Equitable Compensation has always been and will continue to be good stewards with the money supplied by the conference. Your generosity has not been taking lightly by our committee. We are thankful for all that you have done so we can maintain our purpose 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.

**Narrative:**

After 9 years being a member of this Commission, 5 years being its chair, I will be stepping down after this Annual Conference. I wish nothing but the best for its members for I know they work hard for this conference. Of course this means no more “Flat Jesus” or “Clemson” references. I know that won’t disappoint many of you. I want to thank the Conference for this opportunity you have given me to serve. It has been quite a ride.

Respectfully submitted:

Skipper Brock, Chair

sbrock@smeinc.com, 864-580-3533

Below are the members on the Commission I would like to thank:

Beth Westbury, Cassie Watson, Christine Dominick, Lollie Haseldon, Morris Waymer, Anthony Hodge, Blondell Miller, Chris Lollis, Elbert Williams, Jerry Harrison, Jon Hoin, Patti Gordon, Patti Parrish, Rick Hammett, Tim Rogers, Veronica Clinkscales, Wayne Hester. Please note that this list includes both members and ex-officio members.

**THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION  
(Detailed Report)  
Report Number 1**

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

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

**B. Total Compensation for Clergy**

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

**Report Number 2**

**A. Budget Request for 2022**

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$535,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2022. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

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

In accordance with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2022, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
a. Full Time Clergy in full connection	\$46,556
b. Full Time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	\$42,322
c. Full Time Local Pastors	\$39,263

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

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

**C. For Deacons in Full Connection**

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

**D. Longevity Increases**

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

**Example:**

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

**E. Housing Allowances**

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

**F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance**

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

**G. Cross Racial Appointments**

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

**H. Cooperative Parish Ministries**

The initial directors or coordinators of a cooperative parish ministry which has been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the

commission by January 1 preceding the appointment in June of the same year may be eligible for funds not to exceed \$7,000.00. No pastor shall be eligible to receive funds unless the charge he/she serves agrees in writing to release him/her for these added duties. Assistance will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period and will decrease by 25% each year after the first year and a half.

**I. Disbursement of Supplements**

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

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

**J. Utilities Allowance**

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Under IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.

**K. Investment of Reserve Fund**

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

**L. Interpretation**

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

**M. Compensation Guidance**

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

**N. Ineligibility**

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

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

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

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

**P. Continuing Education**

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

**Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost**

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

**R. Vacation Policy**

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

<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" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

It is asked that the Lay Member of the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee and to the local church.

**S. Application Procedure**

CEC requests the following for initial grant consideration:

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

**T. Arrearages**

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

**Report Number 3 – New Church Starts**

**Schedule for New Church Starts**

Equitable Compensation for new church starts shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Report Number 4 – Renewed Vitality Situations (RVS)**

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

Grants will consist of:

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

#### **Report Number 5 – Mission Situations**

##### **A. Definition**

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

##### **B. Eligibility**

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

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.
4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.
5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by December 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 is interpreted to mean all sources of income from the local church or from any other source.

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

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

##### **C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation**

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

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

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

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

**E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations  
Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People**

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

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:

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

- After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
- After Eleven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
  3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
  4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.
 

Example:

    - Year 6: \$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 7: \$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 8: \$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 9: \$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 10: \$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 11: \$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 12: \$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 13: \$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 14: \$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
    - Year 15+: \$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and +experience merit
- All requests for adjustments shall be made in writing. Requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made.

#### Report Number 6

	Dec. 2017		Dec. 2018		Dec. 2019		Dec. 2020	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	3	\$132,121	4	\$147,769	5	\$194,983	5	\$175,933
Minimum	12	\$99,342	14	\$196,393	10	\$166,04	10	\$126,068
Special	16	\$244,899	6	\$93,457	5	\$59,401	5	\$64,897
Low Income	0	\$0	1	\$8,100	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	2	\$44,314	1	\$32,449	2	\$36,864	2	\$30,961
RVS	3	\$44,405						
Direct billing costs		\$81,497		\$90,809		\$61,811		\$72,289
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$646,578</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$568,977</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$519,099</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$397,859</b>

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020
Full Members	22	11	13	14
Provisional Members	4	6	4	1
Associate Members	0	0	0	0
Local Pastors (Full Time)	7	6	2	5
Other	3	3	3	2
TOTALS	36	26	22	22

Sincerely,

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

### THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Purpose:**

The Committee on the Annual Conference is a team of persons tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and evaluating the annual conference. In the midst of rapid changes resulting from the global pandemic, our team has learned a great deal about adaptability.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Over the last two years, we have re-evaluated the ways and means of conducting the business of the annual conference. In the midst of every shifting realities on the ground, our team has shown tremendous resilience, forbearance, and adaptability.

We have focused on outcomes and creating accessibility for the clergy and lay members using of technology that would allow us to conduct the business of the annual conference while still celebrating all that God is doing through our churches, clergy, and laity.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

The theme chosen for the 2021 Annual Conference is "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Taking the Next Faithful Step." This theme highlights the ways in which we continue moving forward in mission and ministry trusting God for the "next faithful step."

**Action(s) required from the 2021 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 5-8, 2022 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 2022.

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

Finally, the committee expresses its gratitude to the 2021 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, Cumberland United Methodist Church and its team under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Frederick Yebuah.

We are most grateful to our Bishop and the Committee on the Annual for their faithfulness in this season. A special word of gratitude to expressed to Pat Mack, Mel Arant, and Sharome Henry for going above and beyond the call of duty this season.

The work of the Committee on the Annual Conference continues and we are proud of the work of the team!

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth L. Nelson, Conference Secretary  
L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop  
[knelson@umcsc.org](mailto:knelson@umcsc.org), 803.312.2824

## THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Purpose:**

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

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

Like so many others, 2020 was a year of constant evaluations and adjustments to an ever-changing culture and world. As many of our churches engaged our online communities in new ways, we as a Board pivoted to provide micro-grants to churches stepping into virtual ministry for the first time. We were also excited to support 3 existing church grants that span the spectrum of vital ministry in 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 able to be occupied again, those accomplishments are only possible because of you and your church's generosity.

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

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

Our goal is to continue and improve upon our ideals of being a resource for local churches interested in new ministry and the spark for planting new places. We will continue supporting our churches through existing grants. We will continue supporting the current plants and partnerships across the connection, while discerning what next steps or projects could be coming down the line.

One of our major goals this year is intentional reflection on values, purpose and communication. As with many of our congregations 2020 and the year of COVID has pushed all of us to take the pulse of where we are, how we got here and where we're going next. So, we'll be spending some intentional time updating our applications and streamlining our communication with Districts and the local church. We also hope to continue our learning of best practices from within this Conference and conversations with other Conferences, so that we can continue making what is good better, and what is better the best it can be.

And, as a reminder, in previous years we had a unique opportunity this year to set aside some existing church grant money for future leadership development. For example, we've thought about offering multiple smaller conference-like workshops on things like staff/team development, how to lead a visioning process, multi-site challenges, multi-ethnic transitions, etc. We were so excited about what could be and, for the first time in my tenure, people wanted to meet more often to dream big about what could be in the year ahead!

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

There are no specific actions or votes needed for our report, only submitting it to the record.

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

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

### **Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Reams, Chairperson  
Richard.reams@gmail.com, 864.985.2440  
Rev. James 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 fully agrees that Bishop Holston has continued to lead this conference by example and provided insight, encouragement and motivation for our congregations to grow spiritually. He has led the conference in prayer each morning and recorded several worship services throughout the year.

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

This past year's theme "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations" fit actions by conference staff, clergy and laity as we faced the COVID-19 pandemic. Congregations across the conference learned much about social media and other virtual platforms while staying engaged and reaching out to meet the needs in their communities. Support of apportionments and missions exceeded expectations.

The Committee on Episcopacy continues to support requesting the SEJ COE to assign Bishop Holston to the South Carolina Conference for a third term.

Some of the Bishop's involvement:

- General Board of Global Ministries, Director
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, Chair
- Pan-Methodist Commission, Chair
- Columbia College Board of Trustees
- Emory University Board of Trustees
- Gammon Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, Chair
- Council of Bishops Missional Engagement Committee
- Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops
- Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees
- One in the Spirit curriculum, Presenter
- Guest Preacher, Asbury UMC, Washington, DC
- Come Follow Me, Contributor

**Objectives for the coming year:**

We will continue to support Bishop Holston in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church by interpreting to our church members the nature and function of the episcopacy office.

We are to advise the Bishop concerning conditions within the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference.

We will continue to present to the SEJ COE about Bishop Holston's success over the last 9 years in South Carolina in support of his return for a third quadrennium.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None.

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

This 16 member committee which includes the two South Carolina conference SEJ Committee on Episcopacy members and the conference lay leader meets 2 to 4 times a year to provide support for the bishop's work in our conference and interpret the work of the bishop and the conference staff to our conference church members.

It is also the function of this committee to review and evaluate the bishop in eight categories, led by the two SEJ COE members. This information is forwarded to the SEJ COE to provide guidance and insight into effective episcopal leadership. The Committee offers its unanimous support of Bishop Holston's ministry in SC.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

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

## THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

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

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.

We have continued the process of uploading all of the personnel records into e-Bridge. We have also been tweaking the format of the information in the new Shelby Church Management System. The process of migrating the information from our former database system into Shelby was smooth, but there have been places where we needed to clean up data. We are excited to have been able to produce our Business Questions completely out of the Shelby System this year. We are still working on the transition, but we are now better able to align our records with both the Conference Benefits and Administrative Service offices.

Another responsibility of this office is the management, monitoring and record keeping of criminal background checks conducted on all Clergy, Certified Lay Ministers and Lay Supplies every three years. This year we began the process of migrating from requiring persons to submit information directly to our office in order for us to manually run background checks, to a process that invites persons to input their information directly into the screening system. It was our hope to protect persons' personal information by not requiring it to be delivered to us first, but directly to the background screening company. The new Shelby system has also provided us a better way to keep track of current and expiring background screenings.

Like everywhere and everyone this office has experienced a great deal of adjustment and adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic. We held our first Clergy Session (and Annual Conference) virtually, and even now are preparing to do so again. We had to switch our Licensing School for Pastoral Ministry, Candidacy Retreats, Clergy Orders and Board of Ordained Ministry interviews to virtual formats. We have also needed to find ways for persons to complete, sign and submit documents electronically. This allowed us to the time to begin evaluating and updating our forms, not to mention it significantly reduced our paper usage.

I am grateful for the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, many of whom had their tenures on the Board unexpectedly continued with the extension of the quadrennium. Their dedication and commitment has allowed us to adapt and continue with excellence both credentialing and leadership development during this difficult year. And it is a pleasure to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to attempt to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervises the clergy of our Conference.

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

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

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

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

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None  
**If you take away nothing from this report, know this:**

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

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, 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 COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES

### Standing Rule 1

1. The procedure of the Annual Conference shall be governed by the following in the order listed: The *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, The Standing Rules of the Annual Conference, The Rules of Order of the preceding General Conference and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. For the purpose of transacting business, the quorum shall be those present and eligible to vote. If there are occasions when annual conference or clergy session cannot safely assemble in person or where the assembly would be otherwise unnecessary, but vital business of the Annual Conference needs to be conducted, the Presiding Bishop with a ¾ majority of District Superintendents may in their discretion call a regular or special session conference to conduct the business of the Annual Conference or clergy session using remote voting.

a. Remote voting may be by use of a secure digital voting system approved by Conference Secretary. This provision for remote voting includes all matters that may come before the Annual Conference, unless prohibited by the *Book of Discipline*. Further, voting eligibility and voting margins designated in the *Book of Discipline* or Rules of the Conference will be followed.

b. The bar of a virtual conference or clergy session will be those eligible, registered and signed in to the virtual session. Official attendance will be considered those who register for the virtual session.

Rationale: These additions enable the work of the Annual Conference to continue during times when it cannot assemble in person.

### Standing Rule 20

20. It shall be an Order of the Day to have the election of boards, councils, commissions, and committees no sooner than the next business day following the initial report of the Committee on Nominations, or on the last business day in the event of a one day session. If additional nominations have been made per rule 19, and if requested by the Annual Conference, ballots shall be prepared by the Conference Secretary for use in the election.

Rationale: This allows the report of the Committee on Nominations to be acted upon in the event of a one day session of Annual Conference.

### Standing Rule 58

58. There shall be a Board of Trustees for The United Methodist Center composed of nine (9) persons and one ex-officio member. It is recommended that of the elected members four (4) be clergy and five (5) laity. They shall be elected by the South Carolina Annual Conference upon nomination by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations. The tenure of trustees shall be limited to ~~two (2)~~ eight (8) consecutive terms years, after which a person shall be ineligible for re-election until a period of two (2) years has elapsed. The Board shall be organized into four (4) classes with at least one lay and one clergy in each class. In addition, one ex-officio member, without vote, from the employees shall be chosen annually by the employees of the United Methodist Center to meet with the Board. The business manager shall serve as an ex-officio member without vote.

Rationale: This change brings the standing rule wording in line with the bylaws of the United Methodist Center.

### Standing Rule 67

67. There shall be a Conference Committee on Nominations of twenty-four (24) members composed of two representatives nominated by each district and elected by the annual conference. It is recommended that these be one clergy and one lay representative from

each district. The additional members shall include: the resident Bishop; a youth and young adult nominated by the Discipleship Area of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries; up to six (6) at large members, who may be nominated by the Bishop to ensure adequate representation; and the following members: the Conference Lay Leader (or his/her designee), an elected representative of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, ~~the Conference Council on Youth Ministry~~, a retired member of the Annual Conference selected by ~~the retired ministers~~ the chairpersons of the Orders of Elders and Deacons and Fellowship of Local Pastors, and two superintendents named by the Bishop. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry or its equivalent may elect a representative. The Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations shall be elected by the Annual Conference. A nominee shall be presented by the Committee on Nominations for consideration at the beginning of each quadrennium. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall elect additional officers at its first regular meeting in the new quadrennium. The following shall be ex-officio members without vote: the chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules, the Convener of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries, and two representatives of the Advocacy Area of Connectional Ministries responsible for the monitoring functions of the committee on Status and Role of Women and The Committee on Religion and Race.

- a. It is recommended that there be one clergy person and one lay person nominated by each district committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference.
- b. If a member of the Committee on Nominations, who has been nominated by the District moves beyond the boundaries of the District in which he/she was nominated, his/her membership on the Committee shall be terminated, except for the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary, who should continue to serve as members-at-large on the Conference Committee on Nominations until the end of the quadrennium.
- c. When district vacancies occur on the Committee, replacements shall be nominated as per rule ~~68.a.~~ 67.a to serve the remainder of the quadrennium. In the event that the elected chairperson of the Nominating Committee is one of the two elected representatives of a district, that chairperson shall become an additional member-at-large and the respective district shall elect another representative for that district, both of whom shall serve until the end of the quadrennium.
- d. Current members of the Committee on Nominations shall not be nominated for membership on any board, council, commission or committee whose membership arises from nominations from this committee.
- e. Ex-officio members of the Nominating Committee shall be excluded from rule ~~68.d.~~ 67.d.
- f. The Committee shall make all nominations needed by the Annual Conference except as provided elsewhere by the *Discipline* or Standing Rules of the Annual Conference. When the *Discipline* or Standing Rules require nominations be made by other agencies of the Annual Conference, those nominations shall be reported to the Committee no later than March 15 of each year for information only. These nominations will not be submitted to the Annual Conference through the Committee on Nominations.
- g. Nominations of chairpersons of all quadrennial boards, councils, commissions and committees, whose election is not prescribed by the *Discipline* or other sections of these Standing Rules shall be a nominated member of that board, council, commission or committee and shall be submitted by the Committee on Nominations to the Annual Conference for election.
- h. When nominations are made, the persons nominated shall be consulted and their consent to serve received; whether nominated by parent boards, the Committee on Nominations or from the floor of the Annual Conference.
- i. The Annual Conference Committee on Nominations shall make nominations so that approximately one half (1/2) of the membership of all boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be rotated each quadrennium.
- j. The report of the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations shall include the full name, current mailing address, email address and phone number(s) of each nominee. When a nomination is to a Board of Trust, the report shall identify any nominee who is not a member of The United Methodist Church by indicating the denomination or religious affiliation of the person being nominated in parentheses following his or her name.
- k. It is recommended that the Nominating Committee nominate at least 25% ethnic minority representation to all Conference Boards and Agencies where such nominees originate with the Conference Committee on Nominations. When vacancies

are filled and nominations from the floor are offered it is recommended that at least 25% ethnic minority membership be maintained. It is also recommended that until this representation is achieved, if from one to four members are to be elected, at least one be an ethnic minority; if five to eight are to be elected, at least two be ethnic minority persons.

- I. Unless otherwise provided in the *Book of Discipline*, a vacancy in the membership of a board, council, commission or committee may be filled, ad-interim, by the board, council, commission or committee for the remainder of the Conference year in which the vacancy occurs. At its next session the Annual Conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. The respective board, council, commission or committee shall inform the Committee on Nominations of the vacancy and its action.

Rationale: The proposed changes are of various types.

1. The rule provides mechanisms by which youth, young adults, and retired clergy will be appointed to the committee. However, those mechanisms have not functioned effectively. The proposed changes are intended to provide functioning mechanisms to accomplish the goal.
2. The changes in sections c and e are editorial in nature. When the number of this standing rule changed from 68 to 67, the numbers referenced in these sections should also have been changed.
3. Since email is a frequent means of communication, it makes sense to include it along with other information about the nominees.

#### **Standing Rule 70.e**

70. There shall be a Committee on Resolutions and Appeals composed of nine (9) members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that six (6) be lay persons and three (3) be clergy persons. Resolutions to the Annual Conference may be submitted by any clergy member(s), any elected lay member(s), or any organization affiliated with the annual conference.
  - a. Resolutions initiated by a board, council, commission or committee are properly before the Annual Conference without the necessity of referral. Resolutions not initiated by a board, council, commission or committee of the annual conference may be referred to those agencies by the Conference Secretary. Any resolution not referred to a board, council, commission or committee of the Annual Conference shall be referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals, and shall be reported by this Committee to the Annual Conference with a recommendation of approval or non-approval with rationale. The vote shall be on the petition itself, and not on the recommendation of the committee
  - b. Resolutions delivered to the Conference Secretary no later than March 15 of each Conference year shall be published in the Pre-Conference Journal. Resolutions received after the March 15 deadline shall be referred to the appropriate committee or similar body of the Annual Conference. They will be considered at the next year's Annual Conference and included in that year's Pre-Conference Journal.
  - c. The committee shall act on the resolution as offered and shall not offer its own amendments.
  - d. The Report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals may be an 'Order of the Day' the second full business day of Annual Conference.
  - e. The Committee on Resolutions and Appeals shall ~~on the first full business day of Annual Conference~~ provide time for persons or organizations offering resolutions referred to the Committee to come before the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals to discuss their resolutions.

Rationale: Since resolutions received after March 15th are referred to the appropriate committee or similar body of the Annual Conference, the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals no longer has to meet on the first day of Annual Conference. This deletion will allow the committee to continue to be transparent and provide access and voice to persons submitting resolutions to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals, but still complete its work before 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 holds in trust properties received by bequest or gift to the Annual Conference.

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

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

Trustees receives no apportionment funds, and are therefore self-funding. The principle source of such funding is derived from the 10% administrative fee assessed on those properties sold after closure. The Trustees would respectfully remind the Annual Conference that is the responsibility of Trustees to maintain, insure, and protect all properties received in trust by Trustees until the properties final distribution.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Michael Wood, Chair of Conference Trustees.

**(See next page for attached report.)**

Trustees of the Annual Conference  
Accounting by Property for AC Trustees  
December 31, 2020

Property	District	12/31/2019 Balance	Sale Proceeds	Other Receipts	Expenses	Transfer to Retained by Trustee beneficiary	Ending Balance	Designation
Orville (South Main Chapel & Mercy Center)	Anderson	(13,230.84)	(5,648.00)				(18,878.84)	Urban Center/Mission Church
Smiths Chapel	Anderson	(772.24)			(111.68)		(883.92)	Undesignated
Union	Anderson	(2,320.00)					(2,320.00)	
Berea (Cordesville)	Charleston	29,278.53	42,005.00	28.09	(5,819.19)	(47,289.17)	15,733.26	Pending resolution
Berea (Cordesville) cemetery	Charleston	-				15,209.17	15,209.17	Pending resolution
Cedar Creek	Columbia	(606.78)		6.23		600.55	-	Resolved
Cedar Creek Cemetery	Columbia	110,041.91			(2,040.00)	(110,041.91)	-	Resolved
St James	Columbia	61,368.91					59,328.91	Urban Center
St Luke	Columbia	(886.65)				886.65	-	Resolved
Baulah (Kingstree)	Florence	1,117.00			(45.68)	(967.00)	-	Resolved
Greeleyville	Florence	-					(45.68)	
Trinity	Florence	926.63			(111.68)		814.95	
Trinity cemetery	Florence	-					-	
Concord (Greenville Korean Mission)	Greenville	29,907.01			(3,888.00)		26,239.01	Urban Center
Dunean	Greenville	141,137.55			(155.55)	(125,962.00)	0.00	Resolved
McKinney Chapel	Greenville	(2,733.82)			(744.00)		(3,477.82)	Urban Center
Piedmont Park	Greenville	42,172.59			(5,942.95)		36,229.64	Urban Center
Zon-Andrews (New Beginnings)	Greenville	59,626.78					59,626.78	Urban Center
Bath	Greenwood	(4,273.91)					(7,786.03)	
Bath (parsonage)	Greenwood	7,168.93		4,000.00	(3,512.12)		5,092.45	
Gassaway	Greenwood	1,306.27		100.94	(1,467.67)		(60.46)	
Sandy Springs	Greenwood	19,277.86		109.49	(2,886.04)		16,501.31	Urban Center
Sandy Springs cemetery fund	Greenwood	6,213.72			(240.00)		5,973.72	
M Tabor (Chesterfield)	Harrisville	(181.93)			(412.00)		(593.93)	
Oro	Harrisville	38,191.96		1,696.84		(39,888.80)	-	Resolved
Snowhill	Harrisville	(160.00)			(460.80)		(620.80)	
Christ/Myrtle Beach	Marion	(44,805.91)		10,420.93	(121,251.37)		(155,636.35)	Urban Center
Iona	Marion	(1,822.23)			(111.68)		(1,933.91)	
Old Galilee	Marion	(240.41)					(240.41)	
Central Rowesville	Orangeburg	(1,132.04)			(111.68)		(1,243.72)	
Charles Wesley	Orangeburg	102,955.12				(91,799.56)	(11,155.56)	Resolved
Rocky Swamp Mission Church	Orangeburg	(5,736.11)		155,799.36	(52,671.79)		97,391.46	
Broomfield	Walterboro	(37.36)					(37.36)	
Jerusalem	Walterboro	(427.24)			(146.68)		(573.92)	
Retained by Trustees	Conference	331,668.98		6,561.78	(10,311.28)	67,177.16	395,096.64	
Total		902,992.28	42,005.00	176,723.66	(223,946.32)	(360,870.47)	538,904.15	

## THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

### **Purpose:**

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

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

What a year this has been! Yet, in the midst of a life-changing, status-quo-challenging pandemic that claimed lives, jobs, and much more, the Advocate has managed to continue its work delivering news and information about God's work through His people in South Carolina. We are truly blessed to glorify Him and make disciples in this way.

Not only did we produce high-quality journalistic coverage through our award-winning monthly newspaper, but we also produced two more books in 2020 through our Advocate Press: *What Would Granny Say?* an essay collection by the Rev. Tony Rowell, and *Called by God*, 20 personal ministry call stories. We are slated to launch several more books this year and saw our best book sales to date in 2020. Learn more/purchase books at <https://advocatesc.org/books>.

We are grateful for the apportionment funding we receive from this annual conference, and we are continuing our efforts to reduce our requested amount. We are working hard to raise additional income for our nonprofit 501(c)3 ministry through tax-deductible donations from private individuals and business. We're pleased to announce we saw our best year in contributions ever in 2020, with readers donating more than \$14,000 to the Advocate. Your support makes a big impact. A little more than half of our funds come from our efforts in advertising, circulation income, book sales and fundraising; the rest comes from UMC apportionments. We are striving to increase the amount we receive from donations so we can ask for less from the Annual Conference. To learn more, visit <https://advocatesc.org/donation>.

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

Our print and digital Advocate is striving to be the very best it can possibly be, from articles to design and photography, and we continue our commitment to fair, balanced news and journalistic excellence.

We are also in the process of planning and writing new books to be published by the Advocate Press, as well as increasing our commitment to raising funds from private individuals so we can ask for fewer funds from Annual Conference apportionments.

We are also in the midst of a readership and subscription growth campaign.

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

Approve our requested budget and subscribe to the Advocate (<https://advocatesc.org/subscribe>).

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

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

### **Narrative:**

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

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica Brodie, Editor, [jbrodie@umcsc.org](mailto:jbrodie@umcsc.org), 803-807-0018

Staff includes Editor Jessica Brodie and Assistant Editor Allison Trussell, as well as sales representative Toni Strawther. Board of Trustees members for 2020-2021 include Dr. Christopher Greene, chairperson; Dyron Anderson, vice chairperson; Creg Smith, secretary; the Rev. Steven King, treasurer; the Rev. Carleathea Benson; Dr. William Click; Linda DuRant; the Rev. Sh'Kur Francis; Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge; Enid Jenkins; Glen Levine; the Rev. Karen Radcliffe; the Rev. Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass; Selena Ruth Smith; Dr. Phillip Stone; Dan O'Mara, ex officio; and the Rev. Cameron Levi, ex officio.

## THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER

### **Purpose:**

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

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

The Trustees' most recent activities include installing Phenomenal Aire cold air plasma generators in three areas of the building. These units are additional components to the heating and air conditioning units that serve the lobby, the bishop's conference room, and the upstairs conference room. The purpose of these units is to cleanse the air and reduce dust, mold, viruses, etc. During most of 2020 the United Methodist Center has been closed to meetings due to the pandemic. It is the hope of the trustees that the building can reopen in 2021 when 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 2021.

### **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.

### **Actions required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None

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

The Trustees of the United Methodist Center appreciate the continued support of the churches through the apportionment system. The Trustees strive to be 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. Christine Dominick for the numerous years of awesome and dedicated work she did in ensuring the Center was well maintained. The Trustees welcome Ms. Heather Nordeoff who is equally focused on caring for the building and its occupants.

The Conference Trustees nominate or re-elect the following persons as conference center trustee:

#### **Clergy Members**

**Class of 2025:** Thessa Smith (17-21) (UM) RE-ELECT (21-25)

#### **Lay Members**

**Class of 2025**

**Replace** Ronald Friday (13) (UM) term expired

**ELECT** Hal Clarkson (UM) (21)

Ronald D. Friday, Chairperson

Email: [bwestbury@umcsc.org](mailto:bwestbury@umcsc.org)

## THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

### **Purpose:**

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

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

While meeting during the 2020-2021 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 2020, funds from the Bobo Trust were dispersed as grants for leadership development training.

The end of year balance was \$80,769.

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

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

### **Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None

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

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

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

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

**THE REPORT OF THE CABINET**

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have had a year challenged with changing times and effects of our changing world. This year we have had to face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every aspect of our lives has been different. We are doing church differently and doing life very differently from years past. We have many uncertainties surrounding the future of General Conference in our denomination. We extended the quadrennial and asked General Officers prolong their leadership term. Bishops' retirements are on hold. We called a virtual General Conference for May 8, 2021; designed to help us plan toward an in-person General Conference on August 29, 2022-September 6, 2022. None of this is what we expected, but it is the reality in which we live. A reminder that as much as we think we have control, God is still in charge. We have had to adapt our lives to the new set of circumstances. We are daily living into these new realities. We are shaping a future filled with expectation and hope. Therein lies some good news.

The Cabinet, which consists of the Appointive Cabinet (Bishop Holston and 12 District Superintendents) and Extended Cabinet (Our Conference Lay Leader, Treasurer, Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Congregational Development and the Coordinator of Clergy Services), have been prayerfully moving forward under the leadership of Bishop Holston for eight years. This year, very different challenges arose. Bishop Holston continued to lead with his passion for serving God evident in his actions and decisions. We have worked with our Congregational Specialists and Ministry Advisory Team to review our focus. We have had additional training guiding us through a visioning process as we examine the goals for the SC Annual Conference and prayerfully follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. In this difficult time we have had teams of persons to provide leadership, working to establish best practices and make recommendations to the local churches to help navigate through this year of pandemic. We have broken the silence and had teams of lay and clergy to examine and offer resources for our Response to Racism, moving us to action steps to make a difference. We recognize that we are not there yet, but in the words of poet, Amanda Gorman, "we are not broken just unfinished." We are not there yet, but we are making progress. We have had teams of leaders, lay and clergy, participate in trainings and we have identified four areas of focus to set the course for our next and future steps. We identified four priorities: Developing Leaders, Growing Disciples, Engaging Our Communities, and Measuring Current Realities/Evaluating Missional Possibilities.

In this strange and difficult time, we have explored how technology could help us by leading us to increased opportunities to reach new people and continue our efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. People who typically avoid online resources discovered these resources could help us become more connected, especially in this time of isolation. It may not be ideal, and it certainly does not replace our need to be in the presence of others, but the discomfort of unfamiliarity is beginning to dissolve. We celebrate the laity and clergy of our Conference, who are to be commended on the creative ways they have found to be a witness in this strange time. This year of challenge our clergy and laity celebrate that at

the time of this report being submitted, we do not have any church closings to vote on at this year's Annual Conference.

The faithfulness of the laity and clergy of SC Annual Conference have been consistent in focusing on mission and ministry evident by reaching an amazing 87.16% apportionment giving. Ministries and lives transformed because you are faithful to the call of Jesus Christ.

We still have many questions about General Conference. We have questions about what we will do in the meantime. We have questions about the assignments of Bishops. We have questions about our churches and our pastors. In this season of uncertainty, we can still sing Zion songs. Yes, literally and figuratively. We can claim the victory over the things that hinder us in what has become a strange land when compared to what we knew before the pandemic.

The Psalmist asked this challenging, introspective question in Psalm 137, "How do we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" This kind of reflection may not be easy. It pushes us beyond fear to faith, in Jesus Christ. In this effort, we discover faith that meets us in isolation, exile and wilderness wanderings. How can we sing the Lord's songs in this strange time, place and land? It is by faith in Jesus Christ. We must remember as Christ representatives, we have access to the power to overcome the challenges we face. Therefore, members of the South Carolina Annual Conference, let us embrace who we are and whose we are in Jesus Christ. Let us continue to take our next faithful steps. Faithful on our journey. Faithful, making the difference through apportionment giving. Faithful in overcoming obstacles and tearing down walls of division, while building unity in our community.

The words Bishop Holston shared in his statement referring to the new dates for General Conference seem appropriate for us to reflect upon today.

"Let us be the leaders that our brothers and sisters in Christ, our neighbors in each of our communities, need to make a difference for the sake of Christ.

Let us commit to growing as disciples and engaging with our communities, looking for God to show us the way.

Let us take the next faithful step to courageously answer the call to follow where God leads."

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV), how this is possible. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

We have a great opportunity to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. Let us lay claim to the victory that is already ours in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Stephen Love, Dean of the Cabinet

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

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

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

My work this year has included serving as a resource for lawyers defending local Churches and the Conference in litigation, in working with the Conference Board of Trustees by preparing leases, deeds and sales contracts and in assisting in drafting resolutions and resources for Churches as we have dealt with COVID-19. The Boy Scout bankruptcy and issues created by COVID-19 and the pathway to a safe reopening have been important issues this year.

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

Kay G. Crowe, Conference Counsellor

## **THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN**

### **Areas of Work and Ministry**

#### **Charters**

We continue to struggle in South Carolina to get increases in Chartered Churches. We just have not focus on it as we should. We currently have 270 Active Chartered Churches and continue to be one of leaders in the Southeast Jurisdiction.

#### **EMS**

We did have an increase in EMS this year but have lost some as well. Most of our EMS come from our Conference Leadership Team. At this point we have 46 active EMS members

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

We continue to promote the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, however it seems to have lost

momentum with close of prayer line and start of Prayer Wall. Dennis Sullen our Prayer Advocate is still recovering from medical problems.

#### **Spiritual Retreat**

Our **One in the Spirit** In Person / Virtual event was February 26, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:30. It was produced from Mt. Horeb and livestreamed to Churches across South Carolina. We had 6 Major Host Sponsor churches that was able to seat at least 100 men social distanced, and had the technology to live stream the event. We also had 20 smaller churches donate \$100.00 and provided space for their men's group in their local church. Individuals will be able to login in to the event after a free registration. We believe over 700 attended the event. Keynote Presenters were Carlos Whitaker, John Eldredge, and 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 to help us plan and lead the event.

#### **Teaching Churches**

A plan follow up to the 2021 Event is to have District Meeting In person or Virtual during 2021. The February Event was designed to be first part of total. Two extra sessions were available to be use as follow up.

#### **Leadership**

South Carolina is continuing to build leadership teams in each District. The above Event we hope will push this along. Last year MennMinistry lost two great men Dale Sherrin, past district and Conference President, and also Neel Hollis, the current District President. Their 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.

#### **Scouting**

Rev. Robert Cox served 2 years as SC Scouting Coordinator. Assembled an awesome leadership team and this year has moved on in his retirement plan. 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 2020**

We had a great response to Give Day 2020 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 2021. 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 2021**

We will continue to Work our 8 basic Goals

- Grow the Connection
- Support Prayer Ministry
- Support Society of St Andrew
- Seem 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 use that time in so many special ways. He is already working to help us see new opportunities in new direction for 2021. When we yield to His call, Great and Awesome things happen. Glory to God. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Horton, President  
MennMinistry, SC Conference

### **THE 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:**

Two in person events were held in February 2020.

- Legislative Advocacy Days February 11th at Epworth Children's Home hosted 254 attendees for "Bold United Methodist Women Called to Action". Learning through select workshops and keynote speaker J. Blessingame "Reclaiming the Previously Incarcerated" and presenter T. Void "Active Shooter Awareness" inspired us all.
- Leap Day February 29th Limitless Fun Day at Lebanon United Methodist Church, Eastover, brought 77 together for talent and performances of Limitless members, ages 14-30.

Both our Spiritual Growth Retreat and Come Together Be Together were cancelled due to pandemic and safety needs.

Virtual activities and meetings completed our year.

- Mission u was a virtual learning series of three sessions (July 18, 25 and August 8) led by Rev. Scarlett Hester, Bluffton United Methodist Church. Spiritual Growth study was "Finding Peace in an Anxious World", with 206 registered attendees. Mission u Youth series included dialogue and idea exchange over two sessions.
- Our 48th Annual Meeting "Let Your Light Shine", hosted by Main Street United Methodist Church, Greenwood, brought 254 registrants together for worship, fellowship and conducting business of our organization. Keynote speaker Rev. Thessa Smith, New Trinity United Methodist Church and Bible Study leader Rev. Susan Maddox, St. Paul United Methodist Church inspired us to keep our lights shining brightly in the days to come.

Joyfully we awarded three Presidential Scholarships to bright, caring young women, SC Conference Methodist Church members, each one pursuing higher education degrees. This was our fourth year awarding \$1000 scholarships, totaling fourteen awards.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

We celebrate two South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women members serving on the 2020-2024 Program Advisory Group for United Methodist Women National. Sue Owens, Spartanburg District, is President Southeastern Jurisdiction. Samoria Session, Hartsville District is Member representing South Carolina Conference. Our prayers go with Sue and Samoria as they serve the next four years.

We continue to offer our Presidential Scholarship for women, members of our SC Methodist Churches who are seeking degrees of higher education. Awards are announced in May. Plans are to connect with our previous winners. They are our future leaders.

Our purpose emphasis for 2021 is "to develop a creative supportive fellowship". We will work hard to grow closer, reassure and support one another. As we experience isolation and pause our traditional gatherings, we will create new means of staying connected. Our Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator Vickie Harvey is connecting members requesting Prayer Partners.

Communication is critical during times of isolation. Our quarterly Mission Echo newsletter is an online resource. Our monthly Advocate column highlights current events and service work. District quarterly newsletters share local activities. Our website and face book page are growing. Who are we missing?

We support South Carolina Mission projects, Bethlehem Center Spartanburg, Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, Killingsworth and Wallace Family Life Center. Our Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinators, leader Eunice White Conference E&I are tasked with "telling the story" of their good deeds and services. We support their work which provides a way for women, children and youth to thrive.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are the fourth largest conference in America.

Membership worldwide is over 800,000 strong.  
We celebrated 150 years in mission on March 23, 2019. Our Legacy Fund, permanent endowment, continues to financially prepare for our future.

**Narrative:**

We are a community of women, coming from all twelve districts in South Carolina Conference. Our network of fellowship and friendship is strong. Our bonds and care for each other grow deep. We pray together! Love and compassion rule.

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

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 Ford, Conference President 2019-2022  
[cathylford@gmail.com](mailto:cathylford@gmail.com), 8642316740  
President - Cathy S. Ford  
Vice-President – Janice Eaddy  
Secretary – Dr. Renee Ritter  
Treasurer – Ruby Hannah  
Communications – Kim Love Quick  
Secretary of Program Resources – Shirley Crosby  
Education & Interpretation – Eunice Y. White  
Membership Nurture and Outreach – Lavonne James  
Social Action – Linda Eichenbaum  
Chair CONominations – Kathy Roys  
Dean Mission u – Betty Swinton  
Assistant Dean – Vanessa Key

**SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE LLC**

**Purpose:**

Salkehatchie Summer Service LLC is a South Carolina United Methodist program for youth age 14 and older and adult leaders that volunteer for a week in the summer to rebuild homes for families needing help.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Unfortunately, Salkehatchie did not hold the 2020 scheduled camps due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Unfortunately, Salkehatchie will not be holding the 2021 scheduled camps due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This year the Board examined how we could hold camps because we know of the great need across the state for rebuilding homes. By the time we reviewed the CDC and SCDHEC guidelines for overnight camps, we realized that the guidelines would force us to make too many changes to Salkehatchie. In order to keep homeowners, campers (youth and adults), church folks, schools and communities safe and well, we had to cancel.

We are praying that Salkehatchie will be back in 2022 with a mighty roar.

Our challenge is to promote Salkehatchie to every SCUMC church because we will have much to do 2022.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:** None

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

Please pray for Salkehatchie to come back in 2022 and help us promote this to everyone.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Kathryn Hart, Chair of Board of Managers  
[kathyivey@sc.rr.com](mailto:kathyivey@sc.rr.com), 8033182646

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION**

The year 2021 marks sixty-six 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 2020 the Credit Union was negatively affected by the COVID19 pandemic; however, we continued to conduct member business, never closing a single day due to COVID19. As a financial institution, we confronted the lowest return on investments in over a century, but we are already experiencing the early stages of a recovery.

On January 25, 2021, at the Credit Union's Annual Meeting, due to the pandemic, was held virtually, the members elected Board of Directors and the financial condition of the credit union was reported. Please note below the financial condition of the credit union at the end of 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

James Bradley, Jr., Chairperson,  
Board of Directors  
Reginald D. Wilson, Jr., President

**See next page for Charts**

South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union	12/31/19	12/31/20	Change
<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Cash & Equivalents	460,086	616,284	34
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	647,274	1,199,274	85
Real Estate Loans	441,828	326,167	-26
Unsecured Loans	348,815	117,316	-66
Other Loans	3,123,880	3,232,528	3
TOTAL LOANS	3,914,523	3,676,010	-6
(Allowance for Loan & Lease Losses)	(54,020)	(35,784)	-34
Land And Building	67,788	65,473	-3
Other Fixed Assets	2,663	10,723	303
NCUSIF Deposit	44,106	42,402	-4
All Other Assets	16,087	15,192	-6
TOTAL ASSETS	5,098,507	5,589,574	10

<b>Liabilities</b>			
Dividends Payable	0	0	0
Notes & Interest Payable	0	0	0
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities \3	18,298	20,904	14
TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,298	20,904	14
Regular shares	2,869,178	3,419,575	19
All Other Shares & Deposits	1,639,810	1,617,600	-1
TOTAL SHARES & DEPOSITS	4,508,988	5,037,175	12
Regular Reserve	304,175	304,175	0
Undivided Earnings	267,046	227,320	-15
TOTAL EQUITY	571,221	534,495	-7
TOTAL LIABILITIES, SHARES, & EQUITY	5,098,507	5,589,574	10

Income	12/31/19	12/31/20	Change
	\$	\$	%
Loan Income*	255,232	250,235	-2
Investment Income*	28,763	7,478	-74
Other Income*	12,481	8,783	-30
Total Income*	296,476	266,496	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total Employee Compensation & Benefits*	203,138	197,651	-3
Total Other Operating Expenses*	70,644	74,361	5
Provision for Loan/Lease Losses*	10,658	25,543	140
Cost of Funds*	6,624	6,523	-2
Total Expenses*	291,064	304,078	
<b>Net Income (Loss)*</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>(39,725)</b>	<b>-6.39</b>

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

What a joy it is to share with you, the members of the South Carolina Conference, as partners in ministry with Africa University. The opportunity to update and thank you is truly a bright spot, given the uncertainty and upheaval that have been our shared reality, locally and globally, from the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

I pray that you, your loved ones and wider church family are keeping safe and remaining hopeful and connected, as you address common challenges and safeguard each other's health and well-being.

Africa University is deeply grateful to the local churches of the South Carolina Conference for investing 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2020. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Africa University with such faithfulness and generosity. By giving as you do, even in difficult times, South Carolina United Methodist congregations are a source of encouragement and strength.

The multilayered impact of COVID-19 and the measures instituted to control the public health crisis it engendered have brought about profound and lasting adjustments how we live, work, serve and connect. For Africa University, these included:

- **A shift to online-only teaching and learning from late March through to December 2020.** Online teaching and remote work required more equipment and training for faculty and staff as well as creative actions to ensure consistent internet access for the students, regardless of location. As the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degrees, Africa University had the infrastructure and expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competence-based student assessment tools.
- **Gifts totaling more than \$300,000 from across the United Methodist connection that were designated for COVID-19 relief efforts.** These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to house, feed and encourage almost 300 international students who were stranded on its campus between March and late July 2020.
- **Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth,** with a more than 99% uptake of online learning by students. Due to Africa University's highly proactive approach and adherence to shared governance, more than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year—16% more than the previous year—with 2,395 studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of full-time students were female and 24% were international.
- **Innovation, outreach and service** through:
  - ◊ The development and distribution of masks and hand sanitizer (*of its own design/formulation*), that have now been certified and cleared for commercial production.
  - ◊ The launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat and poultry products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
  - ◊ Two student-led initiatives—**Feed a Family** and **Ben Hill UMC Women's Residence Girl Child Support Program**—that provided medical care, food and school fees assistance to vulnerable families in the wider community. Campus-based and home-based students raised resources, procured supplies and organized safe distribution to families.
- **The successful completion of two new buildings**—the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women's dormitory.

Africa University's online campus is here to stay, thanks to infrastructure enhancements and the lesson learned while staying on mission in 2020. Africa University is working to grow its pan-African presence and impact through new programs, partnerships, and an effective blend of in-person and online learning options.

Thank you, South Carolina United Methodists, for helping to prepare young leaders to be “an aroma that brings life” to a world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing and wholeness (2 Cor. 2:14-16). Through your prayers and gifts, you are an integral part of the outstanding efforts of the students, lecturers and administrators to remain engaged in disciple-making by example. In a fragile and interconnected world and family of faith, your deep commitment, loving concern and steadfast support matter greatly.

Thank you for aiding Africa University in never missing a day of lectures or a meal or a paycheck. In remaining steadfast in their support for the Africa University Fund, the local churches of the South Carolina Conference help Africa University to maintain a balanced budget, carry no debt and focus on transformative ministry.

Thank you for the many scholarship and financial aid gifts from individual South Carolinians, church districts and organizations that are making dreams possible for young people who would otherwise never have a chance of pursuing a college education.

In journeying alongside Africa University in ministry and mission, South Carolina United Methodists are the church in the world—seeding hope and sharing the love of Christ. **You affirm that when we are all in it together, God's grace is indeed sufficient.** To God be the glory.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement  
Africa University Development Office

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

### Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

I am grateful for my first opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of the Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH). Like many institutions, this past year at BUSTH has been largely influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, outrage over enduring racial injustices in our country, and concern over rising white supremacy in our nation. Our work at BUSTH is to prepare religious leaders to encounter and engage complex challenges such as these. A year like 2020 makes the School's historic and ongoing commitments to social justice even more relevant. Below are some BUSTH highlights from 2020. We remain hopeful in our continued partnership with you in the work and witness of the School toward advancing social justice, fostering compassionate communities, and shaping wise leaders for a hurting world.

### BREAKING NEWS:

- **Virtual Learning:** Our faculty, staff, and library successfully pivoted to fully remote learning in Spring 2020 upon the COVID-19 lockdown, which continued through the summer terms. Fall 2020 offered a hybrid approach to learning, due to Boston University's "Learn from Anywhere" initiative, which included a comprehensive on-campus testing program and strict COVID-19 precautions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Students were given the most flexibility, with allowances to learn in-person in socially distanced and masked classes or in the comfort of their own homes via Zoom. The redirection to online learning served as an opportunity for BUSTH faculty to develop new online pedagogical proficiency and positions the School for greater engagement with current conversations concerning best practices in distance, hybrid, and online learning options for students worldwide.
- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for in-depth exchanges and a rich virtual community life. Our Fall 2020 entering class was among our largest classes ever, with 128 new students enrolling in September, despite the fact that recruitment had to transition to be fully online.
- **Faculty:** We celebrated *dean emerita* Mary Elizabeth Moore's 12-year service to the School as she stepped down on December 31, 2020. The institution will be forever grateful for her historic tenure as its dean. The new dean G. Sujin Pak began her appointment on January 1, 2021. Dean Pak is known for her commitments to academic rigor, social justice, and United Methodism, which made her a wonderful fit for the deanship of BUSTH at this time. In the coming months, the School plans to appoint a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership.
- **Lilly Endowment Grant for Thriving Congregations Initiative:** BUSTH was awarded a nearly \$1 million, four-year grant to work with urban congregations responding to trauma. The project will be focused on responding to congregants who are continually shaped by and reacting to compounding domestic and global traumatic events, such as systemic racism, gun violence, homelessness, or immigration stressors.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry. Building student scholarships and housing opportunities remain key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships to support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raices Latinas, Sacred Worth, Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and Black Church Studies.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** Through a generous grant from BU's Digital Education Incubator, BUSTH began to offer online mini-courses, workshops, and reading groups for interested professional and spiritual enrichment of alumni and other religious leaders. Inaugural groups covered topics such as religious Afro-futurism, spirituality through the writings of Howard Thurman, and rituals and practices of grief in a time of pandemic. To learn about or participate in the next BUSTH Lifelong Learning offerings, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional exhibits moved to an online space. The art of John August Swanson is available at <https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-august-swanson-social-justice-artist>.
- **Development:** BUSTH's "On a Mission" campaign surpassed all expectations when it concluded in September 2019, raising \$29.4 million—well beyond the \$15 million goal set in 2010. These funds reflect broad support from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, with a far-reaching impact on the School's ability to pursue its mission. More than 2,800 donors, including 1,927 alumni (a 50% alumni participation rate), contributed to our campaign.

### PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:

- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that are interfaith, broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.

- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We now have four denominational Communities of Learning: Wesleyan/Methodist, Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and the *State of Formation* for emerging leaders.
- **Chaplaincy education:** BUSTH and the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab received a grant to support the joint project "Innovations in Chaplaincy Education," which will seek to redesign courses on chaplaincy in higher education, and centralize education for chaplaincy curricula, including competencies needed for chaplains or other professionals in spiritual care.

**TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- **Campus action:** Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Students participate in apprenticeship ministries across the world.

**COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:**

- Faculty, staff, and students are active in #BlackLivesMatter efforts to seek racial equality, and in collaborative services to support people suffering the consequences of immigration practices or disability inequities.
- In Town Hall meetings, the community has deep conversations on issues that divide, seeking to develop capacities for relating across difference and to create a community based on the dignity of all.

BUSTH celebrates transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church. Your legacy and witness and your partnership give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,  
G. Sujin Pak, Dean

**DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would not be able to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program. As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe. 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. Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

**GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
The United Methodist Church**

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is The United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is a

premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of The United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world's largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by 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 The South Carolina Annual Conference continues to enable Gammon students to carry on a proud Wesleyan tradition of theological education. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry in The United Methodist Church.

Gammon/ITC has experienced a challenging but productive year amid the alternate mode of instruction and learning due to the COVID19 PANDEMIC. We continue to live out our mission to recruit, support, and educate pastors and lay leaders for The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

**Yours in Christ,**

**Joseph L. Crawford, Sr.,**  
**Interim President-Dean, Gammon Theological Seminary**  
653 Beckwith Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30314-4143  
Email: [deancrawford@gammon-itc.org](mailto:deancrawford@gammon-itc.org)  
Office: 404-581-0300, Fax: 404-581-0305

**METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO**  
[www.mtso.edu](http://www.mtso.edu)

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

**MTSO preserves learning and community despite COVID-19**

Confronted by the challenges of a pandemic, MTSO's students, faculty and staff joined together to preserve a learning environment and a sense of community. In March 2020, the school announced that Spring Semester and summer classes all would move online. A virtual commencement was held for the class of 2020, featuring submitted video of individual graduates, as well as faculty members in full regalia. Addressing the graduates, President Jay Rundell said, "The pandemic has prepared you in ways that you might not realize. There will be surprises in the future. You now know how to adapt."

Fall 2020 classes began in a "hyflex" format, blending online learning and optional campus-based classes. As the virus became more widespread in mid-October, the school pivoted to all-online learning, extending the online-only format through the 2021 Spring Semester. During all COVID-related adaptations, MTSO's tradition of Tuesday chapel services continued – in person and distanced when possible, online when necessary. In addition, the dining hall staff offered free Thanksgiving dinners for pickup to students and employees, and continued to provide to-go lunches on a regular basis. Student organizations and study groups have continued to meet virtually. Most recently, plans were made to hold the 2021 commencement virtually.

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

MTSO and the school's generous 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 at 800-333-6876 or [admissions@mtso.edu](mailto:admissions@mtso.edu).

**\$1 million Lilly Endowment grant will promote thriving in ministry**

In December 2020, MTSO received a grant of \$995,731 to help establish "Spaces for Thriving: Cultivating Authentic Pastors for Small Membership Churches and Communities of Color." The project is part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Thriving in Ministry, an initiative that supports

a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they create or strengthen programs that help pastors build relationships with experienced clergy who can serve as mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry. The central goals of MTSO's project are to improve pastoral thriving through attention to well-being, authenticity in vocation, and connections to fellow pastors.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Russell, director of communications

### SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution, online and on-campus, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many students choosing to attend class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly "Chat & Chew" where students, faculty, and staff come together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry. In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma Campus Chapel Coordinator, crafts a weekly Community Prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the school seeks to provide spiritual formation in new ways.

Kansas Campus Chapel Coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by introducing our weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services together for one service where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. Along with our featured alumni worship preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The Many, who led the music each week for worship. In Spring 2020, Odell Talley, Director of Music for Swope Parkway United and organist for Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist, served as Musician in Residence. For those who cannot join us live, chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have added new adjunct professors, including Rev. Dr. Carol Cook-Moore and Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe both of the OKUMC, Rev. Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon Chapel AME, UMC Deaconess Cindy Johnson of Rio Grande Conference, Rev. Adam Hamilton and Debi Nixon both of Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Chebon Kernell of the UMC Native American Comprehensive Plan, and Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology continue to maintain high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Their many activities and publications over the past year are so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

1. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology, will publish "Schleiermacher's Christian Ethics" in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Schleiermacher, which will appear in 2022 from the Oxford University Press.
2. Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, continues her service on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion, working on several committees advancing the aims of the Society.
3. Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, will see the publication of his book, Reading and Interpreting the Bible with Global South Christians: A 21st Century Model for Europe and North America Christendom, by Wipf and Stock Publishers this summer. He has also written four Commentaries on 2 Corinthians and Ephesians which appeared on WorkingPreacher.org in April.
4. Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies, continues his work as a contributing writer in *The Missouri Methodist* magazine.
5. Dr. Kristen E. Kvam, Professor of Theology, serves as co-chair for the American Academy of Religion's Program Unit "Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions." Over the last several months, she has conducted invited presentations to the Great Plains UMC Clergy and its Clergy Excellence in Liminal Time Conversations and the Fall Theological Conference of Central States Synod (ELCA) on October 14, 2020.
6. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, continues to contribute regularly to WorkingPreacher.org and served as the keynote speaker at the Wesleyan Liturgical Society in Kansas City in March 2020. Her scholarly writing will appear in the Preaching the Manifold Grace, Vol. 2, edited by Ronald J. Allen and published by Wipf and Stock.

This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and partnerships to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events, Rev. Shannon Hancock, Director of Admissions and Communications,

has expanded her reach to prospective students by participating as a virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages with prospective students via apps such as Whova and HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course delivery system and formative community.

In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. His lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current immigration crisis. Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering a conversation centering around the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, Associate Professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and Pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant Communities." And for the first time, on May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos, cap and gown photos, online congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by Rev. Chebon Kernell. The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and 1 Doctor of Ministry graduates. Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60th Anniversary Celebration. However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as a community for a safe, in-person gathering.

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students, 40 of which were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses. Due to Covid-19, the school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-campus) schedule for six courses. Although for 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in development.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor Emeritus at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers Strickland, Founder/CEO of Strickland Construction.

Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group on Native American theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are focused on how the church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related to the spread of Christianity and the genocide of Indigenous North Americans.

As we have happily reported in past years, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. The changes made these last years have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. We continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and emergency assistance to students. Our significant investments in technology have recently allowed our staff, faculty, and students to transition to a fully hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the pandemic. Our faculty was uniquely adept at managing technology in the classroom before the pandemic, making the transition to all online courses a smooth process.

With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future. Perhaps most importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the pandemic.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to answer the call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to help our students manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 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.

Kansas Campus  
13720 Roe Avenue, Building C  
Leawood, KS 66224

Oklahoma Campus  
2501 North Blackwelder, Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106



spst.edu

*Where Theology Meets Life*

**UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Dayton, OH**

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19*

It appears God is doing some new things at United Theological Seminary, even in the midst of health, racial, and political crises.

**God is doing a new thing at United financially.** United continues to make progress toward its goal of becoming debt-free by the Seminary's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of alumni/ae and donors, less than \$1 million remains of the original \$4 million mortgage debt. After the mortgage is paid in full, the Seminary plans to convert those mortgage payments into money for student scholarships.

**God is doing a new thing in enrollment.** Over the last five years, United's Doctor of Ministry program has grown by 48%, from 170 students in the 2016-17 academic year to 251 in 2020-21. In Fall 2021, Dr. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will become the Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies, upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Hudson who has been a vital leader at the Seminary for 17 years.

**God is doing a new thing with partners in church renewal.** In the 2020-21 academic year, United has partnered with Fresh Expressions US and the Mosaix Global Network to introduce two new Houses of Study. These houses oversee specialized tracks in the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity programs. Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is director of the Fresh Expressions House of Studies, and Dr. Harry Li is director of the Mosaix House of Studies.

In collaboration with the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, United also introduced Rooted/Enraizados, a certificate program for coaches and mentors of Hispanic/Latino church planters. In 2020-21, the program served students from more than five annual conferences.

**God is doing a new thing with the establishment of The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center.** Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by providing a hub of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and creative ways. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins United as the inaugural director of the Innovation Center.

United's prayer is that United Methodists will perceive the new things that God is doing in our communities, congregations, and ministries as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,

Dr. Kent Millard, President

**WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

For the world, 2020 was a year like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, plus resurgent racism, mass unemployment, and politically challenging times in the US, Wesley remained committed to fostering wisdom and courage, preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions for the sake of God's inbreaking kingdom. The mode of educational delivery changed overnight, as we became an all-online seminary on March 15, 2020 and have remained so to keep students, faculty, staff and all members of the Wesley community safe from COVID-19 exposure on campus. This is simply Wesley modelling what we teach our students: to be committed to our God-given mission while being innovative and responsive in the delivery of ministry. Here are some of the ways we are accomplishing that with our many partners in this mission, as we seek to faithfully minister to the world in the future.

***Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry***

Wesley is pleased to announce new opportunities for UMC congregations to explore, clarify, and pursue thriving in their communities. Through **The Source Collaborative**, Wesley will work with three cohorts of regional congregations in a two-year process of prayer, community engagement, congregational visioning, and coaching, with the goal of following Jesus in mission and ministry. Interested congregations can contact [innovation@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:innovation@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information. This work, funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment, Inc, grant, raises Wesley's role as a leading research and development seminary for the whole church and complements Wesley's other Lilly Endowment-funded projects focused on congregational vitality.

The **Religious Workforce Project** is an expansive study of the current and future nature of religious work, particularly in local congregations, so as to understand what opportunities and constraints may exist in the future and to adapt resources and training accordingly. Through

the **Wesley Innovation Hub**, the seminary has worked with 18 congregations in the greater Washington area to experiment with ministries with young adults outside the church. Together, these projects forge insight into future ministry and local church development, influencing the way students are trained in master's, doctoral, and course of study education, but also informing workshops, podcasts, articles, and training for church leaders working in their communities across the country.

We invite you to discover the latest research and conversations generated by the Wesley community through our new web portal, #EngageInTheseTimes, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage).

### ***Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers***

Research shows that the primary way people learn about and begin to consider seminary options is through their pastor or an alumnus. Whether you feel called or you know someone who does, **Wesley is ready to work with you** as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today—for laity and clergy, for those seeking a degree or certification or continuing education, and for ministry from within or beyond the church.

Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies, any of which can be focused around specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership.

For full-time students, we offer a modern and affordable residential community in the nation's capital. Our **Community Engagement Fellows** program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial, community-based ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their MDiv degree. Our **3+3 Fast Track BA/MDiv program with Shenandoah University** allows students to complete both degrees in six years, entering ministry more quickly and with less debt.

For people with work, ministry, and family commitments, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years**. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2021 at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3).

Wesley works with each student to make seminary affordable. Thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations, and friends, Wesley provides more than \$2 million annually in scholarships. In addition to our regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, Wesley has released special additional scholarships: **full-tuition scholarships** for people recommended by Wesley alumni, campus ministers, or Christian camping or service ministries who feel called to leadership in the church as it is becoming; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students who have worked in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx/Hispanic leaders for ministries both within and beyond the church.

### ***Take your ministry to the next level***

In addition to full master's degrees, Wesley offers graduate certificates for those preparing for specialized ministry! The new **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is designed for people who work with and advocate for children and young people, whether in churches, schools, or non-profit organizations. The **non-residential certificate can be completed in 12 to 15 months** through online coursework and up to two residential sessions. For more information, visit [www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3). The **Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/)

Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs** in specialized tracks that can include international study. Wesley is pleased to announce three new Doctor of Ministry tracks for 2022: Ministry in a Digital Age, a timely new track exploring the new opportunities and challenges of online ministry; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World, hosted in Cambridge, England; and a program focused on Latinx ministry. As well, new 2022 cohorts for our popular DMin areas of focus will be offered for Military Chaplains and CPE chaplains, our international mission-focused Global Church Leadership program, and Wesley's premiere DMin program in innovative church administration "**Church Leadership Excellence**." Find out more or apply at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/).

### ***Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry***

The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Stay on top of their latest developments by subscribing to their podcast or newsletter at [www.churchleadership.com](http://www.churchleadership.com). Also look for new practical online courses at [www.lewisonlinelearning.org](http://www.lewisonlinelearning.org).

The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Dr. Tom Pruski at [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. For more information, visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The **Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. By engaging in innovative research, staging challenging exhibitions in our Dadian Gallery, and hosting visiting artists in our on-campus studio, the Luce Center seeks to promote dialogue and foster inspired creativity. For information on upcoming workshops and shows at the Dadian Gallery, visit [www.luceartsandreligion.org](http://www.luceartsandreligion.org).

#### ***Faculty leading the way***

Our internationally regarded faculty are the heartbeat of transformative education at Wesley. Our faculty continue to advance theological scholarship with new research, publications, and courses. During this past year, we celebrated the ministries of retiring faculty member Dr. Sondra Wheeler. We also welcomed New Testament professor Dr. Laura C. Sweat Holmes to the Wesley community.

#### ***Stay connected***

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu) about how Wesley's degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/). Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley's social media, [www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary](http://www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary), on Instagram [@wesleyseminary](https://www.instagram.com/wesleyseminary), and on Twitter [@WesTheoSem](https://twitter.com/WesTheoSem), or sign up for our electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling).

## **HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER**

#### **Purpose:**

Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Rural Life Center's purpose is to engage individuals, congregations, and communities in transformation through retreat ministries and missional outreach.

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

I'm happy that 2020 is behind us and hopeful for 2021! At Hinton Rural Life Center, we are blessed to have secured a strong foundation over the past decade and with the generosity of The Duke Endowment, North Carolina Health Foundation, The Nantahala Health Foundation, Dub and Murray Martin, the Payroll Protection Program, and our donors. We were blessed with an incredible giving response in 2020 from individuals, churches, and other organizations – with a 46% increase over 2019 giving. All of this financial support enabled Hinton to continue to cover the cost of operations and to reach out in mission and ministry over the past year.

I'd love to have a standing ovation for Hinton's talented and dedicated staff. Even through lay-offs and payroll deductions required to navigate cash flow in 2020, our staff facilitated online webinars and summer staff training, hosted a virtual missional training event for young people, implemented and maintained new cleaning and operating protocols, and creatively and safely met needs in our community through our Safe & Healthy Home Repair ministry, firewood ministry, and garden ministry.

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

As for 2021, we are excited about:

- Campus enhancements: completing renovations in the McCall Retreat House and Sells Cottage; improving and creating new trails and "sanctuary" gardens; and updating our disc golf course.
- Partnering with a local medical provider to further connect our home repair ministry with improving the health and safety of our neighbors.
- Continuing to offer virtual equipping and learning opportunities, including mental health first aid training and webinars that explore and support the strengths and mission of the rural church.
- Offering discipleship and leadership training opportunities for young people that include training of our summer staff, Hinton YouthLead Academy, Staffers-in-

Training; these events are bearing fruit as young people are discerning calls to ordained ministry! We are also planning a Confirmation Retreat ministry to launch in Spring 2022.

- Celebrating Hinton's 60th Anniversary, in 2021, as an agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, with special events that recognize and give thanks for 60 years of fruitful mission and ministry for the glory of God! We are excited to have Bishop Ken Carter as the guest preacher at our Service of Celebration on September 25.

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

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

Located in the Southwest corner of North Carolina in the Appalachian Mountains on Lake Chatuge, Hinton Rural Life Center is dedicated to serving all with retreat and renewal ministries; mission outreach opportunities for individuals, families, and church teams; and equipping and discipleship programs that impact individuals, groups, and congregations for transformational ministry in their own communities.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO,  
Hinton Rural Life Center  
jackie@hintoncenter.org, 8283898336

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