

Committee on the Annual Conference

The work of the Committee on the Annual Conference entails planning, implementing, and evaluating the sessions of the annual conference. The committee works to be relevant, responsive and sensitive to the state of the church as we balance remembering and looking forward. The theme chosen for this quadrennium is “See the Possibilities, Live the Promises!” The focus this year will be “See the Possibilities, what do you see? ‘Can you see anything (Mark 8:22-26)?’” This theme and scripture remind us that our spiritual growth and wellbeing as individuals and a people is a process. To become what God has called us to be will require us to stay focused on our mission to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously.

- A. Date and Location:** ¶603.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline provides that the dates and times of annual conference are appointed by the Bishop. Under the leadership of Bishop Fairley, June 6-10, 2027 are set as the dates for the next Annual Conference. Last year in accordance with Standing Rule 63c the Committee recommended and the Annual Conference approved that the 2027-2029 sessions be held in the Florence Center, in Florence, South Carolina.
- B. Retiree Annual Conference Per Diem:** For 2027, the Conference Secretary, recommends that retired clergy members of the South Carolina Annual Conference, who are not under appointment and live more than twenty (20) miles from Florence, receive a \$130.00 per diem for the days they attend the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The cost of printing and renting venues large enough to host a gathering of this size continues to rise. The Committee on the Annual Conference continues to work with the Secretary of the Conference to find ways to reduce the cost of conducting annual conference without reducing our standard of excellence in worship, experience and ministry. While the business of the annual conference is part and parcel to what we do, our goal is to provide each member of the annual conference with such an experience of excellence that they will want to reproduce that same standard of excellence in every ministry setting across this annual conference. Our annual conference will include inspiring worship, an opportunity for service, and robust Christian conferencing.

The committee expresses its profound gratitude to the 2027 Host/Logistics team under the leadership of Chris Lynch. This team together with the “VisitGreenvilleSC” staff have worked tirelessly planning, arranging and carrying out important details. The fact that many of these details will go unnoticed is a testimony to their hard work. We are grateful for the spirit of hospitality we’ve experienced from our Host District Superintendent, the Rev. Chris Lollis, the Greenwood District Superintendent sharing coverage for Greenville District this year. A word of gratitude is offered to our host church, Advent United Methodist Church and its team under the leadership of the Rev. Russell Freeman. The Worship team under the leadership of Rev. Beverly Crowe Tipton has also worked overtime to ensure that our time together is both productive and meaningful. We are grateful to the many volunteers from the Greenville District and across the state who have supported this conference with their best gifts. A special word of gratitude is offered to the Rev. Sharome Henry and Mrs. Lollie Hasleden for once again going above and beyond the call of duty in this conference season. This team and all of our volunteers have been working hard to build upon our wonderful experience in Greenville in 2026. They have tried to care for every detail along the way.

Finally, with sadness we offer a word of thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Pat Mack one last time. Pat retired earlier this year after spending forty-nine years working for the Conference in one capacity or another. There is very little, if any that exists related to Annual Conference that she has not touched over the years. She has offered a steady and consistent presence for many years at the registration and information tables during Annual Conference. Her presence on conference staff will be missed greatly, and her legacy of love and welcome will continue.

Leonard E. Fairley, Resident Bishop

A. Melton Arant, Jr., Conference Secretary