

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry

Purpose:

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry provides Christian homes with the highest quality of life and the greatest level of independence for adults with special needs.

Key moments from the previous year:

During the previous year, Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry opened a new home in Columbia that will serve 4 women with special needs. The ministry also started delivering residential services through a Supervised Living Placement where we provide support to people in the community that live in their own home. We started serving a young lady that lives in her own home that is physically completely dependent upon others for her care; however, she is cognitively capable of making decisions regarding her life and care. This has been a major undertaking for our ministry as we had to purchase a wheelchair accessible van to provide her care. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide care to people living more independently in the community and we hope to grow this program over the next year.

Additionally we received funds from a generous donor to purchase or build a home in the Greenville area so that is going to be a new service area for our ministry. Also, we are looking at building or purchasing some apartments in the Greenville area for folks that are more independent, but still need supervision. Our ministry is looking for another home to purchase in the Columbia area as well as we have a family that wants to purchase a home for the ministry so we can serve more people in need.

Objectives for the coming year:

- Our objectives for the coming year are as follows:
- Continue to grow the ministry by purchasing another home in the Columbia area, purchasing/building a home in the Greenville area
- Expand the Supervised Living Placement program by serving more people living the community in the Columbia area and in the Greenville area
- Continue to provide high quality residential services in our existing homes to our wonderful residents and continue to attract compassionate residential counselors to be a part of our ministry team
- Enhance our infrastructure within the ministry to support the growth we are experiencing by creating and recruiting new positions such as a Director of Development and a Director of Human Resources
- We want to do more outreach so we have a greater presence within the churches that are part of the SCUMC Conference. Additionally, we hope to expand our outreach into other areas and churches within our communities around the state.
- Continue to provide advocacy and support to families and individuals in need that might not qualify for residential services in one of our homes. This is something that we do quite a bit of as there are a lot of people in need in our state that contact us and need guidance on where to start and what services are available in South Carolina. If someone doesn't qualify to live in our homes, but still needs assistance, we try to help them navigate services and have even provided financial assistance on occasion for those in critical need.

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

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is making a positive impact on the lives of the people we serve through our residential programs and the folks that we assist that are in the community. Also, we are giving back in our communities by volunteering for programs like Sharing Gods Love, Meals on Wheels, Rise Against Hunger, and more. We are incredibly grateful for the support that we receive from the SCUMC Conference and the churches that support our ministry. Please know that your support whether it's through prayers or donations is absolutely transforming the lives of people with special needs.

Respectfully submitted:

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Other ministry members:

Kim Thomas, Executive Director
Susan Long, HR and Training Manager
Victoria Maple, Residential Director

Epworth

Purpose:

The purpose of Epworth 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:

Epworth ended 2025 with an increase in gifts and contributions over 2024. Our churches continue to be our largest form of support. Through this support we are able to offer children and families the care and guidance they need to move toward stability and well-being. Last year 151 churches partnered with Epworth and provided various forms of support to children, youth and families.

Epworth continued to expand our footprint into all regions of the state. Overall, Epworth served 2230 children, youth and families in 2025.

Epworth's legacy program continues to serve youth with quality residential services. The traditional residential program served 45 youth on our campus. Four of the youth served graduated from high school and are attending Midlands Technical School. The Independent Living Center served 18 youth ages 18-23 years of age. This center prepares youth who are aging out of care with the necessary tools to be successful in life. Epworth's Family Care Center served 38 mothers and children during 2025. This program provides a safe space for mothers and their children while going through substance use treatment. Mothers are taught life skills so that the family unit is preserved upon discharge from the program.

Epworth launched a Family Resource Center in September 2025. This center provides families with education and parenting support, counseling, community connections and basic needs assistance. The center hosts a resource closet where families are able to shop for household items, baby needs and clothing. In its initial months, the center served 44 families.

The foster care program continues to thrive. Foster care staff served 411 children in the program. We celebrated 33 adoptions last year with 32 of those children adopted into Epworth families. Out of 167 licensed families, Epworth was able to retain 81% of our foster parents. This is a high percentage for foster parent retention, and we have our church partners to thank. Research shows that up to 50% of families quit fostering within their first year due to lack of support. The support we receive from the UMC is instrumental in the success of this program.

The Early Intervention Center serves children with special needs through a preschool on campus and home-based services. In 2025, the home-based program served 211 clients and expanded to Spartanburg County.

Our prevention programs continue to expand statewide. These programs include family preservation services where staff are working with children and families in their homes to prevent out-of-home placement. Last year, we served 178 families in these programs. Kinship Navigation is a prevention program designed to assist kin caregivers who are caring for a relative child in their home. Epworth provides this service in the Midlands and Pee Dee regions of the state. Last year we helped over 550 families through connecting them with resources, parental support, counseling services, financial assistance and legal aid.

Epworth maintained the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound financial management, and its commitment to accountability, and transparency for the 13th year in a row.

Objectives for the coming year:

Epworth is partnering with North Charleston United Methodist Church to launch an additional Center for Counseling in North Charleston. With the addition of the Charleston location, Epworth has three outpatient counseling centers statewide. In 2025, the Anderson and Columbia Centers served over 450 clients. The Centers for Counseling provide in-person and telehealth treatment services to children, youth, and families.

Within the Midlands Center for Counseling, Epworth has added a new Rapid Response program. This program is a crisis deescalation service for children and youth in foster care. Staff serve foster families who are experiencing a mental health crisis with their foster child. This program strives to increase stability for youth in foster care and to avoid disruption in placement. This new program is expanding to serve Kershaw, Lexington and Fairfield counties.

Action(s) required from the 2026 Annual Conference:

Continue to support us through the Mother's Day and Workday offerings. Thank you for everything you do for Epworth.

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

Epworth has a long tradition of assessing the needs of underserved children and their families and of offering new services and programs that meet the changing needs of South

Carolina's families. Whether Epworth is serving children and families through the traditional group home, foster family programs, kinship care initiatives, counseling programs, prevention programs, family care programs or services for older, disengaged youth, the mission of healing hurts and nurturing hope through Christian communities continues. Epworth is a community where unconditional love and grace are modeled to all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, or religious preference.

Respectfully submitted,
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Other ministry members:

Rev. Bryson Williams, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Epworth

**STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND
EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME**

PREAMBLE

The United Methodist Church has a history of Christian responsibility for service to people through the arm of its social welfare agencies, as evidenced in the ministry of this Home.

Since its founding in 1895 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, three central values have driven this ministry:

- 1.) God in Jesus Christ proclaims that every human being is of infinite value in God's sight; and therefore, those who know God respect the value of every person.
- 2.) It is the plan of God's creation that human life *come* forth and receive nurture in families.
- 3.) Children need an atmosphere of love, acceptance and guidance that they may come to know God's purpose and joy.

Out of these values arise our mission and the cooperative ministry between this Home and the South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME MISSION STATEMENT

Epworth's mission is to serve children, youth and families through caring, safe, Christian communities, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Epworth's purpose 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.

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

With a rich heritage blessed by God, and faithfully supported by God's people, we now seek to clarify and strengthen the relationship between Epworth Children's Home, Inc. and the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church agrees to:

- 1.) receive nominations and elect members to the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, in keeping with the charter and by-laws of Epworth Children's Home; in keeping with the Standing Rules of the SC Annual Conference;
- 2.) continue to provide benevolent support to Epworth Children's Home through channels such as Mother's Day, Work Day, and Back to School offerings, encouraging its people to make special gifts, and be supportive of the Home's programs of planned giving and fund development;
- 3.) permit Epworth Children's Home to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship;
- 4.) cooperate with Epworth Children's Home in furthering the promotion and interpretation of Epworth Children's Home's mission and programs;
- 5.) communicate with Epworth Children's Home any changes in the rules and actions of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference which may affect Epworth Children's Home;
- 6.) receive an annual audited financial report from Epworth Children's Home;
- 7.) maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

Epworth Children's Home, Inc., agrees to:

- 1.) continue its tradition of offering quality services to children, youth and families, and to develop innovative concepts to help with their changing needs;
- 2.) submit an annual audited financial report to the Annual Conference;

Methodist Manor

Methodist Manor mission is to provide an extraordinary Continuing Care Community offering exceptional selection of living option 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, wherever he or she may be in that process. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination.

Methodist Manor opened its doors December 1991 guided by traditional values, strong commitment to service, hospitality, community, friendship and care. Residents enjoy a lifestyle that embraces spiritual, social, emotional and physical well-being. The Community Campus is located in Florence, South Carolina. The Manor offers Independent Living in the form of Patio Homes and spacious one- or two-bedroom apartments, Assisted Living suites for those looking a supportive environment, Magnolia Terrace for dementia, memory support and Alzheimer Care, and the Healthcare Center which provides skilled Nursing Care. Home Health services as well as additional programs are designed to provide personal assistance to residents and enable them to retain their independence longer, in the comfort and privacy of their independent home or apartment.

Methodist Manor is a 501 (c) (3) Corporation, a not-for-profit Senior Living Community. The Manor currently serves about 230 residents. It is guided and directed by Methodist Manor Board of Trustees, the Trustee members consist of Florence business leaders, family members and some appointed through the S C Annual Conference, assist and provide guidance to the President & CEO and staff to ensure support and continually strategic planning for the growth of current and future resident's needs of Methodist Manor.

The Manor always seeks and tries to improve upon services and amenities as the senior population continues to change and grow, those changes now include baby boomers entering the Retirement markets of Retirement Communities for the first time. The Manor has been open for 33 years and has undertaken numerous renovations throughout the years to accommodate requests for common areas and activities spaces. We are continuing to expand to meet not only the needs of our existing Community population but allowing us to attract and maintain future generations with the level of quality living experience and care expected by people seeking retirement housing in Florence, SC.

In last few years we have enhanced our property with a Club House, spacious outdoor Pavillion with walking paths, gardens and pond, putting green, croquette court, children's playground area with equipment and dog park that is enjoyed by residents and family members alike. In our Lifestyle Center we have created a n enhanced and spacious common area that includes a movie theater, movement room, exercise and weight room, resident/family activity and game room, massage therapist and nail salon, art room and gallery, there is also a catering kitchen.

We feel the number of services; activities and programs, amenities, dining choices all enhance the resident's quality of life. The Manor embraces a customer focused model for service delivery that redirects the variety of services and amenities being provided so that resident's choices and conveniences are reflected incorporated. Methodist Manor regularly offers enriching cultural programs, educational and entertainment, along with organized programs such as shopping and sightseeing excursions, intergenerational programs, a variety of fitness and wellness programs. We have purchased two new vehicles, an SUV vehicle for individual appointments of residents when the larger bus is not needed, allowing us to be more economical and cost effective. Also, an additional 14 passenger bus to add to our current Transportation program. The new bus has the capability of carrying additional wheelchairs residents, expanding our ability to serve our three levels of Assisted Living, Dementia Care and Health Care population with Dr. and Health Care appointments as well as Activities and Social events. A superior Dining service offering a Culinary trained Chef and professional staff who deliver an elegant dining experience to our residents. The Manor provides numerous activities programs, multiple dining options, expansive service hours, special events and catering services.

We are appreciative of the United Methodist Conference of South Carolina for their annual donation to assist in the support of our Residents Financial Assistance 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. This year we have provided \$128,976.91 to residents in need. We are also beginning to see our Senior population as a whole live longer than previous generations and tend to need the full continuum of Care; Independent, Assisted Living and Health Care that's offered at Methodist Manor.

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.

Purpose: Requesting funds for our Resident Assistance program.

Key moments from the previous year: "The Manor purchased a new 14 passenger bus, retiring a previous bus that was 20 years old. Adding to the capability to provide transportation to Doctor and Health Care Appointments, shopping and activities and event out into Community of Florence. Our new bus also has the capability to transport 3 wheelchair

residents, vs the old bus which could only transport 1 wheelchair resident at a time. This has greatly improved the time and availability for appointments for our Residents in Assisted Living, Dementia Care and Health Care.

Creating Spa Room in Health Care, allowing the resident to use a full whirlpool tub vs. showers, many residents have physical limitations of being able to access shower. Construction on this project is not complete at this.

We are fortunate to have our Chaplain Jeanie Swanson, who has been with us roughly 2 1/2 years and has continue to grow and expand our Chapel Services and therefore able to form a choir, increase the population of the Congregation, has provided bible studies and music to all three Health Care area, visit our members who are hospitalized, in Rehab facilities and Hospice. Because Jeanie has grown and knows the resident population has been entrusted to perform many memorials and services at family requests."

Objectives for the coming year: "We provided Residents assistance to 4 residents this past year, total funds provided to these residents \$ 128, 976.91. As our population comes to us at an older age upon move in (average age 87) they tend to need to move through the continuum levels of care, as they do so we see Residents who have lived their mean out lived their means, and that we need to provide Resident Assistance.

Our original building is 39 years old and is in constant need of upgrading or repairs; boilers, hot water tanks, kitchen equipment, flooring in common areas and individual Patio homes, Independent, Assisted Living, Dementia and Health Care apartments, roofing, our Chapel needs to have exterior wood replaced, etc."

Actions requested of this Annual Conference: We request that we continue to receive funding for our Resident Assistance program.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this: That we are sincerely grateful for the funds we have received from United Methodist Conference, enabling us to assist our Residents that exhausted their financial means and continue to live in their lives out in their home at The Manor.

Art Justice, Chairman for the Board of Trustees
Teresa L. Reich, President and CEO The Manor

Wesley Commons

Purpose:

Wesley Commons is dedicated to enriching lives by providing innovative living opportunities, grounded in Christian principles. We are a master-planned, full-service Life Plan Community committed to exceptional care and vibrant living.

Key moments from the previous year:

The past year was a true test of our resilience. Like much of the country, Wesley Commons navigated the difficult headwinds of inflation, a tightening labor market, and a surge in demand for our services. While these external pressures were significant, our dedicated team rose to the occasion, acting as a steadfast "shelter from the storm" for our entire Wesley Commons family.

We didn't just weather these challenges; we took decisive action to overcome them. To that end, we are proud to announce that we have closed a significant financing round and initiated another major expansion of our services to directly address our growing waitlist.

While we deeply felt the impact of the past year's trials, our mission of care remained unwavering. We are emerging from this period stronger and more focused than ever. With the dawn of this new chapter, we stand ready to serve our community with renewed fortitude and commitment.

Objectives for the coming year:

As we look toward the coming year, our vision is defined by intentional growth and an elevated standard of living for every member of the Wesley Commons family.

The centerpiece of this journey is the development of our new neighborhood, a strategic expansion designed specifically to welcome those on our growing waitlist and integrate them into our vibrant community.

This year will be marked by a holistic enhancement of the campus experience. We are committed to refining every touchpoint of our service:

- Assisted Living: Modernizing care environments to ensure comfort and dignity remain at the forefront.
- Hospitality & Social Life: Reimagining our residential living services to offer exceptional dining, expanded social calendars, and deeper community connections.

Underpinning these advancements is our bedrock of responsible stewardship. By maintaining a position of financial and operational strength, we ensure that Wesley Commons remains a secure haven. Our focus is not merely on expansion, but on protecting the peace of mind of our current residents, allowing them to focus on what matters most: living their best lives.

We are navigating this next chapter with confidence, transforming external pressures into internal progress and ensuring that our mission of care continues to flourish.

Action(s) required from the 2026 Annual Conference:

Our commitment to those in financial need remains a cornerstone of our mission, anchored by the vital work of our Resident Support Fund. Thanks to the profound generosity of our donors, we have maintained our goal to provide lifelong care for residents who have outlived their personal financial resources after moving to Wesley Commons. This safety net ensures that no member of our family faces the future without the security and dignity they deserve.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for their steadfast partnership. Their unwavering support of this ministry allows us to provide essential assistance during these complex economic times.

This collaboration does so much for our elders; it honors a generation that has given so much to our nation. We are profoundly thankful for this continued financial support, which allows us to sustain a "shelter from the storm" for those most in need.

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

Wesley Commons is a blessed community, thriving through seasons of both trial and triumph. Our ability to fulfill our mission is a true testament to God's grace and the unwavering dedication of our employees, residents, and the broader community.

Together, we have lived out our calling: to enrich lives through innovative living opportunities deeply rooted in Christian principles.

Narrative:

Set across 165 acres of picturesque woodland in Greenwood, South Carolina, Wesley Commons offers a perfect balance: the charm of a close-knit town paired with easy access to metropolitan amenities. Our residents thrive in vibrant, beautifully designed neighborhoods, supported by a caring staff dedicated to providing exceptional hospitality and life enriching amenities.

Our community is more than just a place to live; it is a comprehensive continuum of care. While our residential living programs and neighborhoods are recognized across our field, we also enrich lives through advanced care. We offer everything from proactive wellness programs and assisted living to skilled nursing and specialized memory care for

Alzheimer's and dementia. Additionally, our campus provides critical therapy and post-acute services, ensuring our residents are supported at every stage. This reputation for excellence has made Wesley Commons a premier destination, attracting residents from all across the country.

Respectfully submitted,
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