



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE



LEONARD E. FAIRLEY
Resident Bishop

LOLLIE HASELDEN
Executive Assistant

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My wife, Dawn, and I count it a great honor to welcome you to the 2026 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference in Greenville. Our theme for the 2025-2028 quadrennium is “See The Possibilities, Live The Promises.” This year’s theme: “See The Possibilities: What Do You See?” serves to focus our direction toward where Jesus is moving in the world.

We have witnessed firsthand the beautiful seeds of hope, healing, and love being sown in so many areas of our life together as South Carolina United Methodists. It is clear that the Connection is alive and thriving in South Carolina.

It is our prayer that you will receive and give witness to God’s presence as we practice Holy Conferencing. We will participate in two mission projects while we are together, being the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbors both locally and around the world. Plan to participate in Rise Against Hunger as we pack 125,000 meals on Tuesday afternoon, and take a moment to write a note of encouragement and love to our college students and young people on stationery designed by residents of Epworth Children’s Home.

We are honored to hear Bishop Paul Leeland bring us a good word as we celebrate those being commissioned, ordained and retiring, and the Rev. Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge, senior pastor of Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church in Columbia, as preacher during the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.

We give thanks to all the people that have made this Annual Conference possible, including, but not limited to: conference secretary, Rev. Mel Arant and the Committee on the Annual Conference; the people of the Greenville District and its superintendents, Rev. Chris Lollis, Rev. Cathy Mitchell and Rev. Steve Patterson; the congregation of our host church, Simpsonville United Methodist Church, and its pastor, Rev. Russell Freeman; and the countless volunteers who have given their time to support our gathering.

I pray each of you will come to Greenville with a sense of eager anticipation and a willingness to have eyes that see the movement of the Spirit among us as we celebrate together and discover what new things God has in store for the People called United Methodist in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

In Christ,