

‘God’s work, not ours’

From ordination and a reduced budget to separation of 112 churches, Annual Conference tackles hard work of UMC in South Carolina



The body votes by hand on a matter.



Newly elected Conference Parliamentarian Kay Crowe consults with Conference Secretary Ken Nelson (left) and Bishop L. Jonathan Holston during a session.



Bishop L. Jonathan Holston addresses the body on an item of business.

Photos by Matt Brodie

By Jessica Brodie
 GREENVILLE—Thousands of South Carolina United Methodists headed to the Greenville Convention Center June 9-12 for Annual Conference, the denomination’s yearly meeting in this state.
 By the time business ended, the body had passed a \$11.7 million budget, approved the separation of 112 churches from The United Methodist Church, ordained or commissioned 16 clergy, licensed 17 new

local pastors, elected new conference officers, passed two motions regarding funds from separating churches, and passed a “jubilee” resolution forgiving approximately \$3.3 million in direct billing debt owed by churches experiencing hardship.
 “When we gather, we gather together as one,” said Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston in his opening worship sermon. “We gather together as laity and clergy, we gather together as visitors, we gather

together as friends, we gather together as people of faith from across this state—people who love God, people who are called by faith into this time and space to be who God needs for us to be.”
 He invited the body to turn and look at each other, noting, “We’re all different, yet we all serve the savior, Jesus the Christ.”
 And together, he said, we can embrace our unity to be the people God created us to be in order to do his work in the world.

A positive start
 Annual Conference officially kicked off Sunday afternoon, June 9, with a closed clergy session and two laity orientations, followed by a service at 7 p.m. that commissioned or ordained 16 new clergy and honored 36 retirees. (See article, Page 9.)
 Monday’s opening worship began at 9 a.m. with the singing of “And Are We Yet

See “Annual Conference,” Page 6

112 churches leave the UMCSC

By Jessica Brodie
 GREENVILLE—Annual Conference 2024 has approved the separation of 112 churches across the state that have chosen to leave the denomination over sexuality and other concerns.
 That number represents about 13.4 percent of the 836 total churches in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church from every one of its 12 districts.
 On Tuesday afternoon, June 11, 2024, in a moment of gravity and quiet blessing, the body voted overwhelmingly to approve the resolution from the Conference Board of Trustees enabling the churches to separate.
 Officially, the action is considered a church “closing,” as the churches are closing as United Methodist churches, though they are expected to remain open either as independent churches or will align with another denomination.
 Shannon Bullion, chair of the trustees, said the churches had gone through a conference-authorized Local Church Discernment Process this winter. The process enabled churches to pray, discern and then hold a churchwide vote about leaving the UMC.
 The trustees put forward a resolution, signed by the churches wishing

to leave, stating that they “find themselves unable to serve the purpose for which they were organized, because issues related to human sexuality have prevented them, in that they cannot accept the actions taken in The United Methodist Church. Thus, the issues of human sexuality have prevented them in their mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world.”
 Those “issues related to sexuality” stem from a belief that the denomination had not upheld its previously stated doctrine (per the 2016 *Book of Discipline*) that homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”
 That language was changed at the most recent General Conference, April 23-May 3, removing the incompatibility language for the newest *Book of Discipline*.
 “We have held high the ethic of ‘first, do no harm,’ and we have held a staunch regard to do due diligence,” Bullion said before the body. “As we prepare to read this resolution and the separating churches, I ask God’s help that God may keep us in unity, constancy and peace.”

See “112 Churches Leave,” Page 8



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The *Advocate* encourages readers to submit for publication items of interest to South Carolina United Methodists. There is no charge for running items involving activities or announcements. Items should be submitted as far as possible in advance of the event's date or the date of requested publication. Since there is no charge for these items, they appear in the newspaper on a space-available basis. Deadlines are the 10th of each month for the following month's paper.

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Subscriptions

The *Advocate* is delivered to mailboxes via U.S. mail every month prior to the first Sunday of the month. Subscriptions are \$20/year for the print and online version, and \$10/year for the online-only edition. Church plans are available for as low as \$1/member (online version) or \$10/member (print version with 6+ subscribers per church). To start your subscription, visit www.advocatesc.org, call with credit card 803-726-6743 or 803-786-9486, ext. 335, or send a check to Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Photographs

Photographs can be submitted to the newspaper for publication. High-resolution digital images are preferred. Photographs should be in focus and should have proper exposure. Color or black and white photographs are accepted. People in photographs should be identified with names and ages, and a contact person with a phone number should be included in the information.

Accuracy Policy

The *Advocate* strives to produce error-free news reports. When mistakes occur, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention. To request a correction, call Jessica Brodie at 803-786-9486, ext. 338 or 803-807-0018, or email jbrodie@umcsc.org. In the event of errors in advertisements, the *Advocate* will be responsible only for the space occupied by the actual error. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for omissions.

Back Issues

The *Advocate* maintains copies of back issues for sale for up to one year, as long as the supply lasts. When requesting by mail, back copies are \$2 each, to cover postage and handling. To research or review articles published more than one year ago, bound copies of the newspaper are available for review at the Advocate office, Wofford College in Spartanburg and the South Caroliniana Library in Columbia.

Advocate hires Katy Renfroe as marketing coordinator

As part of its plans to launch a full-scale marketing expansion and awareness effort, the *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* has hired a marketing coordinator to ensure a successful and viable financial future for the newspaper.

Katy Renfroe started June 9 as the *Advocate's* marketing coordinator, a newly created position designed to enhance the publication's outreach and increase income in the wake of the South Carolina Conference's reduced budget from church separations.

Renfroe will work closely with *Advocate* Editor Jessica Brodie in developing increased marketing and awareness about the *Advocate* and Advocate Press, including events planning, fundraising and advertising and circulation growth.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have Katy on board with us," Brodie said. "She's not only a lifelong United Methodist but a friendly, creative, intelligent and thoughtful person with great ideas about how we can reach more people and grow."

Renfroe has 20 years of experience in



Renfroe

marketing, public relations, communications and advertising in the home services, small business, retail, media, entertainment and nonprofit industries as well as at an advertising agency. She is skilled in brand creation and management, new and traditional media buying, creating annual marketing plans and strategies, graphic design, fundraising, social media management and website content management. She also has 15 years of experience with event planning and has created, planned, managed and executed events for nonprofit and for-profit agencies varying in size and scope.

A member of Mount Hebron United Methodist Church in West Columbia all her life, Renfroe serves as a member of the Chancel Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, United Women in Faith S.O.N. Circle and Altar Guild. She's been singing and playing handbells in the music department since preschool and grade school, respectively, and also served as an acolyte during those years. She went through confirmation at 12 years old and was an active participant in United Methodist Youth Fel-

lowship, Salkehatchie Summer Service, Youth Annual Conference, winter conferences at Springmaid Beach and summer conferences at Lake Junaluska during her teenage years.

"We're excited for you to meet Katy and come up with new ways the *Advocate* can help resource your local church," Brodie added.

Renfroe joins Brodie and *Advocate* Assistant Editor Allison Trussell, shifting the ministry from a staff of two to a staff of three.

This spring, the *Advocate* voted to own its affiliation, allegiance and bias to United Methodism while welcoming all views of interest to South Carolina United Methodists and the advancement of knowledge, faith and discipleship.

It adopted a new vision statement, maintaining, "The *Advocate* is the voice of the people of The United Methodist Church in South Carolina, transparently sharing news of relevance to people of faith around advancing knowledge, spiritual growth and discipleship. Our future will focus on heavier emphasis on digital growth, expanding and growing the Advocate Press, and establishing new and improved communication with the conference as we work to tell the stories of the church at work

UMCSC treasurer releases video explaining 2025 apportionment rebate

Funds from 2023 separating churches will help offset what churches need to contribute to their apportionments in 2025 and in future years until the funds run out.

Conference leaders are calling this an "apportionment rebate," and the amount for 2025 will be \$800,000.

Of the \$17.5 million conference trustees received from 2023 separating churches, the trustees granted \$2.4 million to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to reduce the apportionment burden to the remaining churches.

According to Conference Treasurer Beth Westbury, a portion of these funds is being used to reduce 2025 apportionments paid by the local churches by \$800,000.

CF&A intends to reduce apportionments in future years by supplying a similar rebate until the funds are depleted.

To watch a three-minute video from Westbury explaining the apportionment rebate or to learn more about how this rebate will look on a church's apportionment request, visit <https://vimeo.com/954973689>.

Conference updates district leadership assignments

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has updated the assignments for district supervision.

Effective June 26, the Greenville and Walterboro districts will pilot a shared coverage model, with superintendents from the surrounding geographic regions offering collaborative leadership.

The superintendents from the Anderson, Greenwood and Spartanburg districts—the Revs. Steve Patterson, Chris Lollis and Cathy Mitchell—will serve the Greenville District in addition to their home districts.

The superintendents from the Charleston, Florence and Orangeburg districts—the Rev. Jeffrey Salley, Terry Fleming and Ken Nelson—will serve the Walterboro District in addition to their home districts.

The district offices in the Greenville and Walterboro districts will remain in operation, and the dedicated staff in those offices and members of district boards and committees will continue to serve.

The Rev. Telley Gadson will continue as superintendent of the Hartsville District.

Here is the full list of districts and their superintendents:

- Anderson District: Rev. Steve Patterson
- Charleston District: Rev. Jeffrey Salley
- Columbia District: Rev. Fran Elrod
- Florence District: Rev. Terry Fleming
- Greenville District: Collaborative (Lollis, Mitchell and Patterson)
- Greenwood District: Rev. Chris Lollis
- Hartsville District: Rev. Telley Gadson
- Marion District: Rev. Steve Brown
- Orangeburg District: Rev. Ken Nelson
- Rock Hill District: Rev. Anthony Hodge
- Spartanburg District: Rev. Cathy Mitchell
- Walterboro District: Collaborative (Fleming, Nelson and Salley)

Eyes for Haiti

New book from Advocate Press tells story of the Haitian eye clinic UMVIM-SC started

A new book from the Advocate Press tells the story of the Haitian eye clinic started by United Methodist Volunteers in Mission-South Carolina.

In 1971, Columbia, South Carolina, ophthalmologist Dr. Hal H. Crosswell Jr. paid a visit to the village of Jérémie, Haiti. There at the request of Dr. Michael C. Watson, founder of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission program, Crosswell didn't know what to expect.

Yet he quickly fell in love with the resilient, hope-filled people—and his eyes opened wide to the desperate needs all around him.

When he realized the Methodist Rural Rehabilitation project at Gebeau, located just across the Grande-Anse River on the outskirts of Jérémie, only housed a 10-by-12-foot wooden medical clinic with little equipment and even less medication, Crosswell knew he needed to help. Not only were the people suffering from rampant disease and malnutrition, but they struggled with vision loss from cataracts and other illness—issues easily treatable with just a little extra help.

Upon his return, Crosswell teamed up with Watson and other UMVIM partners to construct a new medical-tuberculosis clinic that would also include an eye and dental wing—and where Crosswell and his colleagues would spend the next 50 years traveling to support.

In this book, Crosswell reflects on the many doctors, nurses, and others who joined him in this journey to help the people of Haiti know the love of Christ ... one patient at a time.

The book is available as a paperback (\$20) and ebook (\$7) from the *Advocate* at <https://advocatesc.org/store/books/eyes-for-haiti>

It is also available on Amazon.



Crosswell



Dementia 101 seeks to build awareness among United Methodists

By Dan O'Mara

What if you forget who God is? It's probably an unfathomable concept for most Christians to get their heads around, but for those living with dementia, it's a real possibility. Some 100 people pondered that terrifying prospect during a "Dementia 101" workshop—the first endeavor by the South Carolina Cognitive Connection Ministry to raise awareness about the disorder in all of its forms. The ministry began as a grassroots effort and is now supported by the Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The question asked of those gathered at Cokesbury UMC in Charleston on May 28 was more than a thought experiment for retired UMC Bishop Ken Carder, whose spouse, Linda, passed away in 2019 after a decade of living with frontotemporal dementia.

"Linda, who was a Christian educator, forgot who Jesus was," said Carder, who lives near Columbia. "Does that mean she was no longer a disciple of Jesus? No, because Jesus never forgot who Linda was."

"Dementia is more than a disease of the brain. ... It is a psychosocial, spiritual reality that affects every area of our lives. It affects our relationships, our sense of community, our relationship with God or our perception of our relationship with God."

"So much of our understanding of God," he said, pointing to his head, "is up here."

Carder's book, "Ministry With the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens," published in 2019, has helped equip pastors and congregations to better minister with



Carder

people affected by dementia, rather than ministering to or for them. Acknowledging that many people are hesitant to interact with people diagnosed with some form of dementia because they are afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing, Carder shared tips for "Communicating with a Person with Dementia," a resource of the Family Caregiver Alliance: National Center on Caregiving.

Tori Anderson, a dementia care specialist with the South Carolina Department on Aging, explained what dementia is, what causes it, and just how widespread it is.

"Dementia is more of a general term used to describe symptoms such as loss of memory, judgment, reasoning, and other thinking abilities," she said. "We all have some memory loss here and there, but dementia is something that is severe enough to impact a person's ability to live their day-to-day lives."

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, she said, encompassing between 60 percent and 80 percent of dementia diagnoses. But it's not the only cause.

"In addition to Alzheimer's disease," she said, "there's vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal disorders, a mix of dementias. Globally, we've identified over 100 different types of dementia. But the most important thing to remember is that every type of dementia is different, and every person with dementia is different."

"If you've met one person with dementia, you've met one person with dementia."

The Rev. Bryan Pigford, pastor of Cokesbury UMC, is among those who led the grassroots effort to create and sus-

tain a ministry with those living with dementia. "This is a ministry that is already growing, and we pray it will continue to grow and spread across South Carolina, because this is certainly an issue that is not going away," he said. "And The United Methodist Church is in a unique place where we can be on the forefront of addressing this need and this ministry."

As part of the workshop, attendees viewed the video testimony of Judi Inabinet, whose husband, the Rev. Charlie Inabinet, retired after 40 years of active ministry in the South Carolina Conference. Charlie Inabinet was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2014, and his spouse has been his full-time caregiver in their home in Surfside Beach ever since.

"Alzheimer's is particularly sad because it's such a slow, draining process that just takes away who you are," Judi Inabinet said in the video. "It's just a sad, sad process to go through. Often, I feel like people see Charlie at this stage in his life and forget that he had a life, a life full of ministry and full of love and full of hope and full of dreams."

"That said, I think God has allowed us to slow down and enjoy things that we never would have enjoyed before. It's given Charlie and me time together that we wouldn't have had as consistently as we have with this Alzheimer's diagnosis."

Carder said he teared up listening to the Inabinets' story. "Loss, grief, sadness, fear, love, joy, companionship, compassion—all of these are possible for those living with dementia," he said. "All of these are realities as we deal with this most dreaded and feared of all diseases in the American context."

The South Carolina Cognitive Connection Ministry is planning more workshops across South Carolina in the coming year. To learn more, email cognitive@umcsc.org.

Churches to get new congregational specialists

Two new congregational specialists have been announced for the 2024-2025 conference year, and one current congregational specialist will move.

The Rev. Amiri B. Hooker, pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Lake City, will serve as the congregational specialist for the Florence and Marion districts.

The Rev. Nona Woodle, pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Greenwood, will serve as the congregational specialist for the Rock Hill and Spartanburg districts.

Also, Chris Lynch, current congregational specialist for the Rock Hill and Spartanburg districts, will shift to serve as the congregational specialist for the Anderson and Greenville districts.

He succeeds the Rev. Cathy Joens, who is shifting to serve as director of church relations for Epworth Children's Home.

Hooker

Hooker has served Wesley Chapel since 2019. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in biblical studies and education.

Hooker was ordained as an elder in 2000 following his 1998 graduation from Gammon Theological Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center with a master of divinity in theology and African thought. He also has served the East Camden Charge; the Lake City Circuit; Wesley Chapel and St. John UMCs in Darlington; Springtown UMC in Smoaks; Green Pond, Mount Harmony and Clover Chapel UMCs in Clover; New Harmony UMC in Anderson; New Harmony UMC in Seneca; and the Seneca Circuit Charge.

In addition to Hooker's work in local churches, he has served in many ways, including representing the conference on the South Carolina Christian Action Council



Hooker



Lynch



Woodle

for 15 years; as Southeastern Jurisdiction coordinator of Black Methodists for Church Renewal and as a state officer for BMCR for 14 years; Florence District Advocacy representative; Forward Focus leader; as Conference Communities of Shalom coordinator; and vice chairperson of the Conference Committee on Global Ministries.

Hooker is married to Valerie Nicole Henderson Hooker. They have four children: Gabriyan Michail Tribble, Sba Onesty Mandrell, Omri Charles-Barnard Hooker and Sia Bari Hooker. He enjoys reading ancient Bible texts and other sacred religious writings, taking walks in the mountains and on the beach, traveling and savoring fine foods, and writing.

Woodle

Woodle has served as pastor of Aldersgate UMC since 2020. She was born in Chester and graduated from Winthrop University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in history and from Columbia International University in 2006 with a Master of Arts in teaching.

Woodle is a full-time local pastor who was commissioned as a provisional elder at the 2024 South Carolina Annual Conference. She graduated from the Boston University School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 2019 and a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 2024.

In addition to Woodle's work in local churches, she has served in many ways,

including as the Greenwood District Safe Sanctuaries Leader and as a member of the Greenwood Wesley Fellowship Board, as its treasurer and as the fellowship's interim director. She also has served as co-facilitator, along with author and consultant Olu Brown, of church leadership training in other United Methodist conferences.

Before being called to ministry, Woodle worked as child care director for the Upper Palmetto YMCA. She enjoys reading and traveling to new places.

Lynch

Lynch has served as congregational specialist for the Rock Hill and Spartanburg

districts since 2012, and for the Florence District since 2021. He was born in Florence and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1995 with a bachelor of business administration (management) and from Erskine Theological Seminary in 2003 with a master of arts in counseling ministry. He currently is pursuing certification as an ICF-trained coach.

In addition to his work as a congregational specialist, Lynch also has served as the conference specialist in youth ministry; as a member of Conference Connectional Ministries and the Conference Committee on the Annual Conference; on district committees on Connectional Ministries and Congregational Development; and as youth director at Trinity UMC in Anderson.

He also has served as a delegate to the 2020 General Conference (meeting in 2024) and a delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2016, 2022 and 2024.

Lynch is married to Michelle Lynch. They have three daughters: Lindy Lynch Croxton, Cami Lynch and Ruthie Lynch. He enjoys golf, smoking barbecue, the outdoors and anything UGA.

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Viewpoints



Editorial

by Jessica Brodie

For God’s glory

Sometimes I believe I’m invincible. My foot started hurting on Saturday just before I headed to Greenville for Annual Conference, but I figured it was nothing. “Mind over matter,” I told myself. My limping got much worse over the next few days, and all the walking exacerbated the problem. It turns out that ignoring it and powering through just made everything worse. It looks like I have a stress fracture, and while I’ll get an X-ray tomorrow to confirm after I go to press, I suspect that stress fracture might well have morphed into a full fracture.

In many ways, I feel like that’s what has been going on in our denomination. We had a problem that grew into a bigger problem, and in some ways it’s because a lot of people just powered on through. Maybe things would just work out if we tried hard enough, we thought, or pushed hard enough, or whatever it was we were trying to do hard enough.

Hindsight is always 20/20, and perhaps if we had tended to the fracture when it was tiny, it wouldn’t have become so massive. Still, even in fractures there are God lessons. Sometimes these fractures bring wisdom and spiritual growth.

I think back to a lot of the painful circumstances in my own life that turned into major fractures. I learned the most during these seasons. My capacity for love also grew, as did my relationship with God. I see now how God used it for good (Romans 8:28).

I believe it will be the same in our church. If we continue doing our very best to love God and be God’s people, then God will use what our denomination is going through for good and for God’s glory.

This year at Annual Conference, we said goodbye to 112 churches that separated from the denomination because they didn’t believe the UMC had upheld its stated doctrine on sexuality and they didn’t believe they could do ministry any longer in the UMC because of this. Last year, we lost 113 churches for the same reason. Altogether, this amounts to about 23.4 percent of the total when we started.

We are one body in Jesus Christ even if we’re not all in the same denomination. But it’s a sad time. It’s a fracture.

I’ve had a couple of foot injuries recently, and I’ve become aware of what God is trying to tell me: Slow down. Do more self-care. I’m sure there are other things I am meant to learn in this season, and I am open to them even as I commit my life and my work to Jesus Christ and whatever purpose he has for me right now.

Let’s do the same in our denomination. Let’s listen to what God is trying to tell us and be open to this. Let’s learn what we can and commit ourselves to doing his work.

I’m certain God will use this for good.

Letters Policy

We welcome letters to the editor. We urge brevity, as succinct writing often produces clarity. Letters should be no more than 450 words. All letters are subject to editing as needed to meet standards of grammar, space and interest. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters praising or criticizing businesses by name, endorsements of or letters from political candidates, fundraising appeals, or letters containing inappropriate language or personal attacks. All letters will be verified, so you must include a name, daytime phone number, church membership and hometown. Letters should be sent to The Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 or e-mailed to advocate@umcsc.org. Deadlines are the 10th of each month.



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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.

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The S.C. United Methodist Advocate (ISSN 1078-8166) continues the Southern Christian Advocate, authorized by the General Conference of 1836. Publication began Annual Conference-July 24, 1837.
The paper is published monthly by the S.C. United Methodist Advocate Trustees. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. Please direct all inquiries regarding commentary submissions to the editor, 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29203-6070. 803-786-9486. Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, S.C.
Postmaster: Send address changes to: S.C. United Methodist Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29203.



Bishop’s Corner

by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Who God needs for us to be

“Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with the coal and said, ‘Look. This coal has touched your lips. Gone your guilt, your sins wiped out.’ And then I heard the voice of the Master: ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ I spoke up, ‘I’ll go. Send me!’”—Isaiah 6:6-8 (MSG)

We have now concluded the 2024 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference. We have experienced, during our time together in Greenville, how the strength of our connection is found in our relationships with one another. Reuniting with sisters and brothers in Christ, celebrating all that God is doing in and through the faithful across our state and praising God through worship were all highlights of our time together.

The mighty, rushing wind of the Holy Spirit swirled through our midst as lay and clergy members of the annual conference shared stories and memories, asked questions and sought understanding in this season.

It is abundantly clear that we are not all of one mind on many things, but the tone and tenor of the dialogue was one of care, concern, compassion and our shared commitment to faith in Jesus Christ as we seek to be who God is calling us to be. Our time together truly embodied what it means to seek a more excellent way.

No matter what each member of the annual conference had on their minds when they arrived or which concerns or anxiety they brought with them, what we all found in our gathering together was the abundance of life in Christ. Regardless of what is happening in our world, in our denomination or in our church, God still has work for us to do.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to the need for redemption in each of our lives—that reality that we are all in need of the grace that comes from a loving savior. The grace that wipes out our sins and cleanses our guilt. And in response to this redemption, we can be transformed.

Rather than getting stuck in what was or what we want for ourselves, let us be who God needs for us to be. As people redeemed and transformed by the love and grace of God, let us live in a way that our actions lift up rather than tear down; that our words speak wholeness, not harm; that our clenched fists open up to receive God’s grace, mercy and love so that we might share this precious gift with others.

The South Carolina Conference is filled

with faithful, talented and generous disciples, many of whom worked diligently to cultivate the spirit-filled environment in which we gathered and praised God. To the Rev. Ken Nelson, the Rev. Mel Arant, the Committee on the Annual Conference, the secretarial staff, the worship team and all who worked behind the scenes to plan and prepare for our time together, we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

To the Rev. Jim Dennis, the clergy and laity of the Greenville District, the Rev. Kurt McPherson and the good people of St. Matthew UMC, thank you for welcoming us so warmly to your community and for ensuring that we were comfortable during our stay.

To the countless volunteers, tellers, ushers, musicians, song leaders, speakers, liturgists and all who enhanced our time together during both worship and business, we are grateful for your willingness to serve.

To all who serve in district and conference leadership and on committees and boards that work throughout the year to imagine and enable ministry and mission to happen—we see you, we celebrate your commitment, and we thank you for sharing your gifts, talents and aptitudes for the furtherance of God’s kingdom.

The strength of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church is found in the multitudes of clergy and laity who are committed to being on the leading edge of ministry and mission for the sake of Christ. Each of you who have heard God’s call and answered affirmatively, taking time away from home to be present at the Greenville Convention Center or following along on the livestream—you are exemplifying what it means to seek a more excellent way. Your commitment both to Christ and to the church is a testimony to your faithfulness. You can be counted on through your prayers and your presence, whether in the pulpit or the pew, at meetings and missions, during worship and even in the waiting.

God is preparing us, even now, to be the people God needs for us to be. God is preparing us to be on the leading edge of ministry. God is preparing us for that which we have not yet experienced, and through it all, God is with us.

Are you ready to live in the light of God’s victory already won in Christ? Are you ready to love your neighbor? Are you ready to be freed for joyful obedience? Are you ready to be the people that God needs for us to be?

Then let’s go. Let’s move forward together in mission and ministry. Let’s continue to have God-sized dreams and live into God’s purpose for the people called United Methodist in South Carolina. Let’s go!

Correction

In the article “Conference readies for Annual Conference” (June *Advocate*) we mistakenly included a sentence noting an incorrect location for the event. The event was held at the Greenville Convention Center. We apologize for this error and, as always, strive to set the record straight.

Are you a church communicator?

Are you a communicator in a local UMC? Whether you help as paid staff or a volunteer, the *Advocate* invites you to reach out. We are gathering a list of names and email addresses of those who do communications in local churches so we can call on you when we are seeking stories or have news or resources we think will help you. Email or text *Advocate* Editor Jessica Brodie at jbrodie@umcsc.org or 803-807-0018.

Letters to the Editor

Death of my UMC

On May 1 at General Conference, the leadership of our United Methodist Church cowered down and conformed to the ways of this world, and in so doing, watered down, polluted and slapped in the face the infallible word of God and gospel of Jesus Christ.

A decade-old policy of pastors and leaders being told by superiors to remain neutral and say nothing has led to pulling the cornerstone out of the UMC, to which it will surely crumble to its death, giving Satan an even bigger victory.

Shame on all of you who chose to stand idly by and open the way for Satan. He has fooled you into believing what is right is wrong and what is wrong is right. You will stand before God one day and be held accountable for your actions and inactions that led to the demise of his church. You willingly chose to disregard Romans 1:18-32, 1 Timothy 1, Colossians 3 and other portions of the word of God speaking plainly against sexual immorality. You chose to remain cold, lukewarm or in support of the *Discipline* change allowing for God's word to be corrupted and interpreted by man instead of God.

This disastrous failure has ripped apart the hearts of the remaining United Methodists such as myself, who invested our lives into service of faith and belief of our beloved church. You have miserably failed in your God-appointed roles and will continue to lead lost sinners astray just when they need you the most to be real and true to them with the graceful, true love of Jesus. His love cares enough to stand against the winds and darkness of this world and call sin as sin.

Some UMC members may scoff and see this conforming to worldly views as no big thing, stating we must love all with acceptance. Love all we must, and sometimes that includes tough love, where you call sin as sin and not something you tolerate and now affirm and promote. We always love the person but hate the sin. We love all God's people enough to help them see the error of any sinful ways and lovingly guide them back.

The mission of UMC has dreadfully changed as sin now stains and blinds its focus.

A Christian Gospel Group named 4Him has a song that sums up what our Christian stance should be: "I won't bend and I won't break. I won't water down my faith. I won't compromise in a world of desperation. What has been I cannot change but for tomorrow and today. I must be a light for future generations."

William "Billy" R. Robinson Jr., member
North United Methodist Church, North

Is sin real today?

The *Book of Discipline* is the law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of more than 200 years of the General Conferences of the UMC. This *Book of Discipline* is the guide, the beliefs and the laws of our church just as the laws of the United States.

A United Methodist minister can face charges and be tried for crimes and misconduct. Would we want to elect a bishop or ordain a minister when they are guilty of felony counts or convicted of crimes?

The prophet Dr. Karl Menninger wrote the book "Whatever Became of Sin" in 1973. Where is sin in the political world of our country or everyday life today?

"Sin is not taken into account when there is no law" (Romans 5:12-13). "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin'" (John 8:34). Beware.

Rev. John Culp, retired
West Columbia

Life is meant to be

Life is not meant to be a journey of unrelieved disappointment, heartache and sorrow. It is intended to include a dominance of positive expectations along with jovial and jubilant interludes.

Yet, for some, life does not even reach the level of disappointment, but is marked by confusion and bewilderment; by jealousy, selfishness and anger; by pain and grief, by intentionally turning away from God.

The prophet Micah asks: "What does the Lord require of thee, O Man?" He is really addressing the whole human family! He is asking each of us, "What does the Lord require of you?"

He answers his own question. "What does the Lord require but that we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God!"

Let us ponder the great prophet's words as we enter the new year.

Justice: Calls us to be fair, correct, righteous. It is a word right out of the courtroom. It calls us to be fair, to do what is right, to be just, lawful, upright, fitting, caring, true!

Mercy: A sympathetic disposition to be kind, tender and merciful in relating to others (family, friends, others). It is to practice loving kindness in all our relationships.

Walking with God: To be mindful of God's presence with us at all times and in all we do!

Rev. Mickey Fisher, retired
Spartanburg

A question

A month or so ago I saw where a pastor in one of the larger United Methodist churches in the South Carolina conference stated that the church is not about one man; it is about all men.

He also stated that the church is not about one document.

That same pastor wrote an article for the latest edition of the *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* where again he stated the church is not about one man, and it is not about one document.

If that pastor is referring to the one man, Jesus the Christ, and the one document, the Bible, I think he is making reference to these two.

I have a question. If the church doesn't have Jesus, and it doesn't have the Bible, what is left?

Rev. Frank D. McCoy Sr., retired
Abbeville

A poem: 'With But a Breath'

With but a breath so pure and sweet
The God-man graced the earth to meet
With sinners, proud and poor and lame,
Yet with happiness he came
To heal their wounds and wash their feet.

To prove himself the highest priest
He made all binded tongues released,
And demons did he bring to shame
With but a breath.

He let himself be whipped and beat
To make his tender joy complete;
But neither cross nor tomb could tame
The power of his mighty name
When on the third day death did flee
With but a breath.

(Excerpted with permission from the author's second published book, "Notes from the Hem," a collection of Christian poetry and prose.)

Autumn Leigh Waite
Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton



Guest Commentary

by the Rev. Joseph Abram Jr.

Lying in the bed tomorrow that we make up today

I am reminded of what Maya Angelo was purported to have said: "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time!"

For far too many of us, repeated views are not enough. I wonder if it is because we are 1) too blind to see, 2) too dumb to recognize what we see or hear, or 3) in sync or in agreement with what we see or hear.

In any case, what we cajole today, will determine our tomorrows. My mom would remind us," be careful how we make our beds because we will have to lie in them later."

Some are slow to understand that the monster(s) that we create today to destroy our enemies, we may have to feed with our own flesh, if there is a shortage. We foolishly think that our personal dictator will give us a special pass.

O ye of little knowledge and slow to comprehend, that that is not the nature of that beast. It devours family, friends and foes alike; anyone who dares thinks, acts or speaks contrary to its approval. I understand that Kim Jong-Nam was Prime Minister Kim Jong-Un's cousin. Every now and again, another report comes from Russia of an alleged mysterious death of a political dissident, or fellow citizen, who spoke without permission.

It's not too late to change our minds, or retrieve our minds, my friends.

I close with this story: A man came across a frozen snake, which was near death. The man had compassion on the crawling serpent that was about to face certain death without immediate intervention. He took up the creature, opened his shirt and placed it in his bosom close to his heart to share his warmth.

In the course of time, the man felt a slight movement beneath his garment and became excited about the prospect of having saved the life of his mortal enemy. The movement beneath his shirt grew stronger, assuring the creature would live.

However, before the man could open his shirt and set his visiting patient free, he screamed, "Ouch, you bit me! Why did you bite me, after I saved your life?"

The snake answered, "You knew I was a snake. That is what I do!"

God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her. Please!

Abram, a retired pastor, lives in St. Matthews.



Advocate holds book event at Annual Conference

The Advocate Press held a successful meet the author/book signing June 11 at Annual Conference, enabling readers to gather and support its 27 titles released since late 2017. The Advocate Press is the small publishing arm of the *Advocate* newspaper. Its mission is to produce books of interest to South Carolina United Methodists on matters of faith and to amplify regional voices and those that advocate for the advancement of the kingdom of God. If your church or district is interested in hosting an author or several authors for a similar event, contact Editor Jessica Brodie at 803-735-8772 or jbrodie@umcsc.org. To see the books available, or to purchase them, visit <https://www.advocatesc.org/books>.

Annual Conference elects its officers for the next four years

By Jessica Brodie
GREENVILLE— South Carolina has a new slate of conference officers for the quadrennium.

A quadrennium is a four-year period significant in the denomination's governance and planning, encompassing General Conferences and other strategic initiatives.

Kay G. Crowe was elected as both conference chancellor and conference parliamentarian.

A. Melton Arant Jr. was elected as conference secretary, with Karen L. Jones as first assistant secretary. Assistant secretaries elected were Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes (Tellers); Joseph Christopher Greene, Angela Ford Nelson and Carol W. Stoops (Proceedings); and Beverly Cheryl CroweTipton (Worship).

Elizabeth Westbury was elected as conference treasurer and statistician, with A.V.



Rev. Joseph James

Huff Jr. elected as conference historian and R. Phillip Stone as conference archivist.

Betty Void and Michael Jennings were elected as conference co-lay leaders.

After Crowe's election as parliamentarian, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston called outgoing parliamentarian Dr. Tim McClendon to the dais. Holston lifted up

McClendon's long and excellent service, noting he had served as parliamentarian for 32 before his retirement this year.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve you and to serve God," McClendon said to hearty applause.

Holston also thanked outgoing Conference Secretary Ken Nelson and outgoing Conference Lay Leader Barbara Ware for their long service.

The Rev. Joseph James chairs the nominations committee.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE: Slashed budget among items

From Page 1

Alive” as the bishop, clergy and other conference leaders processed into the ballroom.

In his opening worship sermon, Holston called on South Carolina United Methodists to embrace life’s “turning points” to be the people God calls them to be. He shared about various turning points in his own life, such as meeting the woman who has been his wife for 40 years and embracing overseas missions.

There are also turning points in denominations, Holston said, noting that coming out of all the changes at the recent General Conference, we must remember: “Our tone of dialogue must always be of care, concern, compassion and a shared commitment to faith in Jesus Christ as we seek to be who God is calling us to be.”

Holston said the crux of Christian faith is not about getting to where we want to be but getting to the place where God needs us to be.

“Sometimes God needs to work on us, sand us down, get rough edges out of the way so we can be the person God needs us to be,” he said.

Drawing from the morning’s Scripture, Isaiah 6:1-8, on the prophet’s commission by the Lord, Holston reminded the body that Isaiah reached the place of redemption because of the turning points he experienced, but he also had to be open to that transformation. We, too, can do the same. Regardless of whatever is happening in our world, in our denomination, in our church, God still has work for us to do.

“There’s hope in the midst of it all,” Holston said to applause. “You can’t change anything, but God can change you.”

After an offering collected for Asbury Hills Camps & Retreat Center that raised \$7,509, Holston presided over a service of Holy Communion shared by the full body.

New standing rules, conference officers

After worship and communion, official business began for the 53rd session of Annual Conference as Holston called the Monday morning plenary session to order at 11:09 a.m.

The Rev. Jim Dennis, Greenville District superintendent, officially welcomed the body to his host city, noting that despite our differences as people, “We claim faith in one God, the author of life and love and life eternal.”

Next, Conference Secretary Ken Nelson offered a host of organizational and introductory motions and reports, including setting the bar of conference and the presentation of the consent calendar.

One of the first major actions at this year’s conference involved a number of changes to the Standing Rules that govern the way the conference handles business. All passed without debate, including raising the maximum quadrennia someone can serve from two to three, reducing the number of people on conference boards and agencies and shifting resolutions’ annual due date from March 15 to March 1 to enable time for improperly formatted resolutions to be revised and resubmitted. (See article, Page 10.)

The Rev. Joseph James next presented the report from the Committee on Nominations, offering for initial review the slate of names before the body for election to conference and conference-related boards, commissions and councils.

Then the body elected its slate of conference officers for the quadrennium. A quadrennium is a four-year period significant in the denomination’s governance and planning, encompassing General Conferences and other strategic initiatives. New officers include the Rev. A. Melton Arant Jr. as new conference secretary and Kay G. Crowe, who was elected as conference parliamentarian after longtime parliamentarian Dr. Tim McClendon retired. (See article, Page 5.)

Finally, the Committee on Episcopacy’s



CF&A Chair Mitch Houston offers the first reading of the proposed \$11.7 million 2025 budget for the conference.

Key happenings at AC2024 June 9-12, 2024

- Approved the separation of 112 churches across the state from the denomination over sexuality issues;
- Passed \$11.7 million budget;
- Forgave approximately \$3.3 million in direct billing debt owed by churches experiencing hardship;
- Considered, then withdrew, three requests for declaratory court decisions;
- Passed two motions regarding funds from separating churches;
- Approved a 3.2 percent cost of living increase in 2025 to the minimum salary for clergy across South Carolina;
- Elected new quadrennial conference officers;
- Changed several Standing Rules;
- Ordained or commissioned 16 clergy;
- Licensed 17 local pastors;
- Celebrated 36 retirees;
- Remembered 62 people who passed away;
- Passed changes to pensions, health benefits;
- Raised more than \$15,000 in offerings: \$7,601 Sunday night for seminary scholarship fund and \$7,509 Monday morning for South Carolina Camps and Retreats Ministry; and
- Set date for next Annual Conference as June 8-11, 2025, in Greenville.

Jeannette Cooper delivered their report, lifting up what she called the “positive, steady, disciplined leadership” of Bishop Holston.

Reduced budget presented

After lunch, Council on Finance and Administration Chair Mitch Houston offered the first reading of its proposed \$11.7 million 2025 budget for the South Carolina Conference. He noted churches will only be apportioned for \$10.9 million of the budget, as an \$800,000 rebate from 2023 separating churches will offset this (see article, Page 2). The adjusted budget is \$2.3 million less than 2024’s \$13.2 million budget. Houston said their committee has been extremely busy given all the changes in the denomination.

“The last couple years we’ve dealt with trying to plan a budget without knowing how much money we’re going to receive,” Houston told the body.

In spite of this, South Carolina United Methodists paid almost 89 percent of their apportionments, which he said is “excellent,” especially given the impact of COVID-19 and the schism throughout the church.

Resolution forgives direct billing debt

Next, Annual Conference passed legislation that forgives approximately \$3.3 million in debt in direct billing charges owed by churches experiencing hardship.

Submitted by Dr. Reginald Lee, chair of South Carolina Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and a team of other clergy and laity, the resolution sets forth that all arrearages older than 121 days for South Carolina United Methodist churches be forgiven, enabling what the resolution writers call “a fresh start for those committed to our connectional system.” Specifically, the amended resolution calls on Conference Treasurer Beth Westbury

to write off the debt of these churches in arrears in direct billing.

This resolution was the only one that went before the body for a vote. Of the seven total, five were ruled out of order. One—LG-BTQ+ Inclusion: Expressing Gratitude and Commitment to Next Steps—was referred to Conference Connectional Ministries and the Council on Finance and Administration because of its large budgetary implications in creating a conference-level LGBTQ+ Ministry Team. (See article, Page 10.)

After this came the report of the Cabinet, from Dr. Stephen Love, and the report of the longtime Conference Lay Leader Barbara Ware, who rolled off after 12 years of service. Ware introduced the two new co-lay leaders, Betty Void and Michael Jennings.

Next, the Board of Ordained Ministry lifted up the names of those who were ordained or commissioned the evening prior, then conducted the examination and licensing of 17 new licensed local pastors in the South Carolina Conference (see Page 8).

The day concluded with an Evening Prayer and Praise service led by newly ordained elder the Rev. Morgan Byars. Drawing from Isaiah 2:1-5, Byars shared how we can be on the leading edge of ministry.

Clergy minimum salary gets boost

After a Morning Prayer and Praise service Tuesday led by newly ordained elder Dr. Martin Luther Quick, Annual Conference jumped into business with a report from the Commission on Equitable Compensation that proposed a 3.2 percent cost of living increase in 2025 to the minimum salary for clergy across South Carolina.

Annual Conference approved that report, which recommended this increase.

Wayne Hester, of the CEC said the

increase is to, among other things, “ensure pastors can pay their bills.” The CEC report noted the Social Security cost of living increase was 8.7 percent in 2023 and 3.2 in 2024.

The 2025 minimum salary will be \$53,986 for full elders and deacons, \$49,076 for provisional and association members and \$45,528 for licensed local pastors.

Pension and health, AU, new presidents and elections

Valerie Brooks Madden and the Rev. Chris Lollis gave the Pension and Health Benefits report next, reviewing some of the changes ahead for this year.

Lollis shared that the past service rate for retired pastors receiving pre-1982 benefit is increasing, shifting from \$881 per service year as the rate for annuity payments for 2024 to \$987 for 2025. Other changes passed as part of the Pension and Health Benefits report include an increase in clergy moving expenses from \$2,000 to \$2,500 (plus as much as \$350 in packing expenses); a shift to paperless statements; and an increase in health benefit fees given the cost increase in health care, which is rising 6.1 percent.

The body also approved a resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired or disabled clergypersons of the South Carolina Conference, which ensures retired and incapacitated clergy can exclude housing expenses from their benefit payment from Wespeth Benefits and Investments.

Next came the Africa University report from Dr. Jim Salley, lifting up the outstanding work of the UMC-founded university in Zimbabwe and also celebrating the above-and-beyond support South Carolina shows for AU.

After this, the body got the chance to officially meet and welcome the new presidents of two South Carolina UMC colleges on Tuesday afternoon: Columbia College President Dr. John H. Dozier and Claflin University President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack.

Then the body elected all of the people put before conference by the Committee on Nominations for conference and conference-related boards, commissions and councils, as well as 41 clergy and lay people for the jurisdictional pool. The jurisdictional pool is the collection of persons from which the jurisdictional nominating committees select people to serve as board members of the various agencies of the UMC.

112 churches separate from the UMC

Tuesday afternoon brought what many consider to be the most significant and dramatic action of this year’s Annual Conference, as a slate of 112 churches went before the body for a vote on separation from The United Methodist Church. The names and number of churches were released just before lunch on Tuesday. The 112 that separated represents about 13.4 percent of the 836 total churches in the South Carolina Conference. Last year, 113 churches separated from the South Carolina Conference.

Altogether over the past two years, 225 churches have left of the 958 starting number of churches, which is a grand total of about 23.4 percent. (See article, Page 1 and 10.)

The day concluded with a Service of Thanksgiving and Memory preached by Dr. Sandra Stevens Poirer, Charleston District superintendent, which remembered 62 clergy, clergy spouses and others who passed away over the last year. (See article, Page 7.)

Motions pass regarding funds from separating churches

Wednesday morning started with a Morning Prayer and Praise service led by the Rev. Ed Stallworth.

Business led with discussion about three separate requests for declaratory court decisions—two from Dr. Reginald Lee and

Continued, next page

From previous page

one from Michael Cheatham—all of which were ultimately withdrawn by their submitters.
(See article, Page 11.)
Next, the body received a motion from the Rev. Amiri Hooker regarding equity in fund distribution coming from the separating churches. Churches that separate from the UMC through the Local Church Discernment Process are required to pay certain financial obligations. That amount received from the 2023 separating churches was about \$17.5 million; the 2024 number has not yet been released.
Hooker moved, to ensure equity from funds that come from separations, both previous and current, that a minimum of \$5 million be considered for Black, indigenous and other people of color congregations, with Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the Office of Congregational Development helping as advisors.
The motion passed.
More than an hour later in the morning’s session, the body also approved a motion from the Rev. Patricia Parrish that all expenditures from the Hope Fund (direct ministry grants) and all funds received from separating churches be reported at the next annual conference so the conference is fully aware of what is happening with this money.
(See article, Page 11.)

‘Think Different’

Next, Annual Conference heard a report from the conference’s Ministry Advisory Team about a new and hopeful initiative for the church: “Think Different.” Those on the team encouraged South Carolina United Methodists to ask big, God-sized questions instead of focusing on smaller-perspective concerns. For instance, instead of asking where will the money come from, what if we were to ask what God is calling us to do in our community?
The leaders called it “a reset for the UMCSC.”
Following this, the body approved the consent calendar, then approved the closure of 10 churches and the changing of 31 charge lines. Unlike the churches closed Tuesday afternoon over a desire to separate from the denomination, these churches closed because of other reasons, largely financial.
Body approves budget without change
Houston returned to the dais for the final discussion of the 2025 budget. Debate ensued about a motion to increase the proposed budget by \$40,000 to accommodate the 3.2 percent cost of living increase approved Tuesday to the 2025 minimum salary for clergy across South Carolina.
However, Houston explained CF&A had cut that line item by \$40,000 to ensure the Commission on Equitable Compensation was spending down its reserve funds, which total

nearly \$1 million.
John Gibbons, of Salem UMC, Columbia, concurred from the floor, noting that even if the conference doesn’t approve the line item increase, clergy will still get their minimum salary increase because it was approved the day prior.
The motion to increase the CEC line item failed 149-629, and the \$11.7 million budget for 2025 passed.
After expressions of deep appreciation and other closing remarks from outgoing Conference Secretary Ken Nelson, business adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Appointments fixed

The 53rd session of Annual Conference concluded with a service of Sending Forth and Fixing of the Appointments led by Bishop Holston.
A full list of appointments was handed out and approved, or “fixed,” at the end of the session.
In his closing sermon, Holston called upon the people of the South Carolina Conference of the UMC to remember what really matters as they leave this place.
“Following God’s call is not always easy,” Holston said, lifting up Romans 12:9-21. But, he said, “Scripture tells us how to prepare for the road ahead.”
For photos from the 2024 Annual Conference, visit <https://www.flickr.com/umcsc>



Photo by Matt Brodie

‘Changing Africa’

Dr. Jim Salley delivers the Africa University report during Annual Conference on June 11, lifting up the outstanding work of the UMC-founded university in Zimbabwe and also celebrating the above-and-beyond support South Carolina shows for Africa University. South Carolina gave 100.81 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund. In spite of the drastic reduction in funds allocated to AU by General Conference, Salley said they are asking annual conferences to support AU and the AU Fund at the level it was funded in 2016. He also noted Bishop L. Jonathan Holston is now vice chair of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.



Photo by Jessica Brodie

Building awareness and relationship

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry held a luncheon June 10 at Annual Conference that provided an opportunity for supporters and friends of the ministry to gather and get to know each other better. Aldersgate started in 2003 and is a ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the UMC that provides homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Aldersgate does not receive funds from apportionments and depends on contributions. Residents live in a Christian environment and are encouraged to be as independent as possible with the support of trained staff. Learn more at <https://aldersgatesnm.org>.

Stevens Poirel preaches memorial service on hope and comfort even in grief

By Jessica Brodie
GREENVILLE—Speaking wisdom and love into what she called “a tender time in the lives of these families and friends,” Dr. Sandra Stevens Poirel brought a heartfelt message for a Service of Thanksgiving and Memory during Annual Conference.
The service, held Tuesday evening, June 11, remembered 62 clergy, clergy spouses and others who passed away over the last year.
Stevens Poirel drew from John 14:1-4, 18-20, 25-27 in her sermon, titled “Something to Hold Onto,” noting that in these passages, Jesus is lovingly preparing his disciples for the major life transition that is to come—his crucifixion and resurrection.
This, too, is a significant time in the lives of those gathered at the service.
“Each of us is going through a specific experience we have never had before, as were the disciples in this text that we share,” she said.
In our toughest moments, we are still in the joy of Christ, Stevens Poirel said, noting there are certain times when God graciously reminds us we are not alone. Sometimes this is through the support of people who come alongside us.
“As God’s reps we mirror that hope,” she said.
She shared how D. W. Winnicott, a pediatric psychiatrist, developed what is known as the object relations theory, what Stevens Poirel called “a fancy term for Linus and the blanket.”
“We all need something to hold onto,” she said, noting



Photo by Matt Brodie

Stevens Poirel drew from John 14 in her sermon.
how children often cling to a treasured stuffed animal during times of difficulty or change.
Jesus knew this, and so he offered his beloved disciples something to hold onto: You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice.
“As you leave here, remember—hope overcomes despair, trust overcomes fear and faith overcomes fact,” she said.
After her message, all stood for a silent processional as the memorial banner was carried in.
Then Bishop L. Jonathan Holston read the names of the honored dead as a bell was rung in remembrance for each.
Here are those who were remembered at this year’s Annual Conference:

Active Ministers: Timothy Warren Burelson, Donald Eldree Love, Michael Steven Phares, Karen Elizabeth Starr, David Cofield Surret.
Retired Ministers: Paul McKinney Ballard, Douglas Odell Benton, Matthew Conniel Brown, Donald Eugene Cavin, Annette Coker Edwards, Nicholas Scott Elliott, Reuben Zach Farmer, Peggy Jean Garland, Lois Jean Helms, Robert Charles Hopper, Thomas Copeland Jones, Robert Paul Keely, Marvin Ira Lare, Allen Eugene Long, Stephen McDaniel McCormick, James Rochelle McGee, Robert Clyde Monson, Gene Austin Norris, Scott Wayne Petry, Joseph Arelious Poston, Alan Nathan Quarles, Daniel Thomas Reynolds, Virgil Milton Seaber Jr., Franklin Oscar Smith, Talmadge Stanton Jr., Robert Garfield Strother, Harry Robert Stullenbarger, James Herbert Thomas, Theodore Holt Walter, Philip Nicholas Watry, Myrna Kay Westfall, James Haddon Williams, John McKinley Williams Jr., Rufus Lee Wilson.
Spouses: George Levan Cannon, Arlene Rose Compton, Mildred Kinnett-Farr, Charles Lauchlan Hayes, Vivian Patricia Jennings.
Surviving Spouses: Mary Ann Aiken, Nancy Scoggins Floyd, Constance Wilson Fowke, Margie McFarland Gadsden, Darlene Cockrell Hucks, Nancy Louise Smith Johnson, Cloie Lucilla Mack, Martha Ann Marlowe, Carolyn Grace O’Dell, Martha Cole Ransom, Rosa Michell Senn, Ellen Christine Stephens, Katie Ruth Webb.
Others: J. Peter Belec, James Craig Bigelow, Michael Alec Black, Otis Dewitt Livingston and Bishop Jack Meadors.

Busy, effective year

Dr. Stephen Love gives the Report of Cabinet during AC2024, sharing about the work they have done together over the past year. “We have grown in our ability to embrace the power of God in all of our lives,” Love said, inviting the body to join them in prayer and service for the Lord.

Photo by Matt Brodie



Chancellor gives update

Kay Crowe gives the Report of the Chancellor during Annual Conference, detailing her work over the past year. This included navigating various contracts of the conference to helping conference trustees with the legalities of the separating churches. She has also continued to monitor the filings in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy.

112 CHURCHES LEAVE: ‘We are still one body, one faith’

From Page 1

The resolution and list of the separating churches are below.

Before the body cast their vote enabling the churches to leave, the Rev. James Friday offered a heartfelt prayer.

“God, we pray that even as we grieve their leaving, that we are still one body, one faith, of one baptism, one God and father of us all, in all and through all,” Friday prayed from the floor.

Annual Conference members were asked to stand if they approved the separation. A long pause occurred as the room honored the churches with their action and their silence.

This year’s number (112) is one church

fewer than the number that separated from the denomination last year, in 2023. Last year at Annual Conference, 113 of the 958 churches separated from the denomination, comprising roughly 12 percent of the total.

The names and number of the churches were kept confidential by the trustees until the day of the vote. Just before the lunch break, roughly two hours before the vote, the voting members of the body received the names of the separating churches.

Also Tuesday, Annual Conference approved an aspirational motion that could impact future church separations. The Rev. Paul Wood moved that the body propose to the trustees that it cease using Para. 2549 as the basis of separations after June 2025. The motion passed 455-361.

The resolution enabling the separation:

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church to ratify and approve the closure of the below listed churches.

The South Carolina Conference has used Para. 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016)* to close churches. Many of these churches were closed on an ad-interim basis because of exigent circumstances.

A number of United Methodist churches in South Carolina find themselves unable to serve the purpose for which they were organized, because issues related to human sexuality have prevented them, in that they cannot accept the actions taken in The United Methodist Church. Thus, the issues of human sexuality have prevented them in their mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

The Board of Trustees, with understanding of the difficulties of owning, insuring, and maintaining closed church properties, with prayer, consultation and reflection, guided by input of the Cabinet and conference leadership, developed and refined a Separation Agreement.

This Separation Agreement required the local church to participate in a discernment process, and once that was completed allowed for a Church Conference vote on separation from The United Methodist Church. The following churches have followed this process, and by votes of at least 2/3 majority have voted to separate from The United Methodist Church. They have signed a Separation Agreement and have placed their payments for separation in escrow.

These churches are now before this body for approval of their closure, pursuant to the terms of the Separation Agreement.

It is the belief of the Board of Trustees that these closures are the best pathway to allow the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church to follow *The Book of Discipline* and to allow these churches desiring to depart to do so with grace.

Therefore, be it resolved, that pursuant to the authority granted to the Board of Trustees and to this body under Para. 2549.3(b) of *The Book of Discipline*, as confirmed by the district superintendents of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, the Cabinet and Bishop Holston, and authorized by vote of this body, be it here approved that the separation agreements duly executed by the following churches shall govern the disposition of the property of the below listed churches. The recorded deeds shall be valid to transfer the title to the real property and this document shall be approved by this body as binding on the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Be it here approved that the following United Methodist churches will be closed effective June 30, 2024.

The churches that separated (organized by district):

1. Donalds, Honea Path (Anderson District)
2. Gilgal, Due West (Anderson)
3. Main Street, Abbeville (Anderson)
4. New Hope, Anderson (Anderson)
5. Pendleton, Pendleton (Anderson)
6. Sharon, Abbeville (Anderson)
7. Shiloh, Due West (Anderson)
8. Shiloh, Piedmont (Anderson)
9. Smyrna, Abbeville (Anderson)
10. Knightsville, Summerville (Charleston)
11. Lebanon, Ridgeville (Charleston)
12. Mount Zion, Jamestown (Charleston)
13. New Hope, Jamestown (Charleston)
14. New Hope, Summerville (Charleston)
15. St. James, Jamestown (Charleston)
16. Bethel, Winnsboro (Columbia)
17. Beulah, Gilbert (Columbia)
18. Ebenezer, Elgin (Columbia)
19. Rehoboth, Columbia (Columbia)
20. Salem, Elgin (Columbia)
21. Smyrna, Elgin (Columbia)
22. Zion, Blythewood (Columbia)
23. Hebron, Cades (Florence)
24. Pergamos, Cades (Florence)
25. Union/Manning, Jordan (Florence)
26. Bramlett, Gray Court (Greenville)
27. Green Pond, Gray Court (Greenville)
28. Northside, Greenville (Greenville)
29. Bethany, Saluda (Greenwood)
30. Cambridge, Ninety Six (Greenwood)
31. Edgefield, Edgefield (Greenwood)
32. Emory, Saluda (Greenwood)
33. Harmony, Johnston (Greenwood)
34. Johnston, Johnston (Greenwood)
35. Leesville, Leesville (Greenwood)
36. McKendree, Trenton (Greenwood)
37. Mount Lebanon, Greenwood (Greenwood)
38. Mount Pleasant, Pomaria (Greenwood)
39. Nazareth, Saluda (Greenwood)
40. New Chapel, Newberry (Greenwood)
41. St. John’s, Batesburg (Greenwood)
42. Trenton, Trenton (Greenwood)
43. Troy, Greenwood (Greenwood)
44. Wightman, Prosperity (Greenwood)
45. Zoar, Saluda (Greenwood)
46. Bethlehem, Hartsville (Hartsville)
47. Elim, Lamar (Hartsville)
48. Mount Olivet, Cheraw (Hartsville)
49. Prospect, Hartsville (Hartsville)
50. Sandy Grove, Bethune (Hartsville)
51. Shiloh, Chesterfield (Hartsville)
52. St. Luke, Hartsville (Hartsville)
53. Tabernacle, Hartsville (Hartsville)
54. Trinity, Darlington (Hartsville)
55. Union, McBee (Hartsville)
56. Wesley Chapel, Lydia (Hartsville)
57. Zoar, Chesterfield (Hartsville)
58. Antioch, Conway (Marion)
59. Central, Marion (Marion)
60. Ebenezer/Tatum, Bennettsville (Marion)
61. First, Myrtle Beach (Marion)
62. Hopewell, Fork (Marion)
63. Latta, Latta (Marion)
64. Macedonia, Mullins (Marion)
65. Mount Andrew, Latta (Marion)
66. New El Bethel, Conway (Marion)
67. New Hope, Wallace (Marion)
68. Pleasant Hill, Mullins (Marion)
69. Poplar, Conway (Marion)
70. Shiloh, Bennettsville (Marion)
71. Shiloh, Marion (Marion)
72. St. Paul’s Waccamaw, Pawley’s Island (Marion)
73. Union, Conway (Marion)
74. Andrew Chapel, St. Matthews (Orangeburg)
75. Bethel, Jackson (Orangeburg)
76. Ebenezer, Bowman (Orangeburg)
77. Elloree, Elloree (Orangeburg)
78. Holly Hill, Holly Hill (Orangeburg)
79. Jericho, Cameron (Orangeburg)
80. Jerusalem, Elloree (Orangeburg)
81. New Hope/Rowesville, Branchville (Orangeburg)
82. St. John, Aiken (Orangeburg)
83. Wesley Chapel/Calhoun, St. Matthews (Orangeburg)
84. White House, Bowman (Orangeburg)
85. Wightman, Bowman (Orangeburg)
86. Adnah, Rock Hill (Rock Hill)
87. Antioch, Rock Hill (Rock Hill)
88. Friendship, Rock Hill (Rock Hill)
89. Heath Memorial, Rock Hill (Rock Hill)
90. Kings Mountain Chapel, York (Rock Hill)
91. Mount Holly, Rock Hill (Rock Hill)
92. St. Paul, York (Rock Hill)
93. Enoree, Enoree (Spartanburg)
94. Gramling, Gramling (Spartanburg)
95. Landrum, Landrum (Spartanburg)
96. Mesopotamia, Gaffney (Spartanburg)
97. Patterson Chapel, Enoree (Spartanburg)
98. Trinity, Gaffney (Spartanburg)
99. Bethel, Harleyville (Walterboro)
100. Bethel, Ruffin (Walterboro)
101. Duncan Chapel, Harleyville (Walterboro)
102. Ebenezer, Walterboro (Walterboro)
103. Ebenezer/Yemassee, Walterboro (Walterboro)
104. First, Harleyville (Walterboro)
105. Grover, St. George (Walterboro)
106. Indian Field, St. George (Walterboro)
107. Providence, St. George (Walterboro)
108. Rehoboth, Cottageville (Walterboro)
109. Salem/Hendersonville, Walterboro (Walterboro)
110. St. George, St. George (Walterboro)
111. St. Johns, Ruffin (Walterboro)
112. Tabor, Ruffin (Walterboro)

Delegation reports on General Conference

By Allison Trussell

GREENVILLE—Jackie Jenkins and the Rev. Ken Nelson, leaders of the General Conference delegation, offered their report Tuesday morning at Annual Conference. The General Conference delegation joined them on the stage.

A video created by United Methodist Communications was shown, and Nelson noted that while significant changes have occurred, the mission remains the same. For the local church, the opportunity exists for sanctuaries to be open for same-gender weddings, but is not required. Pastors can choose but are not required to perform same-gender weddings. However, he noted, bishops will continue to make appointments in conversation with local churches to appoint the best person for that church. “You will continue to be in ministry with your community,” Nelson said.

Jenkins noted that the same delegation will be attending the Jurisdictional Conference July 9-12 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, with additional Jurisdictional delegates. Because no bishops are expected to be elected, she said their primary responsibilities will be the episcopal assignments and setting of episcopal areas.

Several people rose to speak to the report.

The Rev. Kevin Stroop, pastor of Edisto Island-Wesley Memorial Charge, Edisto

Island, expressed disappointment in the delegation’s work. “You were asked to do no harm,” he said. “What you brought back to us is harmful. You think you’ve done great joy, but you’ve created more headaches for pastors and people. ... You’ve created a UMC that we cannot be a part of. We hope there will be an opportunity for churches to respond to decisions made at General Conference.”

The Rev. Mason Cantey, pastor of Cherokee Springs-Liberty Charge, Spartanburg, provided a voice of support for the delegation, suggesting that this is an opportunity for the church to move forward.

The Rev. Sheila Elliott Hodge, pastor of Silver Hill Memorial UMC, Spartanburg, agreed, but noted that harm happens in a myriad of ways and has happened in the history of Methodism. “Our differences do not have to divide us, but the blood of Christ unites us and teaches us to love beyond what the world would use to harm us.”

The Rev. Steven McNeal agreed with Hodge, saying that when we say we’re doing harm, we harm ourselves, not the church.

Ann Walker, a delegate from Trinity UMC, Sumter, thanked those who stood up to move the church forward, but warned against not hearing those who disagree.

The report was affirmed by the conference.



Photo by Matt Brodie

Seventeen more

Annual Conference officially examined and licensed 17 people on Monday afternoon, June 10, to serve as licensed local pastors in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. Here, they gather for a group photograph. Those licensed are Kenneth Wayne Bundrick, Kathleen Cinnamond, Virginia Brauer Dowd, Keyla Patrice Edwards, Cecil Edward Enlow, Jack Walter Hutto, William Michael Jeter, Sarah Yvonne Johnson, Richard Wayne Kelly, Jessica Leigh Kight, Wesley Garret Manly, Lena Elizabeth Murdock, Larry Odom, Benton Dawson Price, Destine Montera Spells, Gerald Camlin Wilder II and, by transfer, Edward McKnight.

‘Called up and called out to make a difference’

Bishop Frank L. Beard preaches service celebrating new clergy, retirees

By Jessica Brodie

GREENVILLE— Bringing a word for a church in the midst of what he called “reconstruction,” Bishop Frank L. Beard preached a service June 9 that commissioned or ordained 16 clergypersons and honored 36 retirees.

“I don’t think the church of Jesus Christ is dead. I don’t even believe The United Methodist Church is dead,” said Beard, resident bishop of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, kicking off the first service of what was the 53rd session of Annual Conference.

In spite of some people insisting otherwise about the UMC, Beard proclaimed, “We still love Jesus Christ with our heart, soul, mind, body and strength, and the church is not irrelevant—we’re still needed in the world today.”

However, Beard noted today’s church is often trapped between two poles, one called “health” and one called “holiness.”

He said we all want health, with churches filled on Sunday morning and the resources to do what we want to do for God’s kingdom. But rather than focusing on how to get our church healthy, it’s far better to focus on God’s standard, which he said “has and always will be holiness.”

In doing so, he said, our churches will become healthy.

Beard lifted up four pictures found in the Book of Ephesians of what a healthy and holy church looks like. Three of these are commonly accepted—the church as a body (Ephesians 1:22-23), as a building currently being built (Ephesians 2:21-22), and as a bride (Ephesians 5:22-32).

But the fourth, he said, is found in Ephesians 6 through the description of the armor of Christ—that of a battle-ready battalion. While the Greek word used in this passage, *ecclesia*, does mean “church” and “called out,” it’s really a military term, as in called out to battle, or summoned. And for those called, it’s not really a choice about whether we stand up and fight the hard fight for God.

It’s a must.

“We’re called up and called out to make a difference—salt and light in the world,” Beard said to applause.

He shared how, just before his senior year in high school, he went on a mission trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. At the time he was frustrated. Though he knew God had called him to the ministry, he was desperate for God to give him clear answers about how he was to serve.

There, crying, on a mountaintop overlooking the city just as the sky began to grow dark, Beard prayed to the Lord.

As he gazed out at the city, suddenly he saw the lights of the city transformed into the shape of a cross.

“That’s when I heard: ‘Don’t worry about what to do. Don’t worry about what to become. Just pick up your cross and follow me,’” Beard shared.

Jesus invited us all to do this, Beard said. It’s both a choice and an opportunity, this discipleship, to learn from him so that all we do becomes like Jesus.

It’s not always going to be easy, he said. He recounted the time, early in his ministry, when he went to visit a dying old woman in the hospital who cussed him out with racial slurs. Still, we are called, and we must do as God asks.

After all, when Elijah received the mantle from Elisha, “He did not go home to formulate a back-door plan.”

He slaughtered oxen and set plow on fire—no turning back.

It’s the same for those called today.

“It won’t always be easy, but he’s promised,” Beard said. “Sometimes you might find yourself in the furnace of affliction. He never promised you wouldn’t get in the furnace. But hallelujah—he promised to walk with you in the flames.”

Wrapping his sermon to a close, Beard



Photos by Matt Brodie

Above, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston ordains the Rev. Morgan Barner Byars as an elder. Below left, the Rev. Sara Ann White, a retiring elder, and the Rev. Kenneth Bernard Middleton, a newly ordained elder, participate in the ceremonial “passing of the mantle” Sunday night. Below right, Bishop Frank L. Beard preaches before the ordinands.



prayed that the Lord send the gentle wind of his Holy Spirit to fan us all—him, the ordinands and the church as a whole—into flames for Jesus.

“We’re not dead, y’all. We’re just sleeping,” he said. “But if we don’t get on the ball, we will die.”

Start of Annual Conference

The evening service was the first at Annual Conference, held June 9-12 at the Greenville Convention Center. It began at 7 p.m. as incoming provisional and full elders and deacons joined their counterparts processing into the arena.

Led by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop, clergy entered singing “The Church’s One Foundation” and “O God, Our Help in Ages Past.”

Holston led the body in a recognition of our common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism.

Next, those to be commissioned and ordained were presented to the body by Barbara Ware, conference lay leader; the Rev. Morris Waymer, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; the Rev. Mary Johnson, chair of the Order of Elders; the Rev. Meg Jiunnies, chair of the Order of Deacons; the Rev. Leatha Brown, BOM registrar; the Rev. Melton Arant, coordinator of Clergy Services; and the Rev. Brenda Washington, chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

Holston then conducted the general examination, confirming their calling and reminding them of the task before them.

“My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to an ordained or commissioned in set apart ministry,” Holston said. “The Church now confirms your calling.”

The candidates collectively affirmed their beliefs and accepted the covenant before all.

After the anthem, “Lord, Here Am I,” by the choir from St. John’s United Methodist Church in Anderson, provisional elder candidate Nona Margaret Woodle led the body in the Apostles Creed. Full elder candidate James William Smith led the first

reading, from 1 Kings 19:19-21. Claire Covey Van Den Berg, full elder candidate, read the Gospel reading, Matthew 5:1-12.

Sixteen commissioned or ordained

After Beard’s sermon, The service continued with the commissioning of six preparing for ordained ministry as provisional elders, including the prayer of commissioning and laying on of hands.

Next, the sole candidate to be ordained as deacon stood and faced Bishop Holston, who examined her for ordination, then offered prayer, a laying on of hands and her stole.

Next, the six candidates to be ordained as elders stood and faced Holston, who examined them for ordination as elder and offered a prayer. “Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry,” Holston said.

Then came the laying on of hands. Each new elder also received his or her stole.

Next Holston recognized the orders of two people, and finally, he recognized the associate member.

The six presented for ordination as elder were Morgan Barner Byars, Bette Ann Hed-

den, Kenneth Bernard Middleton, Martin Luther Quick, James William Smith and Claire Covey Van Den Berg.

The one presented for ordination as deacon was Kathryn Miller Bariou.

The six presented for commissioning as provisional elders were James Bernard Grant, Kendell Linh Healy, Rebecca Anne Rowell, Amenti Sujai, Paige Danielle Wheeler and Nona Margaret Woodle.

Those presented for recognition of orders in The United Methodist Church were Daniel Troy Hembree (as a provisional member) and Matthew Lyn Alexander (as a full elder).

The one recognized as an associate member was Edward Timothy Stallworth III.

Honoring 36 retirees

Next, Annual Conference recognized the 36 clergy who retired in 2024. The Rev. Melton Arant read the names of the retirees as their photos displayed onscreen.

Holston offered a word of encouragement for the retirees, as well as a prayer for the ministry they lived.

“We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them,” Holston prayed over them.”

The retirement class of 2024 is as follows: Fred W. Andrea III, William Lee Barber, Ben Lincoln Barnett, Edna Reece Bowers, Norman Aaron Brown, Sonia Ely Brum, Fred Vance Buchanan Jr., Willie Mae Cannon, Kenneth Neal Carter, Christopher William Cox, James Dickerson Dennis Jr., Daniel Kaye Fortney, Joan Elaine Frenzel, Robert E. Harper, William Neal Harper, Benjamin Wade Herlong, Leonard Huggins Jr., Larry Scott King, Gary Wayne Light, Maye Emma Malachi, William Timothy McClendon, Joseph Aubrey McDonald, Whittaker Vernon Middleton, Debra Louise Pisor, Nancy Creswell Reed, Anthony Scott Rowell, Robert Leonard Shuler, Thomas Ray Sims, Annie Hair Sistrunk, Cynthia Ann Smith, Edward Jay Stiltz, Kelli Waters Taylor, Pernerva Singleton Washington Thomas, Redonia McKnight Thomas, David Owens Ussery and Sara Ann White.

The evening ended with the ceremonial “passing of the mantle,” in which a representative of the retiring class passes a stole, or mantle, from their shoulders to those of new class of ordinands. The Rev. Sara Ann White represented the retiring class, and the Rev. Kenneth Bernard Middleton represented the newly ordained class.

Holston asked the retirees to gather around the ordinands as the Rev. Redonia McKnight Thomas prayed for the new class.

“May the work of their hands and minds build and improve upon all for which our generation has labored,” Thomas prayed.

The offering of the evening was collected for the South Carolina Seminary Students Scholarship, established in 1991. The scholarship fund gave four scholarships this past year.



‘We are all interconnected’

The Rev. Millie Nelson Smith shared the report of Conference Connectional Ministries Tuesday morning, lifting up the Annual Conference’s four priorities: developing our leaders, engaging communities, connecting with and growing disciples, and measuring current realities and evaluating missional opportunities. “So much goes into the work that is done in our local churches that makes an impact around the world. That’s part of our uniqueness of the UMC,” Smith said. “We are all interconnected.”

Body passes resolution forgiving direct billing debt

By Jessica Brodie
GREENVILLE—Churches that owe back debt in direct billing charges are getting their year of jubilee.

Annual Conference passed legislation June 10 that forgives approximately \$3.3 million in debt in owed by churches experiencing hardship.

Submitted by Dr. Reginald Lee, chair of South Carolina Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and a team of other clergy and laity, “A Resolution for Debt Forgiveness for Direct Billing Arrearages” sets forth that all arrearages older than 121 days for South Carolina United Methodist churches be forgiven, enabling what the resolution writers call “a fresh start for those committed to our connectional system.”

Specifically, the amended resolution calls on Conference Treasurer Beth Westbury to write off the debt of these churches in arrears in direct billing.

Direct billing is a system devised in 2003 designed to handle clergy benefits coverage. As part of their service as a pastor, South Carolina United Methodist clergy are entitled to insurance and pension coverage, and the church they serve is supposed to pay for this. The conference pays the bill, then in what is termed direct billing, sends the church a bill for its share of the pastor’s coverage.

But sometimes, churches are not able to pay their bill, resulting in debt.

A payment or a write-off?

At first there were questions about the resolution might be out of order. Debate ensued about whether the resolution violated the *Discipline*, as it appeared to ask the trustees to pay off this debt, which would violate proper church process.

However, Westbury clarified that the funds had already been paid long ago by the conference and would not need to be paid now. As she explained, Wespeth bills the conference for this, and the conference has to pay Wespeth regardless of whether the church pays, so the money had already been delivered to Wespeth. This would simply be an accounting adjustment.

“We have reserved uncollected funds, so there is negligible impact on the balance sheet,” Westbury said.

The Rev. David Anderson, a past conference benefits officer whose duty included implementing direct billing, noted this is not an uncommon action.

“Basically, what we’re doing now is trying to write off bad debt,” Anderson said from the floor. “It’s been a burden on some churches, and it’s time to settle the score and level the playing field. This money has been spent.”

The Rev. Joseph James proposed an amendment that he hoped would add clarity to how this debt forgiveness would be handled, specifying that the treasurer would be writing off the debt, not paying anything.

Deacon Angela Marshall stood in sup-



Photo by Matt Brodie

Resolution submitter Dr. Reginald Lee explains the rationale.

port of this.

“If ever there was a time and need for a year of jubilee, is this not it?” she asked from the floor.

The amendment and then the amended resolution passed overwhelmingly.

Why was the resolution proposed?

Lee and the other submitters—the Rev. Keith Hunter, the Rev. Martin Luther Quick, the Rev. Velma Haywood, Michael Woodham and Kathy Tisdale—said the resolution is needed because direct billing burdens inadvertently harmed smaller and largely Black congregations, as well as failed to address historical disparities in poorer congregations

“The uniform billing system disproportionately affected rural and economically distressed churches, particularly those serving Black communities,” the resolution maintained. “While large Anglo churches benefited, this placed undue strain on financially vulnerable Black and rural congregations, exacerbated by misinformation and pressure to fulfill obligations.”

Historic inequity in wages added to the problem.

“As a church of grace, forgiveness, and love, we must rectify the adverse effects of this decision on our missional readiness,” the resolution concluded.

Other resolution referred

The debt forgiveness resolution was the only one that went before the body for a vote this year.

Seven resolutions total were submitted, but five were ruled out of order for a variety of reasons.

One other resolution—LGBTQ+ Inclusion: Expressing Gratitude and Commitment to Next Steps—was referred to the Conference Connectional Ministries and to the Council on Finance and Administration because of its large budgetary implications. The referred resolution called for creating a conference-level LGBTQ+ Ministry Team for nurturing and equipping churches in this area.

The resolutions ruled out of order were as follows: Worldwide Regionalization, Encouraging Leadership with Integrity, Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Reconciling Ministries Network, A Resolution Reaffirming Our Doctrinal Standards and Heritage, and A Resolution for the Preservation and Revitalization of Black Methodist Churches.



Photo by Matt Brodie

Two years of separations leave UMCSC down 23.4%

The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church has experienced two sets of church separations, one in June 2023 and one in June 2024. In June 2023, 113 churches across the state left the denomination over sexuality and other concerns. The 113 churches comprise almost 12 percent of the 958 total UMCs in South Carolina at that time and came from every one of the 12 districts in the conference. In June 2024, 112 additional churches separated from the South Carolina Conference for the same reasons (see vote authorizing that, above). That 112 represents about 13.4 percent of the 836 total churches in the South Carolina Conference and again comes from every one of the 12 districts. Altogether, 225 churches left of the 958 starting number of churches, which is a grand total of about 23.4 percent. The full list of 2023 and 2024 separating churches can be found at <https://advocatesc.org/separation>.

Standing Rules get host of changes

Changes increase quadrennia service maximum, reduce number of people on boards, push back resolution deadline

By Jessica Brodie
GREENVILLE—Annual Conference Monday voted in several new changes to the Standing Rules that govern the way the conference handles business.

The Rev. Michael Hood, chair of the Committee on Standing Rules, opened his report by playing “Amazing Grace” on the harmonica, then introduced the three different sections of changes before the body.

All were approved without debate.

First, the body passed a change to SR34 raising the maximum quadrennia someone can serve from two to three. As Hood noted, COVID-19 turned a four-year quadrennium service into eight years, and without the change, everyone currently serving on a quadrennial board would be rotating off. Raising it to three quadrennia means an entirely brand-new slate of people doesn’t need to be elected, therefore keeping some of the institutional knowledge preserved.

Second, the body passed changes to a number of Standing Rules—SRs 49, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 71 and 72—that reduce the number of people on conference boards and agencies.

Hood noted that it was hard enough finding people to agree to serve on the boards and agencies, and now so many churches are leaving that the problem is compounded, making the problem worse.

Under the changes, which passed, the Board of Ordained Ministry shifts from 65 to 57 people, the Board of Trustees for The United Methodist Center from nine to seven; the Council on Finance and Administration from 15 to 11; the Commission on Archives and History from eight to six; the



Rev. Michael Hood

Commission on Equitable Compensation from 12 to nine; the Committee on Congregational Development from eight to six; the Committee on Petitions from six to four; the Committee on Standing Rules from nine to six; the Committee on Episcopacy from 15 to 12; the Board of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry from “at least 10” to “up to 16”;

the Conference Committee on Nominations from 24 to one from each district, plus additional at-large members; and the Committee on the Annual Conference to 12 laity plus some ex officio (instead of also up to four clergy).

Also, the Board of Trustees of Spartanburg Methodist College will be elected (not named), with the Spartanburg District superintendent as ex officio. And instead of having a Committee on the Conference Journal, now the Conference Secretary shall be fully responsible for the journal.

Third, the body passed a change to SR 70. In addition to reducing the number of people on the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals from nine to six members, the change shifts the due date from March 15 to March 1.

Hood said this is to avoid formatting problems that prevent resolutions from going before the body. Many times, people submit a resolution that is not signed or submitted by the right person (a member of or organization in the Annual Conference). Shifting the due date to March 1 means the Committee on Resolutions has time to refer the resolution back to the submitter by March 15 for format changes.

The submitter can then resubmit it properly by March 22.



Photo by Matt Brodie

‘Think Different’

Dr. Stephen Love gives the report of the Ministry Advisory Team during Annual Conference, presenting a video that overviews their new initiative across the conference. With the separations and other changes, the team is urging all South Carolina United Methodists to “think different.” As the body listened, tellers passed out stickers to all in the room featuring a grinning dog in sunglasses with the words, “Think different.” The video urged people to shift their perspective. Instead of asking small-picture questions such as, “Where will the money come from?”, the team urged people to ask questions such as, “What is God calling us to do in our community?”

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Three requests for declaratory court decisions withdrawn during AC

One request had the potential to halt separations under Para. 2549

By Jessica Brodie
GREENVILLE—Three separate requests for declaratory court decisions were presented during Annual Conference, and all were ultimately withdrawn by their submitters.

Each ultimately had to do with church separations in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and Para. 2549 of the *Book of Discipline*, which the conference has been using to allow the separations.

One request had the potential to halt separations under Para. 2549 if the UMC’s top court, the Judicial Council, got involved and ultimately decided that paragraph did not apply any longer.

Much debate over the last year and a half has surfaced over either the amount of money separating churches are required to pay or what the conference is doing with that money. The conference received \$17.5 million from the 2023 separating churches and another not-yet-released amount from the churches that are separating this year.

Churches that leave must pay 10 percent of the appraised value of its property and assets; all unpaid apportionment giving for the prior year and the year of closure up to the date of the Annual Conference vote to close the church; an additional 12 months of apportionment giving; and more. Some wishing to leave say this is too much money for churches that struggle financially.

The three requests

On Tuesday, June 11, after the vote to allow 112 churches to separate from the UMC, Michael Cheatham made a motion directing conference trustees to amend the current separation agreement to eliminate some of what the local church must pay to leave. Bishop Jonathan Holston ruled this motion out of order, as he said Para. 2512 of the UMC’s *Book of Discipline* says the conference cannot direct the trustees.

“Conference trustees have the responsibility of trust and the basic responsibility to do that work,” Holston said. “We have to trust our conference trustees as they contemplate going forward.”

Later, Cheatham requested a declaratory court decision on this.

Dr. Reginald Lee stood to address what he called “the elephant in the room,” which he said is Holston’s interpretation of the trustees’ responsibility to the annual conference. Noting he used to teach polity, Lee said the annual conference, not the trustees alone, decide what to do with the funds from separating churches. He called for a declaratory decision of law on this: Do the trustees have the authority to decide the use of funds received from church separations under the conference-approved plan of local church separation and closure, or should that decision be made and/or amended by the annual conference in its regular or called session?

Another request for a declaratory decision was made—now that the language of the *Discipline* has changed effective Jan. 1, 2025, can Para. 2549 be used to close churches who cannot follow the new *Discipline* based upon human sexuality? For background, at General Conference, the body voted to remove the statement from its book of law that homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.” The churches that left agreed with this statement, and under Para. 2549, Holston has allowed churches to leave if their members believed the denomination has not upheld this stated doctrine on human sexuality. However,



Michael Cheatham

now the language has changed; the rule of law request sought clarity from the Judicial Council on whether Para. 2549 can still apply.

All the requests for declaratory decision were tabled until the next morning.

Debate continues

On Wednesday morning, discussion and debate began anew over the reopened requests for a rule of law. Lee noted further reasons why he felt a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council was needed, including that the justification Holston was using for his interpretation was based upon a paragraph the conference was not using to allow church separations.

After lengthy debate, Lee said he was willing to withdraw his request for a rule of law if the body affirmed a motion made earlier that morning by the Rev. Amiri Hooker.

Hooker had moved, to ensure equity from funds that come from separations, both previous and current, that a minimum of \$5 million be considered for Black, indigenous and other people of color congregations, with Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the office of Congregational Development helping as advisors. The body had not been able to vote on that until the rule of law requests had been addressed.

Lee noted that the root of his declaratory decision request came from a desire that the Black church is firmly at the table in advising where the separating church funds are distributed to ensure equity and justice, so he would be willing to withdraw his motion.

He did so.

Next, his other request for a rule of law was addressed, on whether Para. 2549 can be used to close churches given the change in the *Discipline*’s sexuality language.

The body prepared for a vote on the matter; if at least 20 percent agreed with Lee’s request, it would move on to the UMC’s top court for consideration.

Two others withdrawn

However, dialogue ensued. Some leaders noted they had urged their churches to wait until after General Conference to discern whether they wanted to separate from the UMC, and they were concerned that if the Judicial Council got involved and ruled Para. 2549 no longer applied, it would effectively prevent the South Carolina Conference from allowing separations next year.

Chancellor Kay Crowe confirmed this would indeed be the case, noting, “We don’t know what that ruling would be, but if the Judicial Council rules it cannot, then this annual conference would end those separations.”

Lee stood to withdraw his request for a ruling, noting he reserved the right to bring it up again next year.

Cheatham also stood to withdraw his request for a ruling.

‘Thank you’

With all three requests for a declaratory decision removed from the table, now the conference considered the Hooker motion to aid in fund distribution equity, ultimately approving it.

With all matters settled, Holston took a moment to thank the body.

“We are trying to do the work of the church and this annual conference, and we want to be sure all voices are heard and people are respected in the midst of that discussion because we want to be the people that God needs for us to be,” Holston said.

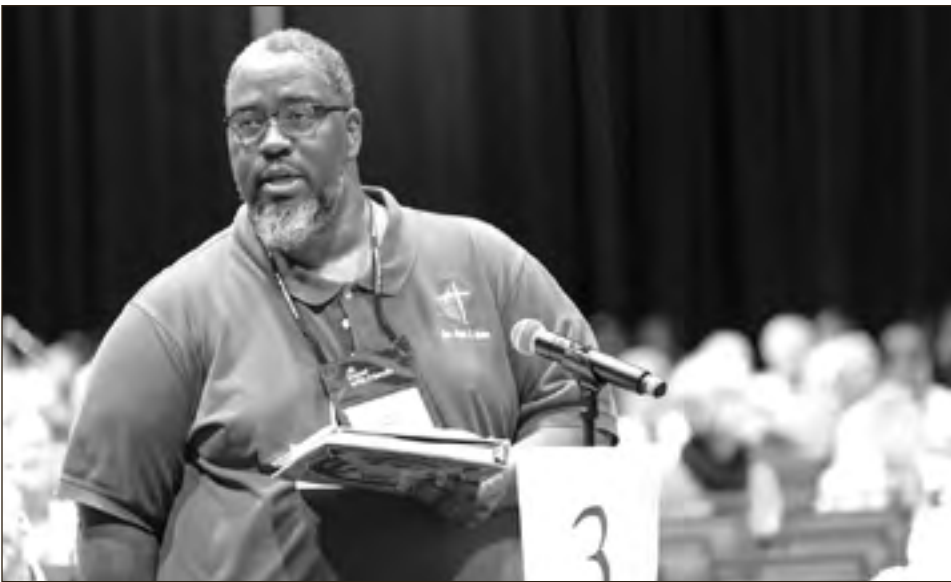


Photo by Matt Brodie

The Rev. Amiri Hooker proposes a motion regarding racial equity in fund distribution.

Conference passes two motions regarding funds from separating churches

By Jessica Brodie

GREENVILLE—Annual Conference passed two motions on the final day of its gathering regarding funds from separating churches.

Much conversation and concern had been circulating over the large amount of money the conference received from churches allowed to leave the denomination over sexuality issues. In 2023, the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church received \$17.5 million from the 113 churches that separated from the UMC, and on June 11 at this year’s conference, an additional 112 churches separated (that second amount is not yet known).

Some expressed concern that the Conference Board of Trustees was deciding what to do with the funds without input from the full annual conference. Others expressed concern about not understanding where that money would be going, feeling the conference had not communicated this adequately.

The Conference Board of Trustees noted it had released information both in a two-page document and through the *Advocate* detailing where those funds would go.

The Rev. Shannon Bullion restated that breakdown before the body; the breakdown includes a Hope Fund of \$7.48 million that

would provide direct ministry grants for congregations in need (see sidebar below for details).

On the last morning of Annual Conference, the Rev. Amiri Hooker proposed a motion regarding equity in fund distribution over concerns that “BIPOC congregations”—Black, indigenous and other people of color congregations—might not get the funds they need because of a lack of awareness or voice in the decision-making.

Hooker moved, to ensure equity from funds that come from separations, both previous and current, that a minimum of \$5 million be considered for Black, indigenous and other people of color congregations, with Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the office of Congregational Development helping as advisors.

The motion passed.

More than an hour later in the morning’s session, the body also considered a motion from the Rev. Patricia Parrish that all expenditures from the Hope Fund and all funds received from separating churches be reported at the next annual conference so the conference is fully aware of what is happening with this money.

That motion also was approved.

Where were funds from 2023 separating churches disbursed?

Earlier this year, the trustees of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church released information on the disbursement of tithes from the 113 churches that separated from the denomination in 2023.

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the Local Church Discernment Process, the procedure through which these congregations reached their decision to separate from the denomination. As part of this separation process, each church agreed to certain financial obligations:

- A tithe equal to 10 percent of the appraised value of all church property and liquid assets;
- All unpaid apportionment giving for the prior year, as well as for the year of closure up to the date of the Annual Conference vote to close the church;
- An additional 12 months of apportionment giving;
- All unpaid salary and benefits due to clergy appointed to the church;
- A withdrawal liability equal to the church’s proportional share of any unfunded pension obligations; and
- Other financial considerations and legal liabilities of the local church—such as the disposition of any debts, loans, leases, endowments, foundations and cemeteries—must be satisfied or transferred to a new entity.

In a March 21 statement, the trustees announced the total amount received from the churches that departed in 2023 is a little more than \$17.5 million.

Most of that money already has been distributed or set aside for a specific purpose, the trustees stated:

- \$7.48 million “Hope Fund”—direct ministry grants that will be shared through the districts;
- \$3.8 million in apportionment funds for 2023 and half of 2024 have been disbursed to conference ministries as part of the current year’s budget;
- \$2.4 million to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to ease the financial impact on local churches in coming years’ budgets;
- \$1 million to Conference Congregational Development to help support local churches, new ministries and new church plants and communities where poverty is significant;
- \$299,000 to cover unfunded pension liabilities; and
- \$31,000 in direct billing for pastors’ pension and health benefits.

The trustees are holding \$2.5 million to cover their operations and legal expenses. Trustees may release some or all of these funds for ministry after certain legal deadlines have expired.

‘Prayer and Praise’ services lift spirits during AC2024

By Allison Trussell

GREENVILLE—Two newly ordained elders and a new associate member offered words of encouragement and faith during the Prayer and Praise services held each day at Annual Conference.

The Rev. Morgan Barner Byars, associate pastor at Mount Hebron United Methodist Church, West Columbia, led the Monday evening service and focused on Isaiah 2:1-5 and the conference theme of “On the Leading Edge of Ministry.”

He questioned what sort of leading edge we want to be, pointing out the church is still important, still relevant, but warning that like the lessons he learned in running cross country, being in the lead doesn’t mean we’re doing good. “We as a church have a great responsibility to do good, but a great risk of doing harm. ... We have two paths that lie before us: being the leading edge of a sword or the leading edge of plowshare.”

People are far too practiced at using swords against others because they offer quick and easy answers. But Byars insisted that quick and easy aren’t always the best answer and are often more destructive than intended.

“What we get is churches who become weaponized and driven by a theology that divides us into insiders and outsiders, theology that wounds outsiders and leaves insiders comfortable rather than faithful.”

But a plowshare is more fruitful, he said. Churches could be instruments of mass creation, of new hope, if only we choose to grasp it. Like a sword, a plowshare requires a sharp edge. But its edge is used to prepare for the harvest.

“If we put people with plowshare, we equip people to be catchers of people who will spread the word of God, giving good news to those who desperately need to hear it.”

Dr. Martin Luther Quick, pastor of Cumberland UMC, Florence, echoed that emphasis on faith during the Tuesday morning service, which focused on Luke 22:1-18, the passage of the Last Supper.

Here, he said, is Jesus knowing his time is near, trying to teach the disciples to trust the cup they’ve been given. Quick then offered some of the cups that we mistakenly put our faith in.

The cup of comfort glosses over the realities of life. In staying comfortable, we overlook opportunities. He relayed how Cumberland told him they needed more young people and he told them to get outside the four walls of the church. So they went to



The Rev. Edward Timothy Stallworth III, newly received as an associate member of the conference, brings a word Wednesday.

an elementary school and adopted it. Now they have 700 kids because they were willing to get out of the comfort of their walls.

The cup of culture makes us follow rather than lead. The disciples want to keep the culture they know, but Jesus says to be open to Gentiles. “We sometimes forget we’re adopted by Jesus,” Quick said. “But adoption comes with certain responsibilities that we lead the culture, not follow it.”

A third cup is one of pressure within the church, but more important is how we respond to that pressure. While at the table, Jesus didn’t show the issues he was facing and didn’t address them until he was alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. We as leaders and as Christians should emulate that, Quick said.

The fourth cup is one of suffering. In the passage, Jesus is watching the clock, knowing what is coming, but he’s having to trust the cup he’s been given.

Holding up a communion chalice, Quick said his last cup is the Christ cup, the cup of salvation. Not only do we get the cup, we have a responsibility to share the cup as Christ did at the Last Supper. Jesus shared the cup with his betrayer, with his followers.

“Trust the cup. Take it and divide it among you. In the words of Oprah Winfrey, ‘You get a cup!’ ‘You get a cup!’ ‘You get a cup!’”

The Rev. Edward Timothy Stallworth III, pastor of the Pelion-Sharon Charge, Pelion, who was received as an associate member of the conference Sunday night, also focused on the events of the Last Supper as told in John 13:1-5 during the Wednesday morning service.

Stallworth asked for total silence following the reading and then rubbed his hands together, snapped his fingers, clapped his



Dr. Martin Luther Quick, pastor of Cumberland UMC, Florence, brings a word Tuesday morning.

hands and slapped his legs, encouraging the delegates to join in. All this was done without speaking. In that moment, despite our differences, he said, we were one people, one body and one church.

Words matter, Stallworth said, but words aren’t remembered unless the speaker did something worth remembering. We know famous quotes from Muhammed Ali, from Neil Armstrong, from Martin Luther King Jr.

in part because we remember their actions. Before saying a single word, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

He recalled his departure the previous week from his family in Japan. His stepfather who doesn’t speak much English started to cry, and Stallworth who doesn’t speak much Japanese started to cry. And they knew without words that they loved each other and would miss each other. “Don’t we all have memories with no words?”

There have been many words spoken between us and about us as United Methodists. Talking is necessary and words need to be said. “But, I’d argue that words are dividing us. Not our mission, but our words,” he said. “May our actions be louder than our words, may we rise above this rhetoric. ... We are at a time and place where we can be the church we are called to be. Let us turn our swords into plowshares and seek a more excellent way.”

In a final word of hope, Stallworth encouraged the delegates to bring heaven to earth for all people by simply showing up with kindness and compassion. “Maybe,” he suggested, “people will hear what we have to say; maybe the unchurched will see our light; and maybe we can grow again as a church.”




‘A privilege’

During the close of Annual Conference, the Rev. Ken Nelson takes a moment to share with the body as he steps down as conference secretary, a role he has served for the past decade. “I was privileged to be invited into this work by our bishop, who graciously asked if I could come in and be part of the team,” Nelson said. “I ask for forgiveness for any errors I have made along the way.” He said any shortcomings are his, and the work overall was done with excellence by a team of leaders. He also lifted up the new conference secretary, the Rev. Mel Arant. “With great joy and profound honor, I am pleased to pass the mantle onto him as he prepares to step into this role.”

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‘A beacon of hope’

Jeannette Cooper, acting chair of the Committee on the Episcopacy, lifted up what she called the positive, steady and disciplined leadership of Bishop L. Jonathan Holston during her report at Annual Conference. “He has been for me a beacon of hope, and hopefully he has been that for you also,” she said. “We are grateful for his graceful way of wading through difficult situations.” She also praised his wife, Felecia, for her wisdom and support, giving her flowers onstage during the report.



Photos by Matt Brodie

Lots of growth

Annual Conference got the chance to officially meet and welcome the new presidents of Claflin University (Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack) and Columbia College (Dr. John H. Dozier) June 11. Dozier (left) lifted up the highlights of the college’s report to the body, including huge capital project improvements, such as the acquisition of College Place UMC and the demolition of two old buildings to become greenspaces for students. “While we continue to grow, we will also remain true to our roots,” Dozier said. “I stand on the shoulders of eight giants who came before me,” Warmack (at right) noted, sharing about a host of achievements from the year past as well as lifting up projects for this year, including the opening of a new student life center, a computer science and biotechnology center and a center for social justice.

Beverly to African-American Clergywomen: God will continue to call

By Allison Trussell
GREENVILLE—With a message of encouragement illustrated with personal stories, Dr. Arnetta E. Beverly, a retired member of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church currently serving St. Stephen’s UMC in Greensboro, spoke at the South Carolina African-American Clergywomen’s Luncheon June 10.
She started by asking if her listeners remembered their call and jokingly said sometimes the call came when we were in places we shouldn’t have been! Her call came when a member of her home church asked her to be the Sunday school superintendent. For every excuse, the member had an answer.
“She put me in a place where God called me,” Beverly recalled. “For 42 years, I’ve answered the call, but I didn’t want to go in the first place.”
Calling and your role don’t stop at the

church door. Leaders in the church should be leaders in their communities, she said, reminding the group that her background includes being a funeral director and a deputy with the Davidson County Sheriff’s Department.
Sometimes the call is interrupted with static, she said. But clergywomen need to remember the call comes from God not from their congregants. At one of her early appointments, she had a member who did not want a woman in the pulpit. He was vocal and insisted on calling her “Brother Pastor” instead of her name. Eventually, she won him over and he started calling her “Sister Pastor.”
Sometimes the call gets dropped. Pastors grow tired of the politics, jealousy and pettiness that can come in their ministries, but they must keep listening for the call. When the temple guards and Sadducees told John and Peter they could not teach or speak of

Jesus, John said he served the king of kings. “So we keep on preaching even when we’re tired,” Beverly said. “God will continue to call.”
Beverly thought retirement would be easy with nothing to do. But then, she said, conference leaders asked her to go to St. Stephens, her home church. As a mischievous child, she was constantly getting into trouble even at church, but God was calling her back there.
“Keep on preaching and serving God,” she told the women. “We need to stop taking cues from pews, trying to be who others think we are and worrying about the next appointment. Lead and serve where you are!”
Clergywomen who were recognized during Sunday night’s Service of Commissioning, Ordination, Recognition of Orders and Retirement were honored during the luncheon. Special music was provided by Heart and Soul from the Hartsville District accompanied by Cheryl Fisher.

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SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

By authority of *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, I hereby fix these appointments for the South Carolina Annual Conference for the 2024-2025 conference year. As commissioned, licensed, consecrated, or ordained members of the covenant of ministry, let us offer ourselves without reserve to the responsibilities and opportunities of these appointments.



L. Jonathan Holston
Resident Bishop
South Carolina Annual Conference
June 12, 2024

STATUS KEY

AF Affiliate Member (§§§ 334.5, 344.4, 586.4) AL Administrative Location (§ 359) AM Associate Member (§§ 322, 369.1, 635.2h) DC Deaconess (§ 1913.2) DM Diaconal Minister (2004 Discipline § 369.1) DR Retired Diaconal Minister (consecrated under provisions of 1992 or earlier <i>Discipline</i>) (§ 357) FD Deacon in full connection (§ 330) FE Elder in full connection (§ 335) FL Full time Local Pastor (§ 318.1) HL Honorable Location\Honorable Location Retired (§§ 358.1, 358.3)	HM Home Missioner (§§ 1913-1918) LM Certified Lay Minister (§ 268) OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§ 346.1) OD Deacon Member of other annual conference (§ 331.8) OE Elder Member of other annual conference or other Methodist denomination (§346.1) OF Full Member of other denomination (§ 346.2) OM Elder Member of other Methodist denomination (§ 346.1) OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference OR Retired Member of other Annual Conference (§ 346.1) PD Provisional Deacon (§§ 324, 325)	PE Provisional Elder (§§ 324, 325) PL Part-time Local Pastor (§ 318.2) RA Retired Associate Member (§ 357) RD Retired Deacon in Full connection (§ 357) RE Retired Full Elder (§ 357) RP Retired Provisional Member (§ 357) (prior to Jan 1, 2013) RL Retired Local Pastor (§§ 320.5, 327.7)
Not a Disciplinary Code: SY - Other Supplies – Used by GCFA for assigned pastors		

ANDERSON DISTRICT (38 charges; 58 churches) DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: STEVE A. PATTERSON JR., 7
ABBEVILLE: Grace – S. Matthew Turner (PE) 1 ANDERSON: Anderson Circuit – Annie K. Jackson (PL) (1/2) 7 (Mount Pleasant, Mount Sinai, Emmanuel) Marshall Memorial-Ebenezer – V. Brauer Dowd (SY) (1/2) 2 North Anderson Charge – Cyrus D. Rogers (RE) (1/2) 10 (John Wesley, Sandy Springs) South Main Chapel and Mercy Center – Kurt L. Stutler (OF-§346.2) 11 St. John’s – Stephen L. Love 1 Thompson Centennial-Fairfield Charge – Hal B. Johnson (PL) (1/2) 8 Toxaway – Freda A. Brock (PL) (1/2) 9 Trinity – Roy M. Mitchell (OE-§346.1) 5 Minister of Discipleship/Outreach – Kathryn M. Bariou (FD) 3 Zion – Beverly CroweTipton 9 BELTON: Latimer Memorial/Homeland Park - Michael L. Vandiver (RE) (1/2) 1 Union Grove – Amy D. Bratton 13 CALHOUN FALLS: Calhoun Falls – Franklin D. McCoy (RE) (1/2) 6 CENTRAL: Mount Zion – Jonathan D. Harris 6 CLEMSON: Clemson – Thomas B. Wilkes III, 3 Associate & Campus Minister – Steven P. Simoneaux Jr. 12 Discipleship Minister – Margaret H. Wilkes (FD) 3 Associate- Paige D. Wheeler PE 1 Lawrence Chapel – J. Gregory Martin (FL) 2 EASLEY: Ariel-Tabor – Roger M. Gwinn (RL) 21 Bethesda – A. Judson King 5 Easley Charge – LaTonya Monique Dash 4 (Easley Chapel, John Wesley) Fairview-St. Paul – J. Kevin Gorry (RE) (1/2) 9 First Church – Michael J. Hood 4 Minister of Children, Youth, & Family – Deana Gentry (FD) (1/2) 7 HONEA PATH: Trinity- Christopher E. Arries 3 IVA: Bethel-Ruhamah – Richard A. Powell (PL) (1/2) 1 LIBERTY: Liberty-Zion – Vaughn E. CroweTipton (SY) (1/4) 2 Associate – Ronald E. Bentley (FD) (1/4) 4 PENDLETON: Pendleton Charge – Andre L. Gary Sr. (PL) (1/2) 1 (Bethel, Central) PICKENS: Grace – Valerie K. Mireb 4 Minister of Visitation – Charlie Brookshire (RL) (1/4) 2 Mount Bethel-Porter’s Chapel – Joe D. Durham (RL) (1/4) 3 Co-Pastor - Brenda W. Durham (RL) (1/4) 3 SENECA: Ann Hope-Friendship – Gregg S. Varner (RL) (1/2) 2 New Harmony-Robinson Chapel – Bernetha W. Orr (PL) (1/2) 9 St. Mark – S. Alexander Stevenson 2 STARR: Starr Charge – TBS (Hebron, Starr) TOWNVILLE: Dickson Memorial – W. Wallace Culp III 2 WALHALLA: St. Luke – Kevin B. Lindley 7 WESTMINSTER: Double Springs-Rock Springs – James R. McDowell (PL) (1/4) 4 Hopewell – James R. McDowell (PL) (1/4) 7 Westminster-Chicopee – Jeffrey J. Hogan (PL) (1/2) 4 WILLIAMSTON: Grace-Pelzer – Susan Y. Sullivan (PL) (1/2) 1 Williamston Charge – Gwendolyn Brown (SY) 2 (New Golden Grove, St. James)
APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES §344.1a, §344.1c: Within the Connection: Steve A. Patterson Jr. – Anderson District Superintendent 7 A. Melton Arant Jr. – Coordinator of Clergy Services/ Secretary of the Annual Conference – Zion/Anderson CC 5 §344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency: No One §344.1d Other Valid Ministries: Laura-Allen Kerlin – Corporate Relations Manager Harvest Hope Food Bank, Clemson CC 2 Lane C. Glaze – President/Chair, One Eleuthera Foundation of the U.S., Clemson CC 5

DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH §331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings: No One §331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies of Schools: No One APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL §416.6 – No One APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES §331.8, 346.1 Ryan B. Spurrier, Campus Minister, UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina Conference, Clemson CC 10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE §353.2a, 353.3: Personal: Megan Augustine Boatwright – Clemson CC 4 §353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One §353.2c: Transitional: No One §353.4: Involuntary: No One §351: Sabbatical: No One §356: Medical: Kitty C. Holtzclaw – Trinity CC 3	HONORABLE LOCATION Active: John R. F. Evatt – Mount Zion CC Retired: George M. Workman – Union Grove CC DIACONAL MINISTERS Active: None Retired: Carolyn Elaine Brashear – Trinity Ann Barton Fuhr – Lawrence Chapel DEACONESSSES Active: None Retired: Mary Lou Edens – Grace, Abbeville RETIRED CLERGY Allinder, Joseph E. Ashmore, E. Warren Benson, Carleatheia L. (RL) Bryant Jr., T. Lee Beaudrot, Gayle M. Bowers, Edna R. (RL) Bowers, Randall E. (RL) Bynum, William H. Cannon, Barry W. Carlisle, Robert N. Claytor, Robert B. Cleasby, Bruce Cox, H. Michael Durham, Brenda W. (RL) Durham, Joe D. (RL) Ethridge, Bobbie R. (FD) Eubanks, Robert L. Farley, William B. Franklin, E. Herbert Freeman, John M. Gary, Clara M. (RL) Gorry, J. Kevin Gwinn, Roger M. (RL) Hartsell, Franklin D. Hendry, Joyce S. (RL) Kelley, Patrick H. (RL) Lack, P. Michael (RL) Leppard, James F. Lewis, Sinclair E. Marsh, Ed C. Marsh, Eileen C. Massey, Ronald J. (RL) McCoy Sr., Franklin DeWitt McNatt, Linda M. Medlin, Anthony Steele Mims, Louis M. Mitchell, Paul C. Morgan, Steven D. Owens, Kenneth D. Patterson, Stanley B. Pearce, Roger Wayne Ray, Marie E. Reynolds, Nena Rogers, Cyrus D. Sayre, Bruce Shattuck Sr., Leslie J. (RL) Shepard, Frederick J. Shepard, Marguerite K. Stillwell, Robert E. Thompson, Morris C. Vandiver, Michael L. Varner, Gregg S. (RL)	CHARLESTON DISTRICT (52 CHARGES; 61 CHURCHES) DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: JEFFERY SALLEY, 1 BONNEAU: Berkeley Circuit – TBS (Eccles, Hoods Chapel) CHARLESTON: Asbury-St. James – Timothy G. Shaw (PL) (1/2) 19
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Bethany – Susan M. Pennock 4 Bethel – Susan P. Leonard 7 Centenary – Lorenzo Moses (1/4) 21 Cokesbury – Bryan W. Pigford 3 Epworth – Vivia L. Fowler (FD) (1/2) 3 Grace – Benjamin O. Burt 4 Associate – Kim M. Bryant (PD) (1/2) 2 John Wesley – Kenneth B. Timmerman 5 Associate – TBS Midland Park – Millard Cooper Stonestreet (RE) (1/2) 3 Mount Carmel – Nathan Smalls 5 New Francis Brown – Cindy S. Shaw (FL) 1 North Charleston – Meredith M. Dark 1 Old Bethel – David V. Washington (FL) 4 St. Andrews Parish – Brent L. Dehlbom (FL) 3 St. Mark – W. Michael Bruce (RE) 1 Trinity – Michael D. Wood (PL) (1/4) 2 Washington – Kerry Brisbon (PL) (1/2) 4 Wesley – Eleanora C. Ellington 3 CROSS: Cross – Davie Sanders 6 (Jerusalem, Zion) Greater St. Paul – Raymond P. Gibbs (FL) 3 EDISTO ISLAND: Edisto Island-Wesley Memorial – Kevin P. Stroop 10 FOLLY BEACH: Folly Beach – Randall W. Horres (FL) 9 GOOSE CREEK: Goose Creek – George Palmer Hudson (FL) 2 St. James – Joshua W. Tietje (OM-§346.1) 3 HOLLYWOOD: Ravenel – Len C. Ripley (RL) (1/4) 7 Wesley – Dwight A. Nelson 7 HUGER: St. Thomas Charge – Cheryl G. Johnson 3 Associate – Lee M. Johnson (PL) (1/2) 3 (New Hope, Stewart Chapel, Zion) ISLE OF PALMS: First – Charles Andrew Phillips 2 JOHNS ISLAND: Johns Island Parish – Pattie E. Gordon 6 (Bethlehem-St. James, New Webster) Wesley – Doris R. Bright 3 LADSON: Wesley – Curnell Graham (OE-§346.1) 2 McCLELLANVILLE: Sewee Santee Charge – Roye Lynn Kulik (RE) (1/2) 6 (McClellanville, Ocean Grove, Wren’s Chapel) MONCK’S CORNER: Centenary – Eleanor Cooper Brown (PL) (1/2) 2 Ebenezer – Michael David Wood (PL) (1/4) 3 Joshua – Mae Frances Taylor 19 Moncks Corner – Randall L. Haase 3 Smyrna – F. Debra Dowdle (RA) (1/2) 2 MOUNT PLEASANT: Hibben – Kathy Hudson 1 Associate – Katherine A. Brock (FD) 4 PINOPOLIS: Wesley – Shamond Riddy (OF-§346.2) 4 RIDGEVILLE: Spring Hill – Robert Nix (RE) 1 ST. STEPHEN: All Saints Charge – Marvin Taylor Jr. (PL) (1/2) 3 (Cordesville, New Light) Bethel – Lillian Washington (RE) 1 Jehovah – Tony Richardson Sr. (PL) (1/2) 10 Mount Nebo – Richard Irving (PL) (1/2) 9 St. Stephen Charge – Lena Elizabeth Murdock (RL) (1/2) 2 (Rehoboth, St. Stephen) SUMMERVILLE: Bethany – Michael D. Ritter Sr. 3 Associate – W. Isaac Dusenbury 1 Boone Hill – Sheldon L. Withrow (FL) 5 Enoch Chapel-Grove Hall: (Enoch Chapel) – Victoria Richardson (RL) (1/4) 20 (Grove Hall) – Virginia B. Stafford (RL) (1/4) 21 Stallsville – Robert L. Rabenstein III (RL) (1/2) 2 Summerville Parish – Darlene Brenda Richardson (PE) 2 (Murray, Wesley)
APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY §344.1a, §344.1c: Within the Connection: John S. Poole (FL) – Charleston Wesley Foundation Director 3 Jeffery Salley – Charleston District Superintendent 1 Suzanne B. Walker – Charleston/Walterboro Districts Congregational Specialist, Cokesbury CC 6 §344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency Jason D. Everson – Chaplain, US Navy, Chapel of Hope, Yokosuka, Japan, Isle of Palms CC 8 Daniel Flessas – City of Charleston Emergency Management Division, Hibben CC 5 George H. Grant – Director of Research in Faith and Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Bethel CC 25 Lorenzo Moses – Chief Chaplain, Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, Centenary CC 30 §344.1d Other Valid Ministries: Aaron S. Meadows – Chaplain of SC Corps of Cadets and Director of Religious Activities, The Citadel Military College of SC, Trinity-Charleston CC 3

Carly K. Wicklund – Staff Chaplain, Pediatric Staff Chaplain UNC Health Care – Chapel Hill, NC, Bethel-Charleston CC 3 DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH §331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings: Bernett W. Mazyck (FD) – President/CEO, South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations, Murray CC 12 §331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies and Schools: No One APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL §416.6 – No One APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES §331.8, 346.1 Adriane M. Burgess, St. Mary’s Road UMC, South Georgia Conference 6 Soon S. Nix, (FD) – Associate, Korean Church of Atlanta (3/4), North Georgia Conference 5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE §353.2a, 353.3: Personal: Reams, Richard H. – Bethel CC 4 §353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One §353.2c: Transitional: No One §353.4: Involuntary: No One §351: Sabbatical: No One §356: Medical: No One HONORABLE LOCATION Active: None Retired: Cermette Clardy Jr. DIACONAL MINISTERS Active: None Retired: None DEACONESSSES Active: None Retired: None RETIRED CLERGY Alewine, James Edwin Bines, Lee Brisbon, David A. Broomall, Richard A. Brown, Joanne E. Brown III, Major Bruce, W Michael Cash, H. Carroll (RL) Clendaniel, Donald Cubie, James (RL) Davis, Gloria R. Deal, Alice L. (Ally) Derrick, Barbara A. Dingle, Shirley (RL) Edwards, Annette C. Felder, William H. Fender, Genevieve M. (RL) Gaither, Stephen D. Garrett, Jo Ann (RL) Houston, D. Mitchell Hughes, Elizabeth C. Hughes, Jessie Clark Ivey, Ruth Ann (FD) James, David Jefferson, Ethel Gethers Jones, Alfonza (RL) Jones, Clayton (RL) Lee, Robert E. (RA) Locklair, Josephine M. Lupo, David E. (HL) Mabey, Janice L. (RL) Masciangelo, William R. (RL) McFadden, Vivian Miller, Bonnie (RL) Murdock, Lena Elizabeth (RL) Myers, John David Nix, A. Robert Ott, Burton Rabenstein, Robert (RL) Ratlledge, Jackie S. (FD) Reeves, Timothy S. Richardson, Victoria (RL) Rodeffer, Larry William Rogers-Berry, Richard Smith, David S. Smith, Debra Quilling Stafford, Virginia (RL) Stiltz, Edward J. (RL) Stonestreet, Cooper Tanner, William, Jr. (RL) Taylor, Kelli W. Washington, Lillian Wilson Jr., Harlan E., White, Sara A.
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Continued from previous page

COLUMBIA DISTRICT
(44 charges; 47 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
FRANCES M. ELROD, 3

BLYTHEWOOD:
Trinity – Scott W. Smoak 5
Associate – Julie Songer Belman 1
Upper Richland Charge – Robert V. McDowell (OR-
¶346.1) (1/2) 2
(Beulah, Oak Grove)

CAYCE:
Cayce – Tom H.B. Wall 1

COLUMBIA:
Asbury Memorial – Laurie G. Brandes (FL) 1
Ashland – J. Scott Efird 6
Bethel – Mason H. Cantey 1
Bluff Road – Stephanie E.F. Stafford (PL) (1/2) 2
Columbia – Executive Pastor –Ashley McCoy-Bruce 1
Kermit C. Moss (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 2
Fair Lawn – Jeremy L. Howell 1
Francis Burns – Geneva G. Stafford 6
Grace – Meghan L. Sweeney Cook 1
Heyward Street – Tammy A. Blom (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 9
I. DeQuincey Newman – Frank V. James (RE) (1/2) 3
Journey – George A. Ashford 18
McLeod – Jerry O. McLemore (SY) (1/4) 4
Mill Creek – Sharon L. Long (PL) (1/4) 14
North Columbia Charge – Ralph C. Young (PL) (1/2) 6
(Mount Pleasant, St. John)

Northeast – Antoinette Gaboton-Moss (FL) 3
Shandon – C. Smoke Kanipe 9
Associate – James A. Grubb 7
Associate – Margaret R. Cantey (FD) (3/4) 1
Minister of Music and Arts – Donald E. Huss Jr. (FD) 14
St. Mark – Margo Wright Williams (PL) (1/2) 2
Suber Marshall Memorial – Marion Aldridge (OF-
¶346.2) (1/4) 6
Trenholm Road – James L. McCoy-Bruce 3
Associate – Mollie B. Reddic 2
Director of Music Ministries – Sarah T. Fletcher (FD) (3/4) 16
Virginia Wingard Memorial – Sheila Elliott Hodge 1
Washington Street – Rebecca J. Shirley 4
Associate, Nurture/Discipleship Development – Alston F. Lippert (PL) (1/2) 8
Director of Family Ministries – Katherine L. James (FD) 1
Wesley – Tiffany D. Knowlin 10
Whaley Street – Susan D. Culler (HL) (1/2) 4
Winsor – Claire Van Den Berg 1

GILBERT:
Gilbert – Mark E. Thompson (RE) (3/4) 4
Shiloh – John N. Kronz (FL) 2

IRMO:
Salem – Jeffrey W. Childress 4
Shady Grove – Tammy N. Grey 7
Union – Stephen P. Taylor 9
Associate – Faye J. Jones (FL) 3

LEXINGTON:
Boiling Springs – Stephan D. Elkins (FL) 2
Faith – Hope R. Morris 6
Lexington – James S. “Mack” McDowell 3
Associate – Meegian A. Gossard 2
Red Bank – W. Clay Faulk (OF-¶346.2) 5

WEST COLUMBIA:
Brookland – Christopher Mark Payne (PL) (1/2) 6
Mount Hebron – Cynthia C. Taylor 3
Associate – Morgan B. Byars 3
Platt Springs – Debbie H. Miller (RL) 3
Shiloh – Sandra G. Stillinger (PL) (1/4) 7
Trinity – Darlene L. Kelley 1

WINNSBORO:
Monticello – TBS
First – Frances S. Connell 2
Gordon Memorial-Greenbrier – Thurmond “Kem” Thomas (RE) 4

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Fadetra H. Boyd – Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life, Columbia College, Frances Burns CC 3
Fran M. Elrod – District Superintendent, Columbia District 3
James L. Friday – Director of Congregational Development, Wesley UMC CC 6

W. Everette “Rett” Haselden – Conference Benefits Officer 1
Walter E. Strawther – Congregational Specialist for African American/Columbia/Hartsville Districts, Shandon CC 4

James D. Taylor III – Director, Wesley Foundation USC, 1
Robert M. Vincent – President, SC United Methodist Foundation, Salem, Irmo CC 7

¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:
Lara Caulder Byrd – Chaplain, United States Navy, Lexington CC 6
John D. Evans (RE) – Pastoral Counseling, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Columbia, Washington Street CC 30
Adrienne H. Fink (FD) – Chaplain, Prisma Health Department of Spiritual Care and Education, Washington Street CC 10
N. Nichole Middleton – Chaplain, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Trenholm Road CC 15

¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries:
Kenneth R. Kennerly (RE) – Counselor V.A. Medical Center Addiction Treatment Unit, Columbia, Trinity, West Columbia CC 45
Luke Moon Taeg Rhyee – Missionary to Guatemala, Mission Society 10
Jeri-Katherine Warden Sipes – Assistant Chaplain, Heathwood Hall, St. Mark CC 4

DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings:
Murray, Elizabeth (FD) – American Church in Paris, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, Lexington CC 4

¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or Schools: No One

APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One

APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1
James B. Rogers (PE) – Minister of Youth and Technology, St. Luke UMC, North Carolina Conference 4

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal:
Jon A. Hoin – Union (Irmo) CC 3

Sara E. Relaford – Union (Irmo) CC 3
Amanda T. Young – Mount Hebron CC 6

¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical: No One

HONORABLE LOCATION

Active:
M. David Arant Jr. – Emmanuel CC 26
M. Susan D. Culler – Washington Street CC 9
Scott G. Middleton – Washington Street CC 29

Retired:
Benjamin B. Bishop – Cayce UMC CC 24
Glen McCoy – Columbia CC 23
English B. Pearcy – Trinity UMC-West Columbia CC 24

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Retired:
R. Fletcher Carter – Virginia Wingard CC
Lillian Quackenbush – TBD
Cheryl Walker – Wesley CC
Carol Hart Watson – Columbia CC

DEACONESES

Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY

Adams, James C.
Alexander, Robert E.
Alley, Joseph W.
Anderson, David L.
Arant Sr., Athon M.
Arant, James S. (RD)
Arant, Ruth H. (RD)
Armstrong, Deborah A.
Ballenger, Walter C.
Barnes Jr., Rudolph C. (RL)
Barwick, Kenneth W.
Bauknight, John M.
Bell, Michael C.
Bigelow, Archie R.
Borom, W. Robert
Bowman, Thomas J.
Bowman, Timothy J.
Branch, Charles S.
Bratton, Scott M.
Britt, W. Donald
Brooks, Boyce F.
Buie, Franklin B.
Brum, Sonya E.
Childs, William R. “Bill”
Chong, Yu Fong
Clyburn, David A.
Collier, Elizabeth Jane
Cooper, Wiley B.
Cothran, Lee J.
Cox, Albert L.
Cox, Robert L.
Culp, John W.
Culp, Karin B.
Day, David W.
DeDonato, David M.
Dodds, Roger R.
Edwards, Charlie A.
Etheredge, Ernest C.
Evans, John D.
Evans, William F.
Gramling, Roger M.
Griffin, M. Kathryn
Gunn, James H.
Harmon, Paul W.
Harmon, Samuel K.
Hays Jr., Lawrence F.
Henry-Crowe, Susan
Holler, John E.
Horne, R. Wayne
James, Frank V.
Johnson, Mary L.
Jones, Joel R.
Kennerly, Kenneth R.
Kinnett, Paul “Mac”
Laney, Sterling S.
Lavender, Phil C.
Lee, Young In “David”
Mayfield, Patricia P.
McDowell Jr., Edward H.
McKeown, Robert E.
Middleton, Albert
Middleton, Evelyn C.
Miller, Debbie H. (RL)
Miller Jr., Noble F.
Mims, John W.
Moore II, Raymond L.
Morris, Franklin D.
Moseley, Diane A.
Nates, James H.
Paik, Miyoung
Parrish, Patricia J.
Pearson, John C.
Phillips, Gary D.
Prill, Kenneth W.
Rodgers, Augustus
Rowell, Anthony S.
Rowell, Eldridge R.
Scott, Otis, Jr.
Simmons, Colin E.
Steil, W. Edwin
Summers, Thomas A.
Taylor, Randy M.
Teague, Willie S.
Thomas, Thurmond K.
Thompson, Mark E.
Tuell, James
Ulmer, B. Susan
Watson, J. Austin
Watson, Joe Cal
Westerkam, Diana C.
White, Toni L.
Williams, Robert T.
Williams, Thurmond
Wilson II, Joseph A.
Yongue, Neil

FLORENCE DISTRICT
(47 charges; 62 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
M. Terrence (Terry) Fleming, 7

CADES:
Bethesda – Shawn Chestnut 3

Faith – Edward McKnight (PL-¶346.2) (1/2) 9

FLORENCE:
Central – Thomas Smith 6
Associate – Ann Kovan 3
Minister of Faith Formation & Discipleship – Meg Jiunnies (FD) 8
Cumberland – Martin L. Quick 3
Dawsey – TBS
Highland Park – Katherine Haselden Crimm 2
Friendship – Gerald Camlin Wilder II (PL) (1/2) 2
Mount Zion – Palma Duncan Thomas (PL) (1/2) 4
Quinby-Bethsaida – Gerald L. Truluck (RL) 20
Salem – Briant S. Mungo (PL) (1/2) 9
St. Paul – Bette A. Hedden 3
Wesley – James Peterson (PL) (1/2) 3

GREELEYVILLE:
Greeleyville Parish – John P. Thomas (RL) (1/4) 1
(Wilson Chapel, Long Branch)

HEMINGWAY:
Jeremiah – Norma Bartelle (PL) (1/4) 4
Mount Seal – Cynthia B. Williams (PL) (1/4) 4

JOHNSONVILLE:
Bethlehem/Johnsonville – Grayson E. Fallaw (FL) 1
Johnsonville Circuit – Michael B. Henderson (RE) 4
(Brown’s Chapel, Vox Memorial)

JORDAN:
Jordan Charge – Leo Wesley Roy (PE) 3
(Bethlehem, Jordan)

KINGSTREE:
Asbury – Patrick M. Wilson Sr. (PL) (1/4) 3
Bethel – Evelyn Fulmore (FL) 1
Elijah – Larry Odom (SY) (1/4) 1
Jerusalem – Isiah Brown (RL) (1/2) 2
Kennedyville – Norma D. Bartelle (PL) (1/4) 10
Kingstree – Tom Easttley (OR-¶346.2) 2
Mount Zion – Keith Hunter 3
St. Mary – Mildred M. Brown (PL) (1/4) 1
St. Michael – Barry S. McFadden (1/2) 9
St. Paul – Jerry L. Gadsden 6

LAKE CITY:
Lake City – Carsten Aubrey Bryant 2
Lake City Circuit – Mark Mitchell 4
(St. John, St. Luke, Nineveh)
Lake Point – Franklin D. James (RL) (1/4) 2
Mount Beulah – Benjamin Graham (PL) (1/2) 6
Wesley Chapel – Louis R. Ashley 1

LYNCHBURG:
Lynchburg Charge – Jimmy M. Ridenhour (RL) 32
(Lynchburg, St. Luke, Trinity)
New Haven – Samuel B. Cooper (RE) (1/2) 10
St. Paul-Elliott – Pernerva Thomas (RL) (1/2) 2
St. Paul-Wisacky-Warren Chapel – Gracie L. Singletary (PL) (1/2) 1

MANNING:
Manning – David McManus Jr. 4

MORRISVILLE:
St. Paul – James Pressley (PL) (1/4) 3

NESMITH:
Friendship – Ernest Frierson 3

PAMPLICO:
Pamplico – Gary Newton Lowe (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 2

PINEWOOD:
Pinewood – Nancy Adams (PL) (1/2) 2
(Pinewood, Paxville, Andrews Chapel)

SCRANTON:
St. John Charge – B. Dawson Price (FL) (1/2) 1
(Scranton, St. John, Nazareth-Olanta)

SHILOH:
Shiloh – Corey A. LaSane (PL) (1/2) 1
(Asbury, St. John)

SUMMERTON:
Summertown – Jennifer Alana Price (FL) 2

TIMMONSVILLE:
Mount Zion – Jimmie W. Duncan (PL) (1/4) 10
St. Luke – Jimmie Duncan (PL) (1/4) 4

UNION:
Union-Elim Charge – Richard Carl Jayroe (RL) 3

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Terry Fleming – District Superintendent, Florence District 7

Amiri B. Hooker – Florence/Marion Districts Congregational Specialist 1
Regena L. Swanson – Methodist Manor Chaplain (PL) (3/4) 2

¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:
Morrison, David Todd – Chaplain, United States Army, Highland Park CC 15

¶344.1d: Other Valid Ministries: No One

DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or Schools: No One

APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One

APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1 – No One

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical: No One

HONORABLE LOCATION:

Active: None
Retired:
Wright Turbeville

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESES

Active: None
Retired: None

OTHER LAY ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE CONNECTION
Jordan, Lou (SY) – Director, Francis Marion Wesley Foundation 11

RETIRED CLERGY

Abraham, Ebbie (RL)
Altman Jr., John M. (RL)
Bailey, Harold Jack
Best, Kay Adams
Bragdon, Dannye O.
Brown, Isiah (RL)
Brunson, Ashley C.
Cooper, J. Jeannette
Cooper, Samuel B.
Crouch, John (RL)
Dean, Dewey L.
Edwards, Joyce M.
Epps, Hazel (RL)
Gain, George R. (RA)

Gaskins, Joshua (RL)
Graham, Benjamin (RL)
Henderson, Michael B.
James, Franklin (RL)
James, Lindora (RL)
James, William S. (RA)
Jayroe, Richard (RL)
Lawson, Willie
Marcengill, Sam
Marcy, David
McKnight, Shirley (RL)
Morehead, G. Dane
Parker, Greta Louise (RL)
Pietila, Thomas C.
Ridenhour, Jimmy (RL)
Sellers, John A. (RA)
Smiley, John C. (RL)
Snowden, Mary (RL)
Thomas, John Pinckney (RL)
Thomas, Pernerva S. W. (RL)
Truluck, Gerald (RL)
Turbeville, Wright (HL)
Wagnon III, Leon L.
Watts, John P. (RA)
Williams, G. DeVere (RA)
Wilson, Charles K.
Wilson, Willie

GREENVILLE DISTRICT
(46 charges; 52 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:
CHRISTOPHER M. LOLLIS (Greenwood) 1,
CATHY D. MITCHELL (Spartanburg) 7,
STEVE A. PATTERSON JR. (Anderson) 7

EASLEY:
North Easley Charge – Brian Lee Underwood (FL) 2
(Dacusville, Antioch)

FORK SHOALS:
Lebanon – Carol J. Bratcher (LM) (1/4) 3
Pisgah-Oak Hill – Joseph D. Cate (PL) (1/4) 3

FOUNTAIN INN:
Trinity – Shawna Darnall Vandelune 3

GRAY COURT:
Gray Court – Pat Gannaway (RD) 1
Owings – Terry LeRoy (SY) (1/4) 4

GREENVILLE:
Aldersgate – Amanda Richardson 1
Berea Friendship – C. Davon Harrelson (FL) 7
Bethlehem – Valerie Brooks-Madden (SY) 1
Christ – Larry G. Smith (RL) (1/2) 23
Disciples – Narcie McClendon Jeter 2
East Greenville – LaShelia M. Wyatt 5
(Wesley Chapel, Allen View)
Francis Asbury – Ronald Edward Cook (SY) (1/4) 3
Greenville Parish – Brenda R. Washington (PL) (1/2) 16
(Minus Chapel, New Beginnings Mission)
John Wesley – Daniel T. Hembree (PE-¶346.2) 4
Laurel Creek – Keyla P. Edwards (PL) (3/4) 1
Laurens Road – Laura R. Bratton (1/2) 14
Monaghan – Patricia Dianne Boyer (PL) (1/2) 2
Open Hearts – Karen Lail Jones (FD) 2
Salem – Eric B. McKee Sr. (FL) 5
St. John – Martha Ann Johnson (PL) (1/4) 2
St. Mark – Charles “Tony” Owens (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 2
St. Matthew – Kurt A. McPherson 3
Associate – Janice Hughey (PL) (1/2) 2
St. Paul – Matthew E. Greer (FL) 3

GREER:
Faith – Michael Cheatham (LM) (1/4) 3
Few’s Chapel – John A. MacKeil (LM) (1/4) 5
Grace – Angela M. Etheredge-Erwin 2
Greenville Korean Mission – Kyu-Seok Shin 12
Greer Circuit – Twana R. Cruell (FL) 3
(Bethel, St. Paul)
Liberty Hill – Nelson L. Stokes (RE) (1/2) 8
Jackson Grove – Alice E. MacKeil (RE) (1/4) 6
Memorial – David B. Smith 1
Slater – Wesley Manly (PL) (1/2) 2
Wood’s Chapel – Paul David Wilmer (RL) (1/4) 8

PIEDMONT:
Augusta Road – Shawn Armstrong 1
Piedmont – Richard W. Waldrep (RE) 3

SIMPSONVILLE:
Advent – Russell W. Freeman 1
Associate – TBS
Bethel-Ebenezer – Bradley Thompson (FL) 4
Hopewell – Donald R. Brown 8
Simpsonville – TBS

TAYLORS:
Lee Road – Rusty Godfrey (FL) 3
St. Mark – Carlton J. McClam Sr. 2
St. Matthew – Amentti Sujai (PE) 4

TRAVELERS REST:
New St. Luke – James L. Drummond Jr. (PL) (1/2) 10
Travelers Rest – Christopher Brian Gilmer 2
Associate – Michelle Dellinger Cockcroft 1

WOODRUFF:
Emma Gray – Joel Andrew Watson (PL) (1/2) 10

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
James M. Dawsey – Professor, Emory and Henry College, Oak Hill CC 17
Cathy Louise W. Joens (FD) – Congregational Specialist AN/GV, Aldersgate CC 15
Edward McCutcheon – Director, Wesley Foundation, Furman University 16

¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:
Michael Hayhurst – United States Air Force Chaplain 17

¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries:
Christine Reeves-Pendergrass – St. Matthew CC 2
Weston B. Pendergrass – Grace CC 2

DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH:
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings:
Andrew T. Jones – Chaplain St. Frances Hospital Systems (FD) 2

¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or Schools: No One

APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One

APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1
James Edward Elder (AM) – Newman Spring/Graysville UMC, North Georgia Conference 8
Angela Reneé Johnson (FD) – Minister to Children, Sugar Hill UMC, North Georgia Conference 7

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal:
Michael E. Goldston – Sharon CC 3

Christine M. Matthews CC 1
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One

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¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical:
Sylvia F. Watson, CC Advent 4

HONORABLE LOCATION

Active:
Kristin M. Dollar – Prairie Village UMC CC 5
John Stephen Haney – Memorial UMC, Greer CC 19
M. Katherine Matthews – Apex UMC CC 10
Retired:
Christopher W. Cox – CC 17

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESSSES

Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Addis, Howard D.
Allison, Carol D.
Batson, Dan L.
Boyer, Patricia Diane
Brown, Billy Bowman
Callahan, John P.
Campbell, James C.
Childers, R. Clayton
Cole, Joseph L. (RL)
Curtis, Brenda I.
Dennis, James D.
Elliott Jr., Richard F.
Errington, Joseph R.
Gannaway, Patricia A.
Gardner, Les (RL)
Gillespie, Steven D
Gilliam Jr, James O.
Goulart, Robert I. (RL)
Griffis-Woodberry, Debra
Guffee, Michael L.
Hicks, Granville A.
Hill, Jerry M. (RL)
Howell Jr., Robert J.
Huff Jr., A.V.
Joens, Janet C.
Lee, Dennis R.
MacKeil, Alice E.
McAlister, J. Richard
Miller, John Teague
Parker, Fred W. (RL)
Patterson, James F.
Peterson, Gary L.
Pisor, Deborah L.
Riser, George M.
Rogers, Timothy
Scott, George W.
Shaw, Charles S.
Smith, Larry G. (RL)
Smith, S. Randolph
Snow, Murray A.
Stanley, Dwaine C. (RL)
Stoehr, Lorna Lee Curtis
Stokes, Nelson L.
Stout, Phillip E.
Strait, George E.
Sullivan, Patricia A. (FD)
Thomas, George
Thomas, Redonia M.
Thomas, Tina
Treaster, Fred
Waldrep, Richard W.
Ward, Jon P. (RL)
Warren Jr., John L.
Watson, John H. (RL)
Wechsler, Christine M.
Williams, J. Tom
Wilmer, Paul David (RL)
Wood, Patricia S.
White, Lloyd E.
Wright, Alfred T. (AM)

GREENWOOD DISTRICT
(41 charges; 57 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
CHRISTOPHER M. LOLLIS, I

CLINTON:
Broad Street – Justin Ritter 3
GRANITEVILLE:
St. John-Warrenville – John M. Williams III 1
GREENWOOD:
Aldersgate – Donna E Lollis (SY) 1
Ebenezer-Mathews Charge – Adrian Rogers (SY) 5
Kinards – Myra E. Taylor (PL) (1/2) 1
Lowell Street-Panola – Viki M. Hydrick (PL) (1/2) 3
Lupo Memorial – Craig Vondergeest (OE-¶346.1) 8
Main Street – Steven P. Keck 3
Mount Carmel – Jo Ann Stone (SY) 1
Rehoboth – Carol Peppers Wray (RE) 10
St. Mark – Jason Glen Wilson 2
Associate – Joseph Gambrell (FL) 4
Associate – Robert T. Lybrand (PL) (1/4) 4
Tranquil – John P. Bolin 4
Trinity-Harris Charge – Thessa G. Smith (PE) 3
JOANNA:
Epworth-Springdale – Joie Rogers (SY) (1/4) 2
KINARDS:
Hopewell-Sharon Charge – Kathy Cinnamond (PL) (1/4) 2
LANGLEY:
Capers Chapel – Donna Eidson (RL) (1/2) 5
Langley – Graham Bennett (FL) 4
LAURENS:
Central-Trinity – Allan Burden (SY) 1
First – Asa Gray Stallworth (FL) 3
St. James – Clyde Scott (RE) 3
McCORMICK:
Plum Branch Charge – Susan Galasso (OF-¶346.2) 4
(Republican, St. Paul)
NEWBERRY:
Central – Laura Canine Parrish 2
Epting Memorial-Lebanon Charge – William A. Hightower (PL) (1/2) 10
Lewis Memorial-Ebenezer Charge – James H. Counts Jr. (RL) 15
O’Neal Street – Ed Stallworth III (AM) 1
Trinity – TBS
NINETY SIX:
St. Paul – Scott Gilmer 4
NORTH AUGUSTA:
Grace – Catherine Jamieson 3
Associate – Patrick Taylor (OM) (1/2) 1

Associate – Ashley Buchanan (FL) 3
POMARIA:
Pomaria Charge – Jesse Rogers (FL) 4
(Caper’s Chapel, New Hope)
PROSPERITY:
Zion – Ralph T. Bowling III 8
RIDGE SPRING
Ridge Spring Charge – Laura A. Kohl (SY) (1/2) 2
(Ridge Spring, Spann)
SALUDA:
Bethlehem – Charles Adams (RL) (1/2) 9
Crossroads-Martha’s Chapel-Mays – Gerald F. Clinkscapes (PL) (1/2) 4
St. Paul – Cameron Levi (FE) 3
VAUCLUSE:
Vaucluse-Pentecost – Vincent S. Davis (PL) (1/2) 1
WARE SHOALS:
Mount Bethel-King’s Chapel – Michael Written (RL) 1
Ware Shoals-Harmony – William F. Rogers III (RE) 10
WATERLOO:
Soule Chapel – Emil Finley (RL) (1/2) 6
Waterloo – Dan S. Bradley (RE) 10

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Jennifer E. Copeland – Executive Director, NC Council of Churches, Broad Street CC 10
Christopher Lollis – District Superintendent, Greenwood District 1
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency: No One
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries: No One
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1 – No One
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical: No One

HONORABLE LOCATION

Active:
John Newell 16
Retired: None

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESSSES

Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Adams, Charles (RL)
Alford, Judy Ann Martin
Allen, Robert L.
Anderson, Vernon O.
Bennett, Hazel (RD)
Bradley, Dan
Campbell, J. Taylor
Charles, Ada A.
Connelly, Jacqueline
Counts Jr., James (RL)
Curry, Eugene L.
Davis, James Ray
Eanes, Lisa Kim
Eidson, Donna (RL)
Finley, Emil (RL)
Goldie, Richard C. (RL)
Hadden Jr, O. Julius
Hadden, Miriam G.
Hudson, Blaine S.
King, Sandra S.
King, Steven M.
Long, Joe
Lusk, T. Joseph
McGuirt, Milton L.
Morton Jr., Ted R.
Osborne, Jean O. (RD)
Palmer, Bruce H.
Peurifoy, Harvey O.
Pickens, John Gerald
Quarles, J. William (RL)
Rainwater, Brian T.
Rogers, Paul H.
Rogers, Sheila D.
Rogers III, William F.
Roof, Terry A.
Ruth, E. DeVon
Scott, Clyde E.
Shoemaker, Mary Jane
Smyth, Dan (RA)
Stephens Jr., Herbert
Taylor, Bobbie Opal (RD)
Toothe, Cheryl Dyke
Wiggins, Elwood Holler
Williams, James Haddon
Wray, Carol P.
Younginer Jr., John M.

HARTSVILLE DISTRICT
(52 charges; 74 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
TELLEY LYNETTE GADSON, 4

BETHUNE:
Bethel – James Moore (RE) (1/2) 1
BISHOPVILLE:
Bethlehem – Rebecca D. Seymour (OF) (¶346.2) 3
Mechanicsville – Angela Hampton (FL) 1
New Haven – Sharome Henry (SY) (1/2) 1
Springhill – Kenneth Carter (RE) (1/2) 1
Hebron – Jerry Cal McManus Sr. (PL) (1/2) 12
Mechanicsville – Angela Hampton 1
Mount Zion – Michael Brisbon (PL) (1/2) 2
CAMDEN:
Camden First – Gwendolyn Thompson White (FL) 2
East Camden – Jerry L. Dicks 6
(Emmanuel, St. Matthew)
Good Hope Wesley Chapel – Brenda J. Thomas 4
Lyttleton Street – Bishop Gary Rivas (OE-¶346.1) 4
Associate – J. William Smith (PE) 4
St. Paul – Leatha W. Brown 1
West Camden – Franklin Garrett (RE) 3
(Rockspring, St. Peter)

CHERAW:
Cheraw Parish – Sammy Pazi 3
(Bethel, Mount Zion, Wesley)
First Church – Billy Keith Stewart (PE) 2
CHESTERFIELD:
Bethel-Ebenezer – Frederick N. Yebuah (RE) (1/2) 1
Chesterfield Charge – Charles E. Teal (PL) (1/2) 1
(Mount Croghan, Pleasant Grove)
St. Paul – Alisha Hansen 7
Wesley Chapel – Robin Miles (PL) (1/2) 4
DARLINGTON:
Darlington Cooperative Parish* – Reginald Lee 5
Associate – Lyndon B. Alexander II (PL) 3
(New Providence) (St. John, Wesley Chapel)
Indian Branch-Epworth – Barbara Segars (RL) (1/2) 1
Shiloh – Darren J. McClam (PL) (1/2) 10
St. James – Henry Ravenel 3
West Darlington – Daniel M. Hall (RL) (1/2) 4
(Bethel, Wesley Memorial)
HARTSVILLE:
Centenary-Kingsville – Anthony D. Caldwell (PE) 6
Kellybell – Mary B. Burnell (PL) (1/2) 2
Mount Beulah – Levern Epps (PL) (1/2) 4
New Hope – Jacob McLeod (RL) 2
New Market – Corinthia Mack (PL) (1/2) 3
Sandy Bluff – Tiffany Redmond (OF-¶346.2) 2
Wesley – Fred McDaniel 1
JEFFERSON:
Hopewell-Wesley Chapel – Willie Mae Cannon (PL) (1/2) 9
Jefferson – Cindy A. Rumsey 1
(Fork Creek, Jefferson)
Sandy Grove-Mount Elon – Marion L. Cooper (PL) (1/2) 9
LAMAR:
Lamar – Brent “Rusty” Crimm (FL) 1
Lamar-Ebenezer – James “Elbert” Williams (1/2) 5
(Ebenezer, John Wesley, Sandy Grove)
Lamar Parish – Emma Jones (PL) (1/2) 6
(Newman Swamp-Zion)
LUGOFF:
Lugoff Parish – William DuBose (PL) (1/2) 4
(Mount Joshua, Mount Prospect, Shiloh)
St. John – Angela Halter Marshall (FD) 6
Unity – Charlie Thomas 2
MCBEE:
McBee – Charles Gary Compton (RL) 20
OSWEGO:
Clark – Sarah Johnson (PL) (1/2) 2
Oswego Circuit – John Dicks (RE) (1/2) 1
(Mount Moriah, St. Mark)
PAGELAND:
Pageland – Patricia Bowman (PL) (1/2) 5
Salem – Jeffrey Belton (PL) (1/2) 6
Zion-Zoar Charge – Teri Overlees Schell (FL) 2
SUMTER:
Aldersgate – Laura Whitt 4
Emmanuel – James Moses Smith (PL) (1/4) 2
Mount Zion – Troy Cato (PL) (1/2) 2
North Sumter – Marvis Stewart (1/2) 5
(Antioch, Shepherd)
St. James – Allen Nesmith 4
St. Mark – Darlene Dellinger (OF-¶346.2) 2
Trinity – Joseph R. James Jr. 8

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Telley L. Gadson – District Superintendent, Hartsville District 4
Millie Nelson Smith– Director, S.C. Conference
Connectional Ministries, St. Paul, Camden CC 8
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency: No One
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries:
Rosetta Everna Ross – Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Spelman College, St. Mark CC 30
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1 – No One
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical:
Carl W. Hunsucker – CC 4

HONORABLE LOCATION

Active:
Audrey G. Ritter – Jefferson UMC CC
Retired:
Linda E. McDaniel

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESSSES

Active
Selena Ruth Smith – Fire Prevention Educator, Sumter, SC Fire Department 12
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Ammons, Gene Sarvis
Armstrong, Debra A.
Beckom, Terry Martin
Boatwright Sr., Donald W.
Bowman, Charles Lee (RL)
Brown, Larry Richard (RL)
Chandler, George P.
Compton, Charles Gary (RL)
Dargan, Bill
Dean, Dewey Levan
Feagin III, Eugene L.
Flail Jr., Melvin W.
Frey, Paul
Garrett, Franklin R.
Griffith, Frank J.
Hall, Daniel M.
Herlong, Edward
Josey, Roberta
Lane, James (JC) Charles
Ledbetter, Pamela
McFadden, Genova
McDowell, Julius L.
McLeod, Jacob L. (RL)
Miller, Blondell
Moore, James
Orr, Patricia Pepper
Parsons, Barbee Olis

Ritter II, Carl F.
Segars, Barbara (RL)
Short, Charlie A.
Shugart, Steven L.
Thackston, Thomas Reginald
Thomas Jr., Eddie (RA)
Waddell III, Howard S. (HL)
Watson, Jerry M.
Wood, Mary Kay
Wood, Paul A
Yebuah, Frederick N.

** The Cooperative Parish consists of churches on multiple charges. Churches are grouped in parenthesis based on charge.*

MARION DISTRICT
(36 charges; 49 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
STEVEN LEE BROWN, 2

BENNETTSTVILLE:
Bennettsville Charge – Larry McCray (FL) 2
(Aaron Temple, Ebenezer)
Bennettsville Parish – Maurice E. McZeke (PL) (1/2) 3
(Shiloh, Smyrna, St. Michael)
Bethel – Jimmy Lee Burks (OR) (¶346.1) 2
Level Green – Brenda L. Toms (PL) (1/2) 1
Trinity – Judith A. Knox 7
BLLENHEIM:
Parnassus – Alexander J. Stoops Jr. (PL) (1/2) 17
CLIO:
Asbury-Old Clio – Sandra D. Stubbs (PL) (1/2) 6
CONWAY:
Centenary – Dennis J. Devorick (PL) (1/2) 12
Conway First – Kyle D. Randle 13
Associate – Emily L. Kirby (FD) (3/4) 3
Associate/Carolina Forest – E. Tyler Strange 1
Salem – Joshua D. Keith (FL) 5
Trinity – William Hubert McCown III 2
Associate/Upper Horry Fresh Expressions – Michael D. Byrd (FL) 1
DILLON:
Dillon Parish – Rickey L. Stuckey (FL) 4
(Beulah, St. Luke, St. Stephen)
Little Rock Parish – Ronald I. McCall (FL) 28
(Bowling Green, McCoy Chapel, New Holly)
Oakland-Manning Chapel – T. Michael Summerlin (RL) (1/2) 14
Union – TBS
GEORGETOWN:
Duncan Memorial – E. Rossiter Chellis 5
Herbert Memorial – Charles L. Wilbanks (RE) 4
Oak Grove-Sampit – Gusta G. Ganes (RL) (1/2) 5
LAKE VIEW:
Lake View – Joan E. Frenzel (RL) (1/4) 1
LITTLE RIVER:
Little River – Robert A. Adams 1
Associate – Jennifer G. Purdy (PL) (1/2) 1
Wampee – W. Frank Strickland (SY) (1/4) 1
LONGS:
Ebenezer – Glen W. Dameron (OR-¶346.1) (1/2) 4
LORIS:
Camp Swamp – Vaughn E. Chichester (PL) (1/2) 4
MARION:
Centenary – William L. Barber (PL) (1/4) 7
Marion First – C. Nicholas Lyerly (FL) 2
Marion Parish – Anthony Alford (PL) (1/2) 4
(Bethel, Pleasant Grove, Springville)
St. Phillips – Ardell Washington (PL) (1/2) 10
MULLINS:
Mullins Charge – Mamie Lee Hannah (PL) (1/2) 4
(Beulah, Shiloh)
MURRELLS INLET:
Belin Memorial – William F. Malambri III 6
Associate – Sandra Stevens Poirel 1
Associate – James T. Brown 5
MYRTLE BEACH:
Joseph B. Bethea – Kim M. Strong (RE) (1/2) 3
Socastee – Paula Stover (FL) 1
The Brook – Deborah M. Patterson (PE) 6
NICHOLS:
Nichols – James Allen Vaught (PL) (1/4) 2
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH:
Trinity – Eugene A. Aiken 3
Associate – Edmond Daniel (RL) (1/4) 10
SURFSIDE BEACH:
Surfside – Mary V. Teasley 5
Associate – Tae S. Park 4
WALLACE:
Ebenezer – Marvin W. Karn (PL) (1/4) 2

HONORABLE LOCATION

Active: None
Retired: None

DIACONAL MINISTERS

Active: None
Leave of Absence:
Holt, Kimberly S. (DM) – Conway First CC 21
Retired: None

DEACONESSSES

Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Adams, Quay W.
Alexander Jr., Boyd Mclver
Brittain, Thomas N.
Canine, David (RL)
Carter, Kenneth R. (RL)
Clemons, Robert B.
Chamblee, Daniel Walker
Collier, C Edward (RL)
Collier, Rebecca R. (RL)
Crews, Rowan
Daniel, Edmond (RL)
Donigian, George H.
Dunn, Linda B.
Dunn, Robert E.
Dyer, Cynthia H.
Felder, William H.
Fenner, Jack L.
Forrest, Rebecca L. (RL)
Frenzel, Joan E. (RL)
Ganes, Gusta G. (RL)
Green, Mary E.
Grimsley, J. Preston
Harper, William N.
Hemingway, John T. (RL)
Heustess, William H.
Howle, George K.
Hyatt Jr., James (Jim) Lewis
Inabinet, Charles R.
Jennings, Charles T. (RA)
Knight, Richard H.
Land, Kenneth S.
Lazar, Julian H.
Lewis, Harold P.
Lockard-Hawkins, Joanne (RL)
Malachi, Maye E. (RL)
Malachi, Robert L.
Malphrus, Carolyn
Mclver, Leslie H. (RD)
Nason Jr., Maurice E.
Nuckles, Marie E.
Olive, George E. (RL)
Phillips, William H.
Powers, Kathy J. (RL)
Roberts, Marsha R. (RD)
Shaw, Bobby
Smith, Ray K.
Strong, Kim M.
Summerlin, T. Michael (RL)
Timmons, W. Gordon
Vance, Margaret Hutcherson (RD)
Vickers III, John (Jack) Henry
Watson, Lawrence A.
Weber Jr., Stanley E. (RL)
Wicker, William T. (RL)
Wilbanks, Charles L.

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT
(47 charges; 73 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
KENNETH L. NELSON, 5

AIKEN:
Trinity – Matthew L. Alexander 1
Wesley –Willie W. Clark (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 6
BAMBERG:
Bamberg Circuit – Arthur Rose Jr. (OE-¶346.1) 8
(Bethel, Mount Zion)
Bamberg Cluster – Sheera Yates (FL) 1
(Franklin, Mount Carmel, Orange Grove)
Barnwell Charge – George Judson Barnes (FL) 2
(Barnwell, Siloam)
Main Street – Jackie Daniel-Hyche (PL) (1/2) 2
Trinity-Pleasant Hill Charge – Kevin F. Dalton 4
BOWMAN:
New Covenant – Sheri Y. White 5
Pineville-St. Stephen – Lisa C. Hawkins 6
BRANCHVILLE:
Branchville-Bethel Charge – Kenneth W. Bundrick
(PL) (1/2) 1
CAMERON:
Shady Grove - Mason C. Browder (SY) 1
COPE:
Canaan – Jimmy Washington (RL) (1/2) 3
Edisto Charge – Joel Campbell (OF-¶346.2) (1/4) 2
Associate – Jennifer Campbell (SY) (1/4) 2
(St. John, Union, Wesley Grove)
Edisto Fork – Ellis White Jr. 10
DENMARK:
Bethel Park – Javy Rudolph “Rudy” Gwaltney III (FL) 3
EUTAWVILLE:
Eutaw Circuit – David Fields (PL) (1/2) 3
(Eutawville, Gerizim, Target)
Silas – Whittaker V. Middleton (1/2) 12
HOLLY HILL:
Providence – Rebecca Rowell (PE) 3
JACKSON:
Wesley Chapel - Nancy Reed (RL) 1
LIVINGSTON:
Livingston-Pine Hill – Jim Smyrl (OR-¶346.2) (1/2) 3
NEW ELLENTON:
St. Paul – Joseph D. Kovas 4
NORTH:
North Circuit – TBS
(North, Trinity)
St. Mark – Marvin Anthony Moss (OE-¶346.1) 2
NORWAY:
New Beginning – Thomas R. Sims (RL) (1/2) 8
Norway Charge – Gary Wayne Light (OF-¶346.2) 2
(Lebanon, St. John’s)
OLAR:
Olar – Patricia Dangerfield (SY) (1/2) 9
(Kearse, Mizpah, Salem)
ORANGEBURG:
Cedar Grove-Forest Chapel – Harry L. Brown (PL)
(1/2) 10
New Light – Enrique R. Gordon 5
North Orangeburg – J. Derrick Cattenhead 3
Orangeburg Circuit – Lawrence Cantey Jr. 4
(Bethlehem, Mount Nebo, St. John)
St. Andrews – Cynthia W. Muncie 4
St. Paul’s – Beth S. Faulk (OF-¶346.2) 1
St. Stephen – Kenneth B. Middleton 1
Trinity – Eddie C. Williams 5
PELION:
Bethel, Peachtree Rock – J. Scott Matthews 1
Pelion-Sharon – John D. Jordan 1
ROWESVILLE:
Mays Chapel – Alexander Thomas (RL) 3
Prospect – Anthony Rivers (PL) (1/2) 5
ST MATTHEWS:
St. Matthews Charge –James W. Lewis, Sr. (PL) (1/2) 2
(East Bethel, West Bethel, Mount Zion)

St. Paul – Mason C. Browder (SY) 1
SALLEY:
Clinton – Fred Andrea III (OF-¶346.2) (1/2) 6

SANDY RUN:
Beulah – Rachel E. Headden (FL) 1
SPRINGFIELD:
Springfield Charge – James L. Fanning (PL) (1/2) 5
(Neeses, Salley, Springfield)
SWANSEA:
Swansea/Wagener Parish* – Jessica Kight (FL) 1
(Calvary-Oak Grove) (Swansea) (Wagener)
WILLISTON:
Williston Charge – Melissa Williams (PL) (1/2) 2
(Blackville, Williston)

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Shirley P. Gordon – Orangeburg Wesley Foundation,
Campus Minister 6
Kenneth L. Nelson – District Superintendent, Orangeburg
District 5
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:
Robert B. Collingwood (RE) – Coordinator of Pastoral
Care, V.A. Hospital, St. Louis, MO, Main Street, CC
36
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries: No One
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies
and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or
Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1
William Douglas Herlong – Old Camp, North Georgia
Conference 2
Nicholas Perez – Church Hill UMC, New England
Conference 4
Christopher C. Key – Advance UMC, Western North
Carolina Conference, Duke Divinity School (SLP)3
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical:
James Michael Arant 4
Robbie V. Hall (FL) 8
Rodney K. Powell 4
Pamela D. Richardson(PE) 4

HONORABLE LOCATION
Active: None
Retired: None

DIACONAL MINISTERS
Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESSES
Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Abram Jr., Joseph
Anderson, Minnie P.
Belangia IV, Washington W.
Bennett, Jim T. (RL)
Boyd, Ollie M. (RL)
Buchanan Jr., Fred V.
Caughman Jr., K. David
Collingwood, Robert B.
Copeland, Franklin E.
Eanes, L. Kim
Elliott, John H.
Evans, John Wesley
Frederick-Watts, Janice L.
Gibson, Jack (RL)
Gordon, Bobby (RL)
Griffin Jr., Alfred
Haywood, Velma M.
Lewis Jr., William Morgan (RL)
Martin, Terry
McClam, Mack C.
McClendon, William Timothy
McCutcheon, Larry D.
Middleton, Whittaker V.
Miller, Anna G.
Miller III, Carey S.
Murdock Sr., Warren
Parker, Jere Keith
Parker, Larry R.
Peterson Jr., Hughie
Pettit, Ronald A.
Ponds, G. Bernard
Preer, John C.
Reid, Barbara L.
Rucker, Bruce E. (RL)
Rucker, Matthew D.
Saylor, Lucinda L. (RL)
Scarborough, Kathryn W. (RL)
Shrawder Jr., Kermit O.
Sims, Thomas R. (RL)
Sistrunk, Annie H.
Stapleton, John Mason
Thomas, Alexander (RA)
Turner, Judy Hames
Washington, Jimmy (RL)
Williamson, David W.

**The Swansea/Wagener Parish consists of churches on multiple charges. Churches are grouped in parenthesis based on charge.*

ROCK HILL DISTRICT
(36 charges; 55 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
ANTHONY HODGE, 5

CHESTER:
Bethel – Shannon Higgins (SY) (1/2) 2
Wesley Memorial – Shannon Higgins (SY) (1/2) 2
CLOVER:
Clover Parish – Wade Anthony Wyatt 3
(Clover Chapel, Green Pond, Mount Harmony)
First Clover – Tresco E. Shannon 2
FORT MILL:
Belair-Osceola Charge – Heather S. Baird 1
Philadelphia – David Carroll Taylor 4
Pleasant Hill – Peter K. Bertnson 2
St. John’s – Karen H. Radcliffe 11
GREAT FALLS:
Mount Dearborn-Heath Chapel – David Owens Ussery

(RL) (1/2) 13
HICKORY GROVE:
Canaan – Ken Spaulding (SY) (1/2) 2

KERSHAW:
Kershaw Charge – G. Eddie Usher (RE) 6
(Damascus, Hanging Rock)

LAKE WYLIE:
Good Samaritan – James Keith Sellers (OF-¶346.2) 2
LANCASTER:
Camp Creek-Bethesda – Michael E. Catoe (RL) (1/2) 14
Church of the Good Shepherd-Van Wyck – Timothy
Espar (RL) (1/2) 8
First Church – Neal Y. Woods 4
Grace Lynnwood/Tabernacle – Kendell L. Healy
(PE) 1
Hopewell – Joy K. Garrison 3
St. Luke-Salem – Barry A. Allen 3
Trinity-Fort Lawn – Ruth Ann Pitt (PL) (1/2) 3
Zion – John D. Howle (FL) 3

RICHBURG:
Mount Prospect-Ebenezer – Cecilia M. Davis (PL) (1/4) 5
Richburg-Pleasant Grove – Stacey C. Newlon (PL)
(1/4) 4
ROCK HILL:
Aldersgate – Adlai Stephen Holler 8
Bethel – Emily Scales Sutton 4
El Bethel – Nellie G. Cloninger (RE) 2
Cornerstone-Epworth – Irvin V. Plowden Jr. (FL) 14
India Hook – Michael C. Walker 5
Rock Hill Central Charge – Athena Dickey-Cathcart
(PL) (1/2) 3
(Mount Olive, New Hope)

Rock Hill Circuit – Mallory J. Nickerson 1
– L. Michael Jarrell 1
Rock Hill South Charge – Dishawn Muldrow (PL) (1/2) 8
(Bethel, Harmony)
St. John’s – Neal Yongue (RE) 2
Woodland – Robin A. Griffith 3
SHARON:
Western York Charge – J. Alex Maultsby III (OR-¶346.1) 2
(Sharon, New Zion, Shady Grove)

YORK:
Philadelphia – Melissa Shortridge (OR) 1
Trinity – Wanda D. Altman-Shirah 4
York-St. James Charge – Thomas J. Bowman (RE) 2
(Hopewell, St. James, Wesley)

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Laurel Capesius – Director, Wesley Foundation,
Winthorp University 1
Anthony Hodge– District Superintendent, Rock Hill
District 5
Nona M. Woodle (PE), Spartanburg/Rock Hill Districts
Congregational Specialist 1
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing
Agency: No One
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries:
Kristen Richardson-Frick – Program Officer, Rural
Church Division, Duke Endowment, St. John’s, Fort
Mill CC 13
Emily Scales Sutton – Bethel Men’s Shelter 4
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies
and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies of
Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1 – No One
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical:
Shelly Ann Holder (FD) 6
Cassandra P. Jackson 5
Arthur Vick (FL) 3

HONORABLE LOCATION
Active: None
Retired: None

DIACONAL MINISTERS
Active: None
Retired: None

DEACONESSES
Active: None
Retired: None

RETIRED CLERGY
Catoe, Michael (RL)
Chambers, G. Douglas (RL)
Chandler, Philip E.
Cloninger, Nellie G.
Correll, James L.
Drennen, Elizabeth
Drennen, Lowry T.
Espar, Timothy (RL)
Farnum, Charlie (OE)
Fuller, Walter Gene
Gardner Jr., Carlos O.
Gibson, John Richard
Hammett, Michael L.
Hook, Samuel Scott
Hudson, Betty Kay (RL)
Jeffcoat, Ronnie L.
King, Larry S. (RL)
Leonhardt, Michael S.
Shuler, Robert L.
Sloan, Candice Y.
Smith, Jonathan E.
Taylor, Deborah W. (RL)
Usher, G. Eddie
Ussery, David O. (RL)
Warwick, Samuel S.
Wells, Curtis E.
Wolfe, Allen D.

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT
(38 charges; 53 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:
CATHY D. MITCHELL, 7

BLACKSBURG
Blacksburg Charge – Richard Charles Andrews (RL)
(1/2) 4
(St. John, Sardis)

BOILING SPRINGS:
New Beginnings – Joseph “Christopher” Greene 5
CHESNEE:

Chesnee-Fingerville – Thomas A. Thornton (OF-
¶346.2) (1/2) 5
Friends in Christ – James R. “Jimmy” Lewis (PL) (1/2) 10

COWPENS:
Cowpens Charge – Wayne R. Major Sr. (RE) (1/2) 10
(Salem, St. Mark, St. Andrews)

CROSS ANCHOR:
Cross Anchor Charge – Brian P. Williams (PL) (1/2) 13
(Hebron, Cross Anchor Yarborough)
Golightly-Tabernacle – Tom Stedgall (OR) 2
DUNCAN:
Tyger River Charge – W. Michael Jeter (PL) 1
(Duncan, Immanuel)

ENOREE:
Trinity – Mary S. Nichols (PL) (1/2) 1
GAFFNEY:
Buford Street – David E. “Dave” Nichols (RE) (1/2) 6
Dunton – Calvin L. Smith (RE) 10
Limestone St. – James Ronald “Ron” Singleton (1/2) 19
Asbury – Ricky Therrell (SY) 1
INMAN:
Inman Charge – Joe L. Blackwelder (RE) 1
(Aldersgate, Inman)

JONESVILLE:
Jonesville-New Hope – Angelia Price (RA) 1
LANDRUM:
Jacksons Grove – Timothy “Tim” C. Drum II (OE-
¶346.1) (1/2) 3
PACOLET:
Montgomery Memorial – Charles “Brian” Humphries 5
SPARTANBURG:
Beaumont – Annie R. Crocker (LM) (1/4) 6
Ben Avon – Cecil “Edward” Enlow (SY) (1/2) 3
Bethel – William Bradford “Brad” Gray 5
Cannon’s Camp Ground – Miriam Wilson Mick 2
Central – Cameron “Cam” Y. Treece 4
Director of Christian Education & Programs – Paige
M. Wolfe (FD) 8
Cherokee Springs-Liberty – TBS
Church of the Covenant – Heather B. Humphries 8
El Bethel-Pacolet Charge – Phillip Wayne Park (OR-
¶346.1) (1/2) 3

Fairmont – Josie A. Fenn (SY) 1
Gravely Memorial – Joaquin “Jack” Polin (PL) (1/2) 8
Silver Hill Memorial – Morris Waymer Jr. 1
Skylyn-Arcadia Charge – Robert L. “Skipper” Brock
(PL) (1/2) 3
Spartanburg Parish – Minnie Dickerson (PL) 1
(Allen Chapel, Florence Chapel)
St. James – Andrew R. Wolfe 5
St. Luke-White Stone – Chris J. Allen (PL) (1/2) 3
St. Paul – Megan L. Gray 1
Trinity – Richard R. Howell Jr. 1
UNION:
Bogansville – Francis Edward Traxler (FL) 2
Grace – Jerry L. Phillips Jr. 4
Union Charge – Merritt R. “Tutie” Wentz (FL) 13
(Bethel, Duncan Acres)

WHITMIRE:
Whitmire – Mary Schumpert Nichols (PL) (1/2) 2

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection:
Timothy Drum II (OE) – Chaplain and Director of Church
Relations, Spartanburg Methodist College 8
Cathy D. Mitchell – District Superintendent, Spartanburg
District 7
Phillip Lynwood Pace Jr. – Chaplain, Oxford College,
Emory University, St. James CC 16
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:
Traci S. Bennett (FD) – Chaplain III, Tyger River
Correctional Institution, Cannon’s Camp Ground CC
17
E. Herbert Franklin Jr. – Chaplain, United States Army,
Bethel-Spartanburg CC 23
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries:
Rosetta Everna Ross – Associate Professor of Religious
Studies, Spelman College, St. Mark CC 31
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies
and Settings:
Martha Ann Timmons (FD) – PS I Love You (3/4) & The
Children’s Resource Closet (1/4), St. James CC 3
Paige Matthews Wolfe (FD) – Fostering Great Ideas (1/2)
& Central UMC (1/2) 2
¶331.1b: Though United Methodist Agencies or
Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1
Dan Blair – First UMC and Fellowship UMC, North
Carolina Conference 8
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family:
Wendy T. Hudson – Bethel-Spartanburg CC 3
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical:
Jo Anna Fallaw – Bethel-Spartanburg CC 4
David C. Inman – Ben Avon CC 5

HONORABLE LOCATION
Active:
Sherry M. Wood, Trinity UMC CC
Retired: None

DIACONAL MINISTERS
Active: None
Retired:
Mary L. Miller (DR)

DEACONESSES
Active: None
Retired:
Mary Lou Miller (DC)

RETIRED CLERGY
Anderson, Thurman W.
Andrews, Richard C. (RL)
Bobo, Kenneth G.
Boshell, Donald C. (RL)
Bowers, Michael E.
Brewer, Jones L. (RL)
Brown, David A.
Brown, Will Rogers
Caldwell, Jack A. (RL)
Cannon, Carol R.
Cannon, Robert T.
Carter, James B. “Jim” (RL)
Clyburn Jr., David A.
Culp, Wayne A.
Dillard, Jimmy W.

Continued from previous page

Duncan, Jason C. (RL)
Ervin, David F. (RA)
Fields, George D. (RL)
Fisher, A. Mickey
Fizer, George H. (RL)
Gavalas, Anthony N.
Griffeth, James Ellis
Hill Jr., Thomas H. (RL)
Holt, Arthur H.
Hope, Donald J.
Hopper, Richard D.
Hunter, James C.
Hunter, Kathryn O.
Hyder, Larry R.
Ivey, James W.
Jamison, Louis D.
Jenkins, Jane D.
Johnston, James W.
Kyllonen, Mitchell W.
Leonard Sr., Ronald Lee
Long, Allen E.
Major Sr., Wayne R.
Monson, Robert C.
Nichols, David E.
Norrell, Thomas H.
Price, Angelia P. (RA)
Rawlinson, Carol M.
Reynolds, Edgar B.
Rickenbaker, Luther H.
Roper, Frances "Lee" (RL)
Ropp Jr., John Wesley,
Sistare, James Bart
Smith, Calvin L.
Strother, Robert G.
Teagan, Deborah Luther
Thompson, Elizabeth A.
Thompson, William L. (RL)
Tillerson, Elbert S. (RL)
White, Rufus Horace (RL)
Wilkes, Molly F. (RA)
Wilkes Jr., Thomas B.
Wilkins, Rebecca A.

WALTERBORO DISTRICT
(43 charges; 74 churches)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:
M. TERRENCE "Terry" FLEMING (Florence), 7
KENNETH L. NELSON (Orangeburg), 5 &
JEFFERY SALLEY (Charleston), 1

ALLENDALE:
Allendale – TBS
(Gillette, Swallow Savannah)
Central Circuit – Lisa M. Way 3
(New Hope, Simpson, Union)
BEAUFORT:
Carteret Street – Charles Bryson Williams Jr. 6
Holy Trinity – SanRoman King (PL) (1/4) 4
Port Royal – Anne Gregory Bridgers (RL) (1/2) 14
Waters Edge – Hans Jerome Hamm (PL) (1/2) 3
Wesley – Tracy Paulette Colleton-Glover (PL) (1/2) 4
COTTAGEVILLE:
Jericho – Marvin Jones III (PL) (1/2) 7
Macedonia – TBS
Wesley Grove – L. Johnny Epps (PL) (1/4) 7
DORCHESTER:
Dorchester Circuit – TBS
(Salem, Zion)
Dorchester Parish – Laurie Michael Jamar Tomlin (OF-
¶346.2) (1/2) 5
(Oak Grove, St. John)
EHRHARDT:
Ebenezer-Rizer's Chapel – Stanley Bernard Ritter (PL)
(1/2) 10
Ehrhardt – Lewis Christopher King III (PL) (1/2) 21
(Wesley Chapel, St. James, Zion, Lodge)
Friendship-St. Luke – Vivian Remona Lingard (PL)
(1/2) 15
HAMPTON:
Estill-Black Swamp – Dewey L. Shaffer (OF-¶346.2)
(3/4) 11
(Estill, Furman, Mount Carmel)
Fairfax Charge – Mary Benton Holladay (OF-¶346.2)
(1/2) 7

(Bellinger Chapel, Brunson)
Hampton-Varnville Charge – Jack W. Hutto (SY) 1
Toby's Bluff-Mount Nebo Charge – Lamonte Darnell
Hodges (PL) (1/4) 10
HARLEYVILLE:
Harleyville Parish – James A. Ross (RL) (1/2) 4
(Morris Chapel, St. Daniel)
HILTON HEAD:
Bluffton – Scarlett Tanner Hester 5
Church of the Palms – Shannon Renee Bullion 2
St. Andrew By-The-Sea – Jonathan E. Tompkins 2
RIDGELAND:
Fisher Chapel-St. Stephen – William H.D. Bowser Jr.
(RE) 8
Hardeeville – Richard Moses Smith (RE) (1/4) 4
St. Luke – Christopher Lee Thompson 4
RIDGEVILLE:
Canaan-Sand Hill – James Phillip Smith 1
New Hope-St. Paul Charge – Sharon Spann Gamble 6
RUFFIN:
Adnah-Williams Charge – Richard W. Kelly (SY) (1/4) 2
Bells Parish – Les Brown (SY) (1/2) 1
(Red Root, Sykes Savannah)
Mount Pleasant – Schoneke Summerhill (SY) (1/4) 3
Ruffin Parish – Adrienne Elaine Stokes (PL) (1/2) 5
(Buckhead, Hickory Hill)
Smoaks Circuit – Jeffrey P. Cila (PL) (1/2) 3
(Green Pond, Little Swamp, Trinity)
Springtown – Arthur L. Gamble (PE) 1
ST. GEORGE:
New Grace – Constance Nelson McLeod 4
Shady Grove – James B. Grant (PE) 1
St. George Parish – Fred Moore (PL) (1/2) 2
(St. Mark, Trinity)
WALTERBORO:
Bethel – Scott Wachter 7
Bethel-Red Bank Charge – Walter Harley (PL) (1/2) 3
Colleton Circuit – Curtis J. Young (PL) (1/2) 20
(Bethel, Heaven Gate, Trinity)
New Life – Angela Ford Nelson 4
Walterboro Charge – Jeffrey Martin Collins (SY)
(1/4) 1
(Mount Carmel, Peniel, Sandy Dam)
Walterboro Parish – Kathy Brown Anderson (SY)
(1/2) 1
(Cumberland, Isaiah)

APPOINTED TO EXTENSION MINISTRY
¶344.1a, ¶344.1c: Within the Connection: No One
¶344.1b: Approved by United Methodist Endorsing
Agency: No One
¶344.1d Other Valid Ministries: No One
DEACONS APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH
¶331.1a: Through Non United Methodist Agencies
and Settings: No One
¶331.1b: Through United Methodist Agencies or
Schools: No One
APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ¶416.6 – No One
APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES
¶331.8, 346.1
Steven Moore McNeal – Pastor, Advent Ferry UMC,
North Carolina Conference 3
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
¶353.2a, 353.3: Personal: No One
¶353.2b, 353.3: Family: No One
¶353.2c: Transitional: No One
¶353.4: Involuntary: No One
¶351: Sabbatical: No One
¶356: Medical: No One

HONORABLE LOCATION	
Active:	None
Retired:	None
DIACONAL MINISTERS	
Active:	None
Retired:	None
DEACONESSSES	
Active:	None
Retired:	None
RETIRED CLERGY	
Bell, Melvin (RL) Bowser Jr., William D. Bridgers, Anne (RL) Brown, Norman Aaron Cox, David W. Davis, Frederick R. Geddis, Roosevelt Harrison Jr., Jerry Huggins Jr., Leonard Lybrand, Frank E. Marchant, James D. (RL)	



Rock Hill District Superintendent is grateful after S.C. UMVIM ERT crews helped his community after a hailstorm.

The storm has passed, but the after-effects are still eye-catching

By Dr. Anthony Hodge
Little did I know on Saturday, April 20, when I left the parsonage to take care of a few things in the area that I would soon be challenged with driving in a hailstorm no one had any pre-warning would soon be approaching. Out of nowhere, eight minutes from the parsonage, I along with others traveling on West Main in Rock Hill began to see and hear hail ranging from the size of a golf ball to a baseball begin to hit our vehicles, homes and windows. We also experienced strong winds in excess of 90 miles an hour. Realizing at this point, there was no way I could avoid this storm, I simply uttered a quick prayer, "God, I just want to get home." Eventually, I arrived home safe, and to my surprise, none of my windows were broken out, but there were several marks on the car from the hail that made contact with it. My story is clearly a very mild version of the after-effects of that hailstorm. Yes, I was affected, but not on the level of many persons in York County and the surrounding area. The storm had passed, I was safe, and I later discovered that in spite of this storm's presence in the area, no life was lost. What I didn't realize at the time was how impactful that hailstorm would be not only for that day but for days to come. As devastating as that hailstorm was for so many persons, God's presence was made known to the residents through The United Methodist Church. I was blessed to spend some time with laity and clergy representing the South Carolina Early Response Team and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and am truly grateful I did. These were persons extending themselves on behalf of people they probably had not met before and most likely would not ever encounter again. Monica Tilley, a member of Good Samaritan UMC in Lake Wylie, mentioned that one of the persons being assisted on Thursday, April 25, stated she thought she was forgotten

because no one from the City of Rock Hill had reached out to her prior to their help. I personally witnessed God's hands, ears and eyes personified through persons from Good Samaritan UMC, as well as New Beginnings, Boiling Springs; Faith, Lexington, North, North; Edgefield, Edgefield; Panola, Greenwood; and Mount Hebron, West Columbia, assisting people in the Rock Hill area who experienced the effects of the hailstorm. As I watched these United Methodists who came from various areas around the state of South Carolina to lend helping hands by cutting trees, removing debris, cleaning up and hauling items to the road for pick up, it made me proud to be a United Methodist. I want to thank God and all of the persons who gave of their time and service to help the persons in the Rock Hill area after the storm. The next time you see Billy Robinson, ERT coordinator, and Ward Smith, chairman of the board for Salkehatchie, please acknowledge your gratitude to them for their willingness to touch lives of people in need. The storm has passed in Rock Hill and surrounding communities. Thank God for persons who are willing to assist with the after-effects of the storms persons encounter. Their compassion and passion to aid others in a time of need is indeed eye catching! As we all know, unfortunately, there will be additional storms, hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters that we will probably experience in this lifetime. Please consider supporting organizations such the South Carolina ERT and Salkehatchie program in the near future with your time, talent, gifts or service. I am sure that they will appreciate anything that you have to offer, just like persons do who have been on the receiving end of what the South Carolina ERT and Salkehatchie program have offered them in times of need. Hodge is Rock Hill District superintendent.



Need a Children's Sermon?

by the Rev. Meghan Lindsey Sweeney Cook

Welcoming a new pastor

Author's note: The following are sermon ideas developed as a resource to help churches reach young ones in their congregations. Everyone is free to use these and to modify as needed.
Date: July 7, 2024, or whatever day a new pastor starts.
Scripture: Today, instead of the lectionary or a specific text, we are using the Book of Worship, Order of Worship for Welcoming an Appointment. You can find this in the BOW or online: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship/an-order-for-the-celebration-of-an-appointment>. Note: It is recommended that this children's sermon NOT be done by the pastor but a layperson in the congregation.
Time frame: Three minutes (The average attention span of a child is about one year per minute of life. In our setting the youngest at children's sermon are 3, so we aim for three or maybe five minutes at the most.)
Supplies: Book of Worship.
Children's Sermon: First, welcome the children.
Ask: Have any of you ever moved to a new home? (Allow space for responses; affirm the responses while also keeping it moving.)
Say: Moving is a lot of work, and it can be exciting and hard, too. Today, we have someone new with us. Someone who has just moved. We are welcoming a new pastor! It's exciting, and some of us may feel nervous. We might miss our old pastor. We might be sad about change. Lots of feelings. (Pause reflectively. The pause demonstrates literal space for the feelings.)
We are feeling a lot of feelings. A feeling is a feeling, and it is meant to be felt; it isn't always meant to be acted on. What that means is we as human beings can feel more than one emotion at a time, and we get to choose which feeling we act on. We can feel sad and be hesitant. We can feel curious and be excited. We can feel sad and feel excited.

We can be shy and be excited. It is amazing that God made us with feelings. We can trust ourselves with God's help to make smart choices about our feelings. Thank you, God!
Did you know that there is a litany for welcoming a new pastor? Wait, do you know what litany is? Litany is a fancy word for a prayer or ritual we have in the church. In our Book of Worship there is a litany for welcoming a new pastor. The pastor will make promises to the congregation and the congregation makes promises to the pastor. Thankfully, we don't promise to be perfect people or a perfect church. Phew! (sound of relief). We promise to be faithful to God and to love one another as the church. I think it is really special that we have a special way, a litany, to welcome a new pastor.
I wonder what are some ideas how you might have about welcoming our new pastor (or use their title and name)? (Pause to hear their ideas. If it is quiet suggest: color a picture, introduce yourself, bring a flower from your yard—nothing fancy, just ideas that make a connection.)
Affirm the children's ideas, and repeat one or two or all of the children's ideas for the congregation to hear. Tell the children you are proud of them. Then ask the kids to pray with you.
Pray: Will you pray with me? Dear God (pause for repeat). We love you (pause). Help us to say goodbye to (leaving pastor's name). (Pause.) And help us to welcome well [coming pastor's name]. (Pause.) We look forward to getting to know [incoming pastor's name] and for them to get to know us. (Pause.) Amen.
Cook, the pastor of Cayce United Methodist Church, Cayce, is also the author of two children's books from the Advocate Press: "Herbert the Hippo" and "Herbert the Hippo In the Moment." Find them on Amazon or at <https://advocatesc.org/books>.

ADVERTISE HERE!

Toni Strawther | advocatesales@umcsc.org | 843-408-7879

Tom Wall retiring from MSN

By Rev. Elizabeth Murray

It is truly the end of an era. This school year marks the 33rd and final year of Dr. Tom Wall’s ministry as the United Methodist campus minister at the University of South Carolina.

To say that his retirement is significant is an understatement. It is not because 33 years has encompassed the majority of his career as a United Methodist pastor, even though it has. Rather, it is because the impact of Tom’s ministry on USC’s campus, in the city of Columbia, in the Annual Conference and, most importantly, in the lives of students is immeasurable.

The Methodist Student Network at USC is one of nine Wesley Foundations in the state of South Carolina, yet it is the only one that does not go by the “Wesley” name because, well, of course it doesn’t. If you know Tom Wall, you know that he beats to his own drum in the best kind of way, and that is part of the charm of MSN.

MSN is the land of misfit toys. It is the place where I learned true hospitality and simple living. It is where you dance in the aisles during worship, have read at least one Henry Nouwen book, travel to Lake Junaluska and call MSN your second home and safe space. A student doesn’t graduate from MSN without serving on a mission trip and never wanting to eat Stouffer’s lasagna again. And yet, many MSN alumni graduate with a deeper sense of God’s love and grace in their lives and a sense of justice and liberation for God’s people.

My relationship with MSN evolved over the years. As a business economics major turned pastor, MSN played a vital role in my relationship with God and my sense of call to ordained ministry. From student to active alumni, I maintained a strong relationship to MSN in seminary and then in my first appointment in Columbia. Believing so strongly in its mission at USC, I sent students from my youth group to MSN during their first year at Carolina. I served on the MSN Board of Directors, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the South Carolina Annual Conference and then as the chair of the MSN board. While ministry has taken me to France, I was still able to host MSN in Paris on the way to their trip to Taizé.

In the 13 years that I have known and loved MSN, I have found this trend to be true: students graduate to become either United Methodist pastors or struggle to find their place in a local church upon graduation. I have thought extensively about why former students struggle to find refuge, community, in a local church when they enter the real world. I think it is this: MSN is a foretaste of heaven.



The author (right) with Tom Wall.

No, I am not speaking in hyperbole. While I attended MSN, it was particularly diverse with international students who were studying overseas, a plethora of graduate students, diversity in worship (from Taizé songs, breath prayers, Angolan dances, Brazilian songs), acceptance and understanding of all God’s children, and learning more about God and outreach by traveling the state, country and world together. Students talk openly and vulnerably with each other. They ask hard questions about life, about their beliefs, and about God. MSN cultivates a deep sense of community and purpose on a campus that can be very lonely. When students leave MSN, they crave the same sense of community, outreach and purpose in a local church. I have not seen many find the same environment in a local church like the one MSN provided.

Tom has sent and continues to send young people into the world who are on fire for God into a denomination (for both clergy and laity) that is not quite ready to receive them, unfortunately.

I believe in the mission and ministry of all our campus ministries in South Carolina, but I am particularly proud of the mark Tom Wall leaves on our annual conference. He has sent many young adults into ordained ministry, both in South Carolina, but also around the world. Tom inspired his students to believe that a glimmer of God’s kingdom can truly come on earth when we work for God’s mission in the world. He has stretched students in our understanding of who God is, how to live out the gospel, what it means to be a servant leader and how to connect God in deep and meaningful ways. Tom has adopted each one of us into his family, called us his own, challenged and encouraged us.

Many generations of Gamecocks will forever be inspired because of you, Tom. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Murray is associate pastor for youth and young adults at The American Church in Paris.



Photos courtesy of Tom and Mary Brunson and Carolyn Jackson
Director of Music Ministries Tom Brunson and his wife, Mary, came up with the idea.



Mount Hebron’s Lemonade on the Lawn becomes successful church fellowship event

WEST COLUMBIA—Lemonade on the Lawn at Mount Hebron United Methodist Church was the brainchild of Director of Music Ministries Tom Brunson along with his wife, Mary. They, along with members Tyler and Carolyn Jackson, Marilyn McMillan and Kellum and Jane Allen, brought this social gathering together every Sunday in May.

After the traditional 11:15am worship service, congregants were invited to join together in fellowship on the church’s front lawn with light snacks including Cheez-Its®, Goldfish® crackers, cookies and, of course, lemonade. On Pentecost Sunday, they brought in cupcakes and birthday cake to celebrate the birth of the church; even the rain that Sunday did not dampen any spirits as the celebration was moved indoors.

Mount Hebron had their vote for disaffiliation on Jan. 21. By a very slim margin, the church voted to stay United Methodist. Some of the key membership had already left the church prior to the discernment process, and a large group of others left after the vote had been decided. Mount Hebron’s membership had dwindled quite significantly post-vote, leaving many holes to be filled.

In response, the Brunsons and other long-time members began seeking creative ways for the church to experience a rebirth. They are trying to bring congregants together to get to know each other and help the church survive and prosper.

Mount Hebron UMC has a long and storied history of 224 years in the West Metro community of Columbia. They thought if they started out small with bringing the church back together to socialize and become familiar with each other again, they would be in a better and stronger position to bring in others from the Midlands community as new members to join the church.

The congregation of Mount Hebron UMC wants others to know their church is available to anyone on their journey to Christ and his Christian teachings and can be a refuge for other United Methodists who may have lost their home church because of disaffiliation.

There many activities for the family such as choir, handbells, missions, children and youth programming, Hebron Day School, a pickleball league, the GoForth Mission House, pastoral counseling, etc. Mount Hebron UMC is a loving house of worship to share the good news of God’s love and be a witness to others. To learn more: <https://www.mthebrnumc.com>.

Cila inducted into Adams-Friendship Area School District Academic Hall of Fame

It’s been 47 years, four college degrees and seven career changes since the Rev. Jeffrey Cila, pastor of the three-church Smoaks Circuit, graduated from high school.

On May 25, Cila was inducted into his high school’s Academic Hall of Fame in Friendship, Wisconsin.

It is the goal of the Adams-Friendship Area School District Academic Hall of Fame to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves by contributions in their field of work or study. By honoring these positive role models, they said they hope to inspire current students in both their studies and participation in extra-curricular activities, as well as preserve and



Cila

strengthen the Adams-Friendship Academic school district’s mission: preparing students to perform for life.

Cila retired from the U.S. Navy in 1999, as well as careers in information management and data analysis. He was called to Lay Supply and Licensing School in 2022.

Cila was appointed a licensed local pastor at the June 2023 South Carolina Annual Conference.

Cila serves as chair for Orangeburg Christian Academy’s Board of Directors, and this recognition program will be under consideration for his school in South Carolina going forward.



A ‘Starr’ valedictorian

Jozie Ann Stone, a member of Starr UMC, Starr, had the special distinction of being the valedictorian of her high school graduating class. Jozie, the daughter of Rob and Joyce Stone, was the Crescent High School Class of 2024 valedictorian as well as the SGA Student Body President. With a GPA of 5.3, she will be attending Clemson Honors College to major in political science and has earned numerous scholarships. At the Beta Club South Carolina State Convention, she earned a champion in the speech division. She traveled to Savannah, Georgia, in June to compete in the National Beta Club Convention. This is the first time Starr UMC has ever had a high school valedictorian as a member of their church.



Native American Elders get baskets

On March 16, 21 Native American Elder baskets made by members of Red Bank UMC, Red Bank, were delivered to Laurens. The baskets were dispersed to the elders courtesy of a few members of the Lower Eastern Cherokee tribe.



Courtesy of Chris Galvin

Matthew Aaron Barber
GREENVILLE—Matthew Aaron Barber, son of Sherri Allred, died May 27, 2024. Mrs. Allred is the administrative assistant of the Greenville District of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held May 31 at Aldersgate UMC.

Memorials may be made to Aldersgate UMC, 7 Shannon Drive, Greenville, SC 29615; or to Miracle Hill Ministries, 490 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29607.

Mr. Barber is survived by his parents and brother.

Elizabeth W. Barber
MURRELLS INLET—Elizabeth W. Barber, wife of the Rev. William Barber, died June 11, 2024. Rev. Barber is the pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church, Marion, and retired at Annual Conference.

Funeral services will be held June 29 at Belin Memorial UMC with burial in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Barber is survived by her husband, three daughters and son.

Damian Gerard Bell
TAMPA, Fla.—Damian Gerard Bell, brother of the Rev. Shawn Chestnut, died May 16, 2024. Rev. Chestnut is the pastor of Bethesda United Methodist Church, Cades.

Funeral services were held June 1 at Crossover Church.

Mr. Bell is survived by his wife, Prudence A. Bell, and two sons.

Annie M. Corbitt
WEST COLUMBIA—Annie M. Corbitt, mother of the Rev. Wayne Smith, died May 31, 2024. Rev. Smith is the pastor of Mount Holly United Methodist Church, Rock Hill.

Funeral services were held June 7 at Mount Holly UMC.

Mrs. Corbitt is survived by her son.

Rev. Lois Jean Helms
WINNSBORO—The Rev. Lois Jean Helms, a retired elder of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, died May 18, 2024.

Prior to her retirement in 2015, Rev. Helms served the Hendersonville Circuit, Chester Circuit and Edisto charges. Following her retirement, she served the Edisto Charge and St. Matthews Charge.

A memorial service was held June 8 at First UMC.

Memorials may be made to First UMC, 109 W. College St., Winnsboro, SC 29180.

Rev. Helms is survived by her husband, Keith Gildersleeve, son and daughter.



Helms

Mary Alice Nesbitt
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.—Mary Alice Nesbitt, widow of the Rev. C. Burns Nesbitt, died May 13, 2024. Rev. Nesbitt was the son of the late Dr. Charles Nesbitt, professor of religion at Wofford College.

A memorial service was held June 1 at Centenary UMC, Richmond, Virginia, with burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Nesbitt is survived by her two sons and daughter.

Rev. Patricia Pepper Orr
PENSACOLA, Fla.—The Rev. Patricia Pepper Orr, a retired elder of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, died May 30, 2024. Prior to her retire-



Orr

Obituary Policy
The *Advocate* prints death notices of clergy and their immediate families and laypersons who have served on conference boards and agencies or who work for the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church.

ment in 2019, Rev. Orr served the Trinity-Silverstreet, Trenton, Quinby-Bethesda and Bethlehem-Prospect charges.

Funeral arrangements were unknown at the time of printing.

Mary Ann Parker
ORANGEBURG—Mary Ann Parker, sister

of the Rev. Annie Hair Sistrunk, died May 25, 2025. Rev. Sistrunk is a retired member of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held June 2 at Glover's Funeral Home.

Ms. Parker is survived by her two daughters.

Iola Elvenia Davis Risher
HENDERSONVILLE—Iola Elvenia Davis Risher, widow of the Rev. Howard Risher, died May 3, 2024.

Funeral services were held May 11 at Stephens Funeral Home, Walterboro.

Mrs. Risher is survived by her two sons and daughter.



Photos by Paul Jeffrey, UMNews, and Shandon UMC

More of Shandon's choir at General Conference

The choir from Shandon UMC, Columbia, blessed the denomination by singing for the final morning worship service May 3 at the 2024 General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The choir is under the direction of Eddie Huss, minister of music, with Organist and Music Associate Debbie Bauer.

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From the Archives

by Dr. Phillip Stone

Bishop Edward Tullis

In July 1972, South Carolina Methodists were anticipating the arrival of a new bishop. Their leader for the previous 12 years, Bishop Paul Hardin Jr., was retiring, and changes were definitely coming. Bishop Hardin had patiently guided the merger of the former 1785 and 1866 conferences, but the real work of merging was in the future and would be led by someone else. In July, the Southeastern Jurisdiction elected six new bishops. Two elections occurred on the first two ballots, and a third occurred on the sixth ballot. The conference struggled along for several ballots until on the 14th ballot, Edward L. Tullis of Kentucky was elected. Bishop Tullis had been running in about fourth place on earlier ballots, but as often happens in episcopal elections, he gradually rose and finally earned the required margin on July 14. South Carolinians soon learned he would be assigned to the Columbia area. Edward Lewis Tullis was born in Cincinnati in 1917 but had lived his whole life in Kentucky. He was a 1939 graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan and had his seminary degree from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. He had spent his entire ministry in Kentucky, serving as the minister at First Church in Ashland since 1961. Before that, he had served as an associate at Fourth Avenue Church in Louisville and as pastor of First Church in Frankfort for nine years, where he had also been a chaplain for the Kentucky legislature. He had been elected to represent Kentucky at General Conference five times since 1956 and became the first Kentuckian elected bishop in more than 100 years. The transition moved quickly. Bishop and Mrs. Tullis returned to Ashland, where he preached his last service on July 23. Later that day, they flew to Columbia, where he assumed some of his responsibilities on July 24. After a hectic week of moving, the new bishop left for a conference of district superintendents at Lake Junaluska, where he met with the South Carolina cabinet. He later noted that he really had no expectation

of being elected bishop, and indeed, he had never even been a district superintendent. The new bishop already had a called session of the Annual Conference on his schedule. As part of the merger, the conference had scheduled an adjourned session for October 1972 to elect members of the various committees of the merged conference. The merger would require all the new bishop's political and pastoral skills. The conference's elections reflected the diversity of the new conference, but when those boards met to organize and elect officers, none of them elected a Black chairperson. With the guidance of the bishop and the Committee on Merger the conference voted to require each board to meet within 30 days to organize to try to be certain that members of both former conferences had opportunities for leadership, and those committees all took that guidance to heart. Bishop Tullis served eight years in Columbia, and one of the historians of the conference noted how hard he worked to build relationships with the Black clergy and their families. Many noted that he made the effort to learn all their names and build trust where there was none. The bishop was also an advocate of women in the clergy and ordained the first women to be admitted to the South Carolina Conference. One newspaper article said that while hearing a national news anchor claim that the Episcopal Church was becoming the first American church to ordain women, he called the network on the phone immediately and was put through to the newsmen before the broadcast was over to correct him. After leaving Columbia, Bishop Tullis went to Nashville for four years before retiring in 1984. He and his wife, Mary Jane, retired to Lake Junaluska, where he taught a Sunday school class for the next 20 years. He died in 2005.

Stone is archivist for the South Carolina Conference and Wofford College. Read his blog at blogs.wofford.edu/from_the_archives.



Conference Historical Society

by the Rev. Roger M. Gramling

Abolition and the origins of The Wesleyan Church

The developing institution of slavery in America brought the first “true schism” to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the sense of dividing the church. In the beginning Methodism and the Methodist Episcopal Church opposed slavery. Wesley called it the “sum of all villainies.” At its founding in 1784, the Methodist Episcopal Church opposed the “buying or selling” of slaves by Methodists, and Methodists who owned slaves were directed to see to the emancipation of their slaves as quickly as possible. Sadly, and tragically, the position of the church soon yielded to toleration and accommodation especially in the slave-holding areas of the church. With the invention of the cotton gin in 1792 and expanding manufacturing markets for cotton in New England and abroad, slavery became an economic institution subject to state laws and societal forces related to the production of wealth. The church lost the “moral high ground” as it did again in 1939 with the creation of the Central Jurisdiction. To secure access to slaves from their owners, Methodist preachers agreed to preach to slaves but not to preach for their emancipation. The early emphasis upon the emancipation of slaves began quickly to decline in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The General Conference of 1808 authorized each annual conference to take its own stand on the issue of slavery to accommodate differences in state laws. Arguments were advanced that slavery was a “political issue” and that the church should not “meddle” in politics. During this period the Methodist Episcopal Church confined its efforts primarily to missionary work among the slaves focusing upon the promotion of their spiritual and moral welfare within the system of slavery. In the 1830s, abolitionist sentiment began to increase. Anti-slavery societies were organized, several in annual conferences. Arguments flowed from both sides of the issue. The 1836 and 1840 General Conferences defaulted to positions that accommodated state laws on emancipation. In May 1843, Methodists strongly committed to abolition took steps to leave the Methodist Episcopal Church to form the “Wesleyan Methodist Connection” in a meeting at Utica, New York. Within the next few years, some 20,000 members from New England and New York joined it. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection took a strong stand against any activity associated with slavery. The church also stood against the use of tobacco and membership in secret societies. There was to be no episcopacy with clergy assigned by a “stationing committee” of lay and clergy. There were also issues related to holiness and pacifism in the movement. As an “abolitionist denomination,” the Wesleyan Methodists, led by the Rev. Orange Scott (1800-1847) worked for an immediate end to slavery. The church came to stand for the rights of women as well, including the first ordinations of women to the ministry in the United States. Also, early on, the church gave significant roles in church leadership to the laity and lay representation in all legislative bodies. In 1947, The Wesleyan Methodist Connection changed its name to The Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1968 The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Pilgrim Holiness Church merged to form The Wesleyan Church. The Pilgrim Holiness Church, which was formed in the 1920s, came from non-denominational groups that emerged out of the “holiness movement” of the late 1800s, which had participation from Methodists. The two churches shared a common theology and similar church polity. The merger brought the new Wesleyan Church to a membership of 122,000. Today, The Wesleyan Church claims a worldwide membership of 600,000 including membership in 99 countries. The church also claims five colleges and universities including Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina; a seminary, Wesley Seminary in Marion, Indiana; and Bible colleges and schools in different countries. The Rev. Wayne Schmidt is the current general superintendent of The Wesleyan Church. The church's headquarters are located in Fishers, Indiana.

Gramling serves as secretary-treasurer of the Conference Historical Society and is currently the president of the SEJ Historical Society.

Mount Seal UMC honored with historical marker

The songwriter tells us, “On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.” The house at Mount Seal United Methodist Church, Hemingway, is truly built on the solid rock. During Homecoming last year, Mount Seal UMC was blessed to celebrate 167 years of worshipping and serving God and evangelizing in the community. The theme was “Celebrating Our Past Embracing Our Future.” To commemorate this event and church members’ continued faithfulness, a historical marker will be erected at the church. Members are planning a program for the unveiling on June 29 at 10 a.m. They will also be conducting a ceremonial mortgage burning.

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- June**
- June 19—Juneteenth (United Methodist Center closed)
- June 20—Summer Solstice/First Day of Summer
- June 22—UWF Charter for Racial + Environmental Justice Event, virtual, 10 a.m.
- June 24-28—Summer Camp for children ages 4-12, Dacusville UMC, Easley, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. \$75. Register: lunderwood5712@gmail.com.
- June 29—16th Annual Shiloh Golf Tournament sponsored by Shiloh UMC Men's Club, Piedmont, Saluda Valley Country Club, Williamston. \$60/person or \$240/foursome. Contact Joe Dunlap for more information, 864-423-9084 or jundunlap92@gmail.com.
- June 30—Wellness Sunday focusing on men's health, sponsored by Parish Nursing Ministry, Bethlehem UMC, Orangeburg, 10 a.m.



Photo courtesy of the Rev. Rusty Godfrey

Helping the Felician Center

On March 25, Lee Road UMC, Taylors, had a beautiful time delivering bed linens and supplies to the Felician Center in Kingstree. Since 1992, the Felician Center has served residents of Williamsburg County who struggle to meet basic needs. The Felician sisters—Susanne Dziedzic, Carol Piskor and Johnna Ciezboka—are all servants of Christ who have dedicated themselves for many years to serve the poor and those in need. It was an honor for Lee Road UMC to assist them. The church delivered 120 towels (new and used), 30 used sheet sets, 50 new sheet sets, 30 new throw blankets and two cribs and crib mattresses. Lee Road prayer coordinator Gail Bachman said the mission helped them make new and lasting friendships. From left are Linda Schinck, Ciezboka, Sandy Davis, Piskor, Dziedzic and Debbie Gant.

- July**
- July 4—Independence Day (United Methodist Center closed)
- July 6—UWF Limitless Event, 10 a.m.
- July 8—Orangeburg District Connectional Ministries meeting, St. Mark UMC, North, 6:30-8 p.m. <https://www.umcsc.org/event/district-connectional-ministries-meeting/2024-07-08/>
- July 10-12—Southeast Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska.
- July 18-20—UWF Mission u, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg
- July 22—Killingsworth Annual Golf Tournament, Windermere Gold Club, Blythewood. Register: <https://killingsworthhome.networkforgood.com/events/70208-annual-charity-golf-tournament>
- August**
- Aug. 3—Lay Servant Academy (Train the Trainer), Washington Street UMC, Columbia, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Growing stronger, growing deeper, reaching higher at I. DeQuincey Newman UMC

COLUMBIA—In the Rev. Frank James's address to the church on its 40th anniversary in April, he included a plan for going forward into the next 40 years. As he stated, "Number one, we plan to continue the commitment to God to study his word, and number two, to share them with the community."



Duckworth

Going forward, the congregation and the community will engage in an in-depth five-week virtual Bible study beginning in June and concluding in July with an in-person wrapup session Saturday, July 13.

As James noted, if the church is to grow stronger and deeper, it must remember its beginnings. This church was formed on the belief that God ordained the land it sits on to be holy and a comforting place for the community at large.

Members said they intend to fulfill the

dream of their founder, Rev. Isaiah DeQuincey Newman. Beginning Wednesday, June 12, at 6 p.m., they began focusing on "Growing Stronger, Growing Deeper in God's Word." Dr. Robert C. Duckworth will teach Bible study.

Duckworth will lead the first three sessions virtually from his home in Dallas, Texas. Each week—June 12, 19 and 26—the community will assemble at the church and participate virtually.

On Saturday, July 13, Duckworth will come to Columbia and teach the final Bible study in person. Then on Sunday, July 14, at 10 a.m. he will bring the message.

Church members said they are excited about the next 40 years. They invite all to join in as God shows us all what the possibilities are if we truly believe in his mercies and grace.



Photo courtesy of Dan O'Mara

A good word

Bishop's Days wrapped in April and May, with the bishop and other South Carolina Conference leaders gathering April 6 in Spartanburg, April 13 in Orangeburg and May 18 in the Walterboro District at Sand Hill UMC, Ridgeville. Here, Holston speaks at the Orangeburg District gathering.

Around the Districts

Hartsville District

Congratulations to the Rev. Lyndon and Jessica Alexander on the birth of their son. Kai Taylor Alexander was born June 5. Rev. Alexander is the associate pastor of the Hartsville Cooperative Parish, Hartsville.

Spartanburg District

The Board of Trustees of **Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg**, is welcoming one new and two returning trustees following approval at the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Elizabeth Jeter Hrubala is joining the board. Dr. Frank Lee and John Ramsey are returning. SMC trustees serve a three-year term beginning July 1.



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Sabbath rest for all creation

by the Rev. Genova McFadden

July 7 Sabbath Rest: A Sacred and Holy Gift

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 16:22-30
Background Scripture: Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16; Mark 2:23-28

Key Verse: Exodus 16:29-30, “See! The Lord has given you the sabbath, therefore on the sixth day he gives you food for two days; each of you stay where you are; do not leave your place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day.”

Despite having already been provided the miraculous gift of manna for their nourishment, and instructed not to gather on the seventh day, some of the people still disobeyed and gathered on the seventh day. Yahweh’s frustration is clear, and the people finally followed Yahweh’s instructions, receiving Yahweh’s gift of Sabbath rest—a sacred and holy gift.

What makes the Sabbath even more sacred and holy? The sacredness of this gift is emphasized when God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3). Thus, sabbath rest is a part of the created order.

A most meaningful experience came for me when Dr. Zvi Shapiro invited our Judaism class to attend a Sabbath meal at his home, followed by worship service at Congregation Beth Jacob, an Orthodox Jewish synagogue. I left with a deeper understanding of the meaning of Sabbath rest and worship for a community of faith. The meal was most reverent. In strict adherence to orthodox laws, the meal had been prepared prior to the Sabbath; there is no use of electricity or other modern devices on the Sabbath. At the table, the focus was conversation and the meal. Prohibitions against work (melakhah) also restricted congregants from driving on the Sabbath, so most congregants lived nearby and walked (in silence) to and from the synagogue.

Here is a community created out of faithful observance of their religious beliefs. How is that so? The geographic definition of this community is an outcome of strict observance of the Sabbath laws, but there is more going on here. There was also a communal aspect created: a distinct community, a collective of people with a shared faith, purpose and identity.

In what ways can we observe the Sabbath and create ways of living that honor God’s presence and provision in our lives?

July 14 A Sabbath Violation: For the Sake of Healing

Lesson Scripture: John 5:1-18
Background Scripture: Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 6:1-11; John 5:1-18; 9:13-17

Key Verse: John 5:17, “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is still working, and I also am working.’”
Can the sabbath be so sacrosanct, so

inviolable, so “high and holy,” that you would refuse to do the work that God calls you to? Are you faithful and fearless enough to withstand criticisms and opposition to continue God’s salvific work, even on the Sabbath? Or, criticize others who do?

In this unit Jesus challenged the Sabbath laws by healing a crippled man on the Sabbath. The religious leadership at the time was aghast! For them, it was far better to adhere to their dogmatic views and grip on power and authority than see to the needs of the community. In their view, violating the laws of the sabbath was seen as challenging the very meaning of community. To them Jesus equated himself with God, which was considered blasphemous and a capital offense. (They never once stopped to think that their condemnation and murderous intent might also be considered a violation of law.)

Yet, as asserted in the NIB Study Bible (the Gospel of John), “Jesus’ act of healing is pure grace.” (p. 1917). “Jesus does not simply speak God’s words and do God’s works; rather he does those things because he is God’s word and work in the world.” (NIB Study Bible, 1905).

Grace surpasses dogmatic adherence to the law.

The Sabbath is more than the day we show up at church; it is a holy and sacred covenant with God to honor God’s presence and provision for us and our willingness to honor God’s work in us.

Jesus understood that in Jewish tradition, “God does not cease from the work of giving and sustaining life. Jesus’ words equate his work with God’s work” (NIB Study Bible, 1917). Jesus’ words provoked the Jewish authorities in that day, and they continue to challenge us today.

July 21 A Grand Vision: Complete Rest for the Land

Lesson Scripture: Leviticus 25:1-7, 18-24
Background Scripture: Leviticus 25

Key Verse: Leviticus 25:4-5, “But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.” (NRSA: “in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord.”)

God instructs that the land is to have a year of rest, when there is no sowing, pruning or harvesting. Just as God rested, just as Yahweh gave the people the gift of rest, now the land is to have a year of Sabbath rest to the Lord. A year of “complete rest” at that! How will the people survive if they do not tend and harvest the land?

This Scripture presents a grand vision in which all of God’s people—members of every household, servants, strangers and aliens

who live in the land, animals, both domesticated and wild—will live off the land. Yet, as the land “lay fallow,” there will be abundance. There will be enough for all.

We live in a time of great turbulence and turmoil: wars and “rumors of war.” Division and destruction are our daily fare. Threats to established order and stability at the micro and macro levels of society—these and more—give rise to eroding the mental and spiritual well-being at every station of humanity.

Perhaps God is inviting us to a grand vision: What would our world be like if we could take a full Sabbath year from the discord of this world? What would it be like to walk the streets and not fear a group of rambunctious teenagers coming toward us? What would it be like if we saw each other as brothers and sisters rather as threats based solely on race/ethnicity, identity or otherwise biased views?

Maybe a Sabbath of the land can bring forth a peaceable land. Maybe a “complete rest” could allow us to grow and nurture interdependence, mutuality, harmony and peace as we all trust (completely) in God’s presence and providence, learning to share with others out of the abundance that God gives.

July 28 Jesus: A Singular Resting Place For All

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30
Background Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12; 6:25-34; 11:25-30

Key Verse: Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
This, by far, is one of the most comfort-

ing passages of Scripture. Ever. Here, Jesus offers us all a rest so sweet, so replete the only response is to surrender, to release.

After all of our striving to do God’s work in a troubled world, we yearn for sweet, sweet rest. The rest that Jesus offers here is a Sabbath for all. Jesus’s invitation to rest is welcoming, open, expansive, consecrated by the divine promise of God’s healing presence and abundant life.

It is a personal Sabbath: rest for the weary, a Sabbath from trials and struggles, a place for rejuvenation of body, mind and spirit, and the sacred space from which we go forth and carry out our God-ordained work.

“Come to me,” Jesus says. His invitation is the answer to those desperately seeking shelter in the storms of life; rest from weary labor, release from the captivity of personal battles. Where can you run when you’re “all tapped out”? Where is your “hiding place”?

No one expresses the joy of finding comfort in coming to Jesus better than Sam Cooke when he sings the song “Must Jesus Bear This Cross Alone.” One can hear the joy of releasing and surrender as he sings these lyrics: “I came to my Jesus just as, just as I was; I was weary, I was wounded and sad (O Lord), but I know that I found in him a resting, a resting place.”

At times while encountering young people, and even as can be seen in the eyes of those in mugshots, I see wounded souls seeming so lost and alone. What would it be like if they could hear and grasp Jesus’s invitation to “come to me?” What kind of soul healing could there be for them?
Shalom.

McFadden is a retired pastor, still learning and growing, and finds sanctuary in the natural world.



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AC2024 closes 10 churches, changes 31 charge lines

By Allison Trussell
GREENVILLE—In one its last actions, the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church approved the closing of ten churches.

“It is always a solemn and sacred season when a church decides it must close,” said the Rev. Fran Elrod, secretary of the Cabinet. “Today we recognize those churches whose season of faithful ministry has come to an end.”

Elrod invited those related to each church to stand as she read the names of each church. The following churches were closed ad interim and approved by the conference June 12: Moore’s Chapel UMC, Pelzer; Claflin UMC, Branchville; Ashland UMC, Bishopville; Victor UMC, Greer; Cummings Chapel UMC, Ridgeville; Belvedere UMC, Belvedere; Hebron UMC, McBee; Friendship UMC, Hartsville; McBee UMC, Conestee; and Hebron UMC, Clio.

Victor UMC, Greer, was transferred to the Village Church of the Nazarene. The two churches have been partnering and growing a new congregation.

The Rev. Jerry McManus, pastor of Hebron UMC, Bishopville, asked for personal point of privilege. “Fifty-two years ago, a 13-year-old was asked to read the Christmas story. It was the first time I spoke in the church and it changed my life,” he said. To all the churches, “we are closing your buildings. It’s a loss and a shame, but not a waste. These churches will live on through this annual conference.”

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston offered a prayer for these communities, for those who pastored and those who participated in the ministries and activities of each church.

“Church is more than a building,” Holston said. “It is the memories, the sermons preached, the opportunities it had. ... We thank you, Lord, for the beacon of hope these churches were ...

“And we remember that these congregations of faith were never a waste, but always a place where your grace and mercy were felt.”

Charge Line Changes

In the Anderson District, The Trinity-Donalds Charge was dissolved. Trinity becomes a station church. Homeland Park was attached to Latimer Memorial to form the Latimer Memorial-Homeland Park Charge. Moore’s Chapel was closed ad interim effective Jan. 19, 2024.

The Charleston District had one change. The Lebanon Charge was dissolved and Spring Hill was made a station church.

The Columbia District had two changes. The Fairfield Circuit was dissolved with Monticello becoming a station church. Main Street and Greene Street merged and became Columbia UMC.

In the Florence District, the Jordan Charge was dissolved with Jordan and Bethlehem to continue as the Jordan Charge. Bethlehem-Pamplico was attached to Johnsonville to form the Bethlehem-Johnsonville Charge.

In the Greenville District, the South Greenville Charge was dissolved, with Bethlehem and Laurel Creek becoming station churches. Victor was transferred to the Village Church of the Nazarene effective Oct. 27, 2023. McBee Chapel was closed and is to be made an historic site.

Greenwood District had four changes. Mount Lebanon-Kinards Charge was dissolved with Kinards becoming a station

church. The Mount Pleasant-O’Neal Street Charge was dissolved with O’Neal Street becoming a station church. Trinity-New Chapel was dissolved with Trinity becoming a station church. Belvedere was closed effective June 2, 2024.

Five changes occurred in the Hartsville District. Ashland UMC, Bishopville, was closed effective April 15, 2024. The McBee Charge was dissolved with McBee becoming a station church and Hebron closing effective June 30, 2024. The Mount Olivet-Pleasant Grove Charge was dissolved as was the Friendship-Mount Croghan Charge with Friendship closing. Pleasant Grove was attached to Mount Croghan to form the Chesterfield Charge.

In the Marion District, the Tatum Charge was dissolved and Hebron was closed effective June 30.

The Orangeburg District had five changes. Claflin, Bamberg, was closed effective Feb. 9, 2024. Mount Carmel, Franklin and Orange Grove were attached to form the Bamberg Cluster. The Branchville-New Hope Charge was dissolved with Branchville attached to Bethel, Orangeburg, to form the Branchville-Bethel Charge. The Cameron Charge was dissolved with Shady Grove becoming a station church. The Jackson Charge was dissolved with Wesley Chapel becoming a station church.

In the Rock Hill District, Tabernacle was attached to Grace-Lynnwood to form the Grace-Lynnwood-Tabernacle Charge.

The Spartanburg District had three changes. The Trinity-Enoree-Patterson Chapel Charge was dissolved with Trinity becoming a station church. The Gaffney Charge was dissolved with Limstone Street becoming a station church. The Mesopotamia-Asbury Charge was dissolved, making Asbury a station church.

In Walterboro District the only change was closing Cummings Chapel effective Nov. 17, 2023.



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‘Honor of my life’

Barbara Ware, who because of the pandemic has served as conference lay leader since 2012, gives her committee’s report, lifting up the work of the laity over the last year. Ware, whose term ends, also introduced the new conference co-lay leaders, Betty Void and Michael Jennings. “This is a bittersweet moment,” Ware said as she prepared to step down. “It has been the honor of my life to serve a church that nurtured me from birth and to get to know so many across the connection.”




Photo by Matt Brodie



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