

Annual Conference Report 2010  
Jim Fuller

WORSHIP

- Each of the conference sessions was opened with a worship service.
- Three worship services consisted of examining, licensing, ordaining, and appointing members of the clergy to positions of service within the annual conference.

Thursday, 6-10 Examination/Licensing of Local pastors

Saturday, 6-12 Ordination of Clergy

Sunday, 6-13 Fixing of Appointments

(The lay members are pleased to report that Rev. Ken Timmerman, Rev. Jonathan Tompkins, and Rev. Jean Osborne were re-appointed to their positions of service in First Church.)

- Retiring clergy recognition service, 6-12
- Memorial service for deceased clergy and spouses, 6-12
- Thursday evening, 6-10: “An Evening of Song, Story and Spirit” with Cheryl Tolbert, who was displaced from her home and city by Hurricane Katrina.
- Friday evening, 6-11: Contemporary praise and worship service conducted by various youth and youth leaders from around the annual conference. Rev. Lowell McNaney of Crossroads UMC, Concord, NC delivered the sermon.

In the opening session of the conference, Bishop Taylor preached the sermon titled “When Was It?” emphasizing the conference theme, “For the Least of These.” Based on Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus’ assertion that we serve Him by serving others, this theme stresses the church’s missional and humanitarian efforts, undertaken in the name of Jesus Christ, on behalf of all who are in need.

ADMINISTRATION

Council on Finance and Administration

For conference year 2009, \$18,029,692 was apportioned to churches in the SC Annual Conference. Of that amount, \$15,147,075 (84.0%) was received. In addition, \$1,346,414 was received from the churches in special giving. A detailed funds report for 2009 was presented and is a part of the journalized report.

The budget for 2011 proposed by CF&A and adopted by the Annual Conference, is as follows:

	2010 <u>Budget</u>	2011 <u>Budget Change</u>	Percent <u>Change</u>
Conference Askings	12,666,624	13,159,874	3.9%
Gen. Conference Apportioned	4,111,463	4,088,533	(0.56%)
SE Jurisdiction Apportioned	170,167	170,187	0.0%
Total	16,948,274	17,418,594	2.8%

CF&A nominated and the conference elected, Anthony C. Prestipino, Jr. as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services for the remainder of the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

The salary for District Superintendents for 2011 was set at \$91,200. CF&A reaffirmed the action of the 2004 annual conference, which established district superintendents' salaries at 140% of the conference annual compensation for clergy members.

#### Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

The Board presented a Special Report on The Retiree Health Liability Funding Plan, and a proposal to meet the requirements of paragraph 1506.25, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The Retiree Health Valuation dated 12-31-2008 estimated the Accumulated Postretirement Benefit obligation, associated with providing healthcare benefits to retired clergy, to be \$51,530,727. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits projects a balance of \$8,5000,000 in its account with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

The 2009 annual conference directed the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to bring to the 2010 annual conference three options to address this gap between the plan assets and its liabilities. These options were presented. Following much discussion and debate, the annual conference adopted the Board's recommendation, which proposed a three-point approach to closing the funding gap: a reduction in the retiree subsidy phased in from 2014-2022, an eligibility change for future retirees retiring on or after July 1, 2015, and an apportionment to fully fund this liability by the year 2031 as follows:

Reduction in the retiree subsidy phased in from 2014-2022:

- Effective July 1, 2014, maximum subsidy will be lowered to 65%
- Effective July 1, 2016, maximum subsidy will be lowered to 60%
- Effective July 1, 2018, maximum subsidy will be lowered to 55%
- Effective July 1, 2020, maximum subsidy will be lowered to 50%
- Effective July 1, 2020, maximum subsidy will be \$5,000 per retiree including spouse

Eligibility for retirees will be changed effective July 1, 2015. Current retirees and retirees retiring prior to July 1, 2015, will remain unchanged: those actives who are age 65 by the effective date of this change, and who retire on or after the effective date of this change, will not be eligible for the Medicare Supplement or other healthcare coverage under the conference plan.

Funding under this option will be accomplished by use of the Comprehensive Health Plan Holiday for 2011 and 2012, and an apportionment remaining at the 2010 level for the years 2011 through 2015. In 2016, the apportionment will be increased to fully fund the gap by the year 2032. No other funding will be required after 2032.

## RESOLUTIONS

Seven resolutions were presented to the conference for consideration and action, as follows:

A resolution...

- To request a review of government policies that affect vulnerable children. Submitted by John E. Holler, President, Epworth Children's Home, and Megan S. Gray, Pastor, Epworth Memorial United Methodist Church. Passed, with amendment.
- On combating the sin of racism. Submitted by The Commission on Religion and Race, The Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Women, and CROSROW. Passed.
- Regarding sexual activity among teens. Submitted by Rev. John Wesley Culp, Pastor, Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church. Following much discussion, the resolution was referred to the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries, which was directed to bring before the 2011 Annual Conference a proposal to address the spirit and intent of the resolution within the churches of the annual conference.
- To discontinue Broomfield United Methodist Church in Walterboro District, South Carolina Conference. Submitted by the Appointive Cabinet. Passed.
- On immigration Reform. Submitted by the Hispanic-Latino Ministries Committee, Mary V. Teasley, Chair. Since the resolution called for action concerning specific legislation in the SC General Assembly, and since the General Assembly has adjourned its current session, the legislation is no longer pending. Postponed indefinitely.
- To restructure Connectional Ministries at the Conference and District levels. Submitted by the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries. Passed.
- Establishing a committee for the purpose of making recommendations about the relationship between the United Methodist Relief Center, Inc., and the South Carolina Annual Conference. Submitted by the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries. Passed.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The attached Awards Newsletter enumerates the awards presented to individual lay and clergy members of the annual conference, and to churches of the annual conference, for exceptional accomplishment in selected areas of ministry and service.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- One of the emphases of the 2010 Annual Conference was the Central Conferences Pension Initiative. This initiative recognizes the dire need of many retired clergy members of conferences outside the United States, and seeks to raise funds to provide adequate pension benefits to these who have faithfully served in ministry. It was reported that churches and individuals in the SC Annual Conference have given \$173,000 to this initiative. Continued generous support is needed and solicited.
- The Conference was addressed on Friday, June 11, by Mr. Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Mr. Winkler spoke of the enormous need for the church's ministry to the world, and expressed concern that the church, including the United Methodist Church, is failing to respond at a level appropriate to the need.
- Offerings were received at four worship services. Offering recipients were: Central Conferences Pension Initiative; Scholarships for Epworth, Revolution, Breeze. And Asbury Hills (youth ministries); Bethlehem Bible College; and Hatcliffe United Methodist Church, Zimbabwe.
- Representatives of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry entertained the conferees by "shooting" tee shirts which identified the four UM colleges and universities in South Carolina: Claflin University; Columbia College; Spartanburg Methodist College; and Wofford College. The conference also supports eight Wesley Fellowships and Foundations at SC colleges and universities.
- The conference received a report on the results of balloting conducted at the 2009 Annual Conference to ratify thirty-two constitutional amendments proposed by the 2008 General Conference. Twenty-seven of these amendments proposed to change the worldwide nature of the church, and all twenty-seven were defeated. Five amendments were ratified, relating to: (1) proportionate representation of women in UMC boards, agencies, etc. (2) every jurisdictional conference include at 100 members (3) lay members of Committee on Investigation allowed to vote on clergy issues before the committee (4) all clergy members of annual conference may vote on clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences (5) Bermuda recognized as member of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Washington/Baltimore Annual Conference.
- The 2011 South Carolina Annual Conference will be held Wednesday, June 8-Sunday, June 12, 2011 at the Florence Civic Center, Florence, South Carolina.