

VIII. REPORTS

(NOTE: The proposals in the following reports are printed in the form in which the conference adopted them, which is not in every case identical to the form in which they were originally proposed.)

A. COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is “to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference” (¶ 611.1, 2004 Discipline). The council has adopted this theme for its work:

Empowering Financial and Administrative Leadership

Receipts on all funds for 2008 were \$12,668,150 or 78.44% of the total apportioned. The Council on Finance and Administration is proposing the budget for 2010 based upon the new funding paradigm implemented in 2005. The two-part presentation consists of Operating Costs and FairShare Ministry – Conference and General Church. The Operating Costs are proposed at \$4,639,235. The overall apportioned budget for Operating Costs and FairShare Ministry totals \$14,185,187. The budget amounts were set based on the stewardship concepts contained in the new funding paradigm. Those concepts emphasize setting future budgets based on past support, indexed for inflation, and conference growth.

The council joins with the Stewardship of Giving Task Force and the local church in the work of the financial ministry of the annual conference. We commend the 2010 budget to the conference. It represents the uniqueness and depth of ministries and missions provided by our church and the economic realities of our conference.

We note, however, that this proposed total budget is 6.65% lower than our 2009 budget, a decrease of \$1,011,036, and the Conference Operating Costs budget for 2010 is 11.392% or \$596,511 less than the 2009 budget.

Proposals: 2010 Conference Funds and Financial Policies Approved June 12, 2009

The Council on Finance and Administration proposes:

1. That each of the funds described in the section of this report headed “Conference Funds for 2010” be approved and that the traditional decimal formula be used in determining the apportionments and FairShare for 2010 for each mission or chartered church/charge for these funds:

Conference Funds for 2010:

APPORTIONED FUNDS

Conference Operating Costs:

District Superintendents' Fund
Equitable Compensation Fund
Retiree/Incapacity Insurance Support
Conference Support
Administrative Staff Support
Administrative Office Support Items

FAIRSHARE ASKINGS

Conference Ministry:

Conference Benevolences
Higher Education: Universities
Higher Education: Campus Ministry
Health and Human Services
Congregational Development

General Church:

Africa University Fund
Black College Fund
Episcopal Fund
General Administration Fund
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
Jurisdictional Administration Fund
Lake Junaluska Dam and Lake Restoration Fund
Ministerial Education Fund
World Service Fund

The formula shall be based on the average of the amounts paid by mission and chartered churches during 2006, 2007, and 2008 on the following items:

Item Lines

Total Conference Apportioned Funds Paid	Line 38c2 or c3
District/County Mission Society	Line 48
District Administration/Expense Fund	Line 56
Pastor(s) Health Insurance Premiums	Line 63
Salaries, Housing, Utilities, Travel, and Other Cash Allowances Paid to Pastor and Associate(s)	Lines 64-68
Compensation of Deacon(s)/Diaconal Minister(s)	Line 69
Compensation of All Other Church Employees	Line 70
Local Church Expenses for Program	Line 71
Other Local Church Operating Expenses	Line 72

(Notes: Line numbers refer to corresponding entries on Table 2 of the 2008 year-end reports of the pastors and local churches.)

2. That the following policy be approved and observed:
At the beginning of the calendar year, the Council on Finance and Administration shall determine which portions of the Conference Support Fund (Fund 505) and the Conference Benevolences Fund (Fund 508) are "fixed costs" (salaries, benefits, etc.) and "priority items" and shall thus be authorized to be paid at 100%/80% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior-year receipts to these funds, the council shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditure in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
 - a. The Conference Operating Costs are "fixed costs," consisting primarily of salaries, benefits, and direct operating costs. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (Paragraph 247.14 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*)
 - b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the conference treasurer will allocate the payment according to the appropriate percentage due it, according to the charge conference apportionment sheet.
 - c. In the effort to foster support of all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount, the council will discontinue use of the historical practice of receiving acceptance amounts at charge conference.
3. That an Unrestricted Fund Balance Account be maintained by the annual conference at a level of 20% of the current total of the Conference Operating Costs and Conference Benevolences Fund (Fund 508) and that any undesignated interest income plus unused balances in budget accounts be transferred to the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. Reserves are created by earnings, while budget amounts are wholly designated for ministries.
4. That all apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs, both receipts and disbursements, be managed through the office of the conference treasurer and that all boards, agencies, committees, and commissions use the conference treasurer as fiscal agent.
5. That the group medical insurance plan be continued and that all churches be asked to participate through the payment of premiums through the office of the conference treasurer.
6. That local churches be reminded that the discontinuance of prior claims funding, effective January 1, 2007, for the Equitable Compensation Fund, Pension and Benefits Fund, Episcopal Fund, and District Superintendents' Fund does not relieve the churches from their obligation to observe the rule of proportional payment (§§ 622 and 639.4, 2008 *Discipline*), and that § 638.4(c) be observed by the statistician in reporting apportionments and payments to the Pension and Benefits Fund.
7. That for 2010 and beyond, the salary and benefits (including clergy housing) for district superintendents and all Conference Memorial Center personnel be set by the Committee on Conference Staff Relations policy within the approved total salary budget and clearly reported to the annual conference as part of the report of the Committee on Conference Staff Relations. The salaries of the Treasurer, Director of Connectional Ministries, Assistant to the Bishop, and District Superintendents, beginning July 1, 2009 through 2010 be set at an annual rate of \$93,300, reduced from \$97,971 annual rate in effect from January to June, 2009.
8. That all agencies receiving funds from the conference budget shall affirm that those funds will not be expended for the use of alcoholic beverages or to promote acceptance of homosexuality in violation of § 613.19 and .20 of *The Book of Discipline* (2008).
9. That the amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained elder staff members and district superintendents of the conference be set by an annual resolution of the conference Council on Finance and Administration, after consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.
10. That church-related travel expenses of all members of conference boards, agencies, committees, and commissions; conference staff; district superintendents; and local church clergy be paid by voucher on a mileage basis at the amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. This will be considered as a church-related business item and will not be factored into any compensation package by the cabinet.
11. That the governing boards of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. (Epworth Place and Asbury Care Center); Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.; Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.; The Children's Home, Inc.; UMAR-WNC, Inc.; The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.; Camp Tekoa; Bennett College for Women; Brevard College; Greensboro College; High Point University; Pfeiffer University; the Western North Carolina Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood; the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society; approved counseling centers of the conference; and DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministry be granted the privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with *The Book of Discipline*; that The Children's Home capital campaign, 2009-2010 be approved for 2010; and that the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings be approved for 2010:

Offering

Human Relations Day
 UMAR Sunday
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 Native American Awareness
 Golden Cross
 Medical Mission Teams
 Mother's Day (Aldersgate, Arbor Acres, Givens)
 DISCIPLE Bible Outreach

Authorized by

General Conference
 Annual Conference
 General Conference
 General Conference
 General/Annual Conferences
 Annual Conference
 Annual Conference
 Annual Conference

Project AGAPE
 Peace with Justice
 Children's Home Sunday
 World Communion
 United Methodist Student Day

Annual Conference
 General Conference
 Annual Conference
 General Conference
 General Conference

12. That funds appropriated for Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. (Epworth Place and Asbury Care Center); Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.; and Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., be used exclusively for supplementary care for members of United Methodist churches of the Western North Carolina Conference. Any local church wishing to give to any of these agencies funds in excess of the amount apportioned may do so by forwarding such funds to the conference treasurer with proper advisement as to their disbursement, or by direct giving to the appropriate agency.
13. That clergy be reimbursed for moving expenses in the following manner, effective upon adjournment of the 2009 conference session:
 - a. IN-CONFERENCE MOVES: The conference shall pay \$500, plus \$2.50 per mile, on those moves which are required as pastors are moved from one appointment to a new appointment, on a one-way basis.
 - b. MOVES INTO THE CONFERENCE: The conference shall pay on the same basis as in item 13a above. The moving allowance will apply to the number of miles on the most direct route traveled from the conference boundary to the pastoral appointment.
 - c. MOVING AT RETIREMENT: Retiring clergy, surviving spouses of active clergy who died during the year, and clergy who go on incapacity leave during the year shall receive a moving allowance of \$750, plus \$2.50 per mile, from the pastoral appointment to the retirement residence or the conference boundary. A retiree who moves to a parsonage and serves a pastorate in retirement is eligible for an in-conference moving allowance upon approval of the district superintendent.
 - d. MOVES OUT OF THE CONFERENCE (moving to another conference, withdrawing from conference membership, leave of absence, etc.): No allowance will be paid.
 - e. SABBATICAL LEAVE: No allowance is granted when the leave begins; however, an allowance will be given when the leave is completed and the clergy person is again available for appointment by the bishop. The amount will be consistent with items 13a and 13b above.
 - f. In many instances, the moving allowance will not cover the total expense of the move. This reimbursement is given to help with the over-the-Road cost of the move. Each church/charge receiving a new pastor is strongly urged to pay any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the new pastor as a result of the move. The district superintendent will negotiate the request with the church/charge well in advance of moving day.
 - g. The district superintendent is asked to make a very special appeal that each church/charge be especially sensitive to both parsonage families during this stressful time. The appeal should include assistance with meals, packing, unpacking, loading, and unloading where helpful and appropriate for the parsonage family.
14. That the president, vice-president, and secretary of the conference Council on Finance and Administration, the chairperson of the Audit Review Committee, the conference treasurer-director of administrative services, a cabinet representative, and one lay member of the CFA constitute the executive committee of the conference Council on Finance and Administration.
15. That the Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to appoint a conference auditor.
16. That each local church make a very special effort to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of annual conference members in attending annual conference by adding a minimum of \$100 to the church budget for each lay and clergy delegate. The district superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each charge conference.
17. That conference agencies receiving funds from the Conference Support Fund (Fund 505) and the Conference Benevolences Fund (Fund 508) not be permitted to carry over unspent funds from one conference year to another unless specifically authorized by the Council on Finance and Administration. Agencies receiving funds from sources other than apportioned funds may carry over such unspent funds into the next year. Congregational Development Fund (Fund 509) receipts from all sources are considered to be designated receipts for specific purposes and are carried forward into the next year.
18. That 3 p.m., Friday, January 8, 2010, be the cutoff time by which all payments from local churches must be in the office of the conference treasurer in order to be applied to the 2009 year.
19. That each conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the conference treasurer maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the conference treasurer and the conference Council on Finance and Administration. All treasurers should be properly bonded.
20. That the conference fiscal year begin on January 1, 2010, and end on December 31, 2010.
21. That the conference Council on Finance and Administration be responsible for designating depositories for conference funds.
22. Request the bishop to rule on the following question:
 "At the 2004 session of this Annual Conference a "Choice Empowerment" apportionment paradigm was enacted (Action recorded on p. 133, Choice Empowerment described on page 231, and implementation actions recorded on page 236 of the 2004 Journal of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference). This Choice Empowerment paradigm has been the effective policy of this annual conference since that session of the conference. Is "Choice Empowerment" as approved by the 2004 session of the annual conference, in violation of Paragraph 247.14 of the 2008 Book of Discipline?"

Laurie Guy, President

CONFERENCE FUNDS FOR 2010*Approved June 12, 2009***Western North Carolina Conference
Budget 2010**

Fund #	Fund Name	2008 Actual	2009 Approved	2010 Proposed	% Change	Paradigm 2010 Target	2009 Accepted
Conference Operating Costs							
504	District Superintendents	1,535,226	1,793,092	1,766,990	-1.46%	1,631,825	1,717,488
	Salaries	1,250,680	1,469,565	1,399,500	-4.77%		
	Related cost	284,546	323,527	367,490	13.59%		
506	Equitable Compensation	269,999	300,000	300,000	0.00%	302,971	287,937
507	Retiree/Incapacity Ins Supplmt (Sch 2)	2,214,000	340,000	374,000	10.00%	374,000	326,131
505	Conference Support (Schedule 1)	1,055,249	1,200,197	646,359	-46.15%		
	Admin Staff Support (Schedule 1)	1,161,472	1,122,018	1,146,666	2.20%		
	Admin Office Support Items (Sch 1)	348,295	480,439	405,220	-15.66%		
	Total Conference Support (Schedule 1)	2,565,016	2,802,654	2,198,245	-21.57%	2,430,159	2,687,796
	Total Operating Costs	6,584,241	5,235,746	4,639,235	-11.39%	4,738,955	5,019,352
Conference Ministry FairShare							
508	Conference Benevolences (Schedule 3)						
	Nurture Ministries	113,490	202,145	208,425	3.11%		
	Outreach Ministries	71,713	84,377	95,712	13.43%		
	Witness Ministries	6,302	26,500	39,750	50.00%		
	Benevolence Grants	96,700	135,000	135,000	0.00%		
	Ministry Coordination	178,350	185,626	182,180	-1.86%		
	Communications	75,286	99,350	79,250	-20.23%		
	Benevolence Staff Support	576,934	473,400	483,360	2.10%		
	Total Conference Benevolences	1,118,775	1,206,398	1,223,677	1.43%	1,173,118	988,687
509	Congregational Development (Sch. 4)	817,236	852,921	693,993	-18.63%	693,993	675,830
510	Higher Education: Univ. (Sch 6)	446,369	615,930	494,971	-19.64%	494,971	490,551
511	Higher Ed Campus Ministry (Sch 5)	302,846	425,000	385,821	-9.22%	335,821	345,436
512	Health/Human Services (Schedule 7)	317,941	479,237	352,562	-26.43%	352,562	380,858
	Total FairShare	3,003,167	3,579,486	3,151,024	-11.97%	3,050,465	2,881,362
General Church FairShare							
513	Africa University	80,479	97,487	96,974	-0.53%	96,974	82,824
514	Black College	287,807	435,584	433,293	-0.53%	433,293	331,592
503	Episcopal	641,288	857,501	872,693	1.77%	872,693	681,276
515	Gen Church Admin	194,814	351,765	343,770	-2.27%	343,770	267,046
516	Interdenom Cooperatn	55,690	85,094	84,531	-0.66%	84,531	64,408
517	Juris Church Admin	155,256	231,374	231,374	0.00%	231,374	174,562
518	Lake Junaluska Dam/Lake Restoration Fd	26,602	73,443	73,443	0.00%	73,443	29,713
519	Ministerial Education	560,430	1,091,857	1,086,114	-0.53%	1,086,114	853,607
520	World Service Fund	2,155,150	3,156,886	3,172,736	0.50%	3,172,736	2,355,698
	Total General Church	4,157,516	6,380,991	6,394,928	0.22%	6,394,928	4,840,726
	Grand Total of all Funds	13,744,924	15,196,223	14,185,187	-6.65%	14,184,348	12,741,440

**Western North Carolina Conference
Budget 2010**

Fund #	Fund Name	2008 Actual	2009 Approved	2010 Proposed	% Change	Paradigm 2010 Target	2009 Accepted
Schedule One							
Conference Operating Costs							
Conference Support:							
	Boards, Commissions, Committees, Cabinet						
	Ordained Ministry	209,456	259,600	188,850	-27.25%		
	Cabinet Meetings	52,701	50,453	35,000	-30.63%		
	Emergency Fund	0	10,000	10,000	0.00%		
	Computer Software Support	3,977	2,500	5,000	100.00%		
	Archives/History	19,031	21,144	21,549	1.92%		
	Episcopacy	274	350	3,000	757.14%		
	Covenant Peer Groups	100,000	220,000	25,000	-88.64%		
	Dashboard Indicators	25,000	25,000	25,000	0.00%		
	Staff Relations	2,242	2,000	2,000	0.00%		
	Council on Laity	8,360	10,250	8,360	-18.44%		
	Other Committees	4,292	15,000	5,000	-66.67%		
	Annual Conference						
	Conference Sessions	330,511	308,900	65,400	-78.83%		
	Journal Publication	23,699	25,000	17,200	-31.20%		
	Mission and Ministry Grants						
	U M Foundation	16,570	20,000	20,000	0.00%		
	Buildings and Land						
	Lake Norman District Setup	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.00%		
	Memorial Center Taskforce	50,000	0	0			
	Episcopal Residence	19,724	10,000	5,000	-50.00%		
	Miscellaneous						
	Ministers Moving Fund	114,412	130,000	130,000	0.00%		
	Contingency	0	15,000	5,000	-66.67%		
	Total Operating Support	1,055,249	1,200,197	646,359	-46.15%		
Staff Support:							
	Admin Staff						
	Salaries	904,513	808,208	811,437	0.40%		
	Related cost	256,959	313,810	335,229	6.83%		
	Total Staff Support	1,161,472	1,122,018	1,146,666	2.20%		
Operational Items							
	Office Operations						
	Episcopal Office	8,674	10,500	9,000	-14.29%		
	Assistant to Bishop	1,703	4,000	4,000	0.00%		
	Treasury	47,903	55,000	55,000	0.00%		
	Secretary	9,342	9,200	14,200	54.35%		
	Information Technology		32,850	39,350	19.79%		
	General Support						
	Liability Insurance	22,200	35,000	30,000	-14.29%		
	Legal	2,565	78,000	20,000	-74.36%		
	Audit	80,629	50,000	52,000	4.00%		
	CFA operation	6,537	3,500	3,500	0.00%		
	Staff Travel	31,599	62,500	38,250	-38.80%		
	Bldg Cost Allocation	137,143	139,889	139,920	0.02%		
	Total Operational Support	348,295	480,439	405,220	-15.66%		
	Total for Fund 505	2,565,016	2,802,654	2,198,245	-21.57%	2,430,159	2,687,796
Schedule Two							
	Retiree/Incapacity Ins Supplmt						
	Retiree Plan Unfunded Liability	1,874,000	0	0			
	Incapacity Leave Clergy	340,000	340,000	374,000	10.00%		
	Total Insurance Supplement	2,214,000	340,000	374,000	10.00%		

Western North Carolina Conference
Budget 2010

Fund #	Fund Name	2008 Actual	2009 Approved	2010 Proposed	% Change	Paradigm 2010 Target	2009 Accepted
	Schedule Three Conference Benevolence						
	Nurture Ministries						
	Christian Education						
	Camping and Retreat Ministries	529	805	805	0.00%		
	Camp Tekoa	46,080	64,000	64,000	0.00%		
	Special Needs Camp	9,000	12,500	12,500	0.00%		
	Hispanic Ministries	86	3,750	3,750	0.00%		
	Native American Ministries	5,977	8,650	8,600	-0.58%		
	Asian American Ministries Committee	3,147	6,300	5,750	-8.73%		
	African American Ministries	2,079	2,995	3,450	15.19%		
	Nurture Ministries	0	17,550	18,250	3.99%		
	Youth Ministries	8,259	13,980	14,780	5.72%		
	Religion and Race	8,490	8,490	6,490	-23.56%		
	Ethnic Local Church	26,433	60,900	61,300	0.66%		
	COSROW	3,410	2,225	8,750	293.26%		
	Total Programs	113,490	202,145	208,425	3.11%		
	Outreach Ministries:						
	Commision on Outreach Ministries	29,602	36,160	32,525	-10.05%		
	Missions Response Center Support	38,218	39,032	39,032	0.00%		
	Church and Society Ministries	2,661	5,630	4,600	-18.29%		
	Christian Unity and Interrel Concerns	782	3,060	19,060	522.88%		
	Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries	450	495	495	0.00%		
	Total Programs	71,713	84,377	95,712	13.43%		
	Witness Ministries:						
	Commission on Witness Ministries	4,206	20,000	39,750	98.75%		
	MotorSports Fanguide	2,096	3,000	0	-100.00%		
	Denman Award/Church of Excellence	0	3,500	0	-100.00%		
	Total Witness Ministries	6,302	26,500	39,750	50.00%		
	Benevolence Grants:	96,700	135,000	135,000	0.00%		
	Ministry Coordination:						
	Conference Ministries Advisory						
	Council Operations	3,700	4,200	4,200	0.00%		
	Building Cost Allocation	119,474	117,626	114,480	-2.67%		
	Conference Ministries Advisory						
	Council Program	11,556	10,300	17,000	65.05%		
	Contingency	2,146	4,000	4,000	0.00%		
	Total Staff Travel	41,474	49,500	42,500	-14.14%		
	Total Ministry Coordination	178,350	185,626	182,180	-1.86%		
	Communication Ministries:						
	Commission on Communications	11,516	22,350	18,750	-16.11%		
	Interpretation Projects	6,704	10,500	10,500	0.00%		
	Equipment Purchase/Lease/Maintenance	31,427	37,000	25,000	-32.43%		
	Media Ministries	25,639	29,500	25,000	-15.25%		
	Total Programs	75,286	99,350	79,250	-20.23%		
	Benevolence Staff Support:						
	Salaries	473,060	354,500	322,970	-8.89%		
	Related Cost	103,874	118,900	160,390	34.89%		
	Total Staff Support	576,934	473,400	483,360	2.10%		
	Grand Total for Fund 507 - Conference Benevolences	1,118,775	1,206,398	1,223,677	1.43%	1,173,118	988,687

**Western North Carolina Conference
Budget 2010**

Fund # Fund Name	2008 Actual	2009 Approved	2010 Proposed	% Change	Paradigm 2010 Target	2009 Accepted
Schedule Four						
Congregational Development - Fund (Schedule 4)						
Program:						
Vision 20/20 & Grants	373,328	286,881	0	-100.00%		
Salary Support Grants	251,700	375,050	0	-100.00%		
Initial Compensation Grants			69,124			
Continuing Compensation Grants			312,000			
New Church Planter Training	23,991	10,000	35,000	250.00%		
Natural Church Development	2,188	2,000	21,000	950.00%		
Training Event and Consultation	6,479	5,000	7,000	40.00%		
Griffith Coaching	11,580	10,000	20,723	107.23%		
Promotion and Marketing	15,089	19,005	20,000	5.24%		
Demographics Contract	0	10,000	23,000	130.00%		
Miscellaneous	0	3,500	3,500	0.00%		
Total Program	684,355	721,436	511,347	-29.12%		
Staff Support:						
Salaries	86,453	78,900	113,246	43.53%		
Related Cost	21,282	22,500	39,315	74.73%		
Total Staff Support	107,735	101,400	152,561	50.45%		
Operational Items:						
Building Cost Allocation	10,483	10,885	10,885	0.00%		
Supplies	1,368	2,000	2,000	0.00%		
Postage	347	2,200	2,200	0.00%		
Director Travel	10,493	12,000	12,000	0.00%		
Staff Travel	2,455	3,000	3,000	0.00%		
Total Operational Items	25,146	30,085	30,085	0.00%		
Grand Total for Fund						
Congregational Development	817,236	852,921	693,993	-18.63%	693,993	675,830
Schedule Five						
Higher Education - Campus Ministry						
UNC - Asheville	6,117	10,295	7,980	-22.49%		
UNC - Charlotte	14,900	25,279	22,166	-12.32%		
UNC - Greensboro	50,787	70,687	62,951	-10.94%		
Western Carolina	48,910	69,766	65,704	-5.82%		
Appalachian State	47,426	68,612	93,096	35.68%		
North Carolina A & T Restart	58,267	79,068	8,866	-88.79%		
Winston Salem/Wake Forest	61,932	76,986	71,773	-6.77%		
Central Piedmont Community College	9,661	16,208	15,073	-7.00%		
Winston Salem State University	4,846	8,099	7,182	-11.33%		
Ministry Development			31,032			
Grand Total for Fund - Higher Educ - Campus Min	302,846	425,000	385,821	-9.22%	335,821	345,436

Western North Carolina Conference
Budget 2010

Fund #	Fund Name	2008 Actual	2009 Approved	2010 Proposed	% Change	Paradigm 2010 Target	2009 Accepted
Schedule Six -							
Higher Education: Universities Scholarships							
	Universities and Colleges						
	Bennett College	7,900	24,638	19,799	-19.64%		
	Brevard College	92,700	147,823	118,793	-19.64%		
	Greensboro College	92,700	147,823	118,793	-19.64%		
	High Point University	92,700	147,823	118,793	-19.64%		
	Pfeiffer University	92,700	147,823	118,793	-19.64%		
	Scholarships	55,618	0	0			
	Council on Higher Education Ministries	12,051	0	0			
Grand Total for Higher Education Univ Schol		446,369	615,930	494,971	-19.64%	494,971	490,551
Schedule Seven - Health and Human Services							
Homes and Health Institutions							
	Childrens Home	108,517	163,562	120,333	-26.43%		
	Retirement Homes						
	Givens Estates	61,969	93,412	68,717	-26.44%		
	Aldersgate	61,975	93,412	68,723	-26.43%		
	Arbor Acres	61,969	93,412	68,717	-26.44%		
	UMAR	4,019	6,058	4,457	-26.43%		
	Charlotte Counseling	7,234	10,904	8,022	-26.43%		
	Greensboro-Crysalis Center	4,823	7,269	5,348	-26.43%		
	Asheville - Potter's Touch Counseling	4,019	6,058	4,457	-26.43%		
	Deaf Ministry	2,009	3,029	2,228	-26.43%		
	Duke Med Chapln	1,407	2,120	1,560	-26.43%		
GrandTotal for Fund -							
Homes and Health Institutions		317,941	479,237	352,562	-26.43%	352,562	380,858



Annual conference
is always a time
for delegates and
friends to touch base
with one another.

B. CONNECTIONAL TABLE

This has been a year of transition for the newly-named Connectional Table (formerly Conference Ministries Advisory Council - CMAC)—as approved by annual conference last June. We have operated with the same structure but the new name, and as you directed, we have been anticipating and moving toward the proposed new Connectional Table model. We have had a new Director of Connectional Ministries, while the officers and membership remained the same for this year only, subject to your approval of a report (also in this booklet) on reorganization of the Connectional Table.

As chairperson, I have continued to be vitally involved, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries, in conference reorganization—on active committees and task forces dealing with conference office location, conference staff relations, and Connectional Table reorganization, itself.

The Connectional Table met in October at the WNC Conference Center—our first opportunity to meet as a body with Bishop Larry Goodpaster, for a discussion about how to better achieve the vision: “Follow Jesus, Make Disciples and Transform the World” (Due to the continuing reorganization, this was also our first face-to-face meeting in over two years.) Our other meetings had been conducted by conference call. We also discussed the evolving proposal for reorganization as directed by annual conference, and we acted on necessary items of business.

Our second “meeting” of the year—to develop a new annual budget proposal to go to the Council on Finance and Administration and to allocate benevolence funds—was conducted via “Webinar” (with members joining a telephone conference while using a personal computer to view budget tables as decisions were being made). We found this method of conferencing to be very satisfactory, and we commend it to other groups.

Our Conference benevolence dollars have declined radically over several years as the “new funding paradigm” and the optional “FairShare Askings” program were implemented. So we were able to provide 2009 benevolence grants only to Project AGAPE, DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministry, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Building Teams and VIM Medical Teams—each at much-reduced levels. This has occurred during a period in which 4½ connectional ministries staff positions have been eliminated and the print shop closed. We addressed this concern of declining connectional giving and agreed to enter a discussion with Bishop Goodpaster about it. We believe strongly that we are not utilizing the power of our connection to multiply the impact of individual churches on key programs that reach beyond our individual communities.

Yet we can report great accomplishments for the year in connectional ministries. Some highlights follow from each of the program ministries:

- Two truckloads of supplies were sent to UMCOR Sager Brown Center, a relief agency supply center in Baldwin, La, including 1,483 flood buckets and 7,934 hygiene, sewing, layette, and school kits.
- Three shipments of donated clothes, tools, school and health supplies, bedding, and sewing supplies were sent to Armenia valued at \$109,212.
- WNC Volunteers in Mission gave an estimated \$10,071,000 in volunteer services, based on the US government data of \$18/hour and approximately \$2,800,000 in materials was given.
- Twenty youth experienced a call to ministry at “Choose2Share Christ.”
- Youth packed 20,000 dehydrated meals and sent them to areas in crisis around the globe.
- Youth donated \$9,607 to local organizations and churches with an additional \$3,866 collected for the national Youth Service Fund.
- Plans are unfolding for a fall 2009 Safe Sanctuaries training event.
- A leadership training event named “Soul Café” was attended by 18 clergy and laity representing seven districts for worship, visioning, and training. They will meet quarterly as a covenant and training group and hope to take this model out to their districts.
- After the 15 District Leadership Conferences (DLCs), district superintendents and district coordinators were surveyed to help evaluate the effectiveness of the training. A DLC debriefing and visioning meeting followed to discuss future core and elective classes and leadership training at future DLCs.
- Workshops were held around the conference in spiritual formation and intentional faith development (such as spiritual gift inventories and workshops, church school training, teacher training, stewardship workshops, and confirmation leadership).
- An Ethnic Local Church Committee (ELCC) grant enabled three persons to participate in leadership development at the African American Pastors’ Convocation in Houston; supported the Hmong congregation financially, with ESL classes and transportation ministries; and, helped a Hispanic pastor attend Local Pastors’ School.
- Religion and Race Committee organized the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, which focused on diversity and immigration issues within our conference. Planned as a multi-cultural event this year, it was held at Coburn Memorial UMC, Salisbury, in partnership with the Committee on Church and Society.
- The African American Initiative provided leadership development in the African American churches. The Christian Education Institute was held at Bennett College to provide training and motivation for Christian education workers.
- The African American Initiative sent members of one church to a leadership training, “The Burning Bush”—a part of the coaching and mentoring advocated by “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.” The Initiative supports the ongoing assessment of each Initiative church in our conference to help develop Ministry Action Plans.

- A second Poverty Summit was held in March 2009, to further the work of last year's summit and to compile a list of specific methods to lessen poverty.

Finally, as I "retire" from this position (completing 13 years on executive committees of the old Council on Ministries and the former Ministries Advisory Council), I am grateful to the Rev. Steve James, Director, and our excellent Connectional Ministries staff for the job they do every day in resourcing congregations, pastors, districts, and conference boards and agencies. They and those who preceded them truly extend the hearts and hands of our churches to less developed countries, to disaster-affected communities, and they "offer Christ" to persons inside our Conference borders.

Robert E. Shepherd, Chairperson

1. COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS

a. CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

This year has proven to be a time of challenge and opportunity for our camping and outdoor ministries. Like other ministries in our conference, our district camps continue to do vital and important work with ever-limited resources and financial support. Yet, our camps continue as vanguard representatives of faithfulness to the call of Christ to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World," in creative and life-changing ways. I am very proud of the work and outreach ministry of all our camps and find inspiration in the dedication and hard work of our camp directors, as well as their staff and camp employees.

Our seven camps and retreat centers are Mt. Shepherd, McCall, Elk Shoals, Loy White, Carolwood, Guilrock, and Tekoa. Each camp continues to operate under the seven foundations of our United Methodist camps. Even with the economic downturn, each of our camps remains self-supporting and continues to develop new sources of income to develop and support our church's camping ministry. Please continue to pray for and support our conference and district camps as they reach out to all people and share the Gospel through our outdoor ministries.

Rev. Dr. James G. Mackey, Chairperson

United Methodist Camp Tekoa

Camp Tekoa's mission statement is: Touching Hearts, Changing Lives, and Sharing the Light of Christ!

This has been a great year thanks to all our committed full-time staff and our fabulous 2008 summer staff team. Here are some highlights from this past year:

- We welcomed 2246 summer campers and all were challenged to go into the world and share the Light of Christ!
- We received accreditation from the American Camp Association. We are visited once every three years and are graded on 300+ written standards in the following areas: Site and Food Service, Transportation, Health and Wellness, Operational Management, Human Resources, Program Design and Activities, Program Aquatics, Program Adventure Challenge, and Program Horse. Together, we have complied with over 300 written standards and were accredited by the ACA.
- Tekoa was honored to host an Operation Purple Camp. We welcomed 80 military children from all over the southeast and had an incredible week! The National Military Family Association developed this free summer camp program in response to the need for increased support for military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed. Operation Purple is sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. We plan to welcome 150 military children in 2009.
- We welcomed 70 special needs campers for the fall Barnabas camp! A very special thanks to Sue Trollinger who served as our director and inspired several new UMAR homes' participation in this fall camp.
- Bishop Larry Goodpaster spared time from his busy schedule with the Elder's Retreat at Kanuga, to make an official visit to Tekoa for a tour and meet the staff. We look forward to serving with the bishop in the future.
- We had an incredible summer staff team made up of college students from all over the United States and the world. Our international staff represented the following countries: Brazil, Barbados, Colombia, and Peru.

Tekoa will celebrate its 60th year in camp ministry in 2009! Thanks for your support!

Dan Lyons, Chairperson
James Johnson, Executive Director

PROPOSAL: TRUSTEES OF CAMP TEKOA

(Petition 1) Approved June 11, 2009

Class of 2012: Bruce Fowler, Kate Worthington May, Ty Moser, Tim Walker
Class of 2011: Brian Combs, Shelton Dunn Davis, David Moore, Jerry Smith
Class of 2010: Mike Jordan, Dan Lyons, Charlotte Miller, Don Newman
Ex-Officio Members (with vote): WNCC Cabinet Representative: John Boggs (Asheville)
Ex-Officio Members (without vote): James Johnson, executive director; Karen Rohrer, business manager;
Mike Pruett, program director

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Camp Tekoa, Inc.

b. COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MERCY MINISTRIES

Senator Jim Webb (D., Va.) reports that “the United States has by far the world’s highest incarceration rate. With 5% of the world’s population, our country now boasts nearly 25% of the world’s reported prisoners. We currently incarcerate 756 inmates per 100,000 residents, a rate nearly five times the average worldwide of 158 for every 100,000. In addition, more than five million people who recently left jail remain under “correctional supervision,” which includes parole, probation, and other community sanctions. All told, about one in every 31 adults in the United States is in prison, in jail, or on supervised release.” This report was released March 2009.

With such startling statistics, it is easy to see the necessity for each of us to take responsibility to minister to those around us. The responsibility begins in our homes and churches, before someone gets in difficulty with the law, and continues with clergy and laity alike, with offenders, ex-offenders, and victims of crime.

The committee asks you to support ministries that seek to be mediation centers in restorative justice between offenders and victims. We also ask you to support with your prayers, gifts, and involvement, the following ministries:

- DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries and Rings of Fellowship, a ministry between the Western North Carolina Conference and the North Carolina Conference, which is now at work in over 70 adult and juvenile penal facilities across North Carolina. The Rev. Mark Hicks, director of DBOM, has been instrumental in the editing and release of the book, *I Was In Prison, United Methodist Perspectives on Prison Ministry*, released 2008.
- Epiphany Ministry, an ecumenical Christian ministry to juveniles incarcerated in North Carolina.
- Prison MATCH (“Mother and Their Children”), an ecumenical effort at Women’s Prison in Raleigh, NC, to nurture the relationship between children and their incarcerated mothers in an effort to break the cycle of imprisonment.
- Yokefellow Prison Ministry, a compassionate, listening ministry which is now in ministry in over 50 prisons across North Carolina.

CJAMM continues to remind people of faith of the long-standing position of The United Methodist Church against the death penalty. Finally, the committee is looking forward to partnering with the North Carolina Conference CJAMM for future meetings as we seek to do all that we can to address the ever-increasing problems associated with incarceration.

Patience S. Brumley, Chairperson

c. COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

The mission of the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) is to provide resources to empower and facilitate ethnic local churches within the Western North Carolina Conference, to reach out locally and globally, to make disciples of Jesus Christ through leadership development, evangelistic witness, and community outreach.

Our Goals...

- To be a funding resource for ethnic minority churches whose vision encompasses ministries that meet the needs of their congregations and communities.
- To partner with other ministries to help strengthen leadership development at the local and conference levels, and to strengthen The United Methodist Church’s global ministry.
- To offer support for the local churches that are in transition to ethnic congregations.
- To fund programs for local churches to reach out to ethnic minorities in their communities.

This has been a year of transition in leadership for the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns. Our work so far has focused primarily on being good stewards of the funds we have received, to strengthen ethnic churches by providing financial support for leadership training. We were able to provide scholarships to four ethnic persons to attend the Leadership Development Convocation in Houston, Texas. We supported a project to provide leadership training and English as Second Language classes for the Latino/Hispanic population in the Charlotte community. We also were able to give financial support to the growing number of Montagnard, Asian population in the Western North Carolina Conference area. The committee has received requests to support several community projects planned for the near future.

Due to the cost controls placed on the conference budget by CF&A this year, our funds have been drastically reduced. We will continue to fund projects that meet the requirements for funding, based on the number of persons and communities that will be impacted by the project, until funds are depleted.

James Graves, Ministry Team Coordinator for Ethnic and Justice Ministries

d. SPIRITUAL FORMATION TASK FORCE

The WNCC Spiritual Formation* Task Force is composed of passionate people who seek, in their spiritual journeys, to keep Jesus Christ at the center of all life. We seek to plant deep roots in faith and spiritual disciplines so that we can grow into the full image of Jesus Christ. This is primarily an inward journey, an internal movement versus an external one, but always more effective in community. We are called to and created for relationships in Jesus’ name.

In this current season of transformation, we cling to the promises of God, the resurrected life of Jesus, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We have decided to keep up our efforts of sharing the disciplined life with one another. We continue to encourage each other, look for and work tirelessly to help implement God’s Kingdom in the here and now. We are committed to

the call of Christ upon us and have covenanted to pursue wholeness, healing, and health (growing in Christ's image).

The members of this group will inform and teach, promote, and encourage, the regular practice of spiritual disciplines throughout the WNCC. We exist as a resource for the WNC Conference to consult, present, foster, and facilitate aspects of spiritual formation. We share a wide diversity of experience and gifts throughout our participating members. We also have a wealth of collective wisdom that seeks to bless others.

We continue to host the "Day Apart" on the Wednesday before annual conference begins. This sacred time is much more than just another meeting. It is a concerted, genuine offering of fresh insights and nourishment in how the living Christ speaks to us, individually and collectively. It is a time and space for us to encounter holy living. We offer a wide range of venues (fun, music, art, didactic, reflective, etc.) that help us encounter Jesus. This time apart sets a different tone for conferencing each year.

On Wednesday evening, we host a worship service which serves as a vehicle to help set the atmosphere for conference prayerfully, thoughtfully, and spiritually. During this time, we have utilized many forms of worship and prayer (Taizé, contemplative, contemporary, Celtic, healing prayer, etc.)

We will host our fourth Five-Day Academy, an Upper Room-sponsored event, from May 16-21, 2010. Robert Mulholland and Luther Smith are our scheduled presenters for this event. The themes will be "The Place of Scripture in Spiritual Formation" and "Bearing Witness to the Kingdom of God in the World."

**Spiritual Formation is defined as a life-long journey of being conformed to the image of Christ in community, by the gracious work of God's Spirit (the Holy Spirit), for the sake of others (the world).*

For additional information you may contact:

Patience Brumley	704-598-0521 (H)	704-596-2143 (Cell)	pbrumley@carolina.rr.com
John Blalock	704-279-6939 (H)	704-798-3145 (Cell)	jblalock8@carolina.rr.com

Patience Brumley and John Blalock, Chairpersons

2. PROGRAM MINISTRIES

a. COMMISSION ON NURTURE MINISTRIES

Transition – that is the word that encompasses every aspect of the Nurture Commission this year. Along with our new Bishop, Larry Goodpaster, we welcomed Gloria Hughes, the new WNCC Coordinator of Christian Education and Nurture, to be our partners in ministry. As Gloria is learning her new job, we are in the midst of transitioning our ministry into a new configuration. The conference committees are in the process of being re-visioned, so we took this year to talk about and listen to where our ministry team thinks we should be heading, while also continuing the ministries we currently have: Weekday Childcare Workshop, Christian Educators Fellowship and Seminars, District Leadership Conferences, Generational Ministries, DISCIPLE Bible Study, Safe Sanctuaries, Camping/Retreat Ministries, and more. As with many other ministries, we have seen our funding shrink. We are responding by gearing our work to be empowering and relational. We intend to be good stewards of the resources we do have. We know we have uncertain ground ahead of us. As we look around to see where to go, we know "good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter." (Izaak Walton)

Even though much is changing around us, we know that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." *Hebrews 13:8*
Sarah E. H. McKinney, Chairperson

Children's Ministry Offerings

The ministries for children continue to grow and the stories are not only inspirational, but life-changing. The Hand in Hand Project, a ministry for children and youth, partners churches with area schools in the community to build solid relationships and facilitate ways to address the academic, social, and economic needs of children in local communities.

A team of folks in our conference has been writing a Vacation Bible School curriculum focused on missions in Southeast Asia. Sample lessons will be available at the 2009 Annual Conference with the hopes of having the materials published in 2010 and available for all churches in this conference and the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

The Weekday Workshop held at Matthews United Methodist Church gathered 1,200 preschool teachers, directors, and staff for two days of workshops, inspirational speakers, and networking. The Weekday Workshop for 2009 will be held at University City United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Children's Fund supports children in mission, helping children reach out to children beyond their own church locally and around the world.

The conference continues to offer weekend training events in human sexuality for older children, youth, and their parents. These educational events are designed to give children and youth a safe place to ask questions and open the lines of communication between their parents and one another. We feel it is imperative the church not allow the world to define human sexuality for children but offer a safe place to ask questions and gain a better understanding of us being wonderfully and marvelously created by God.

We look forward to the coming year with new eyes, new energies, and new visioning. We celebrate the countless blessings we have even in the midst of an economic crisis unlike any we have ever experienced or known. We go forward with confidence as we trust the Spirit of God for guidance, wisdom, and courage, to be the incarnation of Christ to our world.

I give God thanks for the sacred opportunity to walk this journey of faith with folks within the WNCC and look forward to all I have to glean from being a part of the ministry of all believers.

Christian Education and Leadership Development

The ministry of Christian Education continues to emerge in new and exciting ways across the Western North Carolina Conference and our world, empowering and educating God's people to follow Jesus, equipping them as the incarnation of Christ to make disciples, in the transformation of the world. We are making every effort to take the biblical and historical foundations we have been given and make them relevant to all ages and stages of life. We are working to equip and empower the laity within our local congregations through leadership development, study, and prayer to be leaders in their church and community.

- We are re-evaluating the effectiveness our District Leadership Conference training events so the leaders in our congregations go forth with confidence and clarity.
- Through the WNCC chapter of the Christian Educators Fellowship, we are sponsoring educational seminars to help folks in leadership positions in the local church who have little or no previous Christian Education training. These training seminars were held throughout our conference in the spring and will be offered again this fall.
- Clergy, educators, and laity have gathered for intentional conversation, visioning for the good of the Kingdom, and supporting one another in the ministry of all believers through Soul Café.
- We continue to offer workshops in the areas of spiritual formation, spiritual gifts assessment, Christian peer leadership development, baptism and call, teacher training, and Christian conferencing.

Gloria G. Hughes, WNCC Coordinator of Christian Education and Nurture

b. COMMISSION ON OUTREACH MINISTRIES

"Passionate Disciples in Mission"

The objectives of the Commission on Mission/Outreach are three-fold:

- To build up the awareness of missions within the churches of the Western North Carolina Conference, UMC;
- To adequately support these missions connected to the Western North Carolina Conference; and,
- To work with the churches of the Western North Carolina Conference to understand the funding of mission projects and missionaries through The United Methodist Church (i.e. The Advances and the Conference Advances).

In 2008, the mission giving of the Western NC Conference to The Advance went up over \$71,000 above 2007 (\$1,184,305.49) with more churches providing gifts. Our conference Advance Specials have also fared well. Several of our conference Advance projects are nearly fully-funded for 2009 (Project AGAPE, Good Samaritan Clinic). Volunteers in Mission continue to be active, and mission events, such as "Harvest of Blessings–West," were well-attended. Our new Mission Initiative: "World Hunger: Local, National, International," has been engaged by many congregations and will be strengthened through events scheduled for 2009 Annual Conference.

The Commission has set the following **goals through 2012**:

- To have every church in the Western NC Conference to support at least one General Advance Special or Conference Advance Special each year;
- To have 10% of the membership from all churches in the Western NC Conference as volunteers (Christian servants) in a ministry to the least, the last, and the lost by the end of 2012;
- To have at least 50% of the churches in the Western NC Conference involved in a United Methodist ministry to the least, the last, and the lost by the end of 2012;
- To have 100% of the churches in the Western NC Conference support the "World Hunger Mission Initiative" locally, nationally, and/or internationally, and;
- To establish a "Mission Speakers Bureau," including persons of all ages, for churches to use in missions events locally, or for district-wide and/or conference-wide events.

Churches are strongly encouraged to support its United Methodist missions locally, nationally, and around the globe.

Sandy Waldron, Chairperson

Michael Collins, WNCC Coordinator of Mission and Outreach

PROPOSAL: ADVANCE SPECIALS FOR 2009-10

(Petition 2) Approved June 11, 2009

WNCC Initiative for Africa University

General Advance Specials:

Salary support for missionaries related to the Western North Carolina Conference:

- Nicholas Gitobu Kithinju, Area Financial Executive for Southeast Asia, Cambodia (13077Z)
- Randy Hilderbrant, Director of Youth Ministries, The Jubilee Project, Sneedville, Tenn. (982961)
- Dwaine Morgan, Mission Response Center, Mooresville, NC (982923)
- Poto Valentine Shutsha, Wings of Sharing Ministry, D.R. Congo (14163Z)
- Vickie B. Sigmon, Open Arms Ministry, Winston-Salem, NC (982916-8)
- Clara Biswas, Social Worker, Cambodia (13952Z)

- Gordon Granger, Bolivia (10835Z)
- Ardell Granger, Bolivia (10836Z)
- Esther Gitobu, VIM Coordinator, Cambodia (13959Z)
- Fran Lynch, Church and Community Worker, Alaska (982950)
- Glen Rowley, Senegal (009682Z)
- Jacques Akasa Umembudi, Wings of Sharing Ministry, D.R. Congo (14020Z)
- Herbert Zigbuo, Gbarnga, Liberia (10911Z)
- Mary Zigbuo, Gbarnga, Liberia (10721Z)

Parish Partners Support:

- Alaska Missionary Conference (931027)
- Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (583634)
- Rio Grande Missionary Conference (531733)



Khmer liturgical dancer.

Other Projects:

- Africa Church Growth and Development Fund (08233T)
- Curamericas (10158A)
- Appalachian Regional Ministries (982041)
- Baltic Mission Center, Tallinn, Estonia (10923N)
- Bethlehem Center, Charlotte, NC (982149)
- Bethlehem Center, Winston-Salem, NC (982149)
- Cambodia Initiative, General (00230A) (Be specific as to intended use)
- Cherokee United Methodist Ministries (731144)
- Diengenga Technical School, Lodja, D.R. Congo, Equipment (15106B)
- English-Speaking Congregation, Vienna, Austria (12001A)
- Henderson Settlement, Ky. (773365)
- Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC (Program) (731372)
- John Wesley Primary School, Pinetown, South Africa (11033A)
- Mission in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (00234L)
- Nothing But Nets (982015)
- Red Bird Mission, Inc., Ky. (773726)
- Society of St. Andrew (Potato Project) (801600)
- Stop Hunger Now (982795)
- Lithuania Mission Initiative, Lithuania (12168A)
- Thiu Rancho Project, Bolivia (12309A)

UMCOR Projects:

- Bread for the World (982325)
- CROP (CWS) (982380)
- Disaster Response, U.S.A. (901670)
- Disaster Response, International (982450)
- Heifer Project International (982532)
- Sager Brown Depot (901515)
- World Hunger/Poverty (982920)

Annual Conference Mission Specials:

- Carolina Cross Connection (Camp/Home Repair/Outreach Ministry)
- Cherokee United Methodist Church Ministries (Poverty/Outreach Ministry)
- Conference Disaster Response Fund (Disaster Response/Outreach Ministry)
- DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministry (Prison/Outreach Ministry)
- Faith Action International House (Faith Connections Ministry)
- Food Banks (Specify: Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem) (World Hunger Ministry)
- Gifts of Grace Family Help Center, Birzai UMC, Lithuania (through WNCC)
- Golden Cross – WNCC (Healthcare/Outreach Ministry)
- Hands of Hope, Anson County (Generational Poverty/Outreach Ministry)
- Kenya Partner Ministries (Poverty/Outreach Ministry)
- Open Arms Community, Winston-Salem, NC (Child/Poverty/Outreach Ministry)
- Prison MATCH of North Carolina, Inc. (Child/Prison/Outreach Ministry)
- Project AGAPE, Armenia (Poverty/Outreach Ministry)
- Salkehatchie Summer Service – WNCC (Camp/Home Repair/Outreach Ministry)
- Scandinavian Caravan – WNCC (Faith Connections Ministry)
- Thomasboro Community of Shalom (Poverty/Faith Connections Ministry)

- Step-by-Step, Inc. (Home Repair/VIM/Outreach Ministry)
- Wesley Community Development Corporation (Home Repair/VIM Ministry)
- UMAR-WNC, Inc. (Ministry to Special Needs Persons)
- WNCC Building Teams (VIM/Outreach Ministry)
- WNCC United Methodist Deaf Ministry (Ministry with Special Needs Persons)
- WNCC Good Samaritan Clinic, Dominican Republic (Generational Poverty/VIM/Medical Outreach Ministry)
- Mission Response Center, Terrell, NC (VIM/Outreach Ministry)
- Word of God (Child Sponsorship/Community Ministry)
- Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina (Prison/Outreach Ministry)

Other Opportunities in Mission:

- Children's Fund for Christian Mission
- Bishop's Initiative on Children in Poverty
- Youth Service Fund
- Permanent Fund: Encounter Christ (025100)
- Special Sundays
- Human Relations Day
- Native American Awareness
- World Communion
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Peace with Justice
- UM Student Day
- WNCC Special Sundays
- Project AGAPE Sunday
- DISCIPLE Bible Outreach
- Medical Mission Teams
- Mission Congregations (as designated by Congregational Development)

Congo (D.R.C.) Coordinating Committee

The D.R. Congo Coordinating Committee meets on a quarterly basis, dealing with aspects associated to the mission work within the Central Conference of the D.R.C. There is change in the air. In a meeting of all partnerships of the D.R.C., held in Charlotte, on March 12, 2009, an agreement was reached to work as a "commission" – working together to meet the needs within the country.

The following conferences, organizations, and personnel were at the meeting: Western North Carolina Conference, Peninsula/Delaware, Western New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Foundation, and Bishops David Kekumba Yemba and Larry M. Goodpaster. This new commission will pave the way for the future mission partnership.

Michael Collins, on behalf of the Committee

Golden Cross

In the spirit of Jesus, who was concerned with the whole person and who brought physical and emotional healing, as well as spiritual healing, Golden Cross is a ministry of compassion that helps bring health and wholeness to the people of our churches. This is done through benevolent grants to families who struggle to pay overwhelming medical bills and who sometimes forego needed medical treatment or medicine because they cannot afford it. Since 2000, more than 400 families of our churches have been assisted by Golden Cross, including 43 families in 2008.

The grants given in 2008 were made possible by a conference benevolence grant of \$30,000 and special offerings and gifts in the amount of \$13,991.68 from 78 churches and from individuals giving directly to the Golden Cross Fund. District directors of Golden Cross are an important link in this ministry, and to each director a special thank you for work with and in support of this ministry.

Golden Cross faces a strong challenge in 2009. With regards to the current economic crisis, Golden Cross expects a significant increase of requests in 2009 and 2010. At the same time, due to limited benevolence funding from the conference, the 2009 Golden Cross grants will come 100 percent from gifts and offerings given by the people of our conference. Therefore the following proposals:

PROPOSAL: GOLDEN CROSS

(Petition 3) Approved June 11, 2009

1. That every church that has not yet done so in 2009, designate and observe, before the end of 2009, a Golden Cross Sunday in which this compassionate ministry will be verbally recognized and an offering invited, encouraging every worshiper to give a minimum of \$1 to assist families of our conference struggling with overwhelming and often unexpected medical bills; and, as part of this observance, churches will remind parishioners that Golden Cross is for them if they should find themselves in a similar situation of need.
2. That every church include in its 2010 calendar a designated Sunday for observance and support of the ministry of Golden Cross. The first Sunday of May is the traditional Golden Cross Sunday, but another may be chosen if more appropriate for a church's schedule.

A. Gayle Ford, Director

Mission Response Center

In 2008, humanitarian work continued with fervor at the MRC, Mission Response Center. *"We have been flying with the eagles,"* says Dwaine Morgan.

Our accomplishments included:

- Two truckloads of UMCOR supplies were sent to Sager Brown Center, that included 1,483 flood buckets and 7,934 hygiene, school, layette and sewing kits.
- Three shipments of donated clothes, tools, school and health supplies, bedding, sewing materials, and much more, valued at \$109,212, were sent to Armenia. This was the most shipments in one year.
- \$8,135 of donated goods were given to local food pantries, shelters, and other mission organizations.

The completion of the bathrooms and enlarged office/meeting space at the MRC have made for a much more comfortable place for the volunteer groups and the Church and Community Worker, Dwaine Morgan, to work. Other improvements included selling the two Fruehauf trailers that have been sitting idle on the property, reducing our inventory of old lawn care equipment, and the purchase of two good mowers.

The heart of the operation is faithful volunteers and teams, teens through senior citizens. We celebrated 41 visits from 24 different church work teams during the year. They are the folks that make these shipments happen. Many come on a monthly basis and others as needed. We are grateful for these hard workers.

All this work is directed by our dedicated Dwaine Morgan, who works tirelessly planning for the team visits, arranging for the receipt of donated goods, sending shipments from the MRC, and organizing some semblance of order in the midst of what could be chaotic piles of donated goods. We must thank everyone who offers gifts and donations.

Barb and Ed Gross, Co-Chairpersons of the Mission Response Center Board

Dwaine Morgan, Church and Community Worker, Mission Response Center

Project AGAPE

In 2008, Project AGAPE continued its vital ministry in Armenia for the 15th straight year, with an emphasis on supporting the Dairy Cow Project started in 2006. From 2006 to 2007, pregnant heifers were given to 43 families to raise. These families in turn were to pass along offspring of the cows to others in the community. In 2008, AGAPE celebrated with the local families as this sharing started. Raya Muradyan was one of the first beneficiaries of this project. *"My heart was filled up with an ineffable joy when I was granted this cow. This is a heavenly gift for our family. I'll be able not only to keep my family, but also to put a cross-stone on my husband's grave..."* In November 2008, she passed on a pregnant heifer to Suzanna Tonapetyan's family and Suzanna expressed her thanks, *"I don't know how to express my gratitude. May God bless all those good Christians far away who help people like me, reminding us one more time, that we are not alone."* (Suzanna moved to Berdzor with her husband 12 years ago. They fell on hard times when her husband died and she was left alone with their young son who was born in the AGAPE hospital shortly after their arrival.) Project AGAPE continues to administer the Animal Project as other cows are shared in the community.

As in the rest of the world, the downturn in the economy has stressed the ministry. The staff continues to be dedicated and has worked even harder this year, giving more hours at the same or a lesser rate of pay. They continue to sacrifice to help their neighbors in need.

During the past year WNCC UMC donated over 1,500 Christmas boxes for the children in Berdzor, as well as much-needed donations of clothing, new shoes, food, sewing goods, and hygiene products. Last July, a VIM Building team rebuilt a local family's home so that they would have a safe, secure, and sanitary home. Part of the team also provided medical mission assistance to the hospital and its staff in Berdzor. This summer's (2009) VIM team plans to rebuild two family homes.

We are grateful for the Conference's continued support and that of many churches and individuals. The Project AGAPE Board is responsible for raising approximately \$65,000 each year to sustain this ministry. Please encourage your church and individuals to give generously. You can do so by becoming a member of the Fellowship of 1000 or by making a donation to Project AGAPE. Please, go to the Web site or the blog for more information about your ministry in Armenia and details on how to support it: www.wnccumc.org/vim/vim-WorldDesks.htm or <http://worlddesk-europe.blogspot.com>.

Rev. Cecil Donahue, Chairperson, Project AGAPE Board of Directors

Town and Country Committee

The WNCC Town and Country Committee has been quite busy this year as we transitioned our focus of ministry. In late 2007, a new Vision Statement was developed that serves as our driving force:

As the WNCC Town and Country Committee, our vision is to empower smaller membership churches and communities in transition.

To see their value in God's eyes

To develop a sacred vision that grows into strategic initiatives using available resources

To bear fruit for the Kingdom of God

Through funding from The Duke Endowment, we continue to offer scholarship assistance to ministries that fulfill the vision of Town and Country. However, our main emphasis has been to work towards reclaiming the joy of ministry in Town and Country settings.

We are attempting to do this through a great partnership with the United Methodist Rural Fellowship and the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative. Jeremy Troxler has led us in developing "The Mustard Seed Movement" that will consist of groups of 10-12 clergy and laity who meet once a month to discuss and celebrate the ministry in rural settings, using a guided study of

scripture and accountability. A pilot program is currently being offered in the western part of our conference. This movement will continue to grow in Fall 2009.

Town and Country expresses appreciation to The Duke Endowment for funding and active participation in the development of "The Mustard Seed Movement." We appreciate the hard work of Mark Barden as our conference staff liaison. Mike Collins, WNCC Coordinator of Mission/Outreach, has kept us plugged in to the structure of our conference, and we are grateful. We look for exciting leadership to come from Town and Country Ministries as we celebrate the vital role of Town and Country churches!

David Christy, Chairperson, Town AND Country Committee

Volunteers In Mission

Volunteers continue to follow God into the world! Medical teams, education teams, and building teams continue to be sent to places including, but not limited to Bulgaria, Armenia, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Cambodia, Vietnam, South Africa, Belize ... youth, young adults, senior adults ... all are finding a place for ministry. While we have committees that send out teams (see reports below), the majority of the teams are sent through churches, groups, or districts.

Team members provided a range of services: cooking for other groups, packing survivor kits, building homes and churches, teaching VBS, performing surgeries and eye-care services. Based on the government's estimated value of volunteer services (\$18.04 per hour), Volunteers in Mission of the WNCC in 2008 provided over \$10,071,000 in services, in addition to approximately \$2,800,000 towards materials.

Michael Collins, Director of Volunteer Response Ministries

Building Teams

Because of the world economic situation, we have had to reduce the number of building teams for 2009. A total of 26 teams will be sent out in 2009, to 12 foreign countries and the state of Alaska. More than 400 team members will be building relationships with fellow Christians and helping with many projects. Teams will work on the renovation of a mission center, build new sanctuaries, work on additions to sanctuaries and education buildings, renovate a clinic, work on parsonages, and work on church fellowship buildings.

The Building Team Committee supports teams from local churches by providing insurance and opportunities for training team leaders. We continue to investigate opportunities to send combined teams with building/medical/educational components.

We are grateful for the financial support of our annual conference and for the many gifts received from local churches and individuals which enable us to supply building materials for our teams and scholarships for special needs. Our volunteers pay their own way and give of their valuable time to be the hands and feet of our Lord, to build relationships and structures for the glory of God.

Alec Alvord, Chairperson

Disaster Response

We have had another year without major hurricane activity in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. This has given us an opportunity to respond to smaller disasters, volunteer assistance outside our normal response area, and to focus on the changes required in our response protocol.

Disaster response efforts in the Waynesville area were completed last August. Second generation monies for that area were used to launch the Step-by-Step Ministries, Inc. program, which has been very successful. Thirty needy families have received assistance, and work on their houses has either been finished or is in construction.

FEMA/UMCOR requirements for Early Response have changed, and to apply for a new badge, each person must go through the new training. This involves a six-hour training class with more emphasis on participation and sensitivity. A team's membership requires a listener, which is a perfect position for a Stephen Minister. Under the old requirements, about 2,000 people were trained. Now approximately 400 people have been qualified or re-qualified for Early Response.

The Western North Carolina Conference is now well-equipped to respond to most disasters. We have well-equipped trailers, some owned by the conference, some owned by districts, and others owned by individual churches. We also have a number of towing vehicles capable of delivering our equipment immediately upon request.

Disaster Response volunteers have responded to many locations this year (including South Carolina and Kentucky) and have provided a Christian presence to people whose lives have been turned into chaos. Money donated from many sources has been dispersed to victims both inside and outside the United States through a special appeal offering received in September 2008.

Larry Pryor, Chairperson

Medical Volunteers In Mission

Good Samaritan Clinic in Batey 7, Dominican Republic, continues to be the focus of this committee. We are fortunate enough this year to be able to continue to support the clinic financially. The clinic is very active and sees patients daily, supplemented by outreach teams from the Western North Carolina Conference. Three teams from WNCC saw over 2,000 patients and performed over 200 operations in 2008. In addition, Dr. Jorge Volquez was assisted by several other teams from other areas of the country (Ohio, South Carolina, and Georgia). Clinic supporters not only provided medical care, but provided a better clean water source for the Batey. They also developed a women's center attached to the church, which is part of the clinic compound. This center was dedicated in January 2009, and will begin a 140-hour sewing technical class which will prepare women and men in the

Batey for work in local industries, as well as a potential cottage industry.

The Haiti Mission continues to be a vibrant outreach in Northern Haiti. The clinic has been maintained with new efforts to assist HIV patients. Teams continue to travel to Haiti four times a year.

It is the hope of the Medical VIM Committee to become more inclusive by involving other WNCC medical efforts. Though our budget remains constrained, we hope that information-sharing will help coordinate and enhance the efforts of hearts longing to help the health needs of the poor.

Mike Barringer, M.D., Chairperson, Medical VIM Committee

Wesley Community Development Corporation

A very generous grant from The Duke Endowment allowed the conference to establish Wesley Community Development Corporation ("Wesley CDC") in 2002. The mission of this non-profit organization is to build "*communities of grace and hope*" by constructing high-quality, energy-efficient, affordable homes across the conference for all who qualify, regardless of religion, race, creed, handicap, gender, age, family status, or national origin. "*Affordable*" housing is obtained through layers of low cost loans, grants, and subsidies so that a quality home may be built for low- and very low-income families, with house payments they can afford.

Volunteers are very important to the program. Volunteer labor is used in order to reduce construction costs, and this savings is passed on to the homeowner. We have two mobile homes that are set up for housing volunteer teams that work with us at Wesley CDC. All of the homeowners must contribute their own volunteer labor to the construction of their homes.

All Wesley CDC homes are built to very high standards of energy efficiency. When completed, our homeowners receive a guarantee that their heating and cooling costs will not exceed an average of \$40 per month for the first two years that they own their home.

In order to qualify for this ministry, a client must have a household income below 80% of the median income for the county of residence. A client with a household income below 50% of the median income is considered to be very low income, and special financial considerations may apply. Following client identification and qualification, support includes a close-working relationship with the client and related agencies to obtain the best possible financing. Other services include financial counseling, debt reduction training, support for credit improvement efforts, and homeowner training. To date, over 60 homes in eight counties in western North Carolina have been completed. The counseling program has been successful: to date, a homeowner has not been lost to foreclosure.

Even though 2008 was a challenging year, we were able to work in close cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA), the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), and Surry County Housing Consortium (SCHC) to complete 10 homes and close on 7 of these homes. The second faith-based home was completed, in Liberty, near Greensboro, where we worked in partnership with Tabernacle UMC, Meschach's Carpenters, and several other local churches. The third and newest faith-based home is currently under construction in Brevard where the lead local church is St. Timothy UMC.

In 2009, our goal is to complete construction of 16 single-family homes. Most of these homes will be in our developments in Yadkinville, Olin, and Troutman; however, we also see the opportunity to increase participation of churches throughout the conference in the "Faith-Based" program.

The rental housing initiative was started at the end of 2007. We are currently involved in planning and site acquisition for our first rental housing projects. The vision is that each rental housing community will provide us with an opportunity to lead credit counseling and homebuyer education classes at the rental community center, and many of the renters will eventually become qualified to be homeowners in one of the single-family communities.

Roy J. Helm, Jr., President

Rev. Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors

PROPOSAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WESLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Petition 4) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the 2009 Annual Conference as members of that board:

Arnetta Beverly
Randolph H. Harry
Stephen H. Kirby
Valerie B. Rosenquist
Samuel H. Smith, Jr.

Joel Gilliland
Oliver W. Helsabeck
Dennis B. Marshall
David E. Smith, Jr.

Walter Hand
Coley Hooker
Helen Rogers
Leigh Ann Smith

Conference Director of Volunteer Ministries

C. COMMISSION ON WITNESS MINISTRIES

In this final year of the Witness Commission, the main orders of business have been to consider how to best hand off responsibilities for the ministries entrusted to the leadership of the commission to the new structure.

Many of the functions of the Witness Commission were absorbed into the Office of Congregational Development and the Board of Congregational Development at the 2008 Special Session of the Annual Conference.

These main responsibilities remained:

Art of the Start – a program for pastors in their first appointments in the conference which orients them to their connectional, evangelism, and stewardship responsibilities. This program will continue to function as a part of the responsibility of the Leadership Development Team.

Church of Excellence Awards – the Witness Commission has recognized a deep flaw in the way this program is configured. When the commission merged the two sets of standards for the Five Star Excellence in Mission and the Church of Excellence Awards, the combined standard was so high that only two or three churches have qualified and many churches with superb ministries have missed out on both celebrating the blessing they have been in their communities and illustrating the best practices of churches that lead to excellence and fruitfulness. So the Witness Commission has retained the old standards for this last year, but hands off the Church of Excellence Awards to the Congregational Excellence Team with encouragement to create a new set of criteria and a new process for acknowledging excellence and publishing the best practices that are being observed in the conference.

Denman Awards – The Witness Commission has selected lay and clergy persons and a group to receive the Denman Awards for Excellence in Evangelism for 2009. We hand the responsibility for this award to the Leadership Development Team to consider how to receive nominations and make these awards going forward.

We are grateful for the work of the Witness Commission members during this final year and release them to new arenas of leadership in the annual conference, as this commission dissolves at the election of the new Connectional Table.

John Fitzgerald
Pat Stevens
Steve James
Nicholas L. Rochester
Rodney H. Hagans, Jr.
Timothy S. Killian
Thomas R. Steagald
J. Mark Weekley
Robert Kerr
Roger D. Weisner

C. Ray Davis
Daniel V. Miller
John Fitzgerald
Andrea Conder
Jill Rhinehart
Alfred L. Beck, Jr.
Keith Bingham
Virginia Braswell
Richard Rhodes
Carolyn Perlman

Pat Stevens
Linda McKinney
Jack Young
Wanda Carpenter
Carolyn Potter
Mike Baumberger
Pat Merricks
Jerry Hatfield
Tim Krotchko
William Sharpe

Linda Masters
Rosa Reynolds
Melvin K. Burton
Darrin Everhart
Ronald D. Perry
Charles Long
Stephen Pillsbury
Val Rosenquist
Sarah Melvin
Kara Westmoreland

Children learned about mission and outreach through crafts and storytelling. The WNCC offices of Mission/Outreach and Christian Education and Nurture coordinated the curriculum and activities, which can be used for Vacation Bible School.



The children “visited” countries in Southeast Asia with their “passports” and learned about the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ on the other side of the world. For more information, contact mcollins@wnccumc.org or ldviney@wnccumc.org.

3. ADVOCACY AGENCIES

a. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Because the ecumenical organization known as Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) in which United Methodists have been in dialogue with eight other protestant denominations has failed to develop a constitution or program to which all of the participating bodies could agree, the current work of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the work of our local commission has recently been directed toward a study of dialogues between United Methodists and certain other individual denominations. Interim Eucharistic Sharing is an agreement between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), one of the member denominations of CUIC, to which our General Conference agreed in 2008 and to which ELCA is expected to agree this year, with the result that those two denominations will then be in Full Communion.

United Methodists are also in a similar dialogue with the Episcopal Church, another member denomination of CUIC, which could lead to Full Communion with that denomination. Our local Commission is also seeking to encourage Pan-Methodist dialogues among the three predominately African American Methodist denominations and The United Methodist Church. We are exploring interfaith communications with the other Abrahamic faiths – Judaism and Islam.

Our local commission has recently been engaging in a survey of Western North Carolina Conference districts to determine what ecumenical work is being done between our individual churches and individual congregations of other Christian denominations, as well as Jewish and Muslim faiths. Several districts have already reported significant activity of that nature and others have agreed to continue to pursue the survey in their districts.

A number of Western North Carolina United Methodists are active with the North Carolina Council of Churches and our participation extends to both financial and programmatic support. That organization will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010 and is planning to mark the occasion with appropriate ceremonies in which United Methodists are expected to participate.

The annual LARCUM meeting of the bishops of the United Methodist, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran and Catholic churches was held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, on May 18 and 19. As always, all United Methodists, both lay and clergy, were invited to attend. The featured speaker was Dr. Mohammed Lohdi. His subject was “Understanding Islam.”

A representative of our annual conference, Sarah McKinney, of North Wilkesboro, NC, has recently been appointed to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns in New York City. She is now serving on our local commission in that capacity.

Sydnor Thompson, Chairperson and Bishop's Ecumenical Liaison

b. COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The members of WNCC Commission on Religion and Race continue their commitment to follow the mandate outlined in *The Book of Discipline*:

To challenge the general agencies, institution, and connectional structures of The United Methodist Church to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire Church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness. ¶ 2002 (2008 Book of Discipline)

In order to fulfill this mandate, it is the responsibility of the WNCC Commission on Religion and Race to 1) Give voice to the issues and concerns of racial ethnic people; 2) Counsel church leaders and members on different facets of racially-inclusive church and society; 3) Facilitate workshops and develop resource materials related to issues of racism, diversity, and inclusiveness; 4) Empower racial ethnic groups; 5) Sensitize the church about racism, and 6) Monitor and evaluate racial and cultural inclusiveness on all levels of the church.

WNCC CORR continues to work on the development of an Inclusiveness/Affirmative Action Policy for our annual conference; additional time is needed in the formulation of such a policy.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., program was held in January of 2009. An essay contest was held. Jung Woo Lee, a youth member at Wesley UMC, Charlotte, was recognized for his essay telling how he would apply Dr. King's philosophy of social justice to immigration, migration, and assimilation today.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster addressed the crowd at Coburn UMC, Salisbury, reminding that we build walls that keep us apart. As the body of Christ, we're not given the task of building walls, but tearing them down. He used Jesus as an example of one who tore down walls by associating with those who were outcasts to others. With respect to Dr. King's dream, the bishop said the dream keeps unfolding and urged everyone to tear down walls to promote unity in the body of Christ. As he closed worship with the celebration of The Lord's Supper, Bishop Goodpaster highlighted the theme of the day, “Re-Membering the Body of Christ,” by saying, “In the end, we will be re-membered as the body celebrating communion of Christ, around the table.” He reminded us it is time to take ACTION.

CORR also took part in the Summit on Poverty and Suffering at an event on March 28, at First UMC, Conover, NC. This is the second phase of a three-part series designed to:

- Build on the conference vision emphasis to “Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World.”
- Remind persons and churches of the call of Jesus and our Wesleyan heritage.

- Offer models of ministry being used in various locales across North Carolina to reach out to the poor and suffering and beckon local churches to make a covenant to be in ministry with them.

We would like to thank Kathy FitzJefferies for four years of hard work and the positive changes that were performed under her leadership as CORR Chairperson.

Donna M. Young, Chairperson

c. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women began a new quadrennium this past year. Elections for chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary were held on July 15. Peggy Wilkerson was elected chairperson, Betty Jeanne Day was elected vice-chairperson, and Catherine Turman was elected as secretary. We met on September 13 at the Conference Center in Charlotte to make plans. Our first priority was to begin work on the quadrennial survey on clergywomen. An investigative task force was chosen to oversee this project. Those chosen were the Reverends Mark Curtis, Amelia Stinson-Wesley, Debra Short, Karen Easter, and Mark Barden. After developing a plan and getting cost estimates, the commission was unable to pursue the survey due to budget restraints. We are planning to work on funding and administering the survey next year.

We, as the previous commission, remain committed to providing education about the gifts and talents of lay and clergy women across our annual conference, as well as being committed to addressing the inequity of compensation between clergywomen and clergymen. We are also committed to the advocate program, whereby trained lay and clergy persons are assigned by the bishop to stand with a person bringing charges of misconduct against a clergyperson. We support the Board of Ordained Ministry's continued training of all clergy in the area of clergy sexual ethics, but as the previous commission, we would like to see an office of clergy sexual ethics established within the annual conference to oversee both the training and continuing education of clergy in this area. This office could also provide resources and support to those adjudicating complaints of misconduct. We would like to see more resources address the long-term issues facing congregations where a breach of trust has occurred.

We, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, will continue the work God has given us in this new quadrennium. We will face all our tasks in a prayerful manner, leaning on God's understanding and not our own.

Peggy Wilkerson, Chairperson

d. COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The Committee on African American Ministries continues to be an advocate for Strengthening the Black Church in the 21st Century and for enhancing the relationship between all churches within the Western North Carolina Conference. The Black Clergy/Laity Convocation will be held September 18-19, 2009 at Muir's Chapel United Methodist Church and the DoubleTree Hotel in Greensboro. Our theme will be "Leadership that Follows Leadership from Generation to Generation." Through worship services and workshops, it is our hope to demonstrate that each generation of leaders leaves a legacy for other leaders to follow and emulate, from the builders' generation to the Y-generation. It is also our intention to demonstrate that we are all connected in this journey to spiritual wholeness, as we cling to the belief that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female: for all of [us] are one in Christ Jesus" *Galatians 3:28*.

In an effort to strengthen our churches so that they may make disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to accomplish the following goals:

- Assist in the training and development of clergy and lay leaders;
- Foster partnerships between churches;
- Assist in the articulation and implementation of visions, missions, and goals;
- Enhance clergy and laity's spiritual growth and faith formation;
- Encourage participation in clergy and laity covenant peer groups, thereby instituting accountability measures;
- Provide training in witness and evangelism unique to the African American culture;
- Transmit the church's love of God to local communities, countries, and the world through intensive missionary work that eliminates poverty, improves health, creates new places for new people, and encourages leaders to follow the Great Commission;
- Assist in solving the needs, problems, and issues unique to the black church;
- Support other ethnic minorities in their quest for spiritual wholeness and inclusiveness;
- Strengthen congregational development through vibrant worship.

Through the accomplishment of these goals, the committee plans to play a vital role in our conference by encouraging and enhancing unity that values diversity.

Tiajuana F. Mosby, Chairperson

e. COMMITTEE ON ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The Committee on Asian American Ministries is still working hard to connect with other Asian American churches. We find this challenging, but rewarding, work. Many Asian churches have been functioning independently from their inception and are unfamiliar with the connectional system of The United Methodist Church. Understanding and trust are the primary goals we need to work toward as we strive to partner with our sister churches.

Even with the downturn in the economy, which has affected many churches financially, especially the smaller churches like St. John's United Methodist, the church I pastor in Charlotte, we want to continue work on the "Asian American Heritage

Celebration” for 2009. This training event for Asian clergy, held in cooperation with the North Carolina Conference, is currently in the planning stages.

An exciting development for the Asian community is the welcoming of a Christian fellowship from Burma. Numbering approximately 40 people, this group wants to partner with the Asian American churches through the United Methodist denomination and St. John’s UMC.

Despite the challenges we face, our efforts to work for unity among Asian American churches and others is pressing forward. It is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we will eventually achieve this goal.

Samuel Om, Chairperson

f. COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Committee on Church and Society has been involved this year in several of its core areas.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Boyd Holliday, the Environmental Justice Coordinator, lay and clergy members of the WNC Conference met to form an Environmental Justice Working Group. The purpose of the group was to draw the attention of the conference to issues of environmental justice, and to encourage efforts for environmental sustainability in homes and congregations throughout the conference.

Environmental justice, as opposed to simple environmentalism, is focused on the totality of our responsibility to care for the earth, especially as it relates to the living conditions of the poor: their health and safety, and their food, and energy security. Environmental degradation starts with irresponsible use of the resources God has given us, especially by those with the most wealth; but, its harmful effects fall disproportionately on those at the margins of society: the poor, ethnic and social minorities, and refugees. So indeed it is an issue of justice, as well as of stewardship.

The new Peace with Justice coordinator is Greg Gordon. One-half of our Peace with Justice offerings stay within our conference. It has been used this year to fund scholarship grants for those attending events such as Ecumenical Advocacy days. We continue to support *Churches for Middle East Peace*.

This year our committee was a co-sponsor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in Salisbury. The event was well-attended, and the collaboration with Religion and Race was a successful one. We achieved our goal of making it a more inclusive event. Some of the good features of past events that were not included this time will be considered for future events, as resources allow. We were once again one of the sponsors of the Poverty Summit event.

With a new quadrennium, there is a new version of the *Social Principles*. Again we are encouraging every church in the annual conference to hold a study of the *Social Principles*. A training class was held in the Gastonia DLC this year, and we plan to have classes in other districts. A PowerPoint presentation is available for download on the conference Web site, and links to other resources should be available by the time you get this report.

Stephen F. Lee, Chairperson

g. COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES

After a year of prayer, work, meetings, and fellowship, we rejoice together now, that we have the opportunity to present to you our 2009 Annual Conference report.

First it is necessary to praise the Lord for His presence and direction in our daily lives and ministry.

During this year, we met almost every month in order to respond to the challenges of the Hispanic/Latino ministries in our conference. Our work has been in five particular areas: (a) Leadership and training (b) Revitalization of the existing mission work (c) The projection of a comprehensive plan for the Hispanic ministry (d) A study of possibilities for the expansion of Hispanic Ministries and (e) The companionship and interaction between ministries.

In the process of approaching the challenges for ministry, we received the support of people and organizations that we would like to recognize and to thank: Pfeiffer University, The Duke Endowment, the staff of the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo, Dr. Justo Gonzalez, Dr. Rinaldo Hernandez, Dr. Jorge Mayorga. We want to recognize our brother David Ortigoza who worked as the Conference and Jurisdictional Coordinator, in addition to his local pastoral duties, and gave the best of himself to help us develop our ministries. We also want to thank the pastors, lay people, and members of the different congregations around our conference who open the doors to us, and who give from their resources to support our ministries with love and care.

What does the future hold for us? We have a tremendous challenge: The Hispanic community is growing to the point that today it is the largest minority in this country. This community contains the highest rate of undocumented people around our nation. But at the same time, it is the one that needs to experience the power and grace that we all receive from our common Savior Jesus Christ and which we have been called to share: God’s love, service, and grace in our everyday journeys.

Today we hear many stories, and we read different opinions from the secular world, but we need to remember that we are a Church, a church created under the paradigm of “Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World.” Additionally, we claim that we, as Methodists, are an open door church.

Join us in this coming year and be part of confronting the challenges that we have. It is time of harvest. We are God’s instruments in the field.

Rev. Samuel Castro, Chairperson

Rev. David Ortigoza, Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministries

h. COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Due to the economic crisis, the WNCC Committee on Native American Ministries is, as are other committees, learning to reach its goals by partnering with other programs. Our strategic plan is to partner and piggyback on other program meetings in order to limit the number of meetings per year and to cut costs. In June, we sponsored 15 youth to attend the SEJANAM Summer Conference. There our youth met with youth from other Native American churches in the jurisdiction. The youth led an awesome worship service, showing the older adults how important youth participation is to the church. Our youth came away revitalized and determined to be an active part of each individual church's worship, structure, planning, and the overall ministry. Thus, the CONAM accomplished its goal of more youth involvement and leadership in the local church and the district.

The CONAM held its first teleconference in 2008. We are currently working on a new brochure for the CONAM. We sponsored one candidate to attend Local Pastors' Licensing School. The committee is striving to "Follow Jesus, to Make Disciples and to Transform the World."

Submitted by Connie Locklear, Chairperson

4. RESOURCE CENTER MINISTRY TEAM

This has been an exciting year for the WNCC Resource Center. The Center, nicknamed The Fishin' Hole, has lived up to its name as hundreds of churches signed up to "fish" for resources. Over 4,500 resources are catalogued into our new Surpass CL library management system, and over 1,000 pastors, teachers and church leaders have signed up to reserve resources online from the new Web Safari catalog: <http://wncccatalog.surpasssoftware.com/wncc/>. A curriculum fair for the new Rock Solid children's curriculum was held last summer, and we had displays at several conference events. This year, we are emphasizing the "green" aspect of the Resource Center—where you can reuse and recycle resources rather than purchasing them for one-time use. In addition, Sonja Clough, the coordinator, along with Sandi McGarrah, an environmental specialist, led three workshops at district leadership conferences to help educate church leaders on the responsibilities of caring for God's creation. The Resource Center ministry team is looking forward to another year of providing quality resources for the churches of our conference as a vital participant in the total conference vision to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples and Transform the World."

Barbara Barden, Chairperson

C. OFFICE OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conference year 2008-2009 has been a year of transition for the Office of Congregational Development. The merging of the staff roles of Director of Connectional Ministries with that of Director of Congregational Development, the reorganization of the annual conference and the formation of a newly-conceived and elected Board of Congregational Development generated many opportunities to RETHINK CHURCH. What is emerging is an extension and revision of Western North Carolina's historic commitment to start new congregations to reach new people for Jesus Christ and to bring existing congregations to such vitality and health that they are growing, disciple-making churches at work transforming the world.

Starting New Churches

The conference made a renewed commitment to starting new churches by refocusing the work of the district superintendents to be primary agents of congregational development in the conference. The cabinet has fully embraced this work with significant signs of that commitment: 12 of the 15 district superintendents attended the 2008 School of Congregational Development. Every superintendent has engaged in prayerful consideration of the congregational development opportunities in their district. Several new district boards of congregational development were formed. Every district was represented at the Bishop's Partners for Growth events. New and creative partnerships are being explored and some are being implemented even at this annual conference. The cabinet is becoming conversant with church planting, multi-site, video venues, virtual campuses, emergent church ministries and other new developments in church planting. The cabinet's commitment to this work is healthy and growing stronger.

We have extended the discernment process for new church planter candidates in a way that we believe will help us identify superb new church planters. We are working alongside Path 1 and the other congregational developers in the Southeastern Jurisdiction to identify planter candidates in our seminaries and we will be working with our young clergy networks, campus ministries, and ministries with young people to encourage new candidates for church planting to recognize the call God is placing on their lives. This year we are also appointing a planter candidate to a full-time internship in church planting as an experimental initiative to increase our fruitfulness in effective church launches.

The bishop and cabinet will be making appointments that will initiate three new missions (new church starts) in July 2009. Two other new missions are projected but those appointments will not be made until after annual conference. All of these plants have associated with them very successful, faithful church partners. The Bishop's Partners for Growth invitations have revealed several dozen churches who have begun to sense a call from God to partner with God and the conference to launch new missions to reach people for Jesus Christ. These are not all in urban or suburban areas! Potential partnerships are beginning to emerge at every corner of the annual conference and even in the most rural districts.

The local churches of the annual conference entrusted over \$850,000 for the work of congregational development in 2008. This faithful investment demonstrates the tangible commitment of hundreds of pastors and churches and tens of thousands of

individual people. The conference approved the development of additional funds to start new churches and strengthen existing churches. The apportioned resources and the gifts of hundreds of individual donors will make it possible for the conference to provide start-up funds for 30 new churches over the next five years. It is critically important for our conference to increase its capacities in several areas in order to start this many churches:

- New Church Partners for Growth emerging from among our 250 healthiest congregations.
- Additional church planter candidates emerging from among our young adults, both lay and clergy and from our most fruitful congregations.
- Prayerful discernment of God's leading in reaching people in dozens of communities around the annual conference.
- Additional financial resources through more churches fully supporting the congregational development apportionment.
- Additional financial resources through individual donors to the Vital Partners for Growth.

Strengthening existing churches

Natural Church Development has been an important tool in our efforts to strengthen existing churches. We have learned much in the last couple of years about how best to use this tool. One critical key learning is that it takes an extended, focused effort over a two-year period to reap the most consistent benefits from the Natural Church Development process. We are now training coaches in-house with two certified coach trainers in the conference. We also process the diagnostic tool in the conference which allows us to capture aggregate health information for all the churches in a district or in the conference so we can track progress on a large scale. We hope to have 50 churches actively engaged in a Natural Church Development process during conference year 2009-2010.

Partnerships – while we are encouraging creative partnerships to launch new churches, we are also seeing fruitful partnerships among existing churches as ways to renew their effectiveness and fruitfulness in ministry. An important feature of our learning is how important it is to have a strong, healthy, growing church as one of the partners in growth and fruitfulness. We have had much experience in trying to build critical mass by linking two or more smaller, struggling churches to form a charge with a greater capacity to be in ministry, but have learned how much more effective these partnerships can be when a strong, healthy, growing church connects in ministry alongside churches that are struggling. New models for these partnerships are being developed.

Coaching is a significant element in our new church start and natural church development program. We are exploring how to best extend this practice to our existing churches.

How to Get More Members for Your Church – Jim Griffith, our conference congregational development coach, has adapted his superb new church seminar to help existing churches learn the best practices in reaching new people for Jesus Christ. This seminar (scheduled for November 2009) is limited to teams of pastors and three or more lay leaders. Individual persons cannot register for the seminar.

Conference Congregational Development Grants – Examining the fruitfulness of our land and building, remissioning and redevelopment grants over the last several years, the results of those investments in terms of new people entering the church have been ambiguous. The Board of Congregational Development is re-evaluating all of its grant programs to assure they are configured in such a way as to assure that they result in significant numbers of people coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Until that re-evaluation and design is complete, applications for these grants are not being received. The re-evaluation is expected to be completed by this fall.

Congregational Development will become a part of the Congregational Excellence Team as soon as that team is established. This new structure will be especially effective at focusing the work of strengthening our existing congregations and we are looking forward to renewed fruitfulness in all our churches in the years ahead.

Board of Congregational Development

Executive Committee

President – Ken Partin

Vice-President – Betty Jo Hardy

Secretary – Pamela Blackstock

Treasurer – Ellis Rouse, Jr.

Cabinet Rep – Lillie Jones

Resident Bishop – Larry Goodpaster

Ex-officio (with vote) – Chairpersons of 5 Sub-groups and Director of Connectional Ministries:

Steve James, Director of Congregational Development and Connectional Ministries

Board of Congregational Development Sub Groups

Fund Development and Finance – Ken Lyon, Chairperson

District Representatives – LN Val Rosenquist, AL David Lawrence

Evangelism - Suzanne Michael, Chairperson; Donald McCoy, Vice-Chairperson

District Representatives – GR Suzanne Michael, HP David Talbert, SA Carl Settle

CONRAD - David Smith, Chairperson; Allan Van Meter, Vice-Chairperson

District Representatives – LX Timothy Roberts, MA David Hamlyn, WA David Christy

New Church Starts - Charles Kyker, Chairperson; Andrew Brown, Vice-Chairperson

District Representatives – ST Charles Kyker, NW Marianne Romanat

Church Revitalization - Kirk Tutterow, Chairperson; Ron Ballard, Vice-Chairperson

District Representatives – NE Glenda Bennett, GA Ron Wood, WS Chip Webb

District Reps to Congregational Development

AL David Lawrence

AS Ron Ballard

CH Ken Lyons

GA Ron Wood

GR Suzanne Michael

HP David Talbert

LN Valerie Rosenquist

LX Timothy Roberts

MA David Hamlyn

NE Glenda Bennett

NW Marianne Romanat

SA Carl Settle

ST Charles Kyker

WA David Christy

WS Chip Webb

I. New Church Starts and Mission Congregations

1. In accordance with the provisions of ¶ 259 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*, a new church start will be designated a mission congregation until a constituting conference has been convened.
2. On the appointment of a pastor to begin the new church start:
 - i. The district superintendent responsible for the mission congregation will submit to the conference secretary in written form the pertinent information identifying the new mission and the appointed pastor for the mission,
 - ii. Treasury Services will arrange for the assignment of a GCFA number to the new church start,
 - iii. The conference secretary will create a roll of prospective charter members for that mission congregation in the general membership roll of the annual conference to be administered by the Office of Congregational Excellence until the constituting conference has been concluded. (¶ 259)
3. The cabinet may designate an organizing congregation as a permanent or long-term mission congregation at its initiation or at any other time before it is chartered if it fits the criteria in ¶ 259 and the long-term financial plan for such a mission congregation is approved by the cabinet.
4. The conference secretary will maintain in the records of the annual conference the date of appointment of the organizing pastor for the new mission, the date of the constituting conference of the new local church, and the date of abandonment of any local church.
5. A mission congregation will pay apportionments on the same schedule as all other churches. The existing three-year-average conference practice will allow a phase in of apportionments as the new congregation grows. A mission congregation will submit required statistical reports each year.
6. The district will be the responsible salary and benefit unit for the staff of a mission congregation until it is constituted as a church. The newly-constituted church will then become the responsible salary and benefit unit.
7. A mission congregation may apply to the Office of Congregational Excellence and district superintendent for a constituting conference when all of these conditions have been met:
 - i. The number of professing prospective charter members has exceeded 250 persons and average worship attendance for the preceding 6 months has exceeded 200 persons.
 - ii. The mission congregation operating expenses have been fully funded without outside assistance for at least 12 months prior to chartering.
 - iii. Projected debt service, including both principal and interest, for land or building does not exceed 25% of the operating budget of the mission and total debt does not exceed 75% of the appraised value of land and buildings under use of the church.
 - iv. The mission congregation is prepared to pay 100% of its conference and district apportionments after the constituting conference is concluded.
8. A new church is expected to partner in launching another new church within five years of its constituting conference.

D. COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION**HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS****1. BENNETT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN****I. Students (as of fall semester 2008)**

A. Full-time students	668
B. Part-time students	21
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	676
D. Full-time North Carolina students	189
E. Full-time United Methodist students	20
F. Resident students	462
G. Non-resident (day) students	227
H. Male students	0
I. Female students	689
J. Foreign students	3
K. Number of students receiving financial aid	602

II. Faculty (as of fall semester 2008)

A. Number of full-time faculty	55
B. Number of part-time faculty	27
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	64
D. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates	30
Masters	25
E. Average salary of full-time faculty	\$ 43,330
F. Average compensation of full-time faculty	8,196

III. Operating Finances (7-1-07 to 6-30-08)

A. Operating income	\$ 16,034,047
1. Student fees	9,547,115
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)	-950,299
3. Church sources	626,836
4. Auxiliary enterprises	2,794,684
5. Student aid (restricted) (included in student fees).....	3,582,917
6. Other	9,728
B. Operating expenses	18,331,710
1. Instructional	4,785,740
2. Administrative and general	7,605,021
3. Library	232,931
4. Physical plant (included throughout other areas)	
5. Student aid	
6. Auxiliary enterprises	1,955,451
7. Other	1,298,802
C. Operating deficit at beginning of 2007-2008	
D. Operating budget for 2007-2008	13,557,128
E. Expenditures per student (2007-2008)	27,945
F. Amount per UM student provided by WNC Conference (2007-2008)	920

IV. Other Financial Information

A. Market value of physical plant (7-1-07)	\$ 67,983,164
B. Capital indebtedness at 7-1-07	9,525,762
C. Net increase in physical plant from preceding year	7,486,025
D. Market value of endowment at 7-1-07	12,257,904
E. Net decrease in endowment principal from preceding year	

Julianne Malveaux, President

2. BREVARD COLLEGE**I. Students (as of fall semester, 2008-2009)**

A. Full-time students	636
B. Part-time students	14
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	643.25
D. Full-time North Carolina students	319
E. Full-time Methodist students	82
F. Resident students	508
G. Non-resident (day) students	142
H. Male students	363
I. Female students	287
J. American Black	60
K. Hispanic	10
L. Native American	3
M. Asian American	4
N. Foreign	37
O. Number of students receiving financial aid	662

II. Faculty (as of fall semester, 2008-2009)

A. Number of full-time faculty	56
B. Number of part-time faculty	27
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	78
D. Number of faculty and administrative staff representing ethnic minorities	4
E. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates (or other terminal degree)	40
Masters	14
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	\$ 44,317
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	\$55,615

III. Operating Finances (for 2007- 2008 fiscal year)

A. Operating income (total)	\$ 18,265,476
1. Student fees	12,184,360
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)	255,455
3. Church sources	149,117
4. Auxiliary enterprises	122,784
5. Student aid	-4,074,610
6. Development funds	3,602,577
7. Other	1,091,365
B. Operating expenditures (total)	19,862,652
1. Instructional	6,332,263
2. All institutional support services	6,270,923
3. Library	327,139
4. Physical plant	1,912,607
5. Auxiliary services	3,669,365
6. Student aid	1,350,355
7. Other	0
C. Operating indebtedness at beginning of current year	805,730
D. Operating budget for current year	19,989,320
E. Expenditures per student for current year	30,753
F. Amount per student provided by WNC Conference	182

IV. Capital Funds (2007-2008 fiscal year)

A. Value of physical plant at beginning of current year	\$ 27,740,341
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	13,199,082
C. Net increases to physical plant during preceding year	1,008,165
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	22,361,393
E. Net increases to endowment principal during preceding year	965,725

Drew L. Van Horn, President

3. GREENSBORO COLLEGE**I. Students (2008-2009)**

A. Full-time students	942
B. Part-time students	347
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	1,094
D. Full-time North Carolina students	653
E. Full-time Methodist students	144
F. Resident students	468
G. Non-resident (day, evening, weekend) students	821
H. Male students	589
I. Female students	700
J. American black students	220
K. Foreign students	72
L. Number of students receiving financial aid (2007-2008).....	769

II. Faculty (2008-2009)

A. Number of full-time faculty	68
B. Number of part-time faculty	93
C. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates	49
Masters	19
E. Ethnic minorities employed on faculty and administrative staff	43
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	\$ 56,340
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	66,375

III. Operating Finances (for 2006-2007 fiscal year; 2007-2008 not available at this time)

A. Operating income (total)	\$ 31,078,566
1. Student fees	17,080,017
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)	2,798,477
3. Church sources	124,641
4. Auxiliary enterprises	4,463,915
5. Student aid (restricted).....	3,140,418
6. Development funds (exclusive of church, federal, and state funds)	3,471,098
7. Other	0
B. Operating expenditures (total)	\$ 28,486,892
1. Instructional	8,935,330
2. Administrative and general	5,833,164
3. Library	351,888
4. Physical plant	2,163,632
5. Auxiliary enterprises	3,940,994
6. Student aid	7,135,713
7. Other	126,171
C. Operating deficit at beginning of current year	0
D. Operating budget for 2006-2007 year	28,284,115
E. Expenditures per student for 2006-2007 year	27,738
F. Amount per student provided by WNC Conference (2006-2007)	121

IV. Capital Funds (2007-2008)

A. Value of physical plant at beginning of current year	\$ 41,738,796
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	17,259,322
C. Net increases to physical plant during preceding year	720,292
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	32,708,392
E. Net increase to endowment fund principal during preceding year	78,001

Craven E. Williams, President

4. HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY**I. Students (as of fall semester, 2008-2009)**

A. Full-time students	2,856
B. Part-time students	528
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	3,159
D. Full-time North Carolina students	1,332
E. Full-time Methodist students	477
F. Resident students	1,892
G. Day (commuter students and adult learners)	1,492
H. Male students	1,245
I. Female students	2,139
J. American black students	581
K. International students	51
L. Number of students receiving financial aid	3,368

II. Faculty (as of fall semester, 2008-2009)

A. Number of full-time faculty	153
B. Number of part-time faculty	124
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	194
D. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates and other terminal	116
Masters	37
E. Number of ethnic minorities employed on faculty and administrative staff	18
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	\$ 61,650
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	75,497

III. Operating Finances (for 2007-2008 fiscal year)

A. Operating income (total)	\$ 62,243,046
1. Student fees	45,798,799
2. Endowment income	955,147
3. Church sources	109,990
4. Auxiliary enterprises	13,475,153
5. Gifts and grants	1,376,525
6. Investment income	339,802
7. Other	194,630
B. Operating expenditures (total)	51,091,587
1. Instructional	17,002,965
2. Administrative and general	12,276,042
3. Library	910,537
4. Physical plant	5,742,267
5. Auxiliary enterprises	6,980,453
6. Student aid	8,179,323
C. Operating indebtedness at beginning of current year	0
D. Operating budget for current year	79,710,320
E. Expenditures per student for current year	26,749
F. Amount per student by WNC Conference	29

IV. Capital Funds

A. Value of physical plant (with depreciation) at beginning of current year	\$122,893,703
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	46,033,542
C. Net increases to physical plant during preceding year	55,183,392
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	43,078,347
E. Net increase to endowment fund principal during preceding year	-4,035,883

Nido R. Qubein, President

5. PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY

I. Students (undergraduates as of fall semester, 2007-2008)

A. Full-time students	964
B. Part-time students	120
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	1,035
D. Full-time North Carolina students	774
E. Full-time Methodist students	181
F. Full-time WNC Conference Methodist students	150
G. Resident students	509
H. Day students	575
I. Male students	461
J. Female students	623
K. Black students	222
L. Foreign students	20
M. Number of students receiving financial aid	1,337

II. Faculty (as of fall semester, 2007-2008)

A. Number of full-time faculty	77
B. Number of part-time faculty	0
C. Number of adjunct faculty	70
D. Number of teaching administrative staff with faculty rank	12
E. Full-time equivalent faculty	100
F. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates	60
Masters	18
G. Average salary of full-time faculty	\$ 53,400
H. Average compensation of full-time faculty	67,732

III. Operating Finances (2007-2008)

A. Operating Income (total)	
1. Tuition and fees, net	\$ 14,570,037
2. State and federal grants	1,682,876
3. Private gifts (including church)	880,097
4. Investment income	(120,635)
5. Auxiliary enterprises	3,824,323
6. Other sources	852,179
B. Expenses:	
1. Instructional	\$ 9,340,378
2. Public service	0
3. Academic support	2,689,820
4. Student services	4,618,715
5. Institutional support	4,708,560
6. Physical plant	3,314,708
7. Auxiliary enterprises	3,558,644
C. Total net assets	23,840,056
D. Unrestricted net assets	6,254,449
E. Operating budget for current year	29,217,797
F. Expenditure per student for current year	
G. Amount per student by WNC Conference for current year	

IV. Capital Funds

A. Book value of physical plant at beginning of current year	\$ 25,501,902
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	19,440,878
C. Net increases to physical plant during the year	505,322
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	16,067,612
E. Net increase (loss) to endowment fund principal during preceding year	(1,043,146)

Charles M. Ambrose, President

PROPOSALS: NOMINATIONS OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES**(Petition 19) Approved June 11, 2009****Brevard College**

Rev. John Boggs

(Petition 20) Approved June 11, 2009**High Point University**Ashley Crowder Stanley, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster (*ex-officio*)**E. COUNCIL ON CAMPUS MINISTRY**

In only our second year in existence, the WNCC Council on Campus Ministry has continued the work of managing the transition from the old State Commission on Campus Ministry, while seeking to face the unique financial and social challenges of this time in history. The council, with new leadership and a new conference staff representative, has taken on the challenges of implementing new procedures for funding and visioning for growth (not the decline!) of United Methodism on college and university campuses. We have seen our conference relationship severed with one campus ministry, but now see renewed hope for the future of United Methodist ministry on that campus. We have seen a rebirth of campus ministry at an institution where there had been no United Methodist presence for some time. Despite the challenges, we are seeking to move forward in making disciples on college and university campuses across the conference.

This year, for the first time, the council asked each campus ministry board to prepare and submit a funding proposal for their ministry. Each proposal included not just budgetary information, but also summaries of their work in following Jesus, making disciples, and transforming the world. The council took seriously the task of financial stewardship partnered with missional integrity.

The council recognizes that the future of campus ministry for us will involve strengthening our local boards. Unfortunately, local boards often do not have the professional resources, time, or personal expertise to take on the tasks of fund-raising, staff development, program development, day-to-day troubleshooting, facility management, board development, and advertising—but these are folks who have volunteered for the burden. So, this year, for the first time, each campus ministry board was invited to a training event for board effectiveness. The program was successful enough that we are now planning our next event for the 2009-2010 year.

However, with the total local church acceptances coming in substantially under budget, we face critical conditions. As a council, we hope to imagine new ways to resource vibrant campus ministry. Our local boards are already operating on bare-bones budgets; sound stewardship is not the problem. We know that churches and districts in college and university communities must play a vital role; we know that those who believe in what campus ministry can offer have to embody their belief with prayers, presence, talents, gifts, and service; we know that our annual conference must remain aware of the invaluable role of our campus ministries.

Still, our campus ministers are doing tremendous work on less than shoe-string budgets. For example, in Charlotte, we will expand ministry beyond UNCC to the campuses of CPCC in the Fall of 2009. At Appalachian State, the number of students who participated actually continued to grow even after the boiler failed (this at our coldest campus ministry site!). While we highlight these two, we also see renewed growth and new visions of ministry at each of our conference's campus ministries. Every campus minister and board faces the task of envisioning ministry in a post-modern culture, while offering Christ in the most authentic and accessible ways.

Campus ministry continues to be dependent in a unique way upon support from the annual conference. We are proud to say that, even in changing and challenging times, our campus ministries with college students fully embody the mission of our annual conference. Campus ministry raises up new generations of United Methodists who "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World."

Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Co-Chairperson

PROPOSAL: CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS**(Petition 18) Approved June 11, 2009****Appalachian State University**

Class of 2010: Bennie Anderson, Eric Calloway, Darryl Dayson, Benny McFalls, Ann Watson; *Class of 2011:* Lawrence Caviness, Jane Didier, Sonny Sweet; *Class of 2012:* Barbara Burgin, Wanda Henries, Allyson McFalls; *Ex-officio:* Judy Eurey, Brad Farrington, John Fitzgerald, Fred Jordan, Marianne Romanat, Cindy Shelton, Jeff Sweeney, John Thomas, Caroline Wood

Triad UM Campus Ministries

2009-2010: Clergy: Pamela Blackstock, Andrew W. Brown, Jr., Arnetta Beverly, Miller Carter, James W. Ferree, Belvin Jessup, Morris Brown; Laity: James Armstrong, Sandra Brown, Anthony Dillard, Russ Eubanks, Albertina McGirt, Allen Odom, Patricia Wiseman; two additional representatives from the Winston-Salem District; *Ex-officio* (with vote): Representative, WNCC Council on Campus Ministry, Greensboro District Superintendent, Winston-Salem District Superintendent; *Ex-officio* (without vote): Triad UM Campus Minister

University of North Carolina at Asheville

Keitha Alford, John Boggs, Christina Brookshire, Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Lynn Hanna, Rachel Hanna, Lisa Hartzog-Hannah, Alexandra Holland, Heather Kilbourne, Uiyeon Kim, Rob Parsons

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Mary Lynne Calhoun; Beth Hardin; Chuck Morgan; Janet Lutz; Heather Hall; Michael Montgomery; Emily Phillips; Trent Thompson; Wayne Theurer; Wes Barry; Scot McComas; Morgan Roseborough; Janice Martin; Julie Putnam; Steve Cheyney; Jim Dudley; George Thompson; Jacob Pierce; Phil Tonnesen; Jennifer Martin

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Jill Alventosa-Brown, Gaye Clifton, Linda Danford, Mark Davenport, Jacqueline Debrew, Doris Hall, Tom Herin, Jay Hilbinger, Celia Hooper, Lynne Lewallen, Scott Romine, Larry Taube, Wendy Woodlief

Western Carolina University

2009 Class: Susan Fouts, Kellie Harper, Jed Tate; 2010 Class: Ruth Anderson, Travis Collins, Erin Harkness, Tony Oberley, Jeanne Pickerel, George Weekley; 2011 Class: Greg Bauguess, Mae Claxton, Alex Macaulay, Libby McRae; *Students:* Kerri Bernhardt, Michael Stillwagon, Manning Wimberly, John Witherspoon; *Ex-Officio:* Al Ward, Jr., Waynesville District Superintendent; David Reeves, senior pastor, Cullowhee UMC; Jay Hinton, Director, WCU Wesley Foundation; Frank Grice, Rep. from Conference Council on Campus Ministry; In-Yong Lee, Liaison with Conference Council on Campus Ministry

Winston-Salem State University

Adnee Bradford, John Epps, James Ferree, James Fulwood, Constance Johnson, Joseph Jones, Effie McClain, Bill Medlin, Paul Milton, Shaunta Morris, Cedric Rodney, Ellen Wallace, Mary Jane Williams, LaVerne Williford, Lafayette Wilson, Rosa Tribble Wilson

Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

Dennis Booth, Christy Buchanan, Roger Echols, Laura Elliott, Allison Hicks, Nathan Kirkpatrick, John Lucas, Cass Mitchell, Jonathan Newman, Lamar Parker, Leslie Phillips, Lauren Richardson, Eric Rimes, Elinor Starling, Avery White, Ryan Wilson, *Ex-Officio Members:* Rebecca Hartzog, William T. Medlin, III

F. CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

This past year has been a year of re-defining and re-igniting the ministry of Aldersgate for those seniors we serve now and for those we strive to serve in the days and years ahead. As the new president and CEO, I came in as an “agent of change” with the exciting, though challenging task of honoring our history, acknowledging our present and laying the path for a sound future. These previous months have led us through a journey of study, reflection, planning, strategizing, making difficult decisions, and having joyful celebrations; all with the goal of standing by our mission to provide excellent continuing care services for older adults.

The conference year started with a wonderful event celebrating our 60th anniversary as a vibrant ministry of the WNCC. On a beautiful June day, board members, residents and their families gathered for a time of games, music, fun, and fellowship, as well as an exquisite gourmet meal prepared by our new executive chef. The rain held off until the festivities were complete and everyone enjoyed presentations recalling the amazing history of The Methodist Home and its transformation into Aldersgate, a destination for retirement living and caring health services at their best.

As the summer progressed, Aldersgate, like most organizations, began to feel the measure of an uncertain national and global economy. We quickly responded by implementing action plans to assure a managerial direction that was indicative of strong fiscal and operational stewardship, while maintaining services that would continue to offer the residents a full and holistic lifestyle on our campus. Not all of these changes were popular with all of our constituents, but were necessary to assure a solid footing for the operation of Aldersgate in the immediate and long-range term, while being ever-mindful of our mission as a not-for-profit organization. As a result of these strategies, indicators of the last quarter of 2008 and the first of 2009 are showing Aldersgate progressing in a positive direction in this regard.

One of the primary plans that is central in the successful redirection of Aldersgate has been the certification of Asbury Care Center (ACC), our skilled nursing facility, to be able to accept Medicare assignment for our members and for senior adults in the larger community. Working in conjunction with Hospice and Palliative Care of Charlotte (HPCCR) and in communication with the hospitals, we identified a need for additional patient beds to serve individuals with terminal illnesses who require a higher level of acute care services. HPCCR was aware of the capacity at ACC and our reputation for exceptional care given to our long-term care residents at Asbury. We have enjoyed the mutual benefit of serving “longer term” hospice residents at Asbury for a number of years, but have not been able to serve their clients with more acute needs since the beds for these clients require Medicare certification. By beginning the refurbishment of 31 private patient rooms and the common areas on the first floor of Asbury Care Center, hospice patients and their families can receive appropriate comprehensive care to manage the patient’s pain and

symptoms and coordinate medical needs during the acute stages of a terminal illness, and to support the patient and family through the end-of-life process. Likewise, rehab patients have access to high quality services in a home-like and supportive environment. In both cases, individuals experiencing these difficult life events are being served by experienced, caring staff, working within a person-centered, patient-oriented, holistic model of care. The physical surroundings encourage the successful recovery of rehab clients and offer a warm, comforting and supportive transition to patients at the end of their lives.

The other improvement is being able to offer both of these Medicare services not only to serve the general public, but to better serve our CCRC members who were currently going to other care facilities to have these needs met. By being able to come (or stay) at ACC, they can be “home” and have the benefit of their support network of a spouse, neighbors, campus chaplain, and social workers, and friends who live right on the property. ACC’s remaining two floors continue to provide long-term care skilled nursing services to Aldersgate’s residents.

Asbury Care Center staff is adept at understanding the dying process and caring for patients and their families through that process. ACC’s patient rooms are large, private rooms with full private bathrooms in each room, which can be furnished and redesigned to accommodate families who may wish to stay with the patient. Using ACC’s solid physical structure, certified skilled nursing beds, trained and caring staff, more than 40 years’ experience in operating a skilled nursing facility, and its central location, ACC is able to accommodate the immediate need for this more acute level of hospice care and more clinically complex rehab care in a professional, caring, person-centered environment.

Gifts from three foundations at the end of 2008 allowed us to begin some basic refurbishment of a few common areas and replacement of resident and dining room furnishings to promote an even more comfortable and supportive environment for those folks spending time at Asbury.

The direct financial impact of incorporating Medicare into our business model has already been positive, as has the impact on our members who have peace of mind knowing they have this service readily available on campus and to the larger community, as well.

In closing, the past year has seen ups and downs and, by our faith, we are all here and thankful for all the good in our lives. We have a caring community and by working together, Aldersgate will continue to fulfill its mission. We are grateful for our connection to the WNCC and for the support and prayers you offer to our ministry as we proceed into the coming year and what it may hold.

Joseph P. Snyder, President and CEO
Reverend William T. Jeffries, Chairperson

PROPOSALS: BOARDS OF ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

(Petition 5) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board (*denotes resident member):

Class of 2010

Mark B. Edwards
William T. Jeffries
W. Leonard Robinson
Michael R. Smith
Sam H. Smith, Jr.
*William Perce

*A. Ward Peacock (*ex-officio*)

Class of 2011

Joseph H. Cathey, Jr.
LeRoy Deabler
Margaret Fisher
Susan S. Keever
C. Ronald Riley
J. Carroll Thomas

Class of 2012

Patience S. Brumley
Ray Cathey
Robyn A. Crigger
Robert W. Lawing
Dan B. McIntyre, Jr.
Roy H. Wiggins

The Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of the Board of Advisors of Aldersgate (*denotes resident member):

Class of 2010

Nancy Keever Andersen
Thomas R. Bethune, Jr.
Zane E. Eargle
Frank H. Edwards
*Norma Farnsworth
*James Heddens
Julia M. Hite
Ted Hoffman
Myra Jenkins
Mary N. Norris
Tom P. Phillips
*James Sample
C. Douglas Simpson
G. Everett Suddreth

Class of 2011

Sandra H. Allen
Douglas H. Boyd
W. Scott Cooper
*Lee Dukes, Jr.
Max G. Erwin
Irma Ellwanger
Ann R. Flouhouse
*Lee Halbert
Richard P. Holshouser
Bonnie Johnson
Karla H. Knotts
Homer B. Lovvorn
*Donald Nehrenberg

Class of 2012

Linda Ford-Banner
*Leroy Carter
George Freeman
Myra Green
Cyndi N. Honaker
Frederick N. Jones
Robert F. Lowrance
David R. Murray
*Winton Poole
Donald C. Sanders
Carolyn S. Shinn
Steven P. Shorkey
Thomas R. Sigmon
*F. Oscar Smith
Hans Warren
T. Mark White
Basil Williams

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Arbor Acres spent 2008 rejoicing in the present, even as it looked boldly into the future. Remaining open to God's leading, the Board, the residents, and the staff continued exploring options for ministry to new generations of senior adults. Even as the ground of the economy shook, Arbor Acres remained trustful that God is leading it onward. The Board this year approved the outline of a comprehensive plan calling for construction of a new assisted living building, a 12-bed expansion of MemoryCare, major renovation of existing health care and wellness facilities, and construction of additional accommodations for independent seniors. The shattered economy impacts these prospects, obviously. Still, Arbor Acres' march toward the future has begun. Ground breaking is expected in the Spring of 2009 for eight moderately priced houses, additions that will increase Arbor Acres' capacity to serve even in challenging economic times.

Additional 2008 accomplishments:

- **Reaccreditation:** Arbor Acres completed a rigorous study to assess its compliance with requirements for re-accreditation. This process involved residents, staff, and the Board of Directors. Word arrived recently that Arbor Acres has been awarded accreditation for the coming five-year period.
- **Fund-raising for Financial Assistance:** The Mother's Day Offering and Annual Fund giving remained strong even with the collapse of the economy at year-end. Arbor Acres provided financial assistance to 34 residents, an increase over 2007 in the total residents served through the financial assistance program.
- **Resident Centered Life:** Arbor Acres inaugurated a new approach to service delivery to residents in skilled nursing care. Known as Resident Centered Life, the program provides residents increased control over their daily routines, and encourages flexible service delivery in accordance with the residents' wishes and expectations. The program piloted this year sets the stage for the extension of this loving approach into all Arbor Acres' licensed facilities.
- **Land Acquisition:** The campus grew by seven acres this year, as Arbor Acres continued a lengthy and successful process of negotiation with and purchasing lots from adjacent property owners. The newly-acquired land will be used for future expansion of independent living in anticipation of growing demand for Arbor Acres' services in the future.
- **Resident Council and Board Engagement:** By action of the board, the president of the Resident Council joined the Board of Directors as an *ex-officio* member with full voice and vote. Arbor Acres has long had residents serving on its Board of Directors, a commitment that brings substance to the deep belief that residents deserve a voice in decisions that affect them. Both the Resident Council and the Board of Directors functioned throughout 2008 at extraordinary levels, with active and engaged committees, with strong leadership from elected officers, and with the singular purpose of advancing Arbor Acres' mission.
- **Community Service:** The residents of Arbor Acres continued their long-standing tradition of raising funds to benefit local community non-profit organizations. Of particular note, the annual event to benefit Meals-on-Wheels raised almost \$30,000.

Privileged to serve within the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, Arbor Acres continues to fulfill its mission "to provide senior adults opportunity for security, contentment, and life with meaning and purpose" (from the Mission Statement).

W. David Piner, President and CEO

Michael L. Robinson, Chairperson, Board of Directors

**PROPOSAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ARBOR ACRES
UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.**

(Petition 6) Approved June 11, 2009

The following persons are proposed for election as members of the Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.:

Judy M. Briggs
Robert S. Chiles, Sr.

David W. Bailey
William L. Ball, Jr.
Edward S. Beason
Richard V. Bennett
James Corrigan

Larry M. Goodpaster, Resident Bishop
Frank A. Ison, Greensboro District Superintendent
N. Fred Jordan, Jr., North Wilkesboro District Superintendent
Elizabeth Lewis, President, Resident Council

Class of 2009

Linda G. Davis
Gregory B. Hunter

Michael L. Robinson
Robert D. Turner

Class of 2010

Don Eppert
James Ferree
Richard Fulp
Emma Graham
Victoria Hunt
Dyeann Jordan

Henry S. Miller, Jr.
Brenda Robertson
Susan S. Schwartz
Althea Taylor Jones
William Womble, Jr.

Ex-Officio

William T. Medlin, Winston-Salem District Superintendent
Samuel H. Moore, Northeast District Superintendent
Sylvia D. Wilhelm, Lexington District Superintendent
C. M. Worthy, Jr., High Point District Superintendent

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME

In 2008, your Children's Home, the oldest of the Western North Carolina Conference Health and Human Services institutions, completed 99 years of ministry to children and their families. Founding documents state that the Home was established to "support, care for, and train indigent and orphan children, and those without support and protection." While the original primary focus of The Children's Home was serving orphans, the Home has continually evolved to remain relevant and responsive to the ever-changing needs of children and families in society. Those served today also include the abused and emotionally scarred. Our modern-day mission is "to grow healthy futures for children, adults, and families by ministering to the mind, body, and spirit."

We continued a three-year growth trend last year, serving a total of 476 individual children and family members through our core programs: residential care, foster care, on-campus school (day treatment), family counseling, community services, and adoptions. The long-awaited opening of "My Aunt's House," our new residential program for homeless teen mothers, occurred in December. Several young mothers and their babies/toddlers are receiving wonderful care in our Stockton Cottage, the temporary quarters for this program. The historical Reynolds Cottage, once fondly known as "the baby cottage," is undergoing major renovations and will become the permanent home for this program later this year. Another exciting new program to open this spring is residential respite care for developmentally-delayed youngsters. At this writing, intensive planning is underway with our local public school system to establish a new school on campus as early as August, to serve up to 150 students, including our residential children.

Especially do our United Methodist friends continue to respond to our many needs through generous financial support and wonderfully volunteering (they logged the majority of the record-setting 9,279 volunteer hours last year!). As we ever seek ways to "minister to the spirit" of our young people, we are extremely grateful for the WNCC's commitment to support a new church start on our campus in 2009. As this new congregation develops from the local community, our campus family will be blessed as it embraces the ministry of The Children's Home as well.

September 13, 2009 will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of your Children's Home. Our Trustees are launching a capital campaign in conjunction with this milestone in our storied history – to help assure that the next hundred years of this grand old ministry will be even more successful than its first! "Goodness Grows Here" is a fitting slogan for this campaign, that not only refers to our revitalized farming program, but more importantly to the healing and growth of those children and families entrusted to our care. Our kids today, and those of the future, will depend upon our church partners to continue responding to Jesus' call to serve Him by serving the "least of these."

George M. Bryan, Jr., President/CEO

PROPOSAL: TRUSTEES OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME

(Petition 7) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Trustees of The Children's Home, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board:

Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Jennifer P. Davis	Mildred S. Carter	Lynne H. Berry
Linda G. Davis	Larry L. Hungerford	Jane G. Hanes
Bob L. Dunnigan	Rebecca K. Johnson	R. Harper Heckman
James W. Ferree	Donald L. Martin, Jr.	Jean R. Irvin
Merry A. Lowe	Martha Y. Martinat	Thomas W. Lambeth
Etta W. Marcellus	Richard J. Tamer	James H. Wilson
Wanda S. Merschel	J. Alexander Ward, Jr.	Beverly W. Witherspoon
James T. Webb, Jr.	Edwin L. Welch, Jr.	

Ex Officio

Larry M. Goodpaster, Resident Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference
William T. Medlin, III, Superintendent, Winston-Salem District

4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Givens Estates received accreditation from CARF-CCAC (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and Continuing Care Accreditation Commission) for another five-year period. This is the fourth time since 1993 that Givens has been accredited (1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008). The rigorous self-study and peer-review process takes approximately a year to complete and involves many people including residents, board, and staff.

In September and October of 2008, after much consideration and diligence, the Givens Board of Directors boldly approved a response to the turbulent economy affecting our country. The board showed deep concern for residents, staff, and the organization and decided to carry the 2008 budget into 2009 with minimal adjustments. The interim 2009 budget included freezes in resident fees, staff compensation, hiring, and capital spending, and no reduction in the workforce. This swift and decisive action was well received by the various constituencies affected. The community has rallied in support of one another and the organization. Conservation initiatives, which will have positive long-term consequences, are being developed and implemented.

LifeMinistries has been providing Christian outreach into the Asheville, Marion, and Waynesville Districts for 10 years. This significant ministry into communities through the local church began a decade ago in partnership with Givens and the Asheville District. Since the program began, we have helped several thousand frail and struggling seniors connect with health and wellness resources, and we have helped secure over \$9 million in free medication for people facing difficult choices.

LifeMinistries and Givens Estates' Wellness Department are providing leadership and support for an Asheville District pastor wellness initiative. The goal is to work with ministers in developing wellness goals unique to each person, e.g. physical, spiritual, and emotional. Baseline measurements and bi-monthly contacts with pastors are vital to the program's success.

The Great Laurels of Junaluska is a Givens Estates community providing subsidized and affordable apartments for independent living seniors. A service coordinator works with community-based providers to help residents remain independent and in their apartments for as long as possible. The project reached 100% occupancy in July 2008. The 120 residents have adjusted to their new home and community.

The Givens community has been blessed with a grace-filled history of care and service. In spite of these tumultuous times and with the belief that God's will be done, the Givens Estates Board of Directors continues to strategically plan for the future.

Kenneth M. Partin, Chief Executive Officer

**PROPOSAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GIVENS ESTATES
UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.**

(Petition 8) Approved June 11, 2009

It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community.

Class of 2010

Steven E. Arnaudin
Mark B. Clasby
Gregory D. Hutchins
Robert E. Shepherd
Hal F. Starnes
Kenneth W. Swazye, Jr.
G. Edward Towson, II
Kathleen M. Wilson

Class of 2011

Ann H. Aldridge
Myron L. Coulter
Ernest E. Ferguson
Louisa R. Goebel
Gordon C. Goodgame
W. Ray McKesson
Kathryn D. Rabb
Donald L. Watrous

Class of 2012

Doris P. Loomis
Billy S. Martin
Peggy C. Melville
Virginia Robinson
Ronald A. Sistrunk
Phillip J. Tate
Connie Haire
Marvin Holland

Ex Officio

William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)
Thomas E. Camp, III (Givens Trust)
Doris L. Gidney (Resident Council Rep)
Lucian C. Rice (Medical)

Frances C. Waser (Honorary Life)
Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr. (Honorary Life)
Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Chairman Emeritus)

Clergy

Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.
Ben W. Curry

D. Michael Jordan
W. Lyn Sorrells

C. Sydnor Thompson, III
Keith R. Turman

Larry M. Goodpaster, Resident Bishop
James T. Trollingier, Assistant to the Bishop
J. Alexander Ward, Jr., Waynesville District Superintendent

John S. Boggs, Asheville District Superintendent
Phillip B. Cole, Marion District Superintendent

5. UMAR-WNC, INC.

Through Our Doors, Lives Are Changing!

Since 1983, UMAR has provided quality services to adults with developmental disabilities. UMAR promotes community inclusion, independence, and growth for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, employment, and cultural enrichment opportunities.

Highlights for 2008:

- Celebrated 25 years of quality services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!
- Consistently achieving 100% on group home site surveys.
- Completed construction of a replacement home for the Lincoln County Group Home (LCGH).
- Completed construction of the Lanier Home, a home for six ladies in Lexington.
- Implementation of a community-based arts program in Mecklenburg County.

Anticipated Highlights for 2009:

- Successfully achieving national accreditation for program services and business systems.

- Beginning construction of an 8-resident, supervised apartment site on the grounds of Huntersville UMC.
- Taking over management and operations of a second group home in Hayesville.
- Expansion of our supported employment program in additional western North Carolina counties.

PROPOSAL: TRUSTEES OF UMAR-WNC, INC.

(Petition 9) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc., proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2009:

Class of 2009
Dwight Marshall
Carolyn Middlebrooks
Linda Weisbruch
Mike Wilson
Bill Ervin
Adam Dunaway

Class of 2010
Jim Cochran
Charlie Lieske
Ed Imbrogno
Ginger Kelly
Morry Johnston

Class of 2011
Max Daniel
Richard McKnight
Margaret McCleskey

Ex Officio with Voice and Vote

Rev. Stephen James

C. M. Worthy, Jr.

Ex Officio

Theresa Hall
Bob King

Tom Hollowell
Aaron W. Moss

6. CHRYSALIS COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION CENTER **A Ministry of the Greensboro, High Point, and Lexington Districts**

Our vision of the Chrysalis Centers is to be a community in which all persons have access to quality, compassionate, and affordable health care which integrates body, mind, and spirit for the glory of God. We counsel individuals, couples, families and children referred by churches and other institutions. Pastoral counselors are trained mental health providers who understand the importance of faith as integral to healing and wholeness.

We also consult with churches, pastoral staff, and denominational entities regarding organizational mediation, conflict resolution, education, and spiritual renewal.

Like other institutions of our church, Chrysalis is impacted by the weak economy but because we are a ministry committed to our mission of access to all seeking help, we do not turn any persons away based on ability to pay. Restrictions by managed care, state mental health aid, and restricted health care dollars in general means there are limited funding resources available. We believe a robust Samaritan Scholarship Fund is the way forward to providing service to all God's people.

High levels of stress impact job performance, relationships with spouses and children, and our faith in God. This affects directly our ability to respond to God's call in our lives. We extend the invitation to churches in our conference to partner with the Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center to be agents of healing and growth for all God's people.

Because we understand pastors and churches are affected by the new paradigms of care with high levels of stress and conflict in our congregations, Chrysalis Center is committed to providing consultation, education, and training for pastoral excellence. We invite pastors, lay leaders, and members to contact Chrysalis about what we can provide to their congregations in order to extend God's love during difficult times.

- a) The Chrysalis Centers announce the development of their new Web site: chrysaliscenterspiedmont.com. This is a source for additional services provided by a Chrysalis counselor near your church.
- b) Begin working in your church to help build a base of education and funding to provide immediate services to individuals and families you may refer to Chrysalis.

Chrysalis Counseling Center goals for 2009

1. Counselors will be added to provide professional, quality pastoral counseling in areas under served presently in the piedmont, Randolph County and northern Guilford-Rockingham Counties.
2. This June, the first group of pastors graduates from the Pastoral Care Specialist program. In 2009, additional pastoral care consultation groups will begin for ministers who want to develop skills in working with pastoral care in the congregational setting and grow their churches. CEU's are provided, as well as pathways toward AAPC certification. Contact the director at 336-852-0626 for more information.
3. We have begun a Samaritan Scholarship Fund to provide quality, professional counseling to persons impacted by the economic downturn. In order to provide affordable, professional counseling to the uninsured, Chrysalis supporters have raised \$3,000 in 2008 and our goal for 2009 is to raise at least \$10,000 before allocating scholarships. These deductible contributions extend the light of God's grace to those who "sit in the darkness" of emotional distress.

Please make your contribution to:

Samaritan Scholarship Fund, 612 Pasteur Dr., Suite 405, Greensboro, NC 27403, Attention: Mr. Lacey Baynes

The Rev. Gary L. Kling, D.Min., LPC

7. METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES (MCCS)

Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services (MCCS) is a specialized ministry, extending the ministry of local congregations to persons who seek hope in the midst of their despair, light in their darkness, and God’s healing grace. MCCS provides certified pastoral counselors who meet persons where they are on their journey through this life. In a high-tech society, our pastoral counselors bring a personal touch. While psychiatrists offer pills to treat life’s problems, and psychologists offer limited sessions due to managed-care restrictions, our pastoral counselors offer a relationship that will last as long as the process of healing takes, and at considerably less cost.

MCCS serves as an important referral source for pastors, who often do not have the time or the specialized training to work with persons in local congregations that are hurting. Having qualified pastoral counselors that you respect makes referral for your parishioners a lot easier.

MCCS historically serves five districts that cover an 11-county area. In the past year, MCCS provided 5,771 hours of individual, marital, family, and group therapy. We provided 97 hours of consultation with various congregations. We also conducted 252 workshops and educational events for congregations. We have updated our Web site, a move that has generated a significant response. Additionally, we have started an online journal, *Kardiagram*, which has produced issues for the first two quarters of 2009. The Winter journal focused on depression, while the Spring journal addressed the topic of clergy care. The journal can be accessed by visiting the MCCS Web site at www.mccsvs.org. MCCS is a service center that is accredited by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute.

Thanks to Nancy Ratcliff, who handles the finances for MCCS, and John Arey, Jr., who serves as Clinical Services Director and as a delegate to the MCCS Board, we have had an excellent year. We have added two new counselors to our staff and are pleased at the services that we are now able to provide.

To learn more about the MCCS clinical services and sites, workshops, and consultations, as well as to make contributions to the Samaritan Client Assistance Fund to aid persons without the financial means who seek professional pastoral counseling, visit the MCCS Web site at www.mccsvs.org.

Jim Westmoreland, Chairperson
John V. Arey, Jr., Clinical Services Director

PROPOSAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES

(Petition 10) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Directors of MCCS proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the annual conference as members of that board:

Jesse Caldwell	Charlie Gibbons	Ken Porter	Ken Roth
Sam Smith	Bill Suyk	Chris Westmoreland	Jim Westmoreland

The superintendents of the Albemarle, Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, and Statesville districts are *ex-officio* members.

8. THE POTTER’S TOUCH

The Potter’s Touch is a ministry of the Asheville, Marion, and Waynesville Districts of the Western NC Conference of The United Methodist Church. Our mission is to provide counseling services for United Methodists in these three districts.

The board is made up of the district superintendents and three other persons (lay or ordained) from each district. Our task is to provide emotional and psychological help to members of our constituent churches. To meet that end, we have professionally-trained ministers and counselors on staff.

Those persons needing services can contact their pastor or their district superintendent for referral to the Potter’s Touch.

Recently, we have added three new professionals to the staff to further enable us to provide services to persons in the Marion, Asheville, and Waynesville Districts, especially in the outlying regions.

Insurance will often cover the cost of the Potter’s Touch services. A sliding scale and other assistance is available to those who need it. The board is grateful to the three districts, the conference, generous donors, and grants that underwrite this vital ministry.

The counselors are certified in their area of expertise and have been given background checks. They have provided proof of insurance to cover liabilities.

As chairperson, I am grateful to our volunteers who serve on the board and travel at no expense to the board. Further we, the board, are grateful for the direct financial help provided by the conference and the districts.

Daniel P. Stiles, Chairperson

9. UNITED METHODIST DEAF MINISTRY-WNC, INC.

Deaf Ministry focuses on education, training, and spiritual formation to provide local WNC churches with tools needed to serve the deaf and hard of hearing, including grants from two scholarship funds. We seek to minister to the whole person. Deaf Ministry is not a one-size-fits-all concept, rather it is an effort to educate and provide resources to people with all levels of hearing loss, their families and friends. In the United States, 32 million people have hearing loss. Six million are profoundly deaf, and 750,000 of those are Deaf, primarily using ASL to communicate. Yet only 2 of 100 Deaf know Christ as Lord.

During the Visualize Deaf Ministry Conference in May 2008, fingers fluttered meaningfully as Chad Entinger of Deaf Missions and the Rev. Marshall Lawrence of Silent Blessings brought inspiration and information to 50 people. The fingers moved to the cadence of American Sign Language (ASL), as well as home sign for one participant. Computer-assisted note taking was provided for oral deaf – people with hearing loss who wear hearing aids and speak, but need further assistance. Along with PowerPoint presentations, communication was appropriate and comprehensive for everyone. A board member observed, “We had parents of deaf children, children of deaf parents, hearing halves of married couples, a Deaf couple, oral deaf and interpreters, as well as hearing people who are newly called to this ministry. The diversity pretty much ran the gamut. The variety of ways we communicated with one another is what we would like to see in many of our local churches.”

The complete transcripts for “How to Start a Deaf Ministry” and “The Bible in ASL” are available at www.wnccumc.org/hhs/dhh-localchurchaccessibility.htm

Other Deaf Ministry resources and activities:

- The director and board members speak to groups in districts and churches on request.
- Educational hardcopy, electronic and display materials are available.
- DM provided computer-assisted note taking at 2008 Annual Conference and the 2008 Gathering of the Laity to permit full participation of all those attending and to demonstrate technology for churches to use to involve members in worship and the life of the church. Plans are to offer it at annual conference again in 2009, and possibly at the Gathering.
- Kay Free traveled to Nakuru, Kenya, Africa, with a building team to teach sign language to Deaf children and some adults with whom they interact. DM sponsors a Deaf child in Kenya.
- Contributions continue to be added to the Tom Summey Scholarship Fund, for training interpreters and computer-assisted note-takers.
- Spiritual formation is accomplished through Walk to Emmaus. DM board members participate on teams in collaboration with the Blue Ridge community in Black Mountain. The original goal was to work toward a completely signing weekend, however, in the course of sending pilgrims to three weekends, something wonderful happened: Deaf and hearing people interacted. The goal has been revised to sponsor a men’s group and a women’s group each year. So far, four Deaf men and eight Deaf women have experienced the Walk to Emmaus.
- The board held an intensive visioning session in August, the culmination of several discussions on ways to be more effective in ministry and to set goals, including petitioning annual conference for an annual observance of Deaf Awareness Month each September.
- The board regretfully accepted the resignation of Kay Free, director for five years, who wishes to spend more time on deaf ministry at Long’s Chapel. She is now on the Deaf Ministry board and focuses on Emmaus.
- DM was pleased to hire Beverly Maulden for this part-time position. Maulden also works in the Cabarrus school system, is an interpreter and a knowledgeable and dedicated United Methodist. She challenged board members to think hard about their gifts and talents, such as crafts, baking, preserving foods, and how can they be used to financially help DM. The challenge resulted in several praise reports at the February meeting. Maulden intentionally seeks speaking engagements with local churches to encourage them to develop deaf ministry.

Questions may be addressed to Beverly Maulden, bmaulden@ctc.net or 704.467.7201 or see www.wnccumc.org/hhs/deafministry.htm.

Marty Folsom, President
Kay Free, Director until Nov. 8, 2008
Beverly Maulden, Director, current

PROPOSAL: WNC UM DEAF MINISTRY

(Petition 11) Approved June 11, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Western NC Conference United Methodist Deaf Ministry proposes the annual observance by local churches of Deaf Awareness Month on the Sunday of their choice during September with these objectives:

- Provide facts about the physical condition of hearing loss and its impact on spirituality and relationships, possibly including use of displays and handouts, a worship service, publication of Deaf Ministry Web address, etc.
- Conduct a deaf/blind accessibility audit and consider ways to be more accessible to and inclusive with people with hearing loss.
- Consider supporting WNC UM Deaf Ministry as a mission initiative.

G. BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity (formerly the Council on Laity) works throughout the annual conference to initiate policies and strategies to strengthen the involvement and voice of the laity in the churches of the conference. We strive to enable a mutual ministry among lay people and clergy alike. We work to promote and support lay activities.

The Board is composed of the resident bishop, the conference lay leader, the 15 district lay leaders, the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the vice-chairperson of the Council on Youth Ministries, the officers of the Gathering of the Laity, the chairperson of the conference Connectional Table, the conference director of lay speaking, the director of the Laity Service Award Program, the conference Scouting coordinator, and 12 members at-large. We are served by a district superintendent representing the cabinet and a representative of the conference staff. The Board met in August at Lake Junaluska, in conjunction with the Gathering of the Laity. We met November 16 at Stallings Church in Matthews, February 15 at Bethel Church in Thomasville, and May 17 at Ebenezer in Old Fort. It is a joy for us to worship in churches throughout the conference.

The Board annually sponsors the Gathering of the Laity. The 44th Gathering is scheduled for August 14-16, 2009 at Lake Junaluska, with the theme, "Summoned to be a Disciple." Keynote speakers include the Rev. Dr. Reginald Mallett, the Rev. Jan Brittain, and the Rev. Andy Lambert. Angel Christ will serve as the music leader. The Junaluska Singers, directed by Dr. Glenn Draper, will be in concert on Saturday afternoon. Recipients of the Laity Service Award will also be recognized on Saturday afternoon, with remarks by Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

A task group within the Board has recommended several areas of potential focus for workshops for laity in the conference. The areas include spiritual gifts, visioning, mission outreach, interpretation and implementation of the four areas of focus of the General Conference, and implementation of the annual conference theme. The board will be working with the bishop and the Connectional Table to implement one or more service projects for the laity.

Robert D. Upchurch, President and Conference Lay Leader

H. UNITED METHODIST MEN

We are excited in the Western North Carolina Conference. All of our district president positions are filled and the districts are reaching out and organizing new fellowships. Our executive committee continues to meet quarterly in various locations throughout the annual conference. The 2009 Annual UMM Rally was held at Lake Junaluska during the last weekend of April. We reached out to young men in several ways. We invited Mike Minter, a football sports figure and excellent preacher, to speak at the rally. We invited all the Boy Scouts who were at Junaluska for a camping event to come and hear Mike Minter. We cooked out with the Scouts and participated together in a mission project. We hope that all of these things interested younger men.

To ensure regular communication with our fellowships, all district presidents are scheduling prayer breakfasts, training sessions and placing UMM information in their District newsletters on a regular basis.

We continue our four conference-wide initiatives. These include funding for The Upper Room Prayer Line, Scouting, The Children's Home and Second Career Pastoral Scholarships.

We are pleased to report that two members of our executive committee, Dick Strachan and Neil Brown, were certified as Men's Ministry Specialists by the General Commission on United Methodist Men in March.

Don Hyler, Salisbury district president, was approved as UMM Conference Prayer Advocate for our annual conference.

After many years of faithful service, Murray Rhodes has stepped down as district president for the Marion District. He is replaced by Neil Brown of Spruce Pine. Tim Strickland is the district president of the new Lake Norman District and has hit the ground running. We are sorry to report that Tom Wilson, former conference president and faithful supporter of United Methodist Men, passed away recently. He will be missed.

A district-level training program for UMM will be rolled out at the 10th National Convention of UMM in Nashville in July 2009.

Information about our programs and initiatives may be found on our UMM Web site, www.wnccumm.org and on our conference Web site www.wnccumc.org.

Dick Strachan, President

SCOUTING IN THE WNCC

Scouting is alive and well in the Western North Carolina Conference. The state of North Carolina, among the nine states in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, continues to be the leader in the number of scouting units, registered scouts, and adults, and churches that charter scouting units. The Western North Carolina Conference is a contributing factor in making the state the leader. Currently the conference has more than 520 scouting units, more than 16,900 youth, and more than 9,260 adults registered in local churches. More than 280 churches across the conference charter scouting units.

On April 24-26, the Boy Scouts were invited again by the United Methodist Men to participate in their rally weekend at Lake Junaluska. The weekend was a great success for the scouting program. Over 130 scouts and scout leaders participated in a scouting-style camporee complete with scouting skills activities, along with some Bible skills activities, as well. On Saturday evening, the Methodist Men came to the scout campsite and were served to a hamburger/hotdog cookout, prepared by the scout leaders. The highlight of the weekend was when the scouts were invited to participate in the Methodist Men's Saturday evening program and hear retired professional football player Mike Minter speak. The scouts would like to express appreciation to the United Methodist Men for having the opportunity to again participate in the weekend.

As you see from the number above, we do have a lot of churches that charter scouting units and there a lot of young people who are being served through these programs in our churches. This is a good thing! But there are many more young people that are not being served. There are many more young people in our communities that haven't been given the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and haven't been given the opportunity to join scouting. Scouting is a great opportunity for our churches – for your church – to minister to the families in the neighborhoods surrounding your church. I would invite you to consider chartering a scouting program in your church. You say we don't have any young people that are scouting age in our church. What better way to bring young people into the church than through scouting.

If you have interest in finding out how to start scouting in your church please contact me at 336-378-9166 or tharper@bsamail.org.

Tim Harper, Conference Scouting Coordinator

I. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference experienced another very busy, yet rewarding year in 2008 of being in mission to women, children, and youth around the world.

We continue to excel in the area of giving. The local units again exceeded the \$1-million mark by giving \$1,058,908.30. Giving to Women's Division totaled \$928,994.37 (\$812,000.43 in undesignated mission giving funds and \$116,993.94 in designated funds). Not only did we meet our pledge to missions of \$811,000, we led the nation in our giving for the eighth consecutive year.

All conference events were well-attended. "The Rooms of Your Life" was the theme for the Spiritual Growth Retreat, led by Jean Padgett, where approximately 1,000 UMW came together for a time "to know God." The School of Christian Mission, attended by over 400 UMW, helped us to "expand our concepts of mission" as we studied *I Believe in Jesus, Israel/Palestine*, and *Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*. "Called by Name" was the theme for Annual Meeting in September, which was attended by 622 UMW. Officer training was held in October with 173 UMW in attendance.

In addition to these events, 234 UMW from our conference traveled to Hampton, Va., in April to attend the quadrennial Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting of UMW where Lynne Gilbert, of the Greensboro District, was elected as a director of the Women's Division; and, Dixie Liggett, of the Asheville District, was elected as an alternate.

Our conference priority for 2008 was public education. Research determined that the UMW in the Western North Carolina Conference contributed through monetary gifts, school supplies, and volunteer time \$1,071,646.38 to the public schools in North Carolina during 2007. With the theme of "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down through Public Education... Leaving No Child Behind," conference and district officers began the year with a training session to learn more about the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. A four-week letter writing campaign concerning the reauthorization of this act was held during September where members of Congress, state legislators, and local school board personnel were contacted. While there is no data on the number of members participating in the campaign, a member of Congress commented that they had no idea how many of us there were! Public education continues to be our priority in 2009.

In the area of Membership, we celebrated the organization of two new units during 2008. Eschol UMW in the North Wilkesboro District was chartered in March and Cool Spring UMW was re-chartered in November.

The scholarship program continues to give aid to persons seeking church-related careers. These recipients are enrolled at Pfeiffer University, Greensboro College, High Point University and Bennett College.

The Conference Gram and district newsletters are published four times each year to keep the local woman informed of events and projects. The conference UMW Web site and listserv are also available to post the latest information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local unit officers and members. They are the ones who make mission possible with their prayers, their giving, and the many ways in which they are in mission. It is my prayer that God will bless each local UMW member as they continue to give of their time and talents through service to United Methodist Women.

Amy Johnson, President

J. CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

This year has been a year of new opportunity with the hiring of Caroline Wood as the WNCC Coordinator for Ministries with Young People and in the continued growth of our conference events. Caroline and administrative assistant, Kelly Hedrick, have brought a new enthusiasm to youth ministries with creative ideas that have encouraged youth all over the conference to grow spiritually. The events still bring youth together and more and more churches are participating.

SpiritUs is held over two weeks at Fort Caswell on the coast of North Carolina. The 2008 theme was "God Most High: the Musical."

Summit is the winter retreat held at Holmes Convention Center on the campus of Appalachian State University. Over 1,500 youth came to worship this winter. Youth at Summit packaged over 20,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now!

Kaleidoscope is the middle school retreat designed by the CCYM youth. Kaleidoscope is designed specifically to meet the middle school youth right where they are on their faith walk.

Choose to Share Christ was held at Lake Junaluska and inspired 200 youth to share their faith with others. More workshops were added to help youth explore their gifts so that they could take ideas home to use in their own churches and abroad. Twenty of the youth in attendance experienced a call to ministry.

Bishop's Confirmation Celebration expanded this year to two events. Bishop Larry Goodpaster met our confirmands at

Long's Chapel at Lake Junaluska and Myers Park in Charlotte. For the first time, workshops were added to help students understand the vows they take of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This expansion of the event resulted in an explosive growth in participation.

The Youth Service Fund raises money by youth, for youth. CCYM takes up a YSF offering at each conference youth event. This year, over \$10,000 was raised, which went to help mission and outreach projects in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, as well as here in the United States and in our own conference.

Your conference youth have been busy and productive this year. We appreciate all that the conference does to support and encourage us. With your continued support we can accomplish even more.

Philip Howard, President

K. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry is pleased to be partnered with the bishop and the cabinet in the quest for clergy excellence. This 53-member board is made up of elders, deacons, local pastors, and laity from the conference.

The board is re-evaluating our entire ministry. We are working with candidacy mentors, district committees on ordained ministry, district superintendents, local pastor mentors, licensing school, Residency in Ordained Ministry (RIOM), and the process of the board for work with probationary (provisional) and full connection candidates. In addition, we are looking at ways to encourage and support clergy who serve faithfully throughout the conference.

In spite of the fact that the 2008 *Book of Discipline* will allow for a two-year probationary (provisional) period, our board has chosen to stay with a three-year process. Many other conference boards are staying with the three-year period, as well. We believe that form follows function. As a result, we believe that RIOM can and should serve as a critical bridge between the academic learning of the seminary and the practical experience of the parish. As we seek clergy excellence, it is the role of this board to provide an experience that will equip our clergy for more effective ministry. We have a probationary (provisional) ministry team looking at the work of RIOM and the leadership qualities for mentors.

The board is also looking at the need for young clergy ages 35 and under. This is a need that has been identified across our denomination. We are striving to increase our work with young Christians who may be experiencing the call through our camps and youth programs, campus ministries, and seminaries. We encourage our clergy and laity to be attentive to the call of God upon the lives of the young people with whom you minister.

We take the work of this board very seriously because our clergy are in positions that affect lives. Our interview process is designed to be challenging, affirming, and pastoral. The process is challenging because the work of ministry is challenging. The questions are challenging because our laity ask challenging questions. Our expectations are high because we believe the work of our clergy has eternal significance. We are proud of the clergy of this conference.

As the president of the board finishing my first year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the executive committee and the full board for their commitment and work. This board dedicates many days and hours to this important ministry. I am excited about the work of this board and the direction in which we are moving.

Terry L. Moore, President

Mark J. Key, Vice-President

Lory Beth T. Huffman, Secretary

Elizabeth L. Graves, Treasurer

Kimberly T. Ingram, Registrar

LOCAL PASTORS COMPLETING COURSE OF STUDY DURING THE 2008-2009 CONFERENCE YEAR

The Board of Ordained Ministry wishes to recognize those local pastors who have completed the Course of Study since the last annual conference session:

Roxana K. Almond, Boger's Chapel UMC, Salisbury District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Kenneth R. Anderson, Toe Valley Charge, Marion District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Brenda K. Brashear, Calvary/Zion Charge, North Wilkesboro District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Patricia Byers, Pine Grove UMC, Gastonia District, COS—Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Augusto Caldera, Agua de Vida Mission, Charlotte District, COS—Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Kaye H. Fry, Bethlehem UMC, Greensboro District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Gerald C. Hagler, Mt. Carmel UMC, Salisbury District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Dorothy L. Sullivan, Beulah/Zion Charge, Northeast District, COS—The Divinity School, Duke University

Edwin Worley, Big Sandy-Western Chapel, Asheville District, COS—Candler School of Theology, Emory University

DIACONAL MINISTRY AND CHURCH-RELATED CAREERS 2009

The Board of Ordained Ministry recommends the following persons for continuation as diaconal ministers at the 2009 annual conference:

Edward W. Allred, Rebecca G. Bingham, M. Susan Carmichael, Mark H. Christy, Marion C. Clark, W. Howard Coble, Doris H. Cornelius, Barbara A. Cox, Sarah Reynolds Dixon, Michael P. Dougherty, Carolyn Eargle, Catherine Ritch Guess, Peggy L. Hina, David M. Hines, Janet M. Hitch, Mary Margaret Houk, William H. Jordan, Rebecca K. Lile, Sandra M. McGarrah, Jean M. Morgan, Susan F. Osterberg, Kathryn E. Quick, Bonnie Schuldt Shinneman, Mavis C. Thompson, and Ann Tyler.

The following have fulfilled requirements for certification or re-certification in the categories specified (*indicates retired):

a. Christian Education

Edward W. Allred, 208 Spring Creek Rd., Summerfield 27358
 LeeAnn Baird, 10221 Grand Junction Rd., Charlotte 28227
 Anna L. Barden, 909 Chipola St., Kannapolis 28083
 Barbara J. Barden, PO Box 6161, Charlotte 28207
 William G. Benfield (*), 122 N. Elm St., Statesville 28677
 Rebecca G. Bingham, 205 Sonata Dr., Lewisville, 28023
 Charlotte G. Brendel, PO Box 162, Drexel, 28219
 Peggy DeLoatch Bridgers, 2434 Commonwealth Ave., Charlotte 28205
 Amy W. Burton, 306 S. Main St., Kernersville, 27284
 M. Susan Carmichael (*), 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801
 Ramona M. Clapp (*), 211 Day Break Dr., Kernersville 27284
 Marion C. Clarke (*), 414 Lee St., Wadesboro 28170
 Doris H. Cornelius (*), 104 S. Westover Dr., Monroe 28112
 Barbara A. Cox (*), 3516 Clardy Ct., Charlotte 28205
 Katherine K. Crain, 290 Azalea Dr., Maggie Valley 28751
 Ben W. Curry (*), 298 Tillman Rd., Lake Junaluska 28745
 Pamela Deck, 2026 NC Hwy. 108, Rutherfordton 28139
 Brandon K. Dirks, 6800 Sardis Rd., Charlotte 28270
 Sarah R. Dixon (*), 1244 Arbor Rd., Box 140, Winston-Salem 27104
 Kimberlee J. Dodson, 325 N. Broad St., Brevard 28712
 Anne C. Dooley, 410 N. Holden Rd., Greensboro 27410
 Mary L. Doub, 2601 Fines Creek Dr., Statesville 28625
 Bernard G. Dougherty, 663 New Salem Rd., Randleman 27317
 Donna Gottschalk Ford, 5614 Underwood Dr., Greensboro 27409
 Deborah E. Foust, 507 E. Center St., Lexington 27292
 Cynthia Core Furr, 85 N. Main St., Weaverville 28787
 Ron L. Hall (*), 305 Kings Marsh Way, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522
 Stephanie M. Hand, 3100 Selwyn Rd., Charlotte, 28209
 Dana Hanlon, 2424 Oak Ridge Rd., Oak Ridge 27310
 Elinor D. Heermans, 6401 Hickory Grove Rd., Charlotte 28215
 Linda Hepler, 2159 Orchard Trail, Thomasville 27360
 Virginia Cox Herron, 913 Hanover Dr., Concord 28027
 Peggy L. Hina (*), 1506 Walnut Ridge Rd., Brevard 28712
 R. Harold Hips (*), 1203 Shiloh Dr., Nashville, TN 37205
 Mary Margaret Houk (*), Givens Estates, 12 Wesley Dr., #B, Asheville 28803
 Gloria G. Hughes, PO Box 18005, Charlotte 28218
 Kimberly T. Ingram, PO Box 18005, Charlotte 28218
 Sandra H. Jahn, 311 3rd Ave., N.E., Hickory 28601
 Ellen Sapp Johnson, PO Box 718, Davidson 28036
 Sarah B. Kalish, 301 N. Main Ave., Maiden 28650
 R. Mark King, PO Box 658, Winston-Salem 27102
 Thomas S. Lee, Jr. (*), 610 Carrington Place, Lewisville 27023
 Lorie Lewis, 1032 Regency Dr., Charlotte 28211
 Sandra M. McGarrah, 2916 Tarrymore Place, Charlotte 28270
 Cecilia Brown McGee, 3835 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte 28269
 Sarah Hanko McKinney, 2257 Boone Trail, North Wilkesboro 28659
 Sallyanne Irwin McVay, PO Box 517, Black Mountain 28711
 Elizabeth H. Orrell, 130 Creekstone Ct., Winston-Salem 27104
 Beverly L. Parker-Reece, 1915 Oakdale Rd., Charlotte 28216
 Sybil R. Parks, PO Box 8, Walkertown 27051-0008
 Mary Lynne Peterson, 1058 Hopkins St., Spartanburg, SC 29307
 Lewis L. Poag, 495 Hwy. 194, S., West Jefferson 28694
 Gayle J. Quay, 200 Buncombe St., Greenville, SC 29601
 Jennifer S. Reilly, 378 N. Pilot Knob Rd., Denver 28037

Gail W. Rose (*), 276 Crepe Myrtle Circle, Winston-Salem 27106
 Selena L. Scott, 10970 Hwy. 158W, Reidsville 27320
 Gloria D. Simmons (*), 236 Union St., S., Concord 28025
 Deborah K. Sluder, 20 Oneida Heights, Huntingdon, PA 16652
 Alberta Y. Spencer, PO Box 718, Davidson 28036
 Elizabeth G. Taylor, PO Box 1388 New Bern 28562
 Ann Tyler (*), 3800 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte 28215
 Susan E. Norman Vickers, 410 N. Holden Rd., Greensboro 27410
 Katie Sigmon Warren, 146 Westwood Rd., Asheville 28804
 Douglas L. Watts, 794 Sedge Garden Rd., Kernersville 27284
 Jane S. Webb, 4484 NC Hwy. 150 South., Lexington 27295

b. Youth Ministry

LeeAnn Baird, 10221 Grand Junction Rd., Charlotte 28227
 Charles T. Brown, PO Box 661, Denver 28031
 Brandon K. Dirks, 6800 Sardis Rd., Charlotte 28270
 Bernard G. Dougherty, 663 New Salem Rd., Randleman 27317
 Stephanie M. Hand, 3100 Selwyn Rd., Charlotte 28209
 Dana Hanlon, 2424 Oak Ridge Rd., Oak Ridge 27310
 Kimberly T. Ingram, PO Box 18005, Charlotte 28218
 Kathleen H. Kilbourne, 4701 Park Rd., Charlotte 28209
 Sarah Hanko McKinney, 2257 Boone Trail, North Wilkesboro 28659
 Susan E. Norman Vickers, 410 N. Holden Rd., Greensboro 27410
 Douglas L. Watts, 794 Sedge Garden Rd., Kernersville 27284

c. Older Adult Ministry

Cynthia H. Furr, 10 Woodstone Dr. #1, Weaverville 28787
 Dana Hanlon, 2424 Oak Ridge Rd., Oak Ridge 27310
 Douglas L. Watts, 794 Sedge Garden Rd., Kernersville 27284

d. Music

Barbara C. Basham, 310 N. Main St., Mocksville 27028
 W. Ashby Brown, Jr., 403 E. Main St., Jamestown 27282
 W. Howard Coble (*), 515 W. Parkway Ave., High Point 27262
 Edna Bradley Johnson, 3815 Cranwell Ct., Greensboro 27407
 William H. Jordan (*), 303 North Main St., Greer, SC 29650
 Saxon C. Scarborough, PO Box 218, Gastonia 28053
 Bonnie S. Shinneman, (*), 9153 Yarrow St., Apt. 162, Westminster, CO 80021

e. Camping and Retreat Ministries

Kent L. Shrader, 1045 Mount Shepherd Rd. Ext., Asheboro 27205

f. Christian Communicators

Mark L. Barden, PO Box 18005, Charlotte NC 28218
 Kenneth A. Horn (*), 140 Summerlea Dr., Charlotte 28214
 Ruth W. Laughlin (*), 114 Ward Rd., Greensboro 27405

g. Church Business Administrators

Robert H. Barnhill (*), 817 S. Jackson St., Gastonia 28052
 R. Mark King, PO Box 658, Winston-Salem 27102
 Suzanne B. Northcraft (*), 3513 Waterway Dr., Pfafftown 27040

h. Commissioned Deaconesses

Lynn S. Barnes, PO Box 69, Elkin 28621
 Barbara Blevins, 108 Montford Ave., No. 7, Asheville 28801
 Arthelia H. Brooks (*), 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801
 M. Susan Carmichael (*), 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801
 Debra Sue Chenault, 252 Riverview Dr., Apt. 1, Asheville 28806
 Sybil M. Dodson (*), PO Box 367, Balsam 28707
 Nancy C. Garrison, 120 Hillside Dr., Swannanoa 28778
 Esther Jones (*), 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801
 Robin R. Minick, 290 Chambers Rd., Waynesville 28786
 Jean M. Morgan (*), 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801
 Mary Lou Roller (*), 4701 Chuckwood Dr., Charlotte 28227
 Nazgul William, 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28801

Ellen Sapp Johnson
 Cecilia Brown McGee
 Kathleen H. Kilbourne
 Associate Registrars for Certification

POLICY ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Approved by the 2001 Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference

PURPOSE

In the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, we believe that all who work and serve in the church are called to work in sacred trust with one another. The power of our covenant is founded on its vertical relationship with God and its horizontal relationship with each other. This covenant is not only the source which has sustained the Church for centuries, but also it calls us into holy accountability. In this policy, a United Methodist church professional is defined as a clergy person — ordained, commissioned, or licensed — or a diaconal minister. Regrettably, some church professionals violate this covenant and rend the sacred trust given to them. Sexual misconduct is a grievous violation of this sacred trust.

The Western North Carolina Annual Conference therefore puts forth this policy, not as a punitive measure, but to state clearly its position in regard to a church professional's misconduct of a sexual nature. Any breach of the sacred trust is hereby deemed unacceptable. We hope that this policy will guide laity and clergy to help prevent inappropriate behavior and provide a clear means to address complaints, if they should arise.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

As a people of faith, we proclaim Jesus Christ as our living Lord. We believe that human sexuality is God's good gift. One abuse of this good gift is sexual misconduct. Through grace, Christ has shown us the way to establish healthy boundaries for loving and growing relationships that call us to mercy and justice. Such boundaries create relationships that affirm the sacred worth of women, men, and children. Misconduct of a sexual nature is a clear offense against God, our neighbor, and ourselves. The church is compelled to take appropriate action to protect the people of God through the responsible use of church discipline.

DEFINITIONS

1. *Sexual misconduct* occurs within the professional relationship when a church professional engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregational member, client, employee, student, or staff member (adult, youth, or child), whether or not there is consent from the individual. Beyond the professional relationship, sexual misconduct includes any inappropriate sexual conduct or sexualized behavior on the part of a church professional. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment and any form of criminal sexual misconduct.
2. *Sexual harassment* is defined by ¶ 161.I of the Social Principles in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2008) as
any unwanted sexual comment, advance or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

1. Persons who are compelled for any reason to report a concern regarding alleged sexual misconduct by a church professional may contact their pastor, another United Methodist pastor, a district superintendent, or the resident bishop. If the initial contact is to a pastor, she/he must pass the report to her/his district superintendent without delay.
2. The provisions of ¶ 361 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2008) shall determine and define the appropriate process and response without exception.
3. When an allegation of sexual misconduct by a church professional is subject to mandatory reporting due to state law (*i.e.*, minors or adults incapable of reporting), this shall be reported to the resident bishop and to any appropriate authorities and/or agencies.
4. The resident bishop may deploy a trained advocate in response to a complaint or incident of alleged sexual misconduct. Advocates will offer compassionate and non-judgmental support for any person victimized by sexual misconduct.
5. In all cases of complaint involving alleged sexual misconduct, great care shall be exercised to explain to both an accused church professional and the complainant their rights to fair process as provided by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2008).

L. BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**Pension Program and Policies**

In 2010, the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send invoices monthly to the churches for clergy appointed, in accordance with the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) adopted by The United Methodist Church. CRSP covers all clergy of The United Methodist Church in the United States—including elders, deacons, and local pastors—appointed within the annual conferences. Invoices will be prepared using the following criteria:

- A. Pension Plan Compensation (PPC) is the total annual compensation reported by the charge conference for 2010, minus the accountable professional expenses. After this calculation, the housing component is added. The housing is either 25% of the aforementioned net amount, if a parsonage is provided, or the cash paid in lieu of a parsonage.
- B. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Contribution Part (CRSP-DC) is 3% of PPC.
- C. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) is an actuarially determined normal cost provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). For 2010, the net cost is \$6,277 for each full-time clergy. For those clergy appointed $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ time, the cost is that percentage times \$6,277. GBOPHB has provided that the conference's actuarially determined normal cost contribution due December 31, 2010, will be \$5,699,742.
- D. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is 3% of PPC. Only full-time clergy are eligible for CPP, and the PPC used for the 3% calculation is limited to a maximum of \$120,682 for 2010. If a full-time clergy's PPC is less than \$36,205 for 2010, that clergy person is not eligible for CPP. CPP is primarily an insurance and disability program.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) provides that the Past Service Annuity Rate (PSR) for service years prior to 1982 will increase 2% per annum. The conference board however is proposing that the 2010 PSR be set at \$657.00 per service year, which represents 1% of the Conference Average Compensation as provided by GBOPHB for Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

PROPOSALS: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES**(Petition 12) Approved June 11, 2009**

The conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits proposes:

1. That the cost of pastors' pensions be invoiced to churches in 2010 as pension responsibility to support the Clergy Retirement Security Program.
2. That the Past Service Annuity Rate for service years prior to 1982 be set at \$657.00 per service year, effective January 1, 2010.
3. That the following resolution be adopted for calendar year 2010:

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Western North Carolina Conference

The Western North Carolina Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the conference:

Whereas, The religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons"); and

Whereas, The practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

Whereas, Pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

Whereas, The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), the Western North Carolina Conference Superannuate Endowment Fund, and The Duke Endowment during the year by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson.

Resolved, That the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of

the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolution) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Balances Due from Churches

Beginning in 2007, direct clergy benefit costs were invoiced to each local church. According to conference action, recorded in the 2004 *Journal*, page 234, "Non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs (pension and health benefits) result in a default recorded against the church (see ¶ 639.4, *The Book of Discipline* 2008). While individual clergy will not lose benefits, the church will incur a liability to the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The default will be reported by the conference benefits officer to the district superintendents, and the church will be led to correct this situation.

The following is the 2008 list of churches with balances as of April 6, 2009, resulting from non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs:

District	Church	2008 Balance
Asheville	Asheville: Berry Temple	\$871.26
Charlotte	Charlotte: St. John's.....	2,086.00
	Charlotte: South Tryon Community	5,668.35
	Indian Trail: Victory Native American	96.67
Gastonia	Gastonia: Christ	14,203.00
	High Shoals	100.00
	Kings Mountain: St Paul's.....	4,048.37
Greensboro	Greensboro: Asbury	14,226.96
	Greensboro: Laughlin Memorial	12,635.38
High Point	Asheboro: St Mark's	120.00
	Asheboro: West Bend	8,460.00
	Mitchell	78.58
Lake Norman	Charlotte: Covenant	1,341.86
	Charlotte: Trinity	9,790.42
	Redeemer's Light.....	7,998.69
Lexington	Thomasville: First.....	1,220.58
Marion	Mundy's Chapel	5,450.04
	Burke Chapel	4,686.70
Northeast	Mount Airy: Franklin Heights	1,374.50
	Stoneville: Vida Nueva	1,529.84
North Wilkesboro	Lenoir: Harper's Chapel.....	1,546.26
Statesville	Midway.....	951.72
Waynesville	Pine Grove	29.00
Total		\$ 98,514.18

Future Funding Information Letter

March 12, 2009

To: Senior Pastors
Chairperson, Pastor/Staff Parish Relations
Chairperson, Finance Committee

Re: Clergy Benefit Costs 2009-2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We recognize the urgency in sharing information that shows the impact of the financial markets decline on your local church clergy benefits estimated costs over the next four years.

We have received notice from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB) that the reduced value of our plan assets has created additional funding requirements in 2010 and beyond.

The assets of the CRSP-DB, MPP annuities, and the Pre-82 plan have been significantly reduced. GBPHB **estimates** increased required funding of \$979,000 in the CRSP-DB and \$901,000 to fund MPP annuities, and this cost will continue for at least seven years. The Pre-82 plan requires no additional contributions.

Therefore, we have prepared a table of **estimated benefit costs** for a clergy person making the average conference salary. The table is printed on the back of this letter. Specific 2010 pension and health benefit costs will be available in mid-July, 2009 via the conference Web site. As a simple guideline you could use an increase in benefit costs of approximately 18% for 2010. Further, in 2011 we will see the return of a conference-wide apportionment for the Unfunded Past Service Cost of MPP Annuities. Specific amounts for 2011 will be known in September, 2009 and made available to you for planning purposes.

Note that all the costs are estimates only and will be different than shown in the table. The hope is our estimates will benefit your planning for 2010 and beyond.

We understand the economic times facing local congregations, but the funding of the clergy pension and health benefits as required by our plans is a priority.

Therefore, we encourage you to use these **estimates** in planning the funding of your ministry in 2010 and beyond. These matters are of the highest priority and that is why we sense the urgency in sharing this information with you today.

Yours in Christ,

Larry Goodpaster

Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference

Mark B. Edwards

President, WNCC Board of Pensions

- **Information Sessions:** We will offer information sessions in each district for Pastors, PPR Chairpersons and Finance Committee Chairpersons between April and August this year.
- **A Conversation Circle** will be provided during annual conference with members of the Conference Pension Board and GBOPHB staff.
- **As Frequently Asked Questions** arise answers will be provided over the next three months in written form and on the conference Web site.

Clergy Pension and Health Benefit Cost Calculations 2009 to 2013

Example assumes clergy earns Conference Average Compensation (CAC)

Pension Plan Compensation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cash Salary less Prof Exp	51,438	52,564	53,880	55,200	56,560
Housing Value added by GBOP	<u>12,860</u>	<u>13,141</u>	<u>13,470</u>	<u>13,800</u>	<u>14,140</u>
Total - Conf Ave Comp (CAC)	<u>64,298</u>	<u>65,705</u>	<u>67,350</u>	<u>69,000</u>	<u>70,700</u>

Clergy Benefit Costs

Pension Plan Cost	est	est	est	est	est
CRSP - DC (3%)	1,928	1,971	2,021	2,070	2,121
CPP (3%)	<u>1,928</u>	<u>1,971</u>	<u>2,021</u>	<u>2,070</u>	<u>2,121</u>
Total based upon CAC	3,856	3,942	4,042	4,140	4,242
CRSP - DB	<u>4,161</u>	<u>6,277</u>	<u>6,763</u>	<u>6,987</u>	<u>7,220</u>
Total annual pension cost	8,017	10,219	10,805	11,127	11,462
Health Benefit Cost	<u>9,300</u>	<u>10,230</u>	<u>11,253</u>	<u>12,378</u>	<u>13,616</u>
Total Clergy Benefit Cost	<u>17,317</u>	<u>20,449</u>	<u>22,058</u>	<u>23,505</u>	<u>25,078</u>

Notes:

1. CRSP - DC is 3% of pension plan compensation with no limit as to amount of compensation.
2. CPP (Comprehensive Protection Plan) is primarily an insurance plan for disability coverage. Coverage is provided for full-time clergy whose compensation is at least 60% of Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Premium cost is limited to 200% of DAC.
3. CRSP - DB is a defined benefit plan for clergy with benefit based on years of service and 1.25% of Denominational Average Compensation (DAC)
4. Health Benefits are the self-funded plan with a trend increase of 10% per year.
5. These estimates apply to a full-time, active clergyperson with a Plan Comp greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation.

HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The Health Benefits Committee serves as a sub-committee of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB), with responsibility in three specific areas: health benefits, group term life insurance, and casualty insurance.

The committee is composed of at least 12 members appointed by the board to quadrennial terms, as follows: three from BOPHB, one serving as chairperson of the committee, one being an officer of BOPHB, and one being the cabinet representative to BOPHB; one from the conference Board of Ordained Ministry; one from the conference Council on Finance and Administration; two retired clergypersons; and five professional persons involved in the insurance industry. Typically, there are six lay members and six clergy members. The various agencies represented nominate their representatives to BOPHB for appointment.

Group Life Insurance

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, through the Comprehensive Protection Plan, provides a death and disability benefit for eligible clergy, along with death benefits for members of clergy families. In addition to this coverage, the conference offers basic life insurance coverage of \$10,000 for active clergy enrolled in the conference group health plan, with premiums for this coverage collected through the insurance apportionment. Clergy members may elect to increase their coverage by enrolling in additional coverage in the amounts of \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$75,000. As an added benefit, a clergy member may elect to enroll his/her spouse and dependent children. This additional coverage is available from a group policy secured by the committee for a quarterly premium to be collected by the insuring company. The continuation of this optional benefit is dependent on normal participation of those eligible. Newly eligible clergy will receive information about this coverage from the Treasury Services Office. To obtain coverage without evidence of insurability, enrollment must be made within 30 days of eligibility.

Enrollment Deadlines for Health and Life Insurance

Responsibility rests with the individual to make application in writing for the group health insurance and the group life insurance. In addition, any changes in dependents' status must also be submitted in writing. The effective date of coverage for new applicants is July 1 following the session of annual conference. Applications must be made within 30 days of appointment at annual conference. Anyone seeking to apply following the 30-day grace period will have a 12-month waiting period for all pre-existing conditions.

Health Benefits Continuation Policy

The conference benefits plan provides for group members and eligible beneficiaries to continue coverage if they become ineligible for the plan. The policy is available from the plan administrator.

Premium Collection Policy

Payment of the medical/health insurance premiums for pastors is the responsibility of the local church(es). This premium payment is invoiced monthly. For churches with more than one pastor on the staff, the church is responsible for the payment of the insurance premium for each eligible pastor. It is the responsibility of the pastor to pay the premium costs for dependents.

The Health Benefits Committee requires the conference treasurer to notify dependent accounts which are delinquent by sixty (60) days or more that their coverage is immediately subject to termination. If full payment is not made by thirty (30) days after the delinquency, coverage will be terminated.

2008 Financial Summary of Health Benefits Plans through December 31, 2008

	Fund 575 Active	Fund 125 Retirees
Asset Accounts		
<i>Investment Accounts:</i>		
Claims Reserve	\$ 0	\$ 0
Premium Stabilization	0	3,178,751
FASB 106 Reserve	0	0
Fund Balance, 1.2008	-1,027,403	5,509,399
Excess/Deficit	- 306,932	322,176
Fund Balance	\$ -1,334,335	5,831,575
Sources of Funds		
<i>Premiums:</i>		
Church Contributions – Active	\$6,874,741	
Dependent Coverage – Active	2,744,418	
Conference Center – Personnel	483,078	
Retiree Contributions		521,427
Cole Foundation		204,000
Investments:		
Reserves Investment Income	0	219,659
FASB 106 Reserves		-1,253,102
Other:		
Stop Loss Claims	81,245	
Employee Life Contributions	58,825	
Budget Credits	294,487	
Drug Rebates	100,840	0
Clodfelter Trust	0	
Fund 507		1,972,347
Total Sources	\$10,637,634	\$1,664,331
Uses of Funds		
Benefit Payments	\$ 9,677,520	\$ 875,489
Administrative Charges	62,661	128,710

Life Insurance Premium	45,337	0
Operating Expenses	73,593	8,326
Miscellaneous	11,658	23,274
Stop-Loss Fees (Beacon Risk)	386,590	0
Dental Claims	487,207	0
Incapacity Fund 507		294,487
Staff Insurance/Pension		11,869
Total Uses	\$10,944,566	\$1,342,155
Sources less Uses	\$-306,932	\$ 322,176

Words of Appreciation

We express our gratitude and that of the conference to Dale C. Bryant, who came to the conference as benefits administrator in October 1998

Questions dealing with either health insurance or group life insurance should be directed to Mr. Bryant at 704-535-2260 or 800-562-7929; e-mail dbryant@wnccumc.org

Conclusion

We appreciate the fine spirit in which subscribers and local churches are supporting the work of the Health Benefits Committee. We seek your continuing support as we make every effort to provide a health benefits program that meets your particular needs. Members of the committee are: Frank A. Stith, III (chairperson), Donald Lineberger, Phillip B. Cole, Al Jones, E. Wannamaker Hardin, Jr., Frank H. Edwards, Patricia K. Suggs, Donald G. Matthews, Eddie Allred, Scott Osterberg, Jennifer Burton, and W. Greg Light. William C. Wyman, Jr. and Dale C. Bryant are our conference staff representatives.

PROPOSAL: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES

(Petition 13) Approved June 13, 2009

The Health Benefits Committee proposes:

1. That the Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to secure a hospital/medical insurance contract for 2010 that will be advantageous in terms of coverage, premium rates, and administrative costs.
2. That the hospital/medical insurance program be continued for all eligible persons working 30 hours or more per standard workweek.
3. That each local charge and eligible pastor be expected to participate in the conference program of hospital/medical insurance by contributing an amount equal to the pastor's coverage premium for each eligible pastor appointed to that charge and that these premium payments be remitted to the conference Treasury Services Office rather than to the pastor or other insurance carrier. The participant participation schedule should be used to calculate the eligible pastor's portion.
4. That premium cost information be mailed to local churches and pastors immediately after the 2010 contract has been negotiated.
5. That a pastor may exclude himself/herself from coverage by signing a written waiver, releasing the conference and any local church from legal or moral responsibility for medical or accident claims.
6. That, in the discussion of salaries and benefits for 2010 and all succeeding years, local church committees on staff-parish relations consider designating a portion of compensation for dependents' health care coverage.
7. That medical/hospital coverage be provided for persons terminated from the plan for not more than a 12-month period, with the premium costs to be paid by the person terminated.
8. That continued endorsement be given to the optional life insurance program provided by a top-quality life insurance company as supplemental coverage for active clergy.
9. That the following Retired Clergy Medical Plan, which became effective on January 1, 2003, and was amended at the special session of the conference on February 2, 2008, be continued:
 - a. *Benefit Design:* The basic benefit design for all participants has benefits similar to Medi gap Plan E, as approved by the Medicare Administration (complete benefit description available from the conference Treasury Services Office). This plan does not include prescription drugs.
 - b. *Funding Design:*
 - (1) *Creation of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund*, which shall be created December 31, 2008. This Restricted Fund shall be vested with a minimum of \$5,000,000. Subsequently, additional contributions to this Fund (corpus or principal) shall be made of all free reserve available at year-end. Free reserve is defined as the fund balance in excess of the Claims Reserve required by the Plan. The Claims Reserve is 25% of the prior years claims paid.
 - (2) The purpose of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund is to secure retiree medical benefit by contributing 5% of the fund balance (which consists of corpus or principal and earnings from dividends, interest and appreciation) each year to the Retired Clergy Medical Plan. The Fund's contribution will reduce the Net Estimated Claims Cost of the Retired Clergy Medical Plan to the Base Estimated Claims Cost.

(3) Net Estimated Claims Cost is defined as Total Estimated Claims Costs (including administration, stop-loss insurance and other operating expenses), less all contributions from other charitable trusts, foundations, or individuals, such as The Cole Foundation.

c. Premium Design:

- (1) Participants enrolled prior to January 1, 2003 will contribute the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
- (2) Participants enrolled in the retiree plan on or after January 1, 2003, will contribute based on "years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan." The contribution will be based on a percentage of the plan year's Net Estimated Claims Cost, as follows:
 - (a) 1-10 Years: 100% of the Net Estimated Claims Cost.
 - (b) Beginning in the 11th year, the contribution will decline approximately 1% per year to an amount equal to the Base Estimated Claims Cost. All of the years prior to 2003 that a clergyperson has been appointed to a local church or conference position will be considered "years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan."
 - (d) Participants must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B to be eligible for the Retired Clergy Medical Plan.
10. That each participant electing dependent coverage be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and that dependent coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current.
11. That each participating participant be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current. The current participating participant method is as follows:

Recommendation: Health Benefits Committee review and select a method for participant participation in health benefit costs beginning in 2010.

Rationale: Significantly increased benefit costs are expected in 2010 and 2011. Participant participation is widely accepted in commercial employment. Kaiser/HRET 2008 Employer Health Benefit telephone survey of 1,927 private and public employers' reports an average employee contribution of 15.32% of plan cost. Beginning to share benefit costs with clergy will create a concept of community rather than entitlement.

Proposed Plan: Progressive scale % of Premium based on salary

2010 Cost (estimate)	10,230						
Annually	10,230	10,230	10,230	10,230	10,230	10,230	10,230
Cash Salary	40,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	150,000
% of Premium	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	12%
Annual Amt	102	205	307	409	512	614	1228
% of Salary	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%

12. That sufficient funds for hospital/medical coverage be included in the appropriate 2010 apportioned funds to pay premiums for district superintendents and administrative, program, and support staff members of the conference headquarters.
13. That supplemental funds for insurance for clergy on incapacity leave be included in the 2010 conference budget at Fund 507, named Insurance Supplement – Incapacity Leave. The 2010 budget request for incapacity-leave clergy is \$374,000.

Mark B. Edwards, Board President

M. CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INC.

The Board of Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., is a chartered corporation under North Carolina law, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, subject to the instructions of the annual conference and its officers.

Investments:

- a. Four funds under trustee management are invested through The United Methodist Foundation of our conference.
- b. The yearly distribution of earnings from these funds is based on the following scale: The General Fund, 35.8%; the Higgins Fund, 31.3%; the Centenary-Rutherford Fund, 12.9%; and the Jesse Spencer Bell Fund, 20.2%. Earnings during 2008 were distributed to the following designated beneficiaries:

Western North Carolina Conference Board of Pensions	\$ 3,581.50
Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women	\$ 2,020.85
Brevard College.....	\$ 4,401.85
Total Distribution.....	\$10,004.20

The Conference Memorial Center:

The trustees continue to monitor the operational expenses of the Conference Memorial Center in Charlotte, keeping in close touch with the conference treasurer-director of administrative services, who manages the building on our behalf. We receive monthly reports from the Treasury Services Office, and we seek to work with that office for efficient operation of the

center. The financial items concerning the Memorial Center reported by the Council on Finance and Administration reflect the recommendations of the trustees.

The special session of the Annual Conference held February 2, 2008 approved establishment of a facilities task force. Two members of the Board of Trustees have served on the task force. Any recommendations to the conference will be coming from the Task Force report in 2009.

The Episcopal Residence:

The conference-owned episcopal residence is cared for through the Episcopal Residence Committee, constituted according to the provisions of the *Discipline*. Julia M. Hite, of our board, serves as our representative on this committee.

Risk Management Sub-Committee:

After meeting with representatives of the United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust (PACT) in 2006 and further study of the positive effects of risk management in lowering insurance costs, the board appointed a risk management sub-committee. The three members of the sub-committee are Roslyn Harris (chairperson), Sam Moore, and Dan Gobble, all of whom have insurance industry experience and/or high interest in the benefits of risk management. The sub-committee hopes to provide helpful resource information to local-church trustees via district leadership conferences, collection of insurance data, and a simple survey of coverage. The sub-committee conducted a survey of local church property and casualty insurance coverage in 2007 and produced and mailed the 2008 summary report of its findings for all local churches to use when establishing their insurance coverage for 2009. The committee thanks the many churches which responded to the survey.

Other Concerns of the Board:

- a. The board and its legal counsel as necessary review property matters involving local churches, districts, and institutions of the conference. These matters are then reviewed by the full board at its meetings in February, June, and November.
- b. We call to your attention ¶ 2532.2 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004), which describes specifically the responsibilities of the local church board of trustees for the risk management of church property and personnel. The Board of Trustees encourages the Council on Finance and Administration to adopt an administrative program that provides to local trustees, treasurers, finance chairpersons, and pastors the risk-management memos from the General Council on Finance and Administration. These plans will be very beneficial to the local churches and assist in risk management and loss control.
- c. We also call to your attention the Guidelines for Local Church Incorporation, with advisory letter. The board understands that the "Safe Sanctuaries" program encourages local-church incorporation and, further, that incorporated local churches need to have support from the conference to maintain their records in accordance with North Carolina state law. The guidelines have been revised to include a step sheet, information on conveying church real property with the trust clause to the new corporation, conveying the church bank and securities accounts to the corporation, and obtaining new state and federal tax-identification numbers for the new corporation.
- d. The conference Board of Trustees is often asked to take action on abandoned buildings and cemeteries. Much of our work involves determining conference responsibility for maintaining these properties and/or the legal authority to transfer or sell them, consistent with actions of the annual conference. The board will continue to work with the cabinet in taking necessary action on abandoned properties, consistent with *The Book of Discipline* and North Carolina state laws. The board has authorized support for a property facilitator to assist district offices with property management details. The property facilitator and management expenses are funded from property sales proceeds and the balance remaining split between the district and conference congregational development, 75% and 25%, respectively.
- e. The cabinet and the conference Board of Trustees have worked together on a policy providing for trustee review and approval of disposition of all church properties that are discontinued or abandoned before action is taken by the annual conference.
- f. Please note ¶ 2548.4 of *The Book of Discipline*, which specifies that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers of an abandoned or otherwise discontinued church shall be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History of the annual conference. The Board of Trustees has entered into a cooperative arrangement with the Commission on Archives and History which will make the conference archives office in Charlotte a much more effective central repository for such information. We encourage all district boards of trustees, cabinet members, and others to keep the conference archives office informed about such properties and to call the archives office when information is needed. The property project to index all discontinued, abandoned, and active property in our conference has been completed, and we anticipate that these files will be of great benefit to our conference.
- g. The board has prepared a Property Matters binder and distributed to district offices a step sheet, based on *The Book of Discipline* and the 2001 Legal Manual of the General Council on Finance and Administration, to be used by all parties in the event of the discontinuation or abandonment of local church property.
- h. The risk management sub-committee of the WNCB Board of Trustees strongly advises all churches to review the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for the U.S. Department of Transportation Number, per correspondence sent in May, and to take appropriate action to comply immediately. Failure to comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for U.S. Department of Transportation Regulations, pertaining to all church vans, trucks, and buses, could result in major fines.

Joseph P. McGuire, President
Doris P. Loomis, Vice-President
Charles D. White, Jr., Secretary

N. COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

The Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting welcomes the members of the 2009 conference to this first meeting of the new quadrennium. We continue to focus on the theme of our annual conference: "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World." We welcome Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, and have appreciated his leadership and vision for the Western North Carolina Conference and the annual conference session.

You will find many changes in the annual conference this year. We will worship extensively, at least twice each day! We welcome as preachers: Bishop William C. Hutchinson, Bishop of the Louisiana Area; Rev. Patricia A. Lewis, Superintendent of the Gastonia District; Rev. Michael E. Williams, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee; Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric, Assistant Research Professor of Theology and Hispanic Studies and Director of the Hispanic Studies Program at Duke Divinity School, Duke University; and, Dr. Lillie M. Jones, Superintendent of the Lake Norman District. In addition, Bishop Goodpaster will be offering the Bible study on Thursday and Friday after lunch, following the conference theme. We also welcome John Harmeling of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, who will give the Laity Address. There will be fewer verbal reports this year, so you are encouraged to read the reports in this book of the faithful ministry happening throughout western North Carolina and the world.

Many persons work diligently to ensure that annual conference is a good experience for everyone. We appreciate the willingness of Lake Junaluska to work with us in making some positive changes this year. The 2009 host district is the Albemarle District. We appreciate Rev. Sandy Giles, superintendent, and the head ushers, Richelle Sampl, Mary Alice Bradley, and Ed Eller, from this district who will provide leadership. The Rev. John-Palmer Smith from First UMC in Charlotte, and Kevin Turner from Davidson UMC, will be leading us in worship. To all of these, along with the speakers, worship team members, secretarial and Treasury Services staff, communications team, registration and pictorial directory volunteers, we extend our sincere gratitude.

On Friday morning, the proposed changes to the Constitution will be discussed and a vote will be taken. We will tally the votes electronically like is done when voting for the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. Please bring a sharpened number 2 pencil with you.

We encourage you to visit the ministry displays that are located in the lobbies on the second and third floors of the Terrace Hotel. Also, be sure to visit the art display, downstairs, in the Harrell Center auditorium, which persons through the conference created using the theme of annual conference as inspiration. There is a tent outside of the Stuart Auditorium that will allow you and your family to preview a new Vacation Bible School curriculum, created by a team in our conference, focusing on missions. You can participate in a mission event this weekend taking place in the Kern Youth Center. Stop by and help pack meals for "Stop Hunger Now" and drop off some canned food. There are many other sources of information available at annual conference about the ministries taking place in WNCC. Be sure to check them all out!

Since 2002, child care services have been provided during annual conference. You should have received a form in the mail or you can access it online at the conference Web site, www.wnccumc.org. We are grateful to Gloria Hughes, WNCC Coordinator of Christian Education and Nurture for making the arrangements.

This is the year for clergy to have their pictures taken for the quadrennial pictorial directory. Pictures will be taken in Harrell Center, room 202. The schedule is on page eight of this book. For persons who will not have a picture in the directory, you may order a directory for \$10. Please use the pink tear-out form in this book. Orders will be due by July 1. You can make your payment in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium or mail it once you return home.

Several changes have been made in the housing, registration, and other processes related to annual conference. We have tried to encourage good stewardship of our resources, particularly time and money, to streamline processes and reduce costs. Please take a moment to fill out the pink tear-out evaluation form in this program and reports book and submit it in the box on the desk located in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium.

Letters regarding 2009 *Journal* orders will not be mailed this year. Please take a moment to fill out the order form in this book and submit it with a check to Susan Yarski or Sandy Hargett in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium. You may also mail a check when you return home. The deadline for ordering is July 1. We are grateful to United Printing Company of Charlotte for serving as our publisher of the 2008 materials and we anticipate using them again for the 2009 *Journal*.

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, Chairperson
Kimberly T. Ingram, Secretary

PROPOSALS: ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

(Petition 14) Approved June 12, 2009

The Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting proposes:

- That the High Point District serve as the host district for the 2010 session of the annual conference.
- That each district provide three persons to serve as ushers for the 2010 conference session, with the ushers from the host district being designated as chief ushers.
- That the 2009 conference *Journal* be produced in both printed form and on compact disc and posted on the administrative Web site of the conference, and that the price of the 2009 *Journal* be determined by the Conference Secretary based on actual cost in printed form and on compact disc.
- *Journal* order forms are included in the *Program and Reports* book and will be available on the WNCC Web site (www.wnccumc.org). *Journal* orders are due by July 1.

- In order to be good stewards of our resources, the 2010 *Program and Reports* book will be available online only. Members will download copies, print necessary information, and bring books with them to annual conference. Relevant information will also be presented on the screens during the annual conference session.
- That reputable companies be invited to make inquiries and/or submit bids to the secretary of the annual conference for the production of the 2010 conference *Journal* and related materials.
- The location of the 2010 Annual Conference session will be approved during the 2009 Annual Conference session following the presentation and recommendations of the “Task Force on the Annual Conference Meeting” and prior to adjournment.
- That the annual conference no longer use the district priority system for securing housing at Lake Junaluska during annual conference. Because Lake Junaluska’s reservation process is now “live” by phone and online, we are no longer able to utilize the priority system effectively.

O. COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

No matter requiring the attention of the Committee on Appeals has been referred to it during the 2008-2009 conference year.
Mark Richard Smith, Chairperson

P. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History continues to seek to live out its Disciplinary mandate:

...to collect and preserve the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies...; to encourage and assist the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage, to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned or discontinued churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents; to maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository . . . (§ 641, 2008 *Discipline*)

As part of our living into this mandate, we continue to struggle with the issue of how we best deal with these Disciplinary requirements, especially in the light of the fact that our present archival space in the Memorial Center is full and the current financial climate does not provide any easy solutions. We continue our discussions with other boards and agencies, with the goal of developing a recommendation for the annual conference in the future.

We are pleased to report that most, if not all, of the necessary funding for the publication of a second revised edition of *To Be Faithful to Our Heritage* has been secured, that revisions to the book should be completed by annual conference, and that negotiations with the publisher are in progress, with the hopes that the book will be available by the end of the year. We are deeply indebted to our conference historian, Dr. Linda P. Addo, for her faithful and diligent work in recording the story of African American United Methodists in North Carolina, and are thankful for her efforts to ensure that this portion of our annual conference’s story is told and remembered.

We also highlight those churches within our annual conference who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2009. Special displays highlighting the life and ministry of these churches can be found in The Heritage Center on the lower level of the Harrell Center and at our commission’s display in the Terrace Hotel lobby during annual conference. These churches will also be recognized in a video presentation during annual conference and at the meeting of the conference Historical Society at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. The churches being recognized this year include: bicentennial—Greensboro: Hickory Grove; sesquicentennial—Cedar Grove (Stanly County), Troutman: First, New Hope (Polk County), Winston-Salem: Pine Grove, and Union Chapel (Davie County); centennial—Bethel (Randolph County), Canaan (Davidson County), Cool Spring (Iredell County), Fruitland (Henderson County), Cornelius: Hunter’s Chapel, Ivey Memorial (Lincoln County), Louisa Chapel (Macon County), Albemarle: Main St., Rosman (Transylvania County), and Asheboro: West Bend. We also celebrate the centennial of an important ministry of an institution of our Annual Conference, The Children’s Home in Winston-Salem. We congratulate these churches upon reaching these significant milestones in ministry and mission, and pray God’s special blessings upon each of them.

We are privileged to have the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society and the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church meeting jointly at Lake Junaluska June 29-July 2, 2009. Speakers for this event include Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Dr. George Freeman, Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Dr. Robert Sledge, Dr. Joe Hale, the Rev. Art Swarthout, the Rev. Bill Lowry, and Mrs. Gerry Reiff. Registration information is available from the Rev. Art Swarthout, PO Box 268, Lake Junaluska NC 28745, at the Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska, on online at www.gcch.org.

We, as United Methodists, have a rich and wonderful heritage. We have a powerful story to tell of how God has been and continues to be at work in the hearts and lives of the people called Methodist. We have a challenge before us to build upon the work of our ancestors as we continue to bear witness to our faith. May God help us to continue “to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land.”

James L. Pyatt, Chairperson

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The purpose of the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society is to promote interest in the study and preservation of the history of the conference, its churches and institutions. Membership is open to any interested person upon payment of \$10 annual dues. An annual meeting is held for the transaction of business, and additional meetings may be held when appropriate.

In the past year, the society provided funding to digitally scan the book *To Be Faithful to Our Heritage* by Dr. Linda Addo, in preparation for printing an updated edition. The book tells the story of the traditionally black churches and conferences which are now a part of the Western North Carolina Conference. Originally published in 1980, it is now out of print and copies are no longer available. Dr. Addo and others have long wished to publish a new edition of this valuable resource, and it is hoped this initiative by the society can help move this project forward.

During its annual meeting for 2009, the Society will provide a forum for the recognition of churches celebrating milestone anniversaries, with a presentation by the conference Commission on Archives and History.

Russell Ford, President

Q. CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' FELLOWSHIP

Recognizing the importance of Christian education in faith formation, nurture, and discipleship, the Christian Educators' Fellowship (CEF) exists to promote and strengthen Christian education in local churches, districts, and the annual conference. In addition, CEF seeks to be supportive of Christian educators, both on professional and personal levels.

Because Christian educators are passionate about Christian education and the connectional system, many continue to offer their services to assist where needed at little or no charge. Started in 2008, under the leadership efforts of former WNCC Coordinator for Nurture and Christian Education, Janet M. Hitch, and continuing with Gloria Hughes, current WNCC Coordinator for Nurture and Christian Education, a link to these services by district is available through the conference Web site.

The National CEF Conference was held in Albuquerque, N.M. in late October 2008. The Western North Carolina Conference was represented by more than 20 Christian educators in attendance, and our own Dana Hanlon led a workshop on the congregational response to families in crisis.

The WNCC chapter of CEF continues to ensure growth, through updating the by-laws, reaching out to all churches of the conference with an educational mailing on CEF benefits, providing scholarships for members to many national seminars, and much more. We encourage all individuals who participate in all forms of Christian Education to join the local CEF and enjoy the additional benefits of our connectionalism within CEF and the church.

Christian education seminars are held throughout the year in various districts for the sake of equipping people who are not certified under the requirements of the Board of Ordained Ministry. These seminars are, "United Methodist Curriculum," "United Methodist Connection," "Administration of the Christian Education Program," "Age-Level Ministries," "Theology of Christian Education," and "Basic Bible Study Approaches." The Western North Carolina Conference Task Force on Strengthening Christian Education in African American Churches has made the seminars available to related churches, and several persons completed the six seminars.

The following people are designated by the Christian Educators Fellowship as Approved Educational Assistants:

Browne, Frances, L. (Guilford Youth Initiative), 300 Oakview Rd., High Point 27265
 Christian, Liz (Dana), 25 Montview Dr., Asheville 28801
 Cooper, Annette (Raleigh's Crossroads), 1002 Cliffwood Ct., Greensboro 27406
 Dudley, Phyllis J., (Bass Chapel) 4 Esquire Ct., Greensboro, NC 27405
 Elzy, Connie Jolly (Gastonia: Myers Memorial), 2060 Snow Bird Ln., Gastonia 28056
 Gauldin-Rubio, Andrea, (Woodmont, Reidsville), 8107 Hillsdale Rd., Summerfield, NC 27358
 Gillis, Lori P., 109 Hicks St., Cherryville 28021
 Greene, Rebecca Blanton (Gastonia: First), PO Box 218, Gastonia 28053
 Greeson, Jane, 1816 Bedford Rd., Rocky Mount 27801
 Gunnings, Eva (St. Paul-Mooresville) 245 Judas Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117-8406
 Hahn, Sandra, 2327 Summit St., Portsmouth, OH 45662
 Hooper, Jean, Greensboro
 Hoover, Jane, 4201 Mashie Dr., Pfafftown 27040
 Idol, Peggy S. (Oak Forest, Lexington District), 11461 Old U.S. 52, Winston-Salem 27107
 Kiess, Marjory (Alexander Chapel, Asheville District), 11 Meadowview Terrace, Weaverville 28787
 Kennedy, Joanne (Kannapolis: Bethpage), 108 Fellowship Dr., Kannapolis 28081
 Kerley, Joyce S., 4108 Pinecrest Dr., Hickory 28601 (Retired)
 Lasley, Lynn, 45 Phillbrook Rd., Asheville 28806
 Learson, Louise Davidson, 5937 Haddington Dr., Charlotte 28215
 LeBaube, Pastor Rick (Flat Rock), 8201 Newberry St., Stokesdale, NC 27357
 Long, Vaughan (Greensboro: Mt. Pisgah), 2600 Pisgah Church Rd., Greensboro 27455
 Messera, Brenda C. M. (Charlotte: St. Paul), 2830 Dorchester Place, Charlotte 28209
 McGuire, Larry, 172 N. 2nd St., Albemarle 28001
 McKee, Brenda F., 403 E. McLelland Ave., Mooresville 28115
 McSwain, Alyce, Lake Junaluska 28745
 Moore, Rev. Clyde A., Jr. (Elkin-Jonesville), 251 Lyles St., Elkin 28621
 Mundy, Louise, 6709 Rolling Wood Dr., Clemmons 27012 (Retired)
 Pankey, Audrey D (Greensboro: Mt. Tabor), 5117 Autumncrest Dr., Greensboro, NC 27407
 Pearson, Polly (Newton: St. Paul) 903 S. Caldwell Ave., Newton, NC 28658
 Prince, Evangeline A. (Winston-Salem: St. Paul), 420 Fox Ridge Circle, Lewisville, NC 27023

Pyles, Jerriane (Mount Holly: First), 1220 Silversmith Circle, Gastonia 28056
 Robinson, Mary S. (Union County)
 Row, Kim (Greensboro: Guilford Presbyterian), 3310 Warwick Dr., Jamestown 27282
 Talbert, Rosa Linda (Bible Instructor, Shelby Schools), 3003 River Rd., Shelby 28152
 Thorpe, Tonja E. (Raleigh's Crossroads), PO Box 2044, Greensboro, 27402-2044
 Walter, Norma (North Wilkesboro: First), 801 Wagon Ridge Ln., Ferguson 28624
 Ware, Mildred (Mooresville: Faith), 436 Kelly Ave., Mooresville 28115
 Washam, Sherry (Cornelius: Mount Zion), 19600 Zion St., Cornelius 28031
 Wooten, Marilyn B. (Mineral Springs), PO Box 67, Mineral Springs 28108
 Work, Nellie C., 531 Margaret Dr., Statesville 28677
 Wright, Thelma D. (Simpson-Gillespie), PO Box 226 Paw Creek, 28130

Dana Hanlon, President

R. COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission on Communication is the basic support group for communication in the annual conference and is charged with interpreting and supporting other areas of the conference in presenting and telling their stories. The Commission's mission statement is: Equipping United Methodists in western North Carolina to show and tell the story.

Presented to the 2008 Annual Conference, Petition 27 requested development of a print publication entitled *Rejoice!* at a cost of \$80,000 per year for quarterly publication. As part of the conference action, this petition was returned to the commission without approval of spending and for further review. It is from this request for further review and action from the conference that the commission has set as its agenda three primary objectives for the current year to insure the highest level of communication and the utmost financial responsibility and stewardship.

The first objective is for a complete and thorough audit of communications within the conference. The audit, being conducted with partnership and funding from United Methodist Communications (UMCom), will determine the proper strategies and types of communication for any/all available communication vehicles (print, visual, web-based, etc.). This audit will be accomplished at no increased budget cost to the conference. The audit's findings result in specific recommendations for the conference to increase its communications effectiveness, strengthen its image, and assist in achieving its mission statement. Further, the findings become the foundation on which future communications planning can be more effective for the conference at all levels. The audit's findings provide the basis for the preparation of a comprehensive communications/marketing/public relations plan. The ultimate purpose of this audit is to help the conference (conference office, staff, local districts, and churches) effectively tell the good news story and transform people's lives.

The second objective is 'resourcing for communications.' This objective would answer the basic question of 'what do the churches of the conference need to assist them in completing their church mission?' The available resources for any/all churches would be gathered, categorized, and then fully communicated. This would include: ways our resource team can help churches identify and utilize conference and General Church resources which relate to their missions; establishing better connectionalism between conference communicators and local church communicators; training for district and local church communicators; periodic e-messages for local church and district communicators related to available technology to allow sharing of information on ministries and outreach ideas; providing public relations and communication 'tip' sheets for not only accurate communication, but education as well, etc. All of the above will be accomplished with minimal cost (already a part of the 2009 Communication's budget) and will improve communication by equipping the local church with existing and new tools to go and make disciples.

The third objective will assist in fulfilling our denominational mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We can start in our own local churches to reach those who are seeking a relationship with God. A major part of local church evangelism is being a welcoming congregation by showing kindness, acceptance, and hospitality to everyone. During the 2009-2012 quadrennium, the Western North Carolina Conference will place an emphasis on Igniting Ministry, the television and welcoming ministry of The United Methodist Church. The WNCC Commission on Communication is partnering with United Methodist Communications to provide training and resources that will equip local congregations to more effectively reach seekers (resources and training such as, but not limited to: Web page updates and construction, certification as a 'Welcoming Congregation,' RETHINK CHURCH training to assist congregations to more effectively communicate with – and meet the needs and interests of – people under the age of 40). This objective will provide training and information that can enable congregations to fulfill the conference vision to "Follow Jesus. Make Disciples. Transform the World."

In addition to these three objectives for 2009, the conference Web site www.wnccumc.org is continually being updated and improved. We encourage all clergy and laity to subscribe to the weekly **WNCC e-NEWS**, with convenient ministry links. Inform your congregation to go to www.wnccumc.org and click the **WNCC e-NEWS** oval button on the right side of the screen and then click the 'Sign Up Now' link and follow the instructions to subscribe.

T. Gregg Plott, Chairperson

S. CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee (CSRC) of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference is modeled after, and has responsibilities similar to, a local church Staff Parish Relations Committee, including matters pertaining to the hiring of personnel, overseeing employee responsibilities, and the setting of salaries. The committee is also accountable for recommending the salaries of the District Superintendents to the annual conference.

The CSRC recognizes that our District Superintendents, as well as those who work in our Conference Center, are the people who are the glue of our “connectional system.” They are employees whose dedication to their jobs, and to the greater church, is to be applauded by those of us who are the beneficiaries of their efforts. For this reason our committee recognizes its responsibility to be an advocate for these persons and to provide them with an atmosphere of appreciation and caring. To this end, we have intentionally opened up doors of communication between the CSRC through accessibility, phone calls, and an appreciation barbecue provided by an anonymous donor.

This has been a transitional year for our committee as we have bid farewell to Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey and welcomed our new episcopal leader, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster. We have also welcomed several new conference staff members and diligently worked with them to take ownership of their positions and to define the positions with their own unique gifts. The CSRC has continued to work within the parameters of the staff organizational structure, but has adapted that configuration as needed, to fit the evolving needs of the conference, as well as to comply with the mandates of the conference’s restructuring process. Due to current budgetary restraints, our committee has not hired persons to fill the Connectional Leader or Congregational Fund Development Officer positions mandated by last year’s conference action.

Because of the uncertainty that the current national economic situation has created, the CSRC is unable to present salary recommendations for the cabinet or the conference staff at the time this report was due. The salary proposals will be presented as a separate item in the *Book of Supplements*. These are difficult financial times for everyone, including the church, and the CSRC is working with the bishop, the cabinet, the conference treasurer, and the Council on Finance and Administration to ensure appropriate compensation for those who work for the conference while at the same time seeking to be fiscally responsible.

Through the efforts of committee member, Sam Smith, and the Information Technology Committee, the computer capabilities of our Conference Center have been significantly expanded. Great efforts have gone into the creation of a new, user-friendly, database. The Information Technology Department is constantly seeking ways to be more efficient and to cut expenses through the use of technology.

This past year, the CSRC has worked with the Conference Offices Task Force. It has been our feeling, for the benefit of our staff, that whatever facility the conference ultimately determines is best for our headquarters it must be:

- Safe
- Efficient
- Comfortable
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Provide space for needed privacy and yet be conducive to harmonious interaction

During last year’s session of annual conference, the CSRC was asked “to study the complex issues of clergy compensation and appointments.” While our committee members spent some time discussing this topic, it is our determination that the CSRC is not the appropriate body to debate this matter. Therefore we bring this issue back to the conference to decide what group should deal with this matter.

In conclusion, the CSRC wishes to thank all of our conference staff members for the exceptional work they do to provide all of us with the connection that binds us together as a body of people dedicated to the work of our Lord. We are blessed by their choosing to be a part of our Methodist family.

Stephen D. Haines, Chairperson

T. COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

“Getting to Know You”

With open arms and hearts, we officially received our new bishop and his wife, Deborah, in early September 2008. In addition to our personal welcomes, we wanted to give people throughout the conference an opportunity to meet Bishop Larry Goodpaster, as well as to hear what was on his heart. The committee coordinated a trio of *Services of Welcome* with gracious host churches and their senior ministers, including:

- Providence UMC, Charlotte: the Rev. Ken Carter;
- St. Matthews UMC, Greensboro: the Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly; and
- First United Methodist, Waynesville: the Rev. Dr. Lyn Sorrells.

Conference staff member, the Rev. Mark Barden, worked with news media in the conference to both introduce the bishop and to cover the services. This helped people beyond our church walls understand our connectional system and the bishop’s role in it. Educating people about the episcopacy is part of this committee’s mandate from the *Discipline*.

During the services, Bishop Goodpaster began to articulate the direction of his leadership and what God had placed on his heart. Attendees had the opportunity to meet Deborah and learn about other family members, including grandchildren. An installation service, using the “Presentation of Signs of Episcopal Ministry,” was central to each event.

Committee members Betty Jo Hardy and the Rev. Andy Langford represent our conference on the SEJ Committee on

Episcopacy. They are sharing several items of action from that group, including a commitment to praying for the bishop each Friday. We invite all to do this every day, with Friday as the designated day to pray for Bishop Goodpaster.

The SEJ committee is also working on an evaluation tool that our conference committee will use to provide constructive feedback to Bishop Goodpaster. The goal is to work with our conference committee to support, counsel, and thoroughly evaluate the work of our bishop.

Our committee experienced several tragic losses this year, including the passing of valued member Tom Wilson; Mary Kizer's husband, Jay D.; and Jennifer Davis' son, Sean. Our hearts are with these families.

Our committee remains strong in our faith that God brought Bishop Larry Goodpaster and Deborah to our conference to do great things for the glory of God and we affirm our support of the bishop and our faith for a future ordained by God.

Maggie G. Tilley, Chairperson

Earl Wilson, Vice-Chairperson

Bob Roach, Secretary

U. EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

The Episcopal Residence Committee is pleased to report that Bishop Larry and Mrs. Goodpaster moved into the residence at the end of August 2008 and have been comfortably using and enjoying their new residence at 2506 Windsor Crescent Ct. in Charlotte. Prior to their arrival, the committee cared for the repairs and painting that needed to occur. The residence endowment reserve now stands at \$66,912.87 (as of 12.31.2008). In past years, the conference budget amount has been \$10,000; however, at the request of the bishop, the amount requested for upkeep and utilities in the 2010 budget has been reduced by 50% to \$5,000. The committee has accepted this request with the understanding that future needs may require the committee to increase the conference request back to \$10,000 in 2011.

Jennifer P. Davis, Chairperson

V. COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (CEC) Policies and Guidelines for Administering the Equitable Compensation Fund (Calendar Year 2010)

1. Policies Pertaining to the Commission on Equitable Compensation:

Paragraphs 342 and 625 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline* direct the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) to recommend a minimum level of pastoral compensation for clergy serving as local church pastors under episcopal appointment and to administer the Equitable Compensation Fund (ECF) as a source of funding of last resort for pastors-in-charge in order to maintain a living, equitable level of compensation for these itinerant ministers.

a. Executive Committee:

During each quadrennium, at its organizational meeting, the CEC shall elect an executive committee consisting of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, and additional members from the full commission as needed, so that the executive committee consists of an equal number of clergy and lay persons. The assistant to the bishop and a cabinet representative will serve as *ex-officio* members of the executive committee.

b. Definition of Compensation:

As used by the CEC the term "compensation" includes the annual amount designated as cash salary for service rendered, additional insurance premiums over and above the conference-approved program of individual medical insurance for clergy, accountable professional expenses, household expenses paid by the local charge, and other fringe benefits. Compensation does not include housing allowance in lieu of parsonage to the extent of actual housing expenses, fair market value of supplied parsonages, reimbursement for parish-related travel expenses paid by the local charge to the extent of actual travel expenses or use of an automobile for parish travel purposes, funds provided for continuing education to the extent they are used for that purpose, bona fide gifts or honoraria for special services, allowances for moving expenses paid by the annual conference or local church, or individual medical insurance premiums in the amount of the conference-approved program of insurance for clergy.

2. Types of Grants

Two categories of support are available from the ECF: emergency sustentation grants and regular grants.

- a. *Emergency sustentation grants* are available under the provisions of ¶ 626, which states that each church or charge has an obligation to pay in full compensation, as approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the church or charge shall immediately notify the district superintendent and may request consideration for a short-term emergency grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund (cf. also ¶ 625).
- b. *Regular grants* are available for those churches or charges which, at their annual charge conferences, determine that they will be unable to provide compensation at the minimum level set by our annual conference. In cooperation with the bishop and cabinet, the CEC offers grants, on a declining schedule, totaling no more than 30% of the appropriate minimum pastoral compensation for a period of three or fewer years. In the first year, a

church or charge may receive up to 100% of the maximum available grant; in the second year, up to 70%; in the third year, up to 40%. During this period, the church or charge must adopt and follow a plan, approved by the district superintendent, that eliminates the need for this assistance. After the third year, a church or charge will not automatically be eligible for a regular grant.

Representatives of the CEC shall consult with the district superintendents about any clergyperson or church that has received equitable-compensation grants for five consecutive years.

3. Definitions and Classifications of Pastors

- a. *Full-Time Pastors*: Subject to these policies and guidelines, pastors appointed to full-time service under ¶ 338.1 or ¶ 318.1 shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule (¶ 342).
- b. *Pastors Serving Less Than Full-Time*: Subject to these policies and guidelines, elders and probationary (provisional) members serving as pastors appointed to less than full-time service under the provisions of ¶ 338.2 shall have a claim upon the ECF in one-quarter-time increments of either $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$ time as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, receiving not less than this percentage of the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule.
- c. *Pastors Attending School*: Subject to these policies and guidelines, a pastor appointed to a church or charge who is enrolled in good standing in a college or seminary for a minimum of nine hours per semester or equivalent in fulfillment of the requirements for conference affiliation and who is not otherwise gainfully employed shall have a claim upon the ECF in an amount based upon the one-quarter-time increments as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, which shall not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ time. In determining the compensation for a pastor attending school, grants received for educational expenses shall not be considered as part of compensation. Pastors who discontinue or complete their studies and intend to be considered as serving full-time shall be compensated at that level only after certification by the CEC.
- d. *Part-Time Local Pastors and Retired Supply Pastors*: Since the ECF is designed to support those in full-time services as pastors of our local churches, those charges utilizing part-time local pastors or retired supply pastors shall not have a claim upon the ECF.
- e. *Pastors Engaged in Continuing Education*: Inasmuch as continuing education is required of all ordained clergy, no pastor engaged in a program of continuing education under ¶ 351 shall by reason of such study leave be denied the minimum compensation support as specified in the current schedule, except that in cases of educational leave in excess of one month, the supplement shall be adjusted as negotiated by the district superintendent and the CEC.
- f. *Deacons in Full Connection*: As provided in ¶ 331.14b, deacons in full connection serving within the local church “shall receive a salary from the local church, charge, or cooperative parish not less than the minimum salary established by the equitable compensation policy of the annual conference for full-time and part-time pastors,” although these entities should be reminded that they are fully responsible for the compensation of these individuals. If the bishop and cabinet appoint a deacon in full connection to a position as pastor-in-charge of a local church or charge, that individual shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule for elders in full connection.

4. Request Procedures

Regular grants from the CEC must be requested by a formal action of the charge conference, supported by a written grant application, using the CEC form available through the conference web page, and signed by the district superintendent, the pastor, and the secretary of the charge conference. Requests must be completed in full and be accompanied by all required documentation in order to be processed by the CEC. Required documentation must include, but is not limited to: written plan for decreasing reliance on equitable compensation and letters of support from pastor, church leadership, and district superintendent. The more information the CEC has about a local church situation the better equipped the CEC is to provide support. Requests must be made at least 30 days prior to the month when the assistance is to commence. In these cases, the local church or charge must pay at least 70% of the minimum applicable to its pastor. For emergency sustenance grants, the district superintendent is responsible for submitting documentation to the cabinet and CEC executive committee for immediate processing, approval, and payment authorization.

5. Guidelines for Recommending Minimum Compensation

The CEC desires to recommend minimum pastoral compensation that is equitable for both churches and pastors. We acknowledge that economic conditions vary across our annual conference. To be equitable, therefore, we must be aware of the financial impact of our recommendations upon the local churches in order not to make pastoral support an excessive burden, while providing our clergy with fair, living, and equitable compensation.

In making our recommendations, we refer to changes in the North Carolina per capita Income (NCPCI), as maintained by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, on a two-year-lag basis (the earliest time for which data are obtainable). The NCPCI offers a true measure of the underlying economy in which our congregations exist and is independent of our own conference actions. We give additional consideration to the two-year-lag Conference Average Compensation (CAC) and other

measures of the health of our churches and the economy as deemed necessary, segmenting the minimum compensation levels into the following categories:

- Elders in Full Connection.
- Probationary (Provisional)/Associate Members.
- Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.
- Local Pastors who have not completed the Course of Study.

PROPOSAL: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

(Petition 15) Approved June 11, 2009

The CEC proposes the adoption of these policies, definitions, and classifications for administering the ECF and these guidelines and schedules for recommending minimum compensation for 2010.

A. Allocation of Requested Equitable Compensation Fund Budget for 2010:	
Emergency Sustentation Grants.....	\$ 10,000
Regular Grants.....	285,000
Expenses of the Commission.....	5,000
Total	\$300,000
B. Schedule of Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving Full-Time Appointments in 2010	
For those clergy and churches without a pastoral change for the 2009-2010 conference year, the 2009 minimum compensation levels remain in effect (see 2008 Conference Journal, p. 283).	
C. Schedule of Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving New Full-Time Appointments in 2010	
These compensation levels applicable for clergy and churches receiving a new appointment or clergy with a change in status for 2010.	
Elders and Deacons in Full Connection	\$38,095
Probationary (Provisional)/Associate Members	34,138
Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.....	32,006
Local Pastors before completion of Course of Study	30,481
Students Appointed as Local Pastors	25,271

Angela Rogers Marlowe, Chairperson
Paulette Norman, Vice-Chairperson
Cynthia L. Arnold, Secretary

W. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

Adopted June 11, 2009

The Committee on Nominations presents this report of changes since those approved at the last annual conference. The following questions were critical in the consideration of the nominees. They are in front of the committee when considering nominees for any position.

- Is the vision of the Annual Conference “Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World” adequately reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Is the gender, ethnic, socio-economic and cultural diversity of the annual conference and of the reign of God on earth reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the Rural Church, Youth and Young adults reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are lay leaders in the church reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members reflected in the makeup of the group?

Council on Higher Education	Myra Waddell	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Board of Congregational Development	Charlie Rivens	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Chan Martin	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Commission on Nurture Ministries	Stephanie Hand	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Pat McKim	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Commission on Outreach Ministries	Nina Wynn	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Mona Kita	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Commission on Witness Ministries	Michael Holder	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns			
	David Howard	(5/11/09)	replacing Glen S. Griffiths

Commission on Status and Role of Women	Diane Marsden	(9/9/08)	replacing Tom Stinson-Wesley
Committee on Church and Society	Tara Ebner	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Allison Best Teague	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Kim Phillips	(9/9/08)	replacing Lynn Holaday
Committee on Asian American Ministries	Remove Ken Curtis	(9/9/08)	
Commission on Communications	Anja Workman	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Commission on Equitable Compensation	Sara Williams	(9/9/08)	replacing Charlie Taylor
Administrative Review Committee	Sally Bush	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Cynthia Sloan	(10/22/08)	replacing Sally Bush
Committee on Appeals	Dorothy Childs	(9/9/08)	replacing Sara Williams
Committee on Investigation of Clergy (to comply with 2004 BOD)	Ed Briggs	(10/22/08)	replacing Ashby Brown
	Lucy Bolden	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Frances Evans	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Bebe Leitch	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Dixie Tyson	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Lafayette Wilson	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Committee on Investigation of Diaconal Ministers (to comply with 2004 BOD)	Ella Hand	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Susan Norman Vickers	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Randy Sherrill	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Patience Brumley	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	David Hines	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Burney Drake	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	David Swindoll	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Sarah Kalish	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Sally Queen	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Rhonda Hartweg	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Ron Garner	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
	Phyllis Glahn	(9/9/08)	filling vacancy
Board of Laity	Margaret Foust	(5/11/09)	replacing Sybil Perrell
Board of Ordained Ministry	Sarah Watkins Davis	(7/1/09)	to add a deacon
	Jill Alventosa-Brown	(7/1/09)	to replace Amy Coles
	Tom Herin	(7/1/09)	to replace Lyn Sorrells
	Ana Morrison	(7/1/09)	to replace Karen Kurtz
Council on Campus Ministry	Otto Harris	(5/11/09)	to replace Jeff Patterson
	Emily Couch	(5/11/09)	to replace Nagatha Tonkins
	Stephanie Hand	(5/11/09)	to replace Amy Rio-Anderson
Annual Election			
Conference Secretary of Global Ministries	Michael W. Collins		

X. CONFERENCE OFFICE TASK FORCE

The Conference Office Task Force has met over the last year as charged by the Special Session of Annual Conference, February 2008, as follows:

"The conference authorizes the creation of a facilities task force, representative of all parties affected by the move, to evaluate the continued use of the Memorial Center, seeking to determine

- Whether the present building should continue to be used, or
- Whether alternative accommodations should be sought, or
- Whether some other alternative is preferable.

This evaluation should include the employment of an architectural/engineering firm to do a structural analysis of the building, to interview current occupants of the building regarding their space needs and concerns, to prepare recommendations for feasible renovations (if any), and to prepare cost projections for any recommended changes.

The task force will report its findings, including a plan for funding any recommendations, to the annual conference session in 2009."

The task force has concluded its work and recommends the following as its final action:

1. The present building should continue to be used, and the conference offices should remain on the campus of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community (Aldersgate) at 3400 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte, NC
2. A new long-term lease with Aldersgate should be completed by the Conference Trustees at the earliest possible date and before any proposed renovations are begun.
3. Studies and any preliminary plans or drawings are commended to the Trustees for consideration when appropriate and when better economic conditions exist.
4. The renovation study and plans prepared by Little Architects should be used when the renovations begin. The initial estimated cost of the renovation, furnishings and mechanical systems was \$2,286,417.80 and could be done as one project rather than in phases. The renovation project could be funded through capital financing over 15 years.
5. The Little Architects' report used several important concepts:
 - a. Concept of Open Sourcing and Relationship Work Areas.
 - b. Relationship Work Areas can be implemented with minimal structural changes to the building.
 - c. Addition of video conferencing and communication equipment.
 - d. Becoming an eco-friendly building at the present site is attainable.
6. The engineering report concluded the structure is sound long-term, and several intermediate repairs have been completed that were needed for the present: floor leveling, site drainage grading, and wall repairs.
7. This report concludes the work of the Conference Office Task Force, and it therefore ceases to exist. The task force leaves the content of the lease with Aldersgate, the renovation plans from Little Architect, and the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Center to the ongoing work of the Conference Board of Trustees.

Mark Edwards, Chairperson

Members: Jennifer Davis, Lynne Gilbert, Steve Haines, Don Lineberger, Sarah McKinney, Al Mills,
Richard Randleman, Bob Shepherd, Carol Williams-Gilbert

Ex-officio: Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Jim Trollinger, and Bill Wyman

Y. ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING TASK FORCE

The Annual Conference Meeting Task Force was named by Bishop McCleskey in August 2008, as mandated by the 2008 Annual Conference. During the past year, task force members have met together three times, held one conference call, and had several meetings with Lake Junaluska staff, for the purpose of fulfilling **its mandate to evaluate the content and location of the annual meeting**. Input from WNCC clergy and laity was obtained through a survey of 15 questions, which was posted online and distributed through e-mail. 923 laity and clergy completed the survey. Because there are 3,302 delegates to Annual Conference, this is a significant sampling of the WNCC and exceeds the number (10%) needed for statistical accuracy.

The survey results provided helpful information regarding both the content and location of the annual meeting. Out of 923 responses, the most appreciated components of Annual Conference are worship services (691/75%), time to meet with friends (632/69%), and preaching (508/55%). Out of 822 responses, the least meaningful components of Annual Conference are reports from conference agencies (386/47%), forum groups (334/41%), and structured meals/gatherings (278/34%). People would most like to participate in the Annual Conference meeting through worship or prayer services (761/76%), spiritual growth opportunities (449/59%), and mission/outreach projects (241/32%).

When asked what they appreciate most about Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, 663 persons (83%) picked the mountain setting, 378 persons (47%) appreciate the heritage and history, while 332 persons (42%) value conversations under the trees. Out of 749 responses, the least satisfactory aspects of having Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska are parking availability (550/73%), size of facilities (304/41%), and rest room facilities (286/38%). In written comments, 75 persons lamented the lack of air conditioning in Stuart Auditorium, while 41 think we need adequate seating. 28 persons commented on the lack of parking, and 20 request that food onsite be improved. Concerning the date of Annual Conference, 21 persons commented that the current date makes it difficult for families with school-aged children to attend.

Over the past several months, content and location concerns have been addressed. **First, concerning the content of Annual Conference**, the Task Force concludes that Bishop Goodpaster and the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting are already taking steps to make Annual Conference a time of holy conferencing. At the 2009 Annual Conference, additional occasions for worship have been added to the agenda, while the time allotted for business reports has been decreased. Bishop Goodpaster will preach and lead us in Bible study during the week, while other gifted preachers and musicians from within and outside the conference will lead us in worship in a variety of settings. Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on mission project. Local churches have been asked to send "protein-based foods" to Annual Conference, for distribution by the Asheville, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte food banks, and during the week, volunteers will work at Kern Center, to pack "meals," for "Stop Hunger Now."

A large number of suggestions were made in the survey regarding preaching and teaching opportunities, worship leadership, and special presentations. These comments will be passed on to the bishop and the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting for future reference.

Second, concerning the location of Annual Conference, the Task Force concludes 1) that Lake Junaluska should remain the location of the annual meeting for 2009 and 2010; 2) that much can and should be done to improve the experience of the annual meeting at Lake Junaluska; and 3) that the exploration of other possible locations for the annual meeting should continue, with no final decision recommended about the location of Annual Conference in the year 2011 and beyond.

The Task Force is concerned that Stuart Auditorium is not large enough to seat all Annual Conference delegates, but an initial survey of conference facilities in five cities around Western North Carolina revealed that a move from Lake Junaluska would bring a number of challenges, including the expense and availability of meeting space, transportation, restaurants, hotel rooms, and security. In that a move cannot be easily made during the next two years, the task force has partnered with Lake Junaluska staff to make changes, which we hope will make this year's meeting more comfortable and enjoyable.

Changes include: additional vans and drivers from the Waynesville District for transportation around the lake; clean-up work prior to Annual Conference in Stuart Auditorium and its rest rooms; the addition of Lake Junaluska staff to monitor rest room cleanliness throughout Annual Conference; additional venues for viewing the business sessions and worship services, including the Edgewater Bistro, Susan Todd Lounge, and the lobbies of the Terrace Hotel and Lambuth Inn; improved quality of portable rest room facilities; and additional vendors to bring a variety of lunch options onsite.

The task force is also exploring the possibility of moving the 2010 Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska to a later date in June, in order that families and delegates affected by the school calendar can attend the annual meeting.

Finally, the task force discussed the per diem, which for many years has been made available to each member of the Annual Conference. Unfortunately, the level of giving for conference apportionments is not currently sufficient to cover per diem costs. **Therefore, the task force has recommended to the Council on Finance and Administration that the per diem be eliminated, beginning in 2010.** The task force also asks the bishop and cabinet to request local churches to consider an increase in their 2010 budgets to provide financial support for lay and clergy members of Annual Conference, including retired clergy members and conference at-large and district delegates from their congregations.

In conclusion, the Annual Conference Meeting Task Force requests approval from the 2009 Annual Conference for a one year extension of its existence and work. During the coming year, task force members will assess the value of changes at this year's annual meeting and determine what future changes of content and location might be made. The task force will present a report to the 2010 Annual Conference.

Sally O. Langford, Chairperson

Members: Wayne Allen, Mark Bailey, Dana Bunn, Dennis Carroll, Ken Carter, Amy Coles,
Betty Jo Hardy, Amy Johnson, Sarah McKinney, Val Rosenquist, Wanda Rouse, Earl Wilson,
Philip Wingeier-Rayor; *Ex-officio*: Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Kim Ingram, Jim Trollinger

Z. REORGANIZATION TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world—to fulfill this mission, the Body of Christ must change, grow, and adapt. Everything must revolve around the mission.

The reorganization task force has prayerfully, thoughtfully, and purposefully worked through our task of reorganizing our ministry teams to more fruitfully and excellently work toward this mission. We now present our work for your review and decision.

We would like to share our theological and foundational premises as we visioned for our work together. We hope for this proposal to be more about visioning for the future, rather than revisioning what we've already been doing. Times definitely are changing, even more so in these recent days, and we pray that this new way of working together will best equip the Western North Carolina United Methodists to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From our theological grounding in Scripture, we are aiming for fruitfulness and excellence in every ministry of the church.

First – fruitfulness...

"Fruitfulness as a metaphor for the fulfillment and realization of purpose is deeply embedded in our faith history. The Scriptures are full of stories about fields and harvests, vines and branches, stumps and shoots, trees and figs. These give us a faith language for understanding effective Christian leadership and provide rich images for learning about the outcomes and consequences of our faith aspirations, commitments, and work." (*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Robert Schnase, p. 130; please see this book for more examples of fruitfulness in the Scriptures)

From our tradition, we remember and honor John Wesley's teachings and writings that show clear expectations of fruitfulness. For example, Wesley's questions for those being considered for preaching and leadership were frequently simplified to "Is there faith? Is there fire? And, are there fruits?" We are to be held accountable for spreading the Kingdom of God.

Second – excellence...

We hear and heed Paul's references to excellence several times in his instructions to the early church as he shows "a still more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31). Paul aims for high expectations of the early church as he continues in 1 Corinthians 14:12 "Since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church." He emboldens the Corinthian congregation in their excellence: "Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to also excel in this generous undertaking" (2 Corinthians 8:7). We hear his advice again in Philippians 4:8, "Whatever is true...honorable...just...pure...pleasing...commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

More recently, Greg Jones and Kevin Armstrong write (from Christine Pohl's suggestion) "that a Christian understanding of excellence will require distinctive judgments and coherent, theologically-grounded standards of evaluation if we are to measure Christian ministry faithfully and well. Excellence in Christian ministry is perceptible and palpable. Yet it requires a capacity for measuring life by the complexity of judgment and grace, as well as the more standard measures of 'bodies, budgets, and buildings.'" (*Resurrecting Excellence*, p. 5).

We value these words from Scripture, our Wesleyan heritage, and contemporary scholars and now aim to align our annual

conference ministry teams to best accomplish these qualities. We do acknowledge that “Biblical imperatives to excel/ do not match modern corporate uses of the word *excellence*...Excellence is not necessarily about superiority, outranking others, or seeking recognition. Excellence in congregational ministry derives from the heartfelt commitment to offer our utmost for God’s highest purposes.” (*Five Practices*, p. 139).

Now we offer to you the Connectional Table to lead and direct the ministry of the Western North Carolina Conference. Those at the Table and carrying out the ministry will be:

Our Bishop,
our Cabinet,
the Congregational Excellence Team,
the Leadership Development Team,
the Justice and Reconciliation Team

Everything – absolutely everything – revolves around the mission! All decisions and all pieces of the system must rotate around, grow out of and/or germinate from our stated mission/vision:

Follow Jesus ... Make Disciples ... Transform the World

Remarkably, this statement and the accompanying logo were developed before the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. What is now stated as the mission of the denomination is clearly reflected in our own statement. That gives us the leverage and alignment upon which we can build. Accordingly, we can easily connect with the Four Focus Areas that were identified by the General Conference, led by the bishops and general agencies of our denomination. In suggesting that we adopt these, we affirm and are challenged to share in and be committed to the whole of The United Methodist Church of which we are a part.

Fruitfulness and Excellence will get lived out in our mission through these Four Focus Areas:

Developing principled Christian leaders
Planting and revitalizing churches
Ministry with and among the poor
Global health initiatives.

Along with the values of fruitfulness and excellence, there are others that emerge out of our identity as the Body of Christ:

Wesleyan emphasis on perfection: love of God and love of neighbor
Wesleyan commitment to holiness: personal and social
Wesleyan identity of unity in the midst of diversity
Wesleyan connection of accountability and encouragement.

These values not only provide the framework and gracious limits for our conference, they also provide benchmarks and standards of expectation and excellence in all we do.

We have a clear, compelling mission; we have four focus areas to organize our work; we have values by which we live; and, we identify the mission priorities:

Developing passionate transformed Christian leaders

Teach and learn Biblically based discipleship and leadership
Initiate efforts, supported by the laity, to ‘shepherd the shepherds’

Cultivating strong, healthy congregations

Intentionally relate unchurched persons to Jesus Christ
Explore and practice spiritual dimensions of stewardship

Promoting and working for justice and reconciliation among all people

Develop ministry with the poor and suffering in local communities
Support a conference-wide mission initiative

The “task” as stated on page 287 of the 2008 *Journal* remains unchanged: the conference needs a clear, efficient, just, and effective organizational structure for conference staffing, and for the necessary committees, commissions, boards, and councils. Building on the work of previous groups, and the on-going work of the “reorganization task force,” the following ministry teams will help our conference align more closely with our stated vision, our focus areas, and our missional priorities.

- the **Leadership Development Team**, promoting excellence and fruitfulness in ministry of the clergy and laity, the journey toward ordination, healthy clergy relationships, clergy support and accountability, ministries with college students, generational ministries, and camping ministries, relating to:
 - o Board of Ordained Ministry
 - Orders of Elders and Deacons
 - Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
 - o Board of Laity
 - o Christian Education
 - o United Methodist Women
 - o United Methodist Men

- o Children's Ministry
- o Covenant Peer Groups
- o Continuing Education
- o Youth and Young Adult Focus
- o Campus Ministry
- o Camping Ministries
- the **Congregational Excellence Team**, promoting excellence and fruitfulness in new congregation development, the health of existing congregations, evangelization, passionate worship, world transforming missional engagement by congregations and individuals, abiding relationships with mission projects and mission workers throughout the world, and disaster and emergency response. Relating to:
 - o Planting New Faith Communities
 - Discovering and developing church planters
 - Discovering and shaping church partners
 - o Promoting Healthy, Dynamic, Vital Existing Churches
 - Some Signs of Healthy Churches:
 - Stewardship,
 - Mission,
 - Outreach,
 - Evangelism and
 - Christian Discipleship
 - o Natural Church Development and other "Assessment" Tools
 - o Thriving Rural Church Initiative
 - o Town and Country Ministries
 - o Dashboard Indicators
 - o Coalition for Missions
 - o Emergency and Disaster Response
- and the **Justice and Reconciliation Team**, promoting excellence and fruitfulness in congregational life and ecclesial structures that reflect the full diversity of the reign of God; works of justice bringing reform to social, ecclesial, and civic structures and institutions; nurture throughout the conference unity in Christ that values diversity; and participation of all the people of God in realizing the vision of following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world. Relating to:
 - o Religion and Race
 - o COSROW
 - o Advocacy Groups
 - o Ethnic Ministries / National Plans
 - o Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries
 - o Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

These teams will be guided and assisted by the bishop, cabinet, conference staff and the Connectional Table of our Western North Carolina Conference.

Significant Changes

We identify several key changes in our way of doing ministry through the annual conference.

- In order to more effectively work together as a conference we will hold semi-annual (twice a year) conferences - one day in the fall and one day in the spring. At these conferences the Connectional Table, the cabinet, all three ministry teams and other constituent teams, committees, and groups of the annual conference will convene together for inspiring, thematic worship, and to consider together how to meet the challenges the churches of our annual conference are facing. By so meeting, we will gather key leaders of every conference constituency to be focusing their considerable wisdom, energy, and spiritual gifts on the most pressing concerns and opportunities before us. The Connectional Table will be responsible for planning the semi-annual conferences.
- The Connectional Table, now to be co-chaired by the bishop and the lay leader of the annual conference, will carry the responsibility and authority to complete and continue the work of the annual conference between sessions. That responsibility and authority has most recently rested in the hands of the cabinet.
- The Connectional Table shall review annual apportionment requests from members of the Health and Human Services Consortium, United Methodist Colleges and Universities, Campus Ministries and other conference-supported institutions and ministries and make appropriate recommendation to CF&A for inclusion in the conference budget.
- The several resource groups of the annual conference will relate to the Connectional Table, including but not limited to:

- o Council on Finance and Administration
- o Board of Trustees
- o Archives and History
- o Committee on Episcopacy
- o Episcopal Residence Committee
- o The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.
- o Committee on Nominations
- o Health and Human Services Consortium
- o Conference Staff Relations Committee

Some new processes will be a part of the nomination of the Connectional Table and the ministry teams which will assure that critical questions are addressed:

- Is the vision of the annual conference, "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World," adequately reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Is the ethnic, socio-economic, and cultural diversity of the annual conference and of the reign of God on earth reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the rural church, youth and young adults reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are lay leaders in the church reflected in the makeup of the group?
- Are the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members reflected in the makeup of the group?
- The conference staff will be realigned to correspond to this new structure to fulfill our mission of following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world. The shape of this reorganization is reflected in part by the creation of these offices and centers within the existing conference office facility. Some of the representative personnel and ministries would include:

- o Office of the Bishop
 - Coordinator of Ministerial Services (BOM registrar)
 - Conference Secretary
- o Center for Leadership Development
 - Focus on Covenant Peer Groups
 - Christian Education
- o Center for Congregational Excellence
 - New Church Starts
 - Existing Churches
 - Mission outreach, evangelism, stewardship, education
- o Center for Justice and Reconciliation
 - Disciplinary mandates for Religion and Race, COSROW, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and other advocacy, justice, and healing ministries
- o Office of Finance and Administration
 - Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services
 - Health and Pension Benefits
- o Office of Communications
 - Resource Center at the conference office
 - Internet and other technologies
 - Denominational Connections
 - Archives and History (Records and Documents)

Continuing Faithful Ministries and Relationships

- The committees, councils, agencies and groups required by *The Book of Discipline* will continue to be elected and empowered by the annual conference. Each one of these required groups is appropriately related to one of the three ministry teams. These groups, too, will be a part of the semi-annual conferences.
- The advocacy groups and those monitoring compliance with issues of justice and representation will continue to be elected and empowered by the annual conference. These groups, too, will be a part of the semi-annual conferences.
- We believe the participation of these ongoing groups in the semi-annual conferences will increase their effectiveness and access to strong relationships with decision makers, power and resources appropriate to their work.

The actions of the annual conference needed to implement this reorganization are contained in proposals to amend the Rules of Organization of the annual conference and in the report of the Nominations Committee.

We are grateful to our bishop, the cabinet and the dozens of leaders in the annual conference who have answered surveys, offered comment, responded to questions, and helped refine these proposals. We respectfully submit this report of the

Reorganization Task Force appointed for this purpose in hopes that its implementation will help our annual conference more effectively fulfill our mission to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World."

Note: The financial implications and actual nominations will be reported in the Supplement.

Robert Shepherd, Chairperson
Mike Collins, Kim Ingram, Steve James
Amy Johnson, Sarah McKinney, Sam Moore
Albert Perkins, Alan Rice

PROPOSAL: CONFERENCE RULE CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT REORGANIZATION OF STRUCTURE

(Petition 17) *Approved June 11, 2009*

Amend rule Part I.D.1.h: ~~Unless otherwise provided by the *Discipline*, the bishop, the district superintendents, the conference director of connectional ministries, the assistant to the bishop, and the conference secretary~~ the Connectional Table shall act in committee to fill any vacancies on any of the conference agencies which shall arise in the interim. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next regular election of the members of the agencies involved.

Delete rule Part I.D.4.a. Conference Ministries Advisory Council in its entirety

Replace rule Part I.D.6 Program Ministries Commissions in its entirety with:

6. Ministry Teams: There shall be constituted quadrennially three Ministry Teams of the Annual Conference:

a. A **Congregational Excellence Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives. Related to this team, there shall be formed a non-elected Coalition for Missions to connect the mission work of the conference with the General Board of Global Ministries, and to represent the work of The Mission Response Center, Volunteers in Mission, Disaster Response, Country Mission Groupings, Mission Advocacy Groups, and Mission Equipment. The team will promote excellence and fruitfulness in new congregation development, revitalization of existing congregations, evangelization, faith-sharing training, leadership training for fruit bearing, passionate worship, world transforming missional engagement by congregations and individuals, abiding relationships with mission projects and mission workers throughout the world, and disaster and emergency response.

b. A **Leadership Development Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives. The team will promote excellence and fruitfulness in ministry of the clergy and laity, the journey toward ordination, healthy clergy and lay relationships, clergy support and accountability, ministries with college students, generational ministries, camping ministries, and the ministry of the laity.

c. A **Justice and Reconciliation Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives. This team will promote excellence and fruitfulness in congregational life and ecclesial structures that reflect the full diversity of the reign of God; works of justice bringing reform to social, ecclesial, and civic structures and institutions; and, participation of all the people of God in realizing the vision of following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world.

Renumber I.D.7 as a subset of Justice and Reconciliation Team

Advocacy Agencies: There shall be constituted quadrennially the following advocacy agencies relating to the Justice and Reconciliation Team:

- i. **Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns:** This commission shall be composed of one person from each district, nominated by the district Committee on Nominations with the consent of the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the conference; four clergy persons and four lay persons, nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the conference; the bishop's ecumenical liaison officer; and United Methodists residing within the conference boundaries who are members of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the governing board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Methodist Council, the United Methodist delegation to the most recent World Council of Churches Assembly, and the United Methodist delegation to the most recent plenary meeting of Churches United in Christ.
- ii. **Commission on Religion and Race:** This commission shall be composed of one person from each district, nominated by the district Committee on Nominations with the consent of the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference, three members at large, nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference; and two youth selected by the conference Council on Youth Ministries. The chairperson of the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (~~a sub-committee of the conference Ministries Advisory Council~~) shall be an *ex-officio* member.

- iii. **Commission on the Status and Role of Women:** This commission shall be composed of one person from each district, nominated by the district Committee on Nominations with the consent of the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference; six members at large, nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference; and one representative of, and elected by, the conference United Methodist Women.
- iv. **Committee on Church and Society:** This committee shall be composed of seven clergy persons and seven lay persons, elected by the conference; the district director of church and society from each district; the conference peace with justice coordinator; the conference environmental justice coordinator; the social action coordinator of the conference United Methodist Women; and one of the representatives from the conference to the North Carolina Council of Churches, selected by the committee.
- v. **Committee on African American Ministries:** This committee shall be composed of up to twenty members, including two youth selected by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. A majority of the members shall be African Americans.
- vi. **Committee on Asian American Ministries:** This committee shall be composed of up to eighteen members, a majority of whom shall be Asian Americans.
- vii. **Committee on Native American Ministries:** This committee shall be composed of up to twenty members, including two youth selected by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. A majority of the members shall be Native Americans.
- viii. **Committee on Hispanic Ministries:** This committee shall be composed of up to twenty members, including two youth selected by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. A majority of the members shall be Hispanic Americans.
- ix. **Consortium on Health and Human Services Institutions:** This consortium shall be composed of the chief executive officers of The Children's Home, Inc., Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., UMAR, Inc., and other residential service homes, the ~~United Methodist Deaf Ministry of the Western North Carolina Conference~~ **Western NC Conference United Methodist Deaf Ministry**, and conference approved counseling ministries, and the conference ~~director of connectional ministries~~ Director of Justice and Reconciliation.

The specific areas of concern of each advocacy agency and the principles governing their operation shall be as specified by the Connectional Table. ~~in the by-laws of the conference Ministries Advisory Council.~~

NEW Rule I.D.4. Connectional Table -There shall be constituted quadrennially a Connectional Table where ministry and money are brought to the same table to coordinate the mission, ministries, and resources of the Western North Carolina Conference. The Bishop and the Conference Lay Leader will be the co-chairpersons. In addition, the Connectional Table shall be composed of one representative from each district, at least ~~7~~ **seven** of whom shall be laity. Each district will nominate three persons from the district into a pool of nominees that will be used to fill these positions. The three nominees should include one clergy, one layperson, and one youth or young adult. At least one of the three nominated should be a person who is an ethnic minority and also should include one male and one female. Other members will include the conference presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry; and, the chairpersons of these conference committees: Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Trustees, and Board of Ordained Ministry. Additional members of the Connectional Table will include the chairpersons of the three teams for excellence in ministry. *Ex-officio* members shall include the Assistant to the Bishop, the Director of Leadership Development, the Director of Congregational Excellence, the Director of Justice and Reconciliation, the Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, the Secretary of the Annual Conference, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Director of Communications. The Connectional Table will promote excellence and achieve fruitfulness in the leaders, congregations, and other entities of the annual conference so that we will "Follow Jesus" more closely, "Make Disciples" more effectively and "Transform the World" more boldly.

Add Part II.C. Rule 40 (new rule) Between sessions of the Annual Conference the Connectional Table shall be empowered to complete any unfinished or emergent business of the Annual Conference that does not contravene *The Book of Discipline* (2008).

PROPOSAL: REORGANIZATION TASK FORCE RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION

(Petition 22) Approved June 11, 2009

In order to empower the newly-formed Connectional Table to align the fiscal, personnel, and spiritual resources of the Annual Conference, the Reorganization Task Force recommends that the line items of the Conference Benevolence Fund be reallocated into four Broad categories by the 2009 Annual Conference, to be redistributed effective at the first meeting of the newly-formed Connectional Table.

Leadership Development
Justice and Reconciliation

Benevolence Grants
Staff Support

The Connectional Table will, at its initial meeting, redistribute all Conference Benevolence funds not restricted by prior contractual grant obligation according to the Annual Conference missional priorities and set missional budgets for the remaining available funds for 2009 and the fiscal year 2010 that reflect those conference priorities. Until the initial meeting

of the newly-formed Connectional Table, the existing 2009 budget will remain in effect.

This recommendation, if accepted by the Annual Conference, will require the Connectional Table to consider prayerfully and faithfully our historic ministries, missional constituencies, previous traditions of financial and personnel support, and set a course for the future that aligns all our resources to accomplish the mission of the conference of "Following Jesus, Making Disciples, and Transforming the World," and to be alert and responsive to that which God calls us in this emergent moment in time.

PROPOSAL: CONNECTIONAL TABLE NOMINATIONS

(Petition 23) Approved June 11, 2009

District	Name	Gender		Affiliated Categories	
Albemarle	Sherri Barnes	female	clergy	adult	Caucasian
Asheville	Uiyeon Kim	male	clergy	youth/young adult	Asian American
Charlotte	Ella Hand	female	lay	adult	African American
Gastonia	Anna Mandelstamm	female	clergy	youth/young adult	Caucasian
Greensboro	Amy McCall	female	lay	youth/young adult	Caucasian
High Point	Jessie Keaton	female	clergy	adult	African American
Lake Norman	Norris Wilson	female	lay	adult	African American
Lexington	Linda Thomas	female	lay	adult	African American
Marion	Stephanie Mills	female	lay	youth/young adult	Caucasian
Northeast	Samuel Castro	male	clergy	adult	Hispanic/Latino
North Wilkesboro	Megann Marbry	female	lay	youth/young adult	Caucasian
Salisbury	Will Van Wieren	male	lay	youth/young adult	Caucasian
Statesville	Judy Foster	female	lay	adult	African American
Waynesville	Lawana Almond	female	lay	adult	Native American
Winston-Salem	Laura Elmore Hale	female	lay	youth/young adult	Caucasian



Maggie Tilley, Episcopal Committee chairperson, with Deborah Goodpaster and the Rev. Donna Strickland Smith.

AA. CHURCH DASHBOARD INDICATORS

The Feb. 2, 2008 Special Session of the Annual Conference charged the conference Information Technology Committee with the responsibility of developing dashboard indicators that would serve the purpose of assisting the churches of the conference in 'moving us toward a new sense of purpose and effectiveness as an annual conference.'

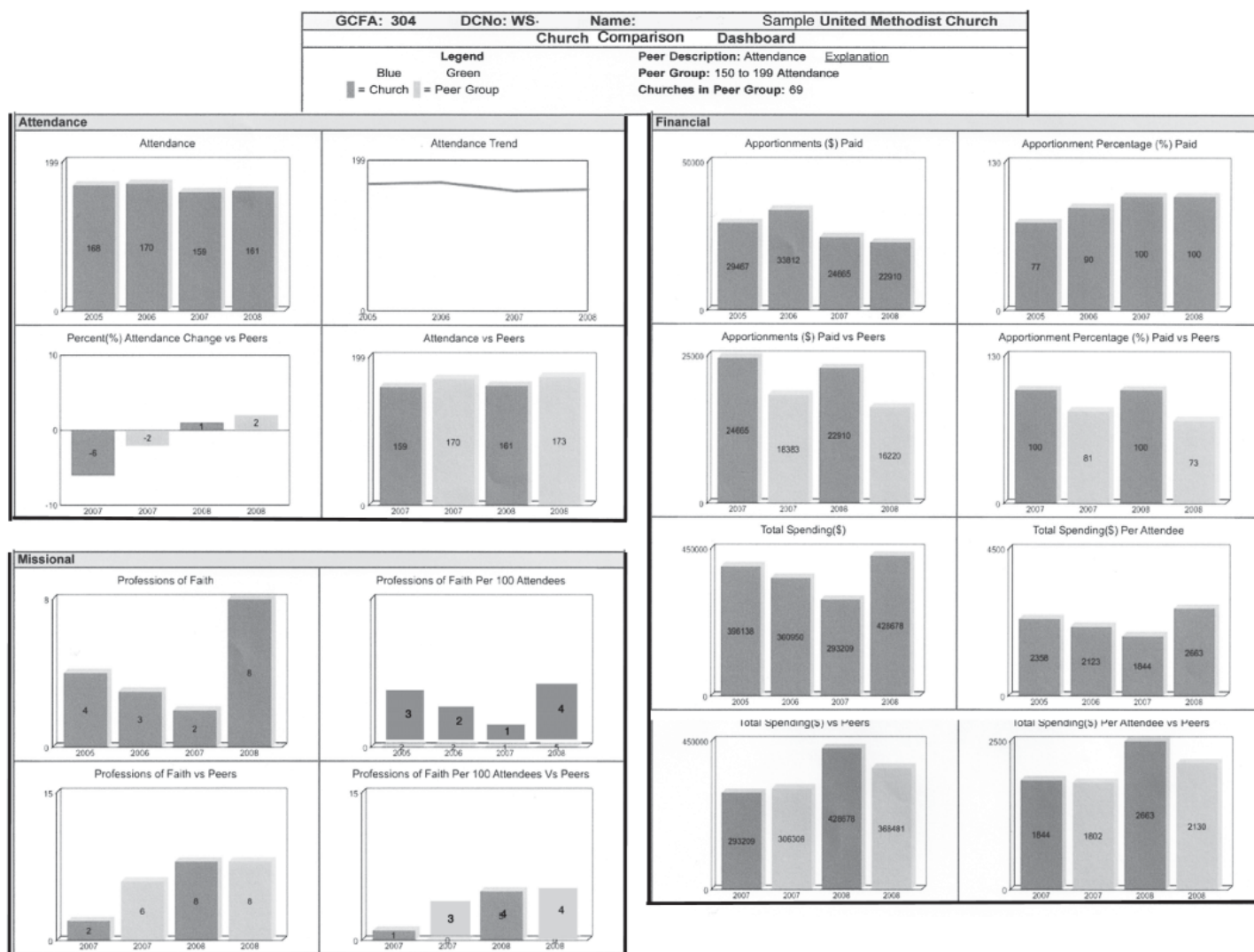
In response to this charge, the committee has designed two different dashboards for WNCC churches. The first is a Comparison Dashboard that will be created using the conference statistical tables. This dashboard will initially be prepared annually. It will allow churches to compare themselves to their peers in several categories, including attendance, missional spending, apportionment payments, and professions of faith. Initial peer groupings will be by attendance, spending, district, town, and county. This dashboard will be available for each church in July and can be viewed on the conference administrative Web site at that time. A sample of the initial Comparison Dashboard is included with this report.

The second dashboard will be a self-assessment tool for churches to monitor progress in areas of worship attendance, small group participation, expenses compared to budget, worship offerings, apportionment payments and capital expenses. This Self-Assessment Dashboard will be available on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the frequency that the church updates its information.

Dashboards for our churches will enable them to measure progress of their own expectations and goals and will also provide a way for them to compare themselves to similar churches. For example, if a church embraces the goal of making disciples, they could monitor indicators such as 1) change in professions of faith compared to total new members, and 2) change in average attendance. A goal of increased financial stewardship could be measured by 1) change in year to year average worship offerings, and 2) increase in worship offerings per worship attendee.

The committee encourages each church to review its dashboard in July and we invite your comments and questions. Further information can be obtained by contacting Ed Walk, Manager of Conference Information Technology, at the Conference Center.

This report is presented by the Western North Carolina Conference Technology Committee.



BB. DISCIPLE BIBLE OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF NC, INC.

Since 1999, DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries of North Carolina (DBOM) has been making disciples for Jesus Christ in both prisons and pews.

As the DISCIPLE Bible Study ministry for both the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences, DBOM oversees the outreach of DISCIPLE Bible Study in adult prisons, and RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP in the Juvenile Justice Institutions. To date, DBOM has managed studies in more than 70 NC prisons and youth development centers. Thousands of inmates and youthful offenders have participated in DBOM's ministries with hundreds of trained and certified volunteers from local churches. Men and women, laity and clergy, have participated in DBOM's ministries. On August 22, 2009, all DBOM volunteers will receive re-certification training at Jamestown United Methodist Church in Jamestown. This re-certification, mandated every five years, ensures that all of DBOM's volunteers have the latest in training and information.

For the local church, DBOM makes DISCIPLE Bible Study training available to every United Methodist church through the District Training Initiative. Since 2007, this initiative has brought free Disciple Bible Study facilitator's training to United Methodist districts. Hundreds of WNCC laity and clergy have received training through this initiative.

In 2009, DBOM will offer yet another ministry tool for the local church. In addition to the DISCIPLE training initiative, DBOM will partner with the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative to provide Prison Ministry Workshops in four United Methodist districts each year. This new project, called the "Newgate Project," is named after the prison where John Wesley first conducted ministry almost 280 years ago. In addition to showing churches the needs and rewards of prison ministry, DBOM will offer ways congregations can become involved.

DBOM continues to lead the way in prison ministry in NC and throughout the United Methodist connection. DBOM's unique model of ministry continues to inspire the Church to visit those in prison as Christ commands.

DBOM would not be possible without the generous support of the people and churches of the Western North Carolina Conference. We wish to thank all of the churches that participated in the August DBOM special offering. The 2009 DBOM offering is scheduled for August 23, 2009.

May God bless you as together we work to make disciples in the prisons and pews of North Carolina and beyond!

Mark Hicks, Director

Michael Smith, Board Chairperson

WNCC Board Representatives: Arnetta Beverly, Ed Campbell, David Christy, Jim Graves,
Randy Harry, Andy Lambert, Patricia Pegram, Michael Smith

WNCC Staff Representative: Steve James; Advisory Board: Larry M. Goodpaster, Resident Bishop

CC. FINCH-HUNT INSTITUTE FOR HOMILETICAL STUDIES

The Finch-Hunt Institute for Homiletical Studies, established through the generosity of the late George D. and Lucy Finch, of Thomasville, NC, and the vision of Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., and other conference leaders, is devoted to the strengthening of WNCC pulpits. Laity and clergy both support the institute and benefit from its emphasis on continuing education as a means towards vital and effective preaching.

The primary offering of the institute occurs in February when the annual Finch Lectures on Preaching are presented as part of the Mission to Ministers. This year, some 400 pastors from the WNCC gathered on Tuesday, February 3, to hear two outstanding speakers, Dr. Brian McLaren and our own Bishop Larry Goodpaster. The Institute expresses appreciation to the staff and congregation of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte for hosting this year's event.

The 2010 Mission to Ministers will be held Tuesday, February 2. Other programs of the Finch-Hunt Institute include the annual Bishop's Reading Program and awards to those who demonstrate excellence in preaching.

The Institute also wishes to express its great appreciation for the long-time support of Carlyle Rutledge. Rutledge continued this support of the preachers of WNCC even after death through a generous bequest. We will miss this good friend.

Finances

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance as of 02/05/08.....	\$ 15,066.55
Receipts	25,457.00
Disbursements	<u>4,327.89</u>
Ending Balance as of 2/06/09	\$436,195.79
Operating Funds Available	\$ 29,962.79
Holy Land Award Funds Available	<u>6,233.00</u>
Balance of Funds Available.....	\$ 36,295.79
Endowment Account – First Citizens Investor Services.....	\$67,897.64
Total Assets.....	\$104,093.43

Submitted with great appreciation to the Laity and Clergy who support the Institute.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Chairperson

Julianne Brittain, Executive Vice-President; Patricia W. Wiseman, Secretary; David B. Wall, Treasurer

DD. THE EUGENE M. COLE FOUNDATION

The Cole Foundation was established by the will of Eugene M. Cole in 1944 to provide benefits for retired ministers and surviving spouses for the Western North Carolina Conference. In 2008, the Foundation directed monthly payments to the conference treasurer to supplement the cost of health care benefits to retired ministers and spouses. Total monthly payments exceeded \$200,000 for 2008. The trustees also sponsor a breakfast for retired clergy and spouses at annual conference. Last year, the trustees transferred the assets of the Foundation to the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. for investment management.

The Cole Foundation is governed by three (3) trustees elected by the annual conference: James C. Windham, Jr., chairperson; Juanita Henderson, vice-chairperson; and Anthony Orsbon, secretary.

PROPOSAL: TRUSTEE OF COLE FOUNDATION**(Petition 16) Approved June 11, 2009**

The Trustees of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation propose that James C. Windham, Jr., whose term as trustee expires in 2009, be re-elected for another three (3) year term, expiring in 2012.

James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson

**EE. UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NC, INC.**

To say that 2008 was a challenging year when considering investing and the economy in general would be an understatement. As a matter of fact, the Foundation's 2002 report to annual conference uttered these words relative to 2001, thinking we would never see anything like what we experienced after the events of 9/11 when the S&P 500 had a -10.4% return in 2002. Well, guess what, folks? It is challenging. Some would call it frustrating while others call it just downright scary. Whatever you call it, please know that you are not alone and that the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. is committed to helping all of us get through these difficult economic times through the fulfillment of our fiduciary responsibility to help you be the best stewards you can possibly be with the resources God has entrusted to you.

There is much to say about the ministries of the Foundation and on Friday morning of annual conference at Lake Junaluska, we will share, during the annual meeting of the Foundation's membership, how we continue to be in ministry through endowment development, planned giving, fund management, stewardship education, and United Methodist-related loans. However, there are some ministries of interest that we would like to share with you now.

During Holy Week of this year, retired ministers and their survivors received benefits through the Foundation's ministry of **The Superannuate Endowment Fund**. This fund, created in 1916 by several laypersons to express their appreciation for the years of service provided by retired or disabled ministers and their families, distributed \$115,598 to be used as a supplement to their other retirement benefits. Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of those who developed this fund, this much-needed and well-deserved supplement to annual income will be available in perpetuity.

In addition to the fund above, the **Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund of the United Methodist Foundation** makes grants annually to ministries throughout the world that have the general purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Every year, applications are received and reviewed by the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund Committee. After careful assessment of the application (and often a face-to-face interview with the applicant), grant distributions are determined and funds are released to help provide ministry. In 2009, the Board of Directors of the Foundation approved the following grants from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund totaling \$200,000:

- Christ United Methodist Church, Hickory for young adult ministry;
- Matthews United Methodist Church, Matthews for Hispanic Immigrant Ministry;
- Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church, Mooresville for a new satellite campus;
- Crossroads United Methodist Church, Concord for "Coffee House" ministry reaching young adults; and
- The Divinity School – Duke University, Durham for the Reynolds Scholars Program for students pursuing pastoral ministry with a concentration in evangelism.

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to be in ministry with you and we hope you will visit our display area at annual conference where representatives of the Foundation will be available to answer your questions related to our ministries.

Sam H. Smith, Jr., Chairperson of the Board
David A. Snipes, President and CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.****June 2009**

New members of the Board of Directors are elected annually at the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. as part of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Their three-year term begins at the June Board meeting (designated as the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors) following Annual Conference. There is no limitation as to the number of terms a member is allowed to serve.

Sam H. Smith, Chairperson

David A. Snipes, President

Goldston F. Harris, Vice-President

Christopher (Chris) W. Davis, Secretary

Lauralee D. Bailey, Assistant Secretary

Robert (Rob) B. Byrd, II, Treasurer

Claire G. Hunsucker, Assistant Treasurer

Class of 2010

Goldston Harris

Roy Helm

James (Jim) Martin

Charles Nesbitt

James Smith

Class of 2011

Robert B. Byrd, II

Christopher W. Davis

Dawn M. Hand

Thomas Jordan

Doris Vincent

Class of 2012

Charles Betts

Doris Loomis

Ann Martin

Royce Reynolds

Sam Smith

The class of 2010 rotates off the board after the March '10 meeting.

The following members are "without vote":

Counsel: R. Anthony (Tony) Orsbon

Cabinet Representative: C. M. Worthy, High Point District Superintendent

Ex Officio: Bishop Larry Goodpaster; James (Jim) Trollinger, Assistant to the Bishop; William (Bill) C. Wyman, Conference Treasurer; Steven D. James, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries; Laurie Guy, Conference Finance & Administration

Honorary Board Members: Dr. John Sills, Theodore (Ted) Sumner, Carlton Fleming, Johnnie Jones

FF. RFD CDC

RFD (Rural Faith Development) CDC (Community Development Corporation) is a ministry whose purpose is to provide faith-based services to enable rural faith development, community development, rural funding, research, and design. While RFD CDC is affiliated with the Western NC Conference, it is self-sustaining through grants and fees for ministry services. Since RFD CDC began its ministry in July 2007, it has had over 100 contacts and over 50 on-site consultations in the Western NC Conference and beyond.

In the Western NC Conference, RFD CDC has worked in recent months with local churches on projects such as building programs, strategic planning, and affordable housing. Beyond the local church, RFD CDC has been involved with the conference Town and Country Committee (in a new program called the Mustard Seed Movement), the Poverty Initiative of the WNCC, the Marion District (with the ABIDE program), with strategic planning for the Lake Norman District, and economic development in the Albemarle District. RFD CDC has also been the catalyst for the beginning of the Circles of Poverty campaign in Anson County and Yadkin/Wilkes Counties in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries. Through the able leadership of the Rev. Dr. Alan Rice, Executive Director, RFD CDC is continuing work with ministries outside the Western NC Conference such as Gulfside Assembly in Mississippi and Town and Country ministries in the North Central Jurisdiction.

Officers of the RFD CDC Board are Randy L. Wall, president; Robin Pulver, vice-president; and Lynne B. Caldwell, secretary-treasurer. Other board members include Leslie Boney, Phillip Cole, James H. Graves, Lillie Madison Jones, Tom Lambeth, William H. Osborne, Valerie Rosenquist, Pam Shoffner, Clay Smith, and Jeremy Troxler.

Randy L. Wall, President
R. Alan Rice, Executive Director

GG. BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church was founded more than a century ago by concerned clergy and laity who became aware of the difficult circumstances that United Methodist pastors' families face upon death of pastors. On receiving word that a BH/SH clergy member has died, a check in the amount of \$9,500 is immediately taken to the surviving spouse or designated beneficiary. This provides immediate financial assistance to the family of the deceased clergy member and, at the same time, assures the family of our continued love and gratitude for the clergy member's ministry and service.

The officers of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood want to thank both the clergy and the laity who are members of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood for their generous and faithful support of this ministry. This benevolent organization, over the past 15 years, has provided gifts in excess of \$1.8 million to the loved ones of deceased clergy. In addition, I wish to thank Dr. James A. Harrell, Sr. for his years of service as a co-director of laity. He, along with F.F. "Bic" Bickerstaff and Jack Young, worked tirelessly

to inform and encourage lay members in local congregations to join the work of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood. I give thanks and pay tribute to Tom Wilson of Greensboro who was elected to serve as a co-director of laity, but died during the year. Also I offer appreciation to two district laity representatives who left service during the year: Harold Davis, Charlotte District, by death, and Ellen Painter, Gastonia District, for family concerns.

At the present time, fewer than 50% of clergy in the Western North Carolina Conference and 1% of the laity of the annual conference have membership in the Brotherhood/Sisterhood. Membership is open to all clergy members of the annual conference (full, probationary (provisional), associate, and local pastor). Clergy under the age of 35, or who have been members of the annual conference for fewer than five years, may join by making an application and paying a registration fee of \$10. Clergy who are over 35, or who have been members of the annual conference for more than five years, will be asked to sign a non-interest-bearing promissory note for all assessments since their 35th birthday.

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood is an important connection of the clergy of the annual conference. It is one way that we can pull together and express our gratitude for the life and ministry of our brothers and sisters in ministry.

Proposals (To be acted upon in meeting of Brotherhood/Sisterhood membership)

1. That the assessment rate for clergy members be \$8 per call, that lay participants contribute \$3 per call, that the initiation fee for new clergy members be \$10, and that the benefit paid to beneficiaries of deceased clergy be \$9,500.
2. That both laity and clergy be encouraged to include the Brotherhood/Sisterhood in their wills.
3. That clergy and laity members be encouraged to pay in advance an annual estimated assessment of \$120 and \$45 respectively, based on an average of 15 assessments per year.
4. That persons with notes be encouraged to begin payments on any outstanding balances.
5. That assessments are to be paid upon receipt of notice or within 60 days of the notice.
6. That each local church be encouraged to observe Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday on the third Sunday in February or on another Sunday more suitable to the particular congregation.

A. Owen Peeler, President
 Christopher M. Westmoreland, Vice-President
 Barbara J. Barden, Recording Secretary
 Robert W. Combs, Executive Director
 Jack Young, Co-Director of Laity

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements: 07/01/2007 thru 06/30/2008

Receipts for Period:

Advance Payment for Calls	\$ (1,141.00)
Revenue From Calls - Ministers	116,199.00
Revenue From Calls - Lay Members	76,903.00
Revenue From Calls - Ministers	9,779.00
Interest Income	1,122.56
Other Revenues	<u>23,944.44</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 226,807.00

Disbursements for Period:

Disbursements for death benefits	\$171,930.00
Net Salaries	18,553.62
Federal Taxes	2,564.00
State Taxes	1,100.00
FICA Taxes	2,973.88
Medicare Taxes	695.04
Office Supplies	38.88
Printing and Outside Copies	5,032.44
Postage and Shipping	9,189.44
Computer Expenses	2,513.18
Rent Expenses	625.19
Telephone Expense	1,773.46
Payroll Tax Expense	-
Laity Expense	-
Director's Operating Expense	6,693.03
Professional Services	2,305.28
Investment Handling Fees	-
Travel/Mileage	906.87
Transfer Funds to Cash Invest	-
Other Operating Expenses	<u>2,138.91</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	229,033.22
CHANGE IN CASH DURING PERIOD	\$ (2,226.22)
CASH BALANCE - BEGINNING	\$ 16,282.24
CASH BALANCE - ENDING	\$ 14,056.02

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD ROLL

2009-2010

Adams, C.L.	Cagle, J.F.	Davis, E.V.	Fulk, J.M., Jr.	Hill, F.A.	Knoespel, J.W.	Michael, S.G.
Adams, G.L.	Caldwell, L.B.	Davis, G.M.	Fulk, J.M., Sr.	Hillyer, D.E., Jr.	Koonts, R.A.	Miller, B.R.
Adams, H.C.	Davis, J.	Davis, J.	Funderburk, D.K.	Hilton, R.D., Sr.	Krall, J.C.	Miller, J.C.
Adams, T.D.	Campbell, D.J.	Davis, J.B.	Furr, J.C.	Hinson, H.L.	Kurtz, M.D.	Miller, D.W.
Addo, P.E.A.	Campbell, R.H.	Davis, J.E., Jr.		Hipps, R.H.		Miller, J.J.
Aldridge, J.M., Jr.	Campbell-Robinson, H.	Davis, S.W.		Hitch, G.C.	Lackey, C.L.	Miller, J.K.
Allcorn, S.M.	Cantor, E.D., Jr.	Davis, T.A.	Gaddy, D.W.	Hobson, B.G.	Lain, C.A.	Miller, P.J.
Allen, C.W.	Carr, M.A.	Dawkins, H.C.	Galloway, J.W.	Hochmuth, D.E.	Lair, R.E., Jr.	Milleson, B.W.
Allen, D.R.	Carter, E.K.	Day, A.P.	Gehring, M.J.	Hockett, D.C.	Lambert, A.E.	Mills, R.W.
Allen, T.L.	Carter, H.S.	Dean, E.E., Jr.	Gibbs, D.W.	Hodnett, M.E., Jr.	Lancaster, W.H.	Miner, D.N.
Allred, G.H.	Carter, M.C., Jr.	Dean, R.I.	Gibbs, L.C.	Holcombe, T.D.	Langford, S.O.	Montgomery, G.G.
Alventosa-Brown, J.	Carter, R.L., Jr.	DeBerry, P., Jr.	Gibbs, P.H.	Holland III, A.R.	Langford III, T.A.	Moore, J.A.
Alvord, V.G.	Cartner, J.D.	Dennis, B.J.	Gibbs, R.L.	Holland, C.	Langston, C.A.	Moore, S. H., Jr.
Amason, J.D.	Cash, D.R., Sr.	Deyton, J.H.	Gibert, A.S.	Hollar, A.B.	Lanier, R.S.	Moore, T.S.
Andrews, W.M.	Cash, L.W.	Dickens, J.G.	Gilbert, D.W.	Holland, J.W.	Latimer III, C.T.	Morgan, L.S.
Armfield, E.L.	Cassady, T.L.	Dickson, C.H.	Giles, S.L., Jr.	Holliday, B.M.	Lear, W.J.	Morris, S.A.
Armstrong, J.M.	Castro, S.	Dingus, W.H.	Gilland, J.C.	Hood, R.L.	Leatherwood, J.M.	Morrison, B.S.
Armstrong, J.M., Jr.	Caudill, C.J.	Dodd, R.V.	Glahn, P.L.	Horn, K.A.	Lee, D.J.	Morrison, D.G.
Arnold, C.L.	Cauble, R.L.	Donahue, C.E.	Glass, B.D.	Houser, E.H.	Lee, D.W.	Morrison, H.L.
Ashe, D.W.	Cecil, J.H.	Donnell, S.S.	Godfrey, C.B.	Howard, J.F.	Lee, E.D.	Morton, C.E.
Auman, G.E.	Champion, B.J.	Doser, W.R.	Golden, J.B., Jr.	Howell, J.C.	Lee, H.J.	Moss, A.W.
Auman, J.L.	Chaput, P.G.	Doub, R.D.	Goode, M.H.	Howell, J.F., Sr.	Lemons, E.M.	Moss, O.R.
Auman, T.L.	Childers, D.W.	Dougherty, B.G.	Gordon, A.F., Jr.	Howle, R.A.	Lemons, J.B.	Moss, R.T.
Autrey, S.L.	Childers, W.H., Jr.	Dowdle, J.O., Jr.	Gordon, G. B.	Hubbard, L.E.	Leonard, D.B.	Murray, J.D.
	Chloe, D.C.	Dowdy, A.M.	Gordon, M.B.	Hubbard, S.D.	Lewis, M.W.	Murrow, M.C.
Bailey, D.A.	Choplin, P.P.	Dukes III, L.S.	Gosnell, A.P.	Huffman, L.B.	Lewis, P.A.	Myers, G.L., Jr.
Ballard, M.J.	Chrisawn, J.R.	Duncan, D.J.	Gottula, K.W.	Huffman, R.E.	Lindquist, C.A., Jr.	Myers, H.P., Jr.
Banyai, P.D.	Christy, D.H.	Duncan, G.M.	Gould, R.J.	Huffstetler, B.M.	Lindquist, T.H.	Myers, J.L.
Barbee, W.L.	Christy, J.C.	Dunker, C.F.	Graves, E.L.	Humphries-Bivens, P.	Lindsey, C.R.	Myrick, C.K.
Barden, L.E.	Christy, J.P.	Duvall, J.A.	Graves, J.H.	Hunsucker, L.G.	Lindsey, J.A.	
Barden, B.J.	Christy, M.H.	Dyar, W.H.	Gray, M.D.	Hunter, B.V.	Little, G.H.	Napper, W.L.
Barden, M.L.	Cirksena, R.J., Jr.	Dye, M.J.	Greene, D.S.	Hutchings, C.R.	Locke, D.A.	Newell, J.K.
Barnes, S.E.	Clanton, R.A., Jr.		Greene, L.W.		Lookadoo, D.G.	Newman, B.M.
Barnhardt, R.T.	Clark, L.J.	Eanes, R.H., Jr.	Grice, F.W.	Ingram, F.E.	Lovelace, W.E.	Newman, D.A.
Barr, C.B.	Clayton, R.L., Jr.	Easter, K.L.	Griffin, G.T.	Ingram, R.A., Jr.	Lowder, P.D.	Northcraft, S.B.
Barringer, G.R.	Clifton, L.B.	Edmonds, O.R.	Griffis, T.L.	Ingram, R.M., Sr.	Lowe, V.W.	Northington, J.A.
Bartley, E.J.	Clinard, H.C.	Edwards, F.H.	Griffiths, G.S.	Ireson, C.H.	Lucas, J.C.	Northrup, P.B.
Baxter, D.L.	Clinard, R.M.	Edwards, J.F.	Groh, D.G.	Isenhour, O.B.	Luther, J.E., Jr.	Norton, Z.G.
Beall, T.M.	Clodfelter, B.C.	Eggers, L.A.	Grose, J.C., Jr.	Ison, F.H.	Luther, J.D.	Noyes, D.C.
Beam, D.W.	Clodfelter, J.P., Jr.	Eller, K.R.	Guy, C.R.	Ivey, H.D.	Lutz, D.H.	
Beard, D.R., Jr.	Clodfelter, W.D.	Ellis, L.D.	Guy, D.A.		Lynn, E.R.	O'Ferrell, L.R.
Beaty, F.D.	Coates, P.K.	Ellison, W.B.	Gwyn, B.L.	James, S.D.	Lyons, D.J.	Ollis, J.P.
Beck, B.R.	Cockman, E.A.	Emory, M.J.		Jarrett, R.B.	Lytle, R.J.d	Outlaw, J.K., Jr.
Beck, H.C.	Cole, J.W.	Epps, J.F.	Hacklander, P.K.	Jeffries, W.T.		Overcash, R.A.
Benfield, C.M.	Cole, P.B.	Ervin, B.N.	Hahn, R.J.	Jenkins, P.M.	Macdonald, M.A.	Owen, P.S., Jr.
Beverly, A.E.	Coles, A.L.	Ervin, J.L.	Haines, S.D.	Jessup, B.J.	Macon, F.K.	Owenby, L.E.
Biggers, E.L.	Collins, G.D.	Evans, J.H.	Haire, E.R.	Johnsen, J.W.	Maddox, J.E.	Owens, N.B.
Bigham, W.O.	Collins, M.W.	Everett, A.	Hall, J.T.	Johnson, J.L.	Maness, C.M., Jr.	Owens, W.N.
Billings, J.W.	Colson, J.D.	Faggart, J.R.	Hall, R.O.	Johnson, J.S.	Manning, C.C.	
Bingham, K.W.	Combs, J.F.	Faggart, W.H.	Hamilton, J.R.	Johnson, K.M.	Margarita, D.S.	Padilla, M.B.
Bishop, S.B.	Combs, R.W.	Fair, L.O.	Hamlyn, D.M.	Johnson, LN	Marlowe, A.R.	Page, C.E.
Black, E.L.	Combs, S.R.	Falls, Fred, Jr.	Hammett, G.D.	Johnson, S.T.	Martlowe, J.D.	Page, C.S.
Blalock, J.F., Jr.	Compton, H.R.	Farabow, M.S.	Hammill, T.L.	Jones, B.M.	Martin, D.B.	Park, P.W.
Blanton, T.R.	Conder, A.R.	Ferguson-Allen, L.L.	Harkey, E.S.	Jones, K.R.	Martin, D.G.	Parker, B.J.
Blanton, W.N., Jr.	Conder, T.E., Jr.	Ferree, J.K.	Harrelson, C.G.	Jones, R.R.	Martin, S.L.	Parker, M.J.
Blizzard, L.K.	Conover, A.C.	Few, J.F.	Harrill, M.B., Jr.	Jones, S.T.	Mason, D.M.	Parker-Reece, B.L.
Boggan, R.E., Jr.	Conover, C.H., Jr.	Finney, R.H.	Harris, B.P.	Jordan, D.M.	Mason, D.O.	Parris, D.L.
Boggs, J.S.	Conrad, D.E.	Fisher, D.L.	Harris, J.D.	Jordan, N.F., Jr.	Matthews, T.L.	Patzfahl, R.L.
Bolie, A.P.	Cook, D.A., Jr.	Fite, R.D.	Harris, M.L.	Joyce, S.D.	Mayo, B.B.	Payne, A.D.
Bowen, J.E.	Cook, E.A., Jr.	Fitzgerald, J.C.	Hartsell, C.J.	Joyner, M.E.	McAbee, K.M.	Peeler, A.O.
Bowman, F.B.	Cook, F.B.	FitzJefferies, H.D.	Hatherly, K.L.	Judy, K.W.	McClellan, M.D.	Pegues, Walter
Bowman, G.O.	Cooke, J.H.	Flack, C.A.	Hatley, M.T.	Justice, H.A.	McCleskey, J.L.	Pendleton, K.S.
Bradley, E.F.	Cooke, R.J.	Fleming, H.D.	Hauser, J.J.		McClintick, H.E.	Penland, D.R.
Branton, T.R.	Cornell, B.J.	Fletcher, L.W.	Hawk, J.H.	Kale, J.W.	McConnell, J.T.	Penley, C.C., Jr.
Bremer, D.C.	Cornell, K.V.	Flynn, D.J.	Hawkins, G.L.	Kalish, S.B.	McCombs, J.A.	Penry, C.K.
Briggs, L.T.	Cradly, B.M.	Forbes, V.L.	Hawkins, W.T.	Kammerer, C.P.	McGuire, J.W.	Perkins, P.F., Sr.
Brittain, T.B.	Craig, P.A., Jr.	Ford, A.G.	Haynes, D.W.	Kaser Odor, K.E.	McHale, D.F.	Peterson, M.L.
Brown, A.W., Jr.	Cranfill, K.R.	Foster, A.D.	Haynes, J.O.	Kayler, C.J.	McIntosh, M.D.	Petree, J.R.
Brown, H.A.	Creech, H.L., Jr.	Foster, G.B.	Heafner, J.P.	Kayler, R.E.	McKelvey, W.H.	Peurifoy, R.C.
Brown, W.A., Jr.	Croom, S.A.	Foster, R.A.	Hedgpeth, E.H.	Kelley, D.R.	McKim, D.A.	Peurifoy, V.B.
Buckner, F.W.	Crowder, R.J.	Foust, W.N.	Heermans, E.D.	Kelly, L.M.	McKinney, E.D.	Pharr, P.A.
Bumgarner, L.G.		Fowler III, J.W.	Heermans, J.P.	Key, J.T.	McLawhorn, R.T.	Pheagin, W.H., Jr.
Burson, R.N., Jr.	Dalton, G.W.	Fox, D.B., Jr.	Herbin, F.L.	Key, M.J.	McMurry, J.C.	Plowman, E.L.
Burton, G.A.	Daniels, J.C.	Franklin, J.K.	Herin, T.J.	Killian, T.S.	McNiel, S.L.	Plummer, C.M.
Burton, J.M., Jr.	Darnell, J.D.	Freeman, G.D.	Herman, J.F.	Kim, A.	Medlin, W.T., Jr.	Pollock, G.L.
Burton, J.M., Sr.	Davenport, J.P.	Freeman, P.	Herold, J.W.	Kincaid, E.C.	Medlin III, W.T.	Pollock, H.M.
Burton, M.K.	Davis, B.F.	Freshour, A.R.	Herron, R.E.	King, R.M.	Melton, J.T.	Porter, T. R.
Butler, D.H.	Davis, C.N.	Friddle, G.H., Jr.	Herron, V.C.	Kirk, R.H.	Melton, L.M.	Portis, M.S.
Bynum, L.E.	Davis, D.C.	Fritts, R.E., Jr.	Hiatt, E.E., Jr.	Kirk, T.A.	Michael, R.B.	Powell, C.G.

Powell, D.N.	Robinson, G.P.	Shepard, J.J.	Spivey, A.C.	Tarpley, T.J., Jr.	Wall, R.L.	Williams, J.B., Jr.
Powell, J.J.	Rochester, N.L., Jr.	Shepherd, B.K.	Stadler, L.E., Jr.	Tate, J.P.	Wallace, E.L.	Williams-Gilbert, C.
Powell, J.L.	Rodriguez, C.A.	Sherfey, J.H.	Stamey, R.H.	Taylor, J.L., Jr.	Ward, J.A., Jr.	Wilson, A.A.
Powell, T.A.	Romanat, M.M.	Sherrill, C.G.	Stanton, D.S.	Taylor, J.M.	Ward, J.R.	Wilson II, C.W.
Prichard, J.O.	Romanello, R.E.	Sherrill, H.D., Jr.	Staples, L.W., Jr.	Taylor, P.J.	Warner, J.M.G.	Wilson, L.B.
Pryor, W.D.	Rorie, D.M.	Sherrill, H.M.	Starnes, T.P.	Taylor, T.K.	Warner, S.B.	Wimmer, M.F.
Pyatt, J.L.	Rose, G.W.	Sherrill, K.C.	Steagald, T.R.	Thie, R.B.	Weaver, A.B.	Winstead, M.E.
	Roseboro, R.E.	Sherrill, R.N.	Steck, R.D.	Thomas III, J.H.	Webb, J.S.	Witherington III, B.
Queen, H.	Roseman, M.D.	Shipp, R.A.	Steed, R.G., Jr.	Thore, W.C.	Webb, J.T., Jr.	Witherspoon, L.H.
	Rosenquist, V.B.	Shives, H.D.	Stevens, W.L.	Thumm, M.V.	Webb, S.F.	Witty, R.L., Jr.
Raines, J.A.	Routh, D.W.	Shuford, M.A.	Stewart, C.A.	Thurman, J.M.	Webb, S.S.	Wombough, W.B.
Rainey, S.K.	Rowland, C.L.	Sides, S.H.	Stinson-Wesley, J.T.	Tingle, R.A.	Weekley, J.M.	Wood, F.J.
Ralls, R.J.	Royals, G.C.	Sigmon, T.R.	Stith III, F.A.	Tisdale, J.K.	Weeks, T.W.	Woodard, L.H.
Ramsey, G.L.	Rudisill, G.W.	Sills, J.R.	Stockton, T.B.	Tomlinson, D.W.	Weiler, M.L.	Woodward, W.W.
Randolph, R.D.	Rufty, J.M.	Sills, M.R.	Stokes, E.B.	Trollinger, J.T.	Weisner, R.D.	Wooten, M.B.
Rankin, N.B.	Russell, R.G., Jr.	Sisk, C.W.	Storey, N.B.	Troutman, G.D.	Welch, P. P.	Workman, M.M.
Ratcliffe, D.W.	Rutledge, T.E., Jr.	Sluder, D.K.	Stowe, D.P.	Turman, D.W.	Wensil, T.D.	Worley, Edwin
Reece, E.A.		Smisor, H.N.	Strader, R.H.	Turman, T.C.	Westfall, J.M.	Worthy, C.M., Jr.
Reed, R.L.	Sailors, R.R.	Smith, D.S.	Strange, L.H.	Turner, C.M., Jr.	Westmoreland, C.M.	Wyant, D.A.
Reep, J.D.	Sain, D.D.	Smith, H.D.	Suggs, D.L.	Tuttle, R.B.	Westmoreland, J.R.	Wyman, W.C., Jr.
Reeves, J.R.	Sanders, J.K.	Smith, J.E.	Suggs, P.K.	Tyson, C.E.	White, C.D., Jr.	
Reid, J.L.	Sartin, C.W.	Smith, K.H.	Sullivan, D.L.		White, D.L.	Yarborough, E.S.
Rhinehart, J.B.	Scandale, N.A., Jr.	Smith, M.S.	Summey, R.C.	Van Meter, A.R.	White, J.K.	Yarbrough, J.B.
Rice, R.A., Jr.	Scarborough, S.C.	Smith, S.L.	Swaim, B.G.	Varner, J.H.	White, J.L.	Yates, W.G.
Riggs, E.R.	Schwantes, H.E.	Smotherman, D.P.	Swann, M.M.	Vernon, A.C.	White, W.R.	Young III, C.S.
Rintz, J.W.	Scott, J.A.	Snider, N.T.	Sweet, W.A.	Vickers, M.N.	Whiteside, B.M.	Young, H.C., Jr.
Roach, R.E.	Sellers, H.R., Jr.	Snipes, D.A.	Sweezy, N.N.	Vickers, S.N.	Whitley, A.L.	Young, C.A.
Roberson, G.W.	Sellers, L., Jr.	Snow, O.L.	Swofford, M.K.	Vredenburg, Y.L.	Whitlock, D.E., Jr.	Yount, P.W., Jr.
Roberts, J.A.	Settle, C.E.	Spencer, A.Y.			Williams, E.W.	Yow, J.L.
Roberts, K.H.	Setzer, P.H.	Spencer, R.L.	Talbert, D.D.	Wachs, W.R.	Williams, G.E.	
Roberts, T.K.	Setzer, R.D.	Spillman, J.P., Jr.	Talbert, T.R.	Walker, P.B.	Williams, H.M.	

HH. THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

Charles Dickens opens *A Tale of Two Cities*, “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times” and that seems like an accurate description of 2008. The year felt like one of those rides at the county fair that swoop you up, drop you down and twist you all about – exhilarating in the first moments, but the cause of gastrointestinal distress over the long haul. It’s easy to imagine that everyone in this auditorium has felt a little bit of both since we last met. The past year was the *best* of times, and it was the worst of times.

Rural Churches:

We’ve heard a great deal about the tough times and I don’t want to be Pollyanna about them, they are very real. Each of us has a story to tell about how we have been affected. In the work of The Duke Endowment, available grant dollars have been significantly reduced necessitating some difficult decisions, most notably the temporary suspension of new grants. Nonetheless, during the past year, rural churches received 143 grants totaling more than \$16 million dollars.

Though these grant dollars were reduced there are ministries to celebrate. All over our Annual Conference rural churches have filled the gaps created by a faltering economy and demonstrated the resiliency and faithfulness Mr. Duke noted when he said rural places are “the bone and sinew of our country.” During the past year, churches used diminished grant dollars to open food pantries and expand meal programs to feed their neighbors and in doing so met the immediate needs of those who hunger in their communities. Many also offered job retraining and basic computer skills to help provide long term solutions for their area’s unemployed. Other churches in our conference discovered the need for affordable, quality child care in their community and opened or expanded facilities providing good alternatives to lighten the load of overburdened parents. Clothing closets, community gardens, elder ministries, and the list could go on for the rest of our time together today, were created or expanded to provide important services to brothers and sisters in need. Suffice it to say that on any given day in any given rural fellowship hall there were countless examples of neighbors loving God and serving one another – “it was the *best* of times.”

Thriving Rural Communities:

The Thriving Rural Communities Initiative continues to flourish under the thoughtful leadership of Jeremy Troxler. As you may recall, the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative is a partnership of the Western NC Conference, the North Carolina Conference, the Divinity School at Duke and The Duke Endowment. The Initiative’s mission is “to share and strengthen the gifts of North Carolina’s rural clergy, churches, communities and creation.” That mission is realized in at least three important ways.

The first is in connecting rural clergy. August 10th – 12th the Convocation on the Rural Church will convene nearly 130 rural pastors to hear presentations and share stories both teaching and learning from one another on the theme “Power in Partnership.” Previous convocations have shown that this time together can foster collaboration and new and renewed ministry that strengthens both clergy and the church.

A second component of realizing our mission is working with partner churches in Western North Carolina (Tyro, Fairview, Friendship, and First Hayesville) and NC Conference on community ministries. During the last year nearly \$115,000 in Thriving Rural Communities Development Grants were distributed to innovative ministries focused on “Following Jesus, Making Disciples and Transforming the World.”

Finally, the initiative has a scholarship component to help develop a new generation of transformative leaders dedicated to rural ministry. When the school year begins in the fall, there will be 18 rural fellows at Duke Divinity School – nine from the Western NC Conference. Rural Fellows receive full tuition and covenant to serve at least five years in rural UM churches. I'm pleased to introduce the newest fellows: Bradley Hinton (North Wilkesboro District), Kevin Miller (Salisbury District) and Lucy Robbins (Greensboro District). And I'm both delighted and honored to report that the Western North Carolina Conference has our first Rural Fellow graduate: Duncan Martin (Winston-Salem District). Duncan will begin serving a two point charge in Rural Hall, NC at the close of conference and I've not seen a smile as wide as his. He is thrilled to have the privilege to serve Oak Grove and Antioch.

Pastors working together to find creative solutions to difficult problems, churches reaching out to their communities in ministry and talented people enthusiastically seeking to serve rural churches – “it was the *best* of times.”

Clergy Health Initiative:

Another example of the partnership of the two UMC Annual Conferences in North Carolina, the Divinity School at Duke and The Duke Endowment is the Clergy Health Initiative. Last year at this time surveys were being mailed to pastors as part of that initiative. An unprecedented 95% of clergy (nearly 1,800) responded to these completely confidential surveys that provide baseline data of the health of UM clergy state-wide. The data collected has been used to help create a pilot program that targets the most critical health needs of our pastors. The pilot will begin in the Northeast District in July with further roll out after the program has been evaluated for effectiveness.

LTG Associates has been hired as an outside evaluator of the Clergy Health Initiative. They will work to help all stakeholders understand progress toward benchmarks and interpret learnings so that successful components can be replicated. LTG will also help disseminate information relevant to the initiative.

The Bishop, District Superintendents, clergy and lay people throughout the Western North Carolina Conference called out in unison that improving clergy health as critical to the overall health of the church and church leaders responded with a comprehensive program – “it was the *best* of times.”

Conclusion:

In very real and measurable ways, rural ministry throughout the conference is thriving. Though we have all been presented with challenges in ministry these are the *best* of times to work together to find creative, faithful solutions.

Robert R. Webb III, Program Officer, Rural Church Division

II. NORTH CAROLINA PASTORS' SCHOOL AND DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL CONVOCATION

On October 13-15, 2008, almost 450 clergy gathered for the annual Convocation and Pastors' School at Duke Divinity School. The event explored how pastors and other institutional leaders can exercise Christian leadership that is faithful, wise, and strategic. Featured speaker Ron Heifetz, author and Harvard University professor, offered a provocative lecture on leadership, adaptability, and thriving. Divinity School Dean L. Gregory Jones addressed the question, “What is Christian about Christian Leadership?” Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, provided the final lecture with humor, hope, and helpful direction as a practicing pastor of a vibrant congregation. Fifteen different continuing education seminars included “The Stories We Tell Ourselves and how they Impact Leadership,” “Leading When you're Not Sure of the Way: What a young girl with cancer taught a mom, a pastor, and a doctor,” “The Foolishness of Preaching,” and “Moral Leadership is not an Oxymoron.” A distinguished panel of United Methodist bishops named the context, critique, and challenge for Christian leadership for such a time as this. Now is the time to intentionally address globally-sensitive Christian practices relevant for evangelism, education, and service, and advance engagement of youth and the next generation of Christian faith communities.

The 2009 Convocation and Pastors' School will be held October 5-7, and will explore *The Next Generation: Engaging the Christian Faith in a Global Context*. The challenges of Christian ministry in the United States today are deeper and more extensive than the current economic crisis. To truly serve the church in this time of change, ministry must claim and re-claim the transformative power of the Gospel, especially through the direction of the Holy Spirit. In this endeavor we have much to learn from our young people, as well as from developments in the global church. Philip Jenkins (University of Pennsylvania), author of *The Lost History of Christianity*; Kenda Creasy-Dean (Princeton Seminary), author of *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*; and Os Guinness, author of *The Case for Civility*, will be providing primary leadership this fall. We aim to develop an awareness of the transformational religious shifts globally, its expressions in a so-called post-modern context, and bridge the chasm between academic knowledge and popular knowledge for living out our Christian calling. The preacher for Convocation will be United Methodist pastor, Tyrone Gordon.

Join us to examine the opportunities for living into Christ's new creation by learning from the mighty works of the Spirit in

His global Church. A detailed brochure will be available from Duke Divinity School later this summer. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Center for Lifelong Learning for more information: <http://www.divinity.duke.edu/learningforlife>, e-mail div-conted@duke.edu, phone 888-845-4216.

Rev. Joy J. Moore, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Lifelong Learning
Duke University Divinity School

JJ. SCHOOLS OF THEOLOGY

1. CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is changing in wonderful ways that enhance its ability to fulfill its mission: to educate faithful, creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world. To this end, Candler is constantly working to deepen its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith, shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine professional schools of United Methodist-related Emory University, Candler engages with the most complex and difficult issues of our day. Located in Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a highly diverse community, a global crossroads where church growth is cultivated.

In September, we dedicated Phase I of the new Candler School of Theology Building. The "CST" provides a technologically sophisticated and environmentally sound (LEEDS, silver certificate) setting for work and community. Phase II will house the Pitts Theology Library, the Wesley Teaching Chapel, and additional offices and classrooms.

Forty-two percent of the faculty is United Methodist. Two new positions, the Director of Lifelong Learning and the Associate Dean of Methodist Studies, connect clergy with new opportunities for learning and conferences with students who are seeking ordination; relate to denominational agencies; oversee certifications and the Course of Study; and teach courses.

In its second year, Candler's new curriculum assists students in aligning their courses with their call to ministry and integrating the classroom with their contextual education settings. This is accomplished through the selection of a concentration, opportunities for special certifications, and joint programs with other Emory schools of business, law, or public health.

Despite today's economic climate, Candler and Emory are faring well. The Emory Capital Campaign has achieved \$881 million of its \$1.7 billion goal. Candler's goal of \$60 million will further develop facilities, student support, lifelong learning, endowed professorships, program and curriculum development, and international initiatives.

Candler has deepened its strong commitment to student support in two important ways. This year, 80 percent of eligible students received scholarships, with an average award covering 79% of tuition. More than \$2.5 million was provided to 196 UM students. In addition, we developed "Leadership Candler," an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that brings distinguished, prospective Master of Divinity students to campus to explore the richness of life and study at Candler.

Candler students reflect the denominational emphasis on attracting younger and more diverse people. Our statistics follow: Enrollment – 493, Seeking Master of Divinity – 401; U.S. ethnic minority – 24%; International – 12%; Women – 51%; Denominations – 50, including seven Methodist-related traditions. UM Master of Divinity students: 52% from 40 national and international conferences. Age of students: average – 32; 56% under 30; median age – 27.

Candler is deeply committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and preparation for ministry, especially in The United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support through the Ministerial Education Fund, visits, prayers, nurture of our students, and direct donor support. Come to campus and share with us your interest, concerns, and ideas!

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

2. DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School prepares students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church, the academy, and the world through its attention to spiritual formation and transforming ministry, as well as to leadership and academic rigor. The school is committed to preparing ordained leaders in The United Methodist Church. It is also an integral part of Duke University, and divinity students enjoy and contribute to the university's intellectual, spiritual, and social resources.

Programs:

Duke Divinity School made significant progress in 2008 on a variety of interrelated projects and programs that support clergy, other Christian leaders and congregations.

The Divinity School officially launched Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, an effort to combine in one initiative the school's non-degree programs and scholarship on leadership development, pastoral excellence, clergy health, rural ministry, Hispanic ministry, youth formation, reconciliation and end-of-life care.

Leadership Education's work, supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., builds on the strengths of the Divinity School and engages multiple disciplines, from business to the arts. Its offerings include an online magazine, *Faith & Leadership*; open-application programs; and custom educational experiences. The magazine and more information about this effort can be found at www.faithandleadership.com.

A previously established leadership program, the Episcopal Leadership Forum, continued its successful work in supporting United Methodist bishops. All eight United Methodist bishops elected in the United States in 2008 are participants in the program.

The Divinity School implemented the first year of its Clergy Health Initiative in North Carolina, a project focused on developing a resilient, well-informed cadre of United Methodist pastors, as skilled in the care of themselves and their families as they are in the care of their congregations.

In 2008, the Clergy Health Initiative completed a statewide survey of all United Methodist clergy in North Carolina to measure physical, mental, spiritual, and vocational health. The initiative will provide clergy with support such as customizable wellness plans and access to trained, certified health coaches.

The Divinity School also strengthened its Thriving Rural Communities program, which supports rural clergy and congregations, and began developing a Hispanic Studies Program through new educational and programmatic outreach. These programs, along with the Clergy Health Initiative, all of which are supported by The Duke Endowment, have been combined into one effort known as Thriving Communities in the Carolinas.

Also in 2008, the Divinity School established Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, an effort to promote a vibrant interplay of Christian theology and the arts at Duke Divinity School and beyond through teaching, research, and artistic engagement.

Students:

The Divinity School welcomed an impressive group of new students in the fall, and we experienced a seven percent increase in applications over 2007, which was itself a strong year. Total enrollment in the fall was 550 students representing 35 states and 10 foreign countries. More than half of our Master of Divinity students are United Methodist, 13 percent are Baptist, and the others come from more than 35 different denominations in the Christian faith.

The median age of the entering Master of Divinity class continues to be low – in 2008 it was approximately 24. The overall entering class had an ethnic minority enrollment of approximately 25 percent, an increase from 21 percent in 2007. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.6.

The divinity school is now in the third year of its Doctor of Theology program, and applications increased substantially this year to almost 100. Twenty-seven students are enrolled in the program overall, and the eight students in the inaugural Doctor of Theology class have now finished their coursework and are preparing for their comprehensive preliminary exams.

Our field education program remains vibrant and critically important to the formation of our students for ministry. One hundred-nineteen students served field education placements during the academic year, in addition to approximately 40 who serve as student pastors. Almost 200 of our students undertook summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 12 in our program of Partner Congregations, six in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, including two in India and one in Canada, and 15 other international placements in South Africa (three), Uganda (three), Guatemala and El Salvador (five), Brazil (two), Peru (one), and Macedonia (one).

Events and Activities:

The Divinity School's 2008 Convocation and Pastors' School, held in October, focused on the theme "For Such a Time as This: Christian Leadership in a Changing World." The three-day program featured presentations by Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., a panel of United Methodist bishops, and author Ronald Heifetz.

Also in the fall, the Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation hosted Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities, and Duke Divinity School theologian Stanley Hauerwas to co-teach the center's second annual Teaching Communities Week. Events included a joint keynote lecture, a day-long workshop for students and community members, and a sermon by Vanier at Duke Chapel. Teaching Communities Week also marked the launch of a new book by Hauerwas and Vanier, "Living Gently in a Violent World," the second volume in the Center for Reconciliation's Resources for Reconciliation series.

Five members of the Duke Divinity School faculty spoke at the United Methodist Southeast Jurisdictional Conference July 16-19 in Lake Junaluska, NC. This was the first time faculty sessions were included as part of the conference. Professors Kenneth Carder, Edgardo Colon-Emeric, W. Stephen Gunter, Randy Maddox, and Laceye Warner spoke on various aspects of living the United Methodist way.

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, newly-elected archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, met with faculty, staff, and students during a May visit to Duke Divinity School. A church leader of international standing, Archbishop Deng Bul has been instrumental in evangelizing and peacemaking within Sudan.

More than 600 participants gathered at Duke Divinity School in March for the third joint meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the Wesleyan Theological Society. The meeting brought together resources from both societies for theological reflection about creation and the world of sciences. The theme was "Sighs, Signs, and Significance: Pentecostal and Wesleyan Explorations of Science and Creation."

At the end of March, the Divinity School hosted a conference on "Religion in the Public Square" that brought together Duke faculty, led by Professor David Steinmetz, with a cross section of journalists who cover religion across the nation. Faculty and journalists participated in four panels, and Professor of Christian History Grant Wacker presented a public lecture, "Billy Graham's America," from research for his forthcoming cultural biography on Graham.

Faculty:

The Divinity School strengthened its faculty significantly with the addition of six new colleagues: Paul Griffiths, William K. Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology; Ray Barfield, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Christian Philosophy in the Divinity School, as well as Associate Professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology-Oncology in the Medical School; Sujin Pak, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity; Norman Wirzba, Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life; Jeremy Begbie, Thomas A. Langford Research Professor of Theology; and Charles "Chuck" Campbell, Professor of Homiletics.

Three key members of the faculty – J. Kameron Carter, Stephen Chapman, and Warren Smith – were granted tenure by Duke University.

Honors & Achievements:

Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe professor of theological ethics, was honored for his work in ethics by the Healthcare,

Ethics, and Law Institute of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. Professor Hauerwas received the Pellegrino Medal, which is presented annually to nationally recognized individuals for “contributions to American healthcare ethics and law in the selfless spirit of Edmund D. Pellegrino.”

Professor Mark Chaves released a major research report on U.S. congregations, revealing growing informality in worship practices, graying of congregations and clergy, more ethnic diversity, and more use of technology. Chaves, professor of sociology, religion, and divinity at Duke University, was the lead researcher on the “National Congregations Study, Wave II” project, which encompasses information from 1,506 congregations across the religious spectrum.

The end of the summer, 2008, brought the completion and installation of the new Goodson Chapel Organ. Supported by a generous gift from Duke alumni Aubrey and Katie McClendon, the 30-foot-high pipe organ is a Gothic and neo-Gothic instrument which contains 1,837 pipes. The organ was dedicated at Opening Convocation in August.

The school also published “With God In Mind: Sermons on the Art and Architecture of Duke Divinity School.” This 150-page book celebrates the sermons, art, and architecture inspired by Duke Divinity School’s 2005 addition, which includes Goodson Chapel.

We are thankful for the relationships among The United Methodist Church, this annual conference, and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our Web site at www.divinity.duke.edu.

L. Gregory Jones, Dean

3. GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of 13 accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historically African American theological school related to The United Methodist Church.

Gammon is in its 126th year of operation. The Methodist Episcopal Church founded Gammon Theological Seminary in 1883. Bishop Gilbert Haven and the officers of the Freedmen’s Aid Society had purchased nearly 500 acres of high land in the southern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon initially began as a Department of Theology at Clark University. Through the efforts of Bishop Henry White Warren and the gift of \$20,000 for endowment from the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, superannuated Methodist minister of the Rock River (Illinois) Conference. The enthusiasm of these two men led to the construction of Gammon Hall. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was elected dean, and Gammon School of Theology was officially opened on October 3, 1883.

April 1887, the official connection between Gammon and Clark was dissolved. The seminary was granted a charter on March 24, 1888, and the name was officially changed December 28 of that year to Gammon Theological School. The Rev. Thirkield served as the first president.

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. We offer a Broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and we also offer a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service.

Students prepare for administration and leadership, counseling, teaching and preaching and a range of other spiritual and secular roles, with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community.

The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry, merging theory with practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community.

Degree programs offered are Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Christian Education; Master of Arts in Church Music; Doctor of Ministry; Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty in Pastoral Counseling; and Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling. Dual Degrees are offered in Christian Education and Master of Divinity; Church Music and Master of Divinity; and, Christian Education and Church Music.

Our range of innovative special programs provides research and learning opportunities for students and faculty, while serving society as a whole. Some of the programs are:

1. The Institute of Church Administration and Management (ICAM) which supplements theological education with leadership training and administrative skills development, addressing topics such entrepreneurial concepts, time management, organizational development, and policy formulation.
2. The Black Women in Church and Society Program establishes networks among African American church women locally and nationwide through an institute, a research and resource center, and seminars.
3. The Religious Heritage of the African World initiative conducts research and advocacy activities, gathers data, and examines issues related to the religious heritage of people of African descent around the globe.
4. Faith and the City is one module of a collaborative relationship among local seminaries that addresses civic and community interest by engaging public theologians, local church leadership, and their congregations in active pursuit of a spirit of mutual community and shared responsibility with specific emphases on environmental justice and holistic health.
5. The Womanist Scholars Program recognizes and promotes scholarly activities of academicians. This program enables womanist scholars to pursue a research project of their own design. Scholars are engaged in teaching, lectureships, and consultation on issues affecting Black women and religion and Black women and spirituality.

This program invites two Black female scholars annually to be in residence, teach a course in the scholar's research area, and develop publishable contributions to womanist works.

6. The Youth Hope Builders Academy seeks to provide high school youth an opportunity to explore their present and future lives theologically and discover ways in which their lives can contribute to a hope-bearing church and society. During the program, an intensive four-week summer residential academy is held. A second component of the Academy is year round forums, including the Annual Youth and Family Convocation, for young people and their families, and church and community leaders focus on current issues of youth and resources for problem solving.
7. The Urban Theological Institute is an exciting initiative designed to develop effective religious and public leaders for urban transformation. The vision is to become a major partner with local churches, neighborhoods, and faith-based organizations in the war against urban blight.
8. The Student, Local Church and Agency Internship Program functions with an opportunity for partnerships with organizations, local churches, social action and advocacy agencies, which helps prepare students and fosters a vision of excellence in ministry in general, and pastoral ministry in particular. This program seeks to accomplish its nurturing and mentoring goals through the development and utilization of strategic partners.
9. The Conference on Ministry, which is held during the spring of each year is an opportunity for persons who feel they have been called to ministry to come and visit our campus and explore their call to ministry as they visit classrooms, engage students who are currently matriculating at the seminary and dialogue with the financial aid/scholarship officers, as well as the president of the seminary. This three-day program stimulates and helps prospective students to clarify their call to ministry and also helps them to consider the seminary that will best help them to achieve their goals for preparing for ministry.
10. The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series was established by alumni, family, and friends for Bishop Wilbur P. Thirkield and Bishop Robert E. Jones. Each person had an individual lectureship, "Thirkield's Lectureship was on Preaching and Social Services, and Interracial Goodwill." Jones family, alumni, and friends established the "Alumni Lectureship." The two lectureships were combined in 1947. The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series is held annually during Gammon's Founders' Day celebration in October.

Gammon has been known as "The School of the Prophets" and has trained many bishops, district superintendents, annual conference staff executives, general agency administrators, college presidents, preachers, teachers, Christian educators, pastoral counselors, military, hospital, and children's home chaplains, Wesley Foundation Directors, campus ministers, ministers of music, church administrators, religious journalists and authors, biblical scholars, and social activists over the last 126 years. Our graduates hold the promise of hundreds of local church ministries around the world in Africa, Asia, and India; and, our gifts and graces will continue to honor our historic mission and embrace its promising future. To learn more about Gammon, please visit our Web site at www.gammonseminary.org.

Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni and Student Affairs Director

4. UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"Spirit Led, Renewing the Church For the Mission of Jesus Christ in the World!"

What Would Jesus Do with a United Methodist seminary? We think Jesus would recruit faithful disciples and educate them with the best mentors and sources, starting with the Bible, and shape them to lead a life-changing mission that would turn the world upside down! The disciples would learn to embody a renewed Church led by the Spirit and unafraid to live out God's holy purposes!

United has itself been renewed by the Spirit for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world, and we invite your prayers and participation in this renewal and this purpose! The seminary has been serving Christ and the Church for 138 years, but we have recently taken steps to update our offerings:

- A recently revised 78-hour Master of Divinity curriculum
- A growing number of online and blended courses
- New Doctor of Ministry degree focus groups and mentors
- Deep learning opportunities for clergy and laity
- Emphases in Church Renewal, African American Ministry Studies, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministries
- Appreciative theological reflection on the central doctrines and beliefs of the Christian faith
- Spiritual formation in a variety of cultural contexts, including international communities
- A technologically advanced, fully accessible, state-of-the art campus
- A youthful, diverse, widely-published faculty committed to the Christian faith
- Friendly and helpful staff and students
- Many new scholarship offerings

Enrollment at United is growing steadily and we invite you to call, visit, or sign up for a class that meets your needs. For more information, contact admissions@united.edu.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, and service in the ministry of Jesus Christ! www.united.edu

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

5. WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seated in the nation's capital, centered in Christian faith, Wesley Theological Seminary prepares over 1,000 students annually, representing more than 25 denominations, to become exemplary teachers, preachers, and leaders in the world.

A Capital Seminary - This year Wesley opens its doors on a new Urban Fellows program at Mount Vernon Place in downtown Washington, D.C. Mentored by top urban pastors and leaders, and engaged in dynamic internships, Wesley's Urban Fellows learn to engage the poor and the powerful, to meet the needs of diverse cultures, and to answer the call to applied ministry in the complex social systems of the inner-city. The Urban Fellows program begins in conjunction with the expansion of Wesley's urban ministry and faith and public policy programs to downtown D.C. Tap in at www.wesleyseminary.edu/urban.

A Proving Ground for Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development - Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership debuts two strategic tools for ministry this spring: the Lewis Community Initiative, a creative, challenging peer-learning network for hundreds of congregational leaders motivated to grow their church's worship attendance; and the Center's new online leadership assessment instrument, the Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory (LPLI), a tool for enhancing effectiveness in ministry by providing clergy with the feedback they need to become truly outstanding leaders. Check out these tools and subscribe to the Center's free electronic newsletter, *Leading Ideas*, at www.churchleadership.com.

Wesley's masters programs' curricula offer specializations in urban ministry, youth ministry, and emerging ministries, as well as opportunities in the arts, public policy, intercultural immersion, and spiritual formation. These course options are buttressed with a rich array of opportunities via collaboration with the Washington Theological Consortium, a group of 18 partnering academic institutions along the Mid-Atlantic coast. Dual degrees in International Peace and Conflict Resolution are also possible through partnerships with American University's School of International Service. Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program extends these offerings through specialized courses that challenge pastors to grow as leaders in their specific ministry contexts. 2010 tracks include Church Leadership Excellence, Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, and Urban Ministry.

In 2009, Wesley welcomes three new members to its faculty: Joseph Bush as Director of the Practice of Ministry and Mission Program, Deborah Sokolove as Director of the Luce Center for the Arts and Religion, and Carol A. Cook Moore as Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching. Expanded *curriculum vitae* and contact information are available online.

A Global Investor - Wesley provides a diverse range of programs for clergy and lay leaders, whether on campus or online. Highlights in 2009 programming include: a new Hispanic course of study program commencing summer 2009; two online courses, Leadership and Polity, taught by Lew Parks in Fall 2009; and Equipping Lay Ministry coursework in youth ministries and liturgical arts. Notable also - Wesley Ministry Network has recently released a DVD course, *Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth*, which supports congregations in addressing critical intersections of faith and form (www.wesleyministrynetwork.com).

Please note that hour requirements for full-time/half-time status have been adjusted such that students may maintain their status with 9/5 hours respectively. Wesley is also pleased to offer a vital program of scholarship support for the next generation of church leaders. Interested persons are encouraged to contact our Office of Financial Aid to find out which options are suitable for their course of study and calling.

Being Part of the Change You Hope to See - Wesley is a teaching seminary and a mission-minded community. As vectors of creative, collaborative, and scholarly practice, the members of Wesley's 2009 graduating class alone will minister to more than half a million people in the course of their careers. I welcome you to join them.

God's call is bold. Your seminary should be, too. Visit us at www.wesleyseminary.edu

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

KK. LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY

Two thousand and eight (2008) has been filled with events that I believe have the possibility of being direction-changing for Lake Junaluska. Added to all the external and internal changes within The United Methodist Church and Lake Junaluska have been the financial challenges of a weakening economy.

The 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference set a new direction for the entire jurisdiction. It called for Lake Junaluska to be one of only three agencies and did away with the Administrative Council that had been Lake Junaluska's governing board. Along with looking at the new future of Lake Junaluska differently, it also set us in the direction of being more financially self-sufficient.

The new Board of Directors afforded Lake Junaluska the opportunity to have persons who have a deep, abiding commitment to the ministry of Lake Junaluska as board members. As we moved away from the Administrative Council, which was a Broad and representative board for the entire jurisdiction, we now can see a future with a smaller board which can take a well-defined vision and mission and build a stronger Lake Junaluska Assembly.

These changes offer, for the first time, the possibility of living and working as one organization. Lake Junaluska can be an agency that provides Christian hospitality with its campus, housing, services, etc., along with disciple-making and equipping ministries. This big change makes it possible to alleviate our age-old problems of competition between the conference center and ministry.

Building this new organization has required us to look closely at our ministry focus. Our focused ministry will be built around offering our events based on research that meets the identified needs of the church and individuals. To a larger degree, these ministry offerings will need to be self-supporting, thus requiring us to be more realistic in our financial charges to participants.

All of these changes and challenges have given us the opportunity to take an in-depth look at our financial needs and budgeting processes. As we have prepared to move toward 2013 and started to build a business plan, we focused on the 2009 budget process to inform us. We have looked closely at every area from ministry to housekeeping to determine a realistic understanding of our real costs.

In 2008, we celebrated an entire year of using the new Bethea Welcome Center. The building is being seen as a tipping point for the Lake Junaluska campus. It has inspired us to look closely at our hospitality needs, our facilities, as its design has challenged us to have a more architecturally-coordinated campus, as we plan for buildings in the future. The new golf course clubhouse that opened in the spring is a wonderful example of this new architectural influence.

Many staff persons make the ministry of Lake Junaluska possible. I am privileged to work with all of them and share a brief synopsis of the work of the executive staff.

The Conference and Retreat Center struggled in 2008 under the escalating price increases of petroleum, surcharges for products, and uncertain economic times. We were able to provide an air-conditioned Stuart Auditorium, which not only pleased our guests but established the fact that we can successfully air condition Stuart as we build into the future. This year, considerable progress has been made upgrading our facilities at the west end, Terrace Hotel, and Lambuth Inn. We have been challenged in providing enough staff to offer guests a quality experience because of budget constraints. Our exit evaluations from guests still remain high at 93 percent willing to return/willing to recommend.

We're implementing a new training program for our staff built around the "delivery of a quality Junaluska Experience to every guest." This program will be provided under the Workplace Discipleship Program. It will include orientation for all new staff and existing staff around providing Christian hospitality in every job on the Lake Junaluska campus.

The Ministry Event Development Department has made progress establishing a new direction and focus that totally incorporates ministry into the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Working with the marketing department and the business office, the ministry area is using new marketing processes with the Lake Junaluska ministry events. We are proud of the partnership with Alban Institute and are pursuing partnerships and initiatives such as "Chautauqua Events" and establishing the Center for Racial Ethnic Ministries.

The marketing and communications office has made significant progress this year. We have generated 180 stories on Lake Junaluska; had a significant increase in visits to our Web site; have begun online reservations for lodging rooms; and continued our e-newsletters. The conference coordinators and sales staff are giving concerted efforts to reaching as many persons as possible who will use the facilities and services of Lake Junaluska.

The development office continues its work with capital needs and the annual fund. We have developed a strategy that will move our annual fund to the next level with the Pacesetters of Lake Junaluska program. The goal is to increase our donor giving to the operating budget. We continue to solicit gifts for the Jones Cafeteria improvements.

Residential services has progressed in 2008. We have had many accomplishments and challenges since moving under the North Carolina Utility Commission, which now sets our water, sewer, and fire protection rates. We have moved to a new security firm. We are pleased with the support of Lake Junaluska residents to the ministry of Lake Junaluska and appreciate all their financial and volunteer support.

Yes, 2008 has been a good and challenging year! As God continues to bless us as we strive to offer our unique ministry to the Church, we appreciate your prayers and support.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

LL. TREASURER-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I am thankful today that I have had the opportunity to serve another year in the ministry of administration as Conference Treasurer.

Financial Support

During 2008, we extended the focus of our faith through \$25,785,161 or 87.21% of the apportioned budget. Shortfalls are not a good thing and this year ended with quite a shortfall in contributions. However,

Overall contributions increased by \$1,343,508 which we can be thankful for that result.

For the first time this year, the contributions to pension and health benefits were greater than the conference budget contributions; 13,177,011 and 12,688,150 respectively.

Financial Responsibility

Another piece of news, in the Conference Support and Conference Benevolence Funds, we did spend more than we took in by about \$221,860. This shortfall was due to lower contributions that expected. However, thanks to the good work of Steve James and the ministry staff, expenditures were less than the control amounts. They really attended to controlling the expenses minimizing the shortfall and that is a good thing. Amen?

During the late summer of 2008, our primary bank Wachovia was merged with Wells Fargo. The last months were very hard to manage; however, thanks to our relationship with the United Methodist Foundation we secured all our balances with Treasury Bills and other secure financial instruments. We were never at high risk during the banking crisis.

Our United Methodist Foundation has provided a safe haven for conference financial assets and we are fortunate to have that relationship.

During 2009, the CFA has undertaken to place spending control percentages on all operating funds ranging from 15% to 45% of the budgeted amount. The CSRC has recommended and the CFA will implement salary reductions on all conference staff, including district superintendents, treasurer, director of connectional ministries and bishop's assistant through 2010. These spending control percentages, salary reductions, and the postponement of some implementations should mean we will spend less than projected contributions for 2009. Spending levels are monitored closely to manage for this result.

I want to make sure and note here that Bishop Goodpaster has been actively involved in every aspect of these financial management decisions. His involvement has been a very positive addition to the process and we should be thankful for his efforts.

Another piece of good news is that the auditing firm of McGladrey and Pullen has completed our audit with No Qualifications again this year.

–William C. Wyman, Jr. *Treasurer-Director of Administrative Services*

MM. STATISTICIAN

As we look at the 2008 statistical reports, I am going to frame my comments within the conference vision – “follow Jesus, make disciples, transform the world.” And, I am going to put the bishop’s goals in context of where we are and what is needed to get to where we want to be.

FOLLOW JESUS

In 2008 we had 293,180 professing members – or as the bishop called them – “Jesus followers”. That was down by 408 from 2007. In order to reach a goal of 300,000 Jesus followers by 2012, we will need to grow by 6820.

MAKE DISCIPLES

In 2008, worship attendance totaled 125,745; down from 2007 by 806. The goal for 2012 is an increase of 30,000. We must get busy!

Yesterday when the bishop asked Wesley’s historic questions to the ordinands, he mentioned Wesley’s emphasis on ministry with the children. The number of children in our churches in 2008 was 26,411; down 1548 from 2007. It would seem this is an area for improvement for our churches. On the other hand, the number of persons served in weekday ministry programs (preschools, child development centers, etc.) increased by 6576 from 2007 up to 34,598 in 2008.

Another category in the stats report which indicates disciples being trained for the kingdom is reflected in the question about Christian formation groups. In 2008, there were 7813 groups, up from 2007 by 703 groups.

TRANSFORM THE WORLD

The bishop reminded us in Bible study that we are commissioned to “Go!” In 2008, there were 1161 UVMIM mission teams. This was 54 more than reported in 2007. The bishop has set a goal of 3000 teams by December 31, 2012. This will mean an increase of 1839 more groups.

Giving is another reflection of how the world is being transformed. In all of the benevolence categories, the numbers declined. While this may be a reflection of the economy, we should remember that God is good, all the time. The need doesn’t go away and in fact becomes greater in lean times.

1. It should be noted that the value of our “stuff,” (church land, buildings, equipment, parsonages and other assets) has increased. Hopefully that indicates more that the value of the stuff has increased and not solely more money spent on ourselves.
2. The good news is that the overall amount of indebtedness has decreased.

Finally, statistically, we celebrate that 599 churches paid 100% or more of their 2008 apportionment askings. It is our hope that that number will increase in 2009. There was an assumption made at conference yesterday that the smaller churches have a hard time paying their apportionments, but the reality is that the smaller churches are much better about paying their apportionments. The churches in the most urban district in our conference paid out the poorest.

In order to reach our goals by December 31, 2012, it will take an effort on all of our parts, not only in your ministry, but in your reporting. I can’t emphasize enough how important it is that we have accurate reporting. An example of what seems to be errors in reporting is the increase in the number of male laity and the significant decrease in the number of women. This isn’t likely.

It is the pastor’s responsibility to be sure that the report is accurate. Pastors need to check the information once it has been entered into the computer. Please don’t wait until the last minute to compile the information. I am aware that for many clergy, end of year reporting is a thorn in your side. I am asking you, no I am begging you, to take this seriously. This is the way we receive statistical information for the conference. This is how we will measure our progress toward our goals. If that is not enough motivation, I remind you that some of the stats information is used to determine your apportionment giving amounts and I know you want that to be correct.

Some good news is that we will move the date that reports are due back a bit this year so you will have more time to work on them after the Advent/Christmas rush. In addition, any information that Treasury Services already has, we won’t ask you to input. We will automatically insert that information for you. Finally, GCFA has re-formatted the questions as they do every quadrennium and I am hopeful that you will find them easier to answer. There may be other changes and we will get the information to you.

Thank you for your reporting and for the time and attention you will give to it.

–Kim Ingram, Conference Secretary-Statistician