

Section V. REPORTS

Connectional Table and Agencies Quadrennial Reports

Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table Report

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and our President, Bishop Lawrence McCleskey. I am pleased to report to the Southeastern Jurisdiction some of the actions and accomplishments at Lake Junaluska and in the jurisdiction.

I became the third person to hold the position of Executive Director of the Southeastern Jurisdiction in 2000. The Administrative Council was established in 1988 to be the umbrella organization for Lake Junaluska and the Southeastern Jurisdiction ministries which is made up of the SEJ Ministry Team at Lake Junaluska and the seven agencies. During 2004-2008 the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council began to operate as the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and studied for the Southeastern Jurisdiction the organization of the Jurisdiction.

We finished our capital campaign with raising \$10,600,000 over the last six (6) years and increased our donors from 2,000 to 5,500.

Since 2005 we have continued to build upon the accomplishments of the 2000-2004 quadrennium during which we renovated Shackford Hall, the Earl and Martha Wilson Children's Complex, and saved the upper end of the lake from sedimentation. The last three (3) years we have built the Bishop Joseph and Mrs. Shirley Bethea Welcome Center; renovated the campground and built the Holler Lodge; renovated the Terrace Hotel; built the new Harbin-Spears Golf Course Clubhouse; completed Inspiration Point; restored the dam; and increased the permanent endowments with endowments for Sunday Preachers; Junaluska Singers; Lay Ministry and Leadership Development.

We continued the Workplace Discipleship Program established in 2001 with two (2) goals:

- 1) to lead us toward a more diverse staff;
- 2) to allow the young adults from across the jurisdiction who work at Lake Junaluska in the summer, and the regular staff, to claim their work as ministry.

We have done this around a learning organization model and with mentors for our summer staff. I am pleased to report that over the last seven (7) years 450 young adults have been part of Workplace Discipleship, and the leadership team meets to study, worship and reflect monthly. The racial ethnic makeup of our staff was 4% when we began the Workplace Discipleship Program. It now stands at 14%. We celebrate the change and are committed to continuing to be a more diverse workplace.

We enhanced our ministry and events area. Presently the Hispanic Ministries is 1/3 time for Lake Junaluska and the Southeastern Jurisdiction. That ministry joins the existing Korean-Asian Ministries which is 1/3 time also. We established the African American Ministries area encompassing some of the existing advocacy work. We have implemented new theologically sound Wesleyan curriculum for our Ministries with Young People programs and are poised to make strides with attendance in that area. In the last two years we have had the two largest youth events ever on New Year's Eve and on Presidents Day weekends. We have strengthened the children's summer program with new curriculum, serving more children last summer, and want to expand our leadership training for children leaders. We have enhanced our summer preaching services at Stuart Auditorium with preachers and making worship a priority at Lake Junaluska. The number of Lake Junaluska Singers tours has increased, and they have served larger numbers at their concerts at Lake Junaluska and around The Church.

In the Conference and Retreat Center we established a new communications, public relations and marketing area designed to communicate to the Southeastern Jurisdiction as well as advertise the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, including our ministry events area. We have developed a new website and enhanced our e-news. Within the last 18 months we have had 70 articles in local papers, 55 stories published about SEJ ministries in national and conference papers and we have had \$5 million in sales at Lake Junaluska last year.

The Connectional Table passed the reorganization of the Southeastern Jurisdiction calling for Lake Junaluska to be an agency and become a premiere conference and retreat center and for Ministry to be moved away from apportionment support.

We see a vision that is good and positive for all involved. We believe that the Lake Junaluska Ministry Event/Promotion model offers hope to all areas of ministry as we move into the future.

We have redefined the job description of the Director of Ministry of the SEJ to Director of Ministry Events at Lake Junaluska with particular emphasis on events (old and new) at Lake Junaluska. A partnership has been established with the Alban Institute. The Alban Institute at Lake Junaluska will be the centerpiece of the new Ministers Summit that takes the place of Ministers Week. We expect great things for this partnership.

The Ministry staff continues to consider what ministry at Lake Junaluska will be for the future, considering that it has to be self-supporting by 2013. We are doing this while still supporting our SEJ groups and responsibilities. Marketing and Ministry Events are working closely to have a seamless operation and to insure the best use of space in order to serve more people at Lake Junaluska. The Conference Center is teaching persons in Ministry to write business plans and target specific groups in our church. Ministry continues to assist the conference Center in understanding the needs of The Church. All staff are celebrating their joint ministry together.

2007 began with a major financial correction with the goal of more realistic revenue projections. That was needed, not only because we had seldom been very successful in reaching revenue projections, especially in the conference center, but also because of the Organizational Task Group's recommendation that the Ministry of the future be self-supporting. The staff adjustments, realignments and cuts were difficult for the ones personally involved and also for the ones who had to expand their jobs to pick up additional work. This correction has begun to work! You will see the beginning effects as you deal with the financial reports. The staff needs to be commended for stepping forward and working as never before – filling the voids with a growing understanding of Christian hospitality. They did this through a love of Lake Junaluska and commitment to their work.

We contracted with Cornell University's Hospitality School of Management to study the operations of Lake Junaluska and survey our constituents. The report will be presented in committee during the Conference. We think this will be the foundation of continued research for the Conference and Retreat Center and ministry events. Realizing that our future will depend on good research, we started conversations with Western Carolina University about partnering with us for on-going research projects.

Lake Junaluska has been serving The Church for almost 100 years. There have been many changes and challenges during those years. From my study of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and The Church I have come to understand that the creation of Lake Junaluska became the model for most of our SEJ ministries. Persons in our past had a vision to meet a particular need in The Church; they had a passion to make the vision a reality; then they came to The Church for counsel and financial support.

That same kind of vision and passion will be needed for the years ahead. As The Church is changing so must Lake Junaluska change. A part of that change is to realize that our future will have less financial support from The Church, giving us the opportunity to continue to be creative with fundraising, events and providing Christian hospitality. Our prayer is that The Church will help us to be on a strong fiscal foundation before it totally sends us out on our own!

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table has continued to represent the Jurisdiction in supporting and enhancing our relationship with Emory University. The Executive Committee of the Connectional Table has met twice this quadrennium at Emory and Candler School of Theology. We are pleased with the leadership of President James W. Wagner and Dean Jan Love, both of whom are committed to a strong relationship with The United Methodist Church and are striving to improve church leadership at every level of their work.

It has been a pleasure working with the Southeastern Jurisdiction Agencies. Their commitment to serving The United Methodist Church is without question as they move into the future in different relationships to the Jurisdiction. It is a pleasure to share their reports.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The main focus of the Commission on Archives and History is the Heritage Center, which continues to acquire, organize, preserve, and make available the records of the jurisdiction and of Lake Junaluska.

In a staff change, Kim Boyd resigned as director of the Center at the beginning of 2007, and the Reverend Arthur Swarhout was hired as interim director. The Center is thriving under his leadership. Because of the reorganization of the jurisdiction and the uncertainty of funding, the search for a new director has not yet begun. We hope that the Search Committee, headed by Dr. A.V. Huff, will be able to begin its work soon after Jurisdictional Conference.

One of the most successful programs of the Center is the hosting of confirmation classes. Each year the Center provides training for thousands of young people from throughout the jurisdiction. In addition, drop-in visitors, researchers, and mail, telephone, and e-mail requests for information make the Heritage Center a vital and lively place.

The Center received several notable acquisitions during the quadrennium, including manuscripts of the music of the Reverend Richard Blanchard, author of the hymn "Fill My Cup"; artifacts of the life and ministry of Bishop Ed Tullis; archival records from SEMAR; and a valuable collection of materials about Lake Junaluska.

Work is being done on cataloguing and preserving the Harry Denman collection. An exhibit about him is in place at the Bethea Welcome Center.

Improvement projects have included a new climate control system and new lighting for the museum. PastPerfect museum software has improved cataloguing efficiency.

We are endeavoring to increase our endowment fund. A Friends of the Heritage Center organization is being established. The Reverend Bill Lowry is compiling a history of the Lake Junaluska Assembly, with proceeds from the sale of the book to go to the Heritage Center Endowment Fund.

We sponsored our biannual Heritage Preservation Workshops for Local Church Historians. Led by outstanding leaders in the archival field, both were well attended.

The Commission works with the SEJ Historical Society, which is open to all who are interested in history in the jurisdiction. During the quadrennium we have met in St. Simons, Charleston, Durham, and Washington, D.C., to hear scholarly papers on the heritage of the areas. The 2009 meeting will be held at Lake Junaluska in conjunction with the twentieth anniversary of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

We rejoice in the challenge and the opportunity to celebrate our heritage as United Methodists.

GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY

Gulfside represents one of the most important journeys of our time. It embodies the spirit, commitment and vision of courageous people who dared to confront the bigotry and racial discrimination within the church and society.

Originally called the Gulfside Chautauqua and Camp Meeting Ground, Gulfside was founded in 1923 by Robert E. Jones, the first African American Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the time, it was the only resort in the Gulf Region open to African American Methodists. In 1980, the United Methodist Church recognized Gulfside Assembly as a Historical Site.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Gulfside was open year round as a multi-cultural conference, retreat and training center, specializing in national and international missions for high school and college students, summer day camp and enrichment days for children and youth, and Elderhostel programs for persons 50 years and over. Gulfside was also open to groups of 20 or more for weddings, banquets, meetings, bible study, confirmation classes, personal and spiritual retreats and business lunches. Gulfside played a critical role in the city of Waveland, the region and our nation, sponsoring programs aimed at preventing family breakdown and keeping families together in times of crisis.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed all of the Gulfside facilities and the leadership of Gulfside faces the future with optimism as they value the heritage of Gulfside and create a legacy for future generations.

Gulfside continues to provide a place where all of God's people are welcome. The Gulfside journey moved through segregation and the civil rights movement and survived devastating natural disasters. The journey continues as we have the unmitigated gall to believe Gulfside is the Mecca on the Gulf.

VISION: We envision a caring community where all God's people are transformed by the love of Christ. Gulfside will provide facilities and programs that further the development of ministries to the whole person through education, spiritual nurture, and family support for all ages.

MISSION: Gulfside is a multi-cultural conference, retreat and training center related to the United Methodist Church. The mission of Gulfside is to proclaim and embody God's kingdom as revealed through Jesus Christ.

KEY DRIVERS: Positive accountability, clean audits for five (5) years, paid off all indebtedness, moving with due diligence in the planning of rebuilding, through feasibility studies, marketing and other means are our key drivers.

SPIRIT-LED: Romans 8:28 has been adopted as our bases of our scriptural directions, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose."

FRUITFULNESS: Continuation of the Mission Education Travel Studies Seminar (College Tour) and Harambee Event for high school and college students are developing leadership for our youth and ensuring a stronger future for all.

CORE BELIEFS: We practice Christian principles and spiritual development. We value human dignity and justice for all God's people. God is central to our entire ministry.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY: Radical hospitality is the very core of Gulfside's ministry, historical and continuing.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP: Faith forming relationships, fervent prayer models and diligent study of the scriptures is who we are as an advocate of Jesus Christ.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY: Gulfside has provided for the past two years a place on Gulfside's property for the Mississippi Conference-UMCOR Disaster Response and the Amish C.A.R.E. groups at no cost to them. We are a part of and believe in the connectional system.

Through our strategic planning it will be known when all is revealed that Gulfside will be living out its faith through new adventures and risk-taking ministries and making strides toward the future of a new Gulfside. Our mission will include independent and assisted living with a ministry center that will include a distant learning module. Community services are always on our list with programs aimed at preventing family breakdown and children focused ministries.

Make your tracks to the
Mecca On The GULF
Plant your footsteps in the sands of time.

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

The mission of Hinton Rural Life Center is to be an advocate for the **small membership church**, to assist small membership churches in becoming healthy and effective, to provide opportunities for **missional involvement**, and to be a **place of hospitality, spiritual growth, and renewal**.

Hinton continues to focus on **the core ministries** that have defined Hinton for many years. These are:

- The small membership church
- The First Parish Project and related spiritual formation ministries
- The mission volunteer experience
- The conference and retreat center
- Mutual Self Help Affordable Housing

The **small membership and rural church** focus of Hinton's ministry continues to be the primary mission and is at the center of everything we do. The Hinton staff works at all levels of the United Methodist Church – general, jurisdictional, annual conference, district and local church – to lead training and consultation events and be an advocate for small membership and rural church issues. Some of these training and consultation events take place at the local church level while many are with larger groups in district and annual conference gatherings. Some are one-day events, while many extend over several days. Hinton responds to invitations from district superintendents and other church leaders to schedule these events.

In December 2005 Hinton received a Lilly Endowment renewal grant to continue The First Parish Project. This program works with young pastors, under 35, who are serving their first assignment in a smaller membership church. Participants come from across the nation and from many different denominations. The purpose of First Parish Project is to help these young clergy leaders have a good beginning in smaller membership churches, to develop healthy patterns of colleague support as clergy leaders, and to teach them the skills needed to develop and lead healthy congregations. Hinton recruits a new class of about 20 pastors for this program each year.

Opportunities for **missional involvement** at Hinton have focused mainly on summer mission teams coming to work on new home construction and repair of existing homes in partnership with local families in western North Carolina and northern Georgia. In 2007, 51 churches from 10 annual conferences of the SEJ sent 814 youth and adult volunteers to participate in this program. (This is out of a total of 64 churches and 1004 volunteers.)

Many local churches return year after year. They tell us that the mission volunteer week at Hinton is a primary formative experience for their youth and adults. While many homes of low-income and elderly families are repaired and new homes are built, the mission volunteer program at Hinton is mostly about discipleship and spiritual formation for those who come as volunteers as well as those who invite Hinton volunteers into their homes to work.

Serving as a **place of hospitality, spiritual growth, and renewal** is also at the core of Hinton's ministry. Hinton continues implementation of the marketing plan for the conference facilities that began in late 2005. These marketing efforts resulted in a 20% increase in guest overnights for 2006 compared to 2005, and we have had a 16% growth in guest nights for 2007 compared to 2006. Building good long-term relationships with many retreat groups will be a key factor in Hinton's long-term financial strategy to pay off all indebtedness and operate on a sound financial basis in the years ahead.

The Mutual Self-Help Housing program, in partnership with USDA-Rural Development, began with the groundbreaking for the first seven houses with seven families in the summer of 2006. In early 2008 these houses were completed and construction on the next six houses began. The funding for this program comes from USDA-Rural Development and from other affordable housing grants. This program serves as a model for any United Methodist church or district that would like to begin an affordable housing program in their area.

INTENTIONAL GROWTH CENTER

IGC continues to serve by carrying out our mission of "transforming leaders for shared, Christ-centered ministry." Our programs enrich and transform the lives of persons from 6th graders through senior adults. In our **57 events in 2007, we had 3,726 participants**. Also, we generated approximately **\$300,000 in lodging and meal income for the LJA Conference Center**. Participants give accolades about their experiences with us saying things like:

- "This program saved my ministry and my sanity!"
- "This workshop has given me new skills and new enthusiasm to take back to my ministry setting."
- One senior pastor reported, "since we'd begun doing the IGC Confirmation Weekends, of all the kids who went, they all continued to be and get involved with the church through high school. But of those who did NOT go to the Confirmation Weekends, none of them continued. The experience at LJA has proven to us to be a major part of the youths' spiritual growth, and something that we'll continue to do every year."

During 2007 we had increased attendance in each of our three areas of ministry: Leadership Development, Confirmation, and Older Adult events. Our increased attendance meant that our income was up, which enabled us to have a net income to help us begin 2008 in good fashion. Our Interim Ministry Training continues to serve the whole connection as we have trained over 400 Interim Ministers across the country. Also, we have been named as a recipient of the Morgan Trust.

We are honored by the recommendation of the Connectional Table at the November 2007 meeting to allow us to continue to make our strong contributions as an intact agency serving the SEJ and United Methodism. Further, we are encouraged that the Conference Lay Leaders at the same meeting requested that IGC serve the leader development needs of laity in the southeast. We will include lay leaders--conference, district, and local church--in our leader development events so that laity and clergy will be better prepared for our mutual and shared ministry.

In 2007 over 300 older adults participated in spiritual retreats through our Fall Flings, Christmas at Lambuth, and Spring Adventure. Further, our Elderhostels continue to grow. In fact, in March 2008 the director of North American Program Development of Elderhostel visited us along with the regional director for the southeast. Their reasons for visiting were several: they wanted to observe how we operate as they said they see us as a model site! Further, they asked us to expand our programming to include offerings for persons with restricted mobility and also to add a number of weeks of programming involving hiking and immersion experiences in the Smoky Mountains. We saw all these as tremendous affirmations of our effectiveness in our older adult area of our offerings.

Now in our 31st year, we are strengthening, deepening, and expanding our existing ministries as well as venturing on the cutting edge to lead in the areas of continuing education, training, coaching, and retreats to resource the leadership needs of the church.

SEJANAM

Background

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency on Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) was created and established by the 1984 Jurisdictional Conference. It became the seventh agency by action of the 1993 session of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Administrative Council. It is the only one of its kind throughout all the jurisdictions.

There are approximately 210,000 Native Americans within the Southeast Jurisdiction, representing approximately 100 tribes. Over 12,000 Native Americans are identified as United Methodist members. SEJANAM serves and supports 23 Native American congregations and five other ministries. Three ministries are on the Choctaw Reservation and one on the Cherokee Qualla Boundary. We have recently formed a health ministry in the Virginia Conference and we now have a Fellowship within the SC conference.

The Native American Churches and its leadership have many gifts to offer the United Methodist Church and the Church Universal. Many of the churches incorporate their traditional language and song within their worship service, such as Cherokee UMC in Cherokee, North Carolina. Five of the Native American Churches are considered urban while the remaining churches and ministries are considered rural. The largest Native American church is Prospect UMC, with membership of 950. The church is located in a rural area within North Carolina and the majority of its membership is Lumbee. The remaining churches are less than 200 in membership.

In strengthening and creating ministries, SEJANAM provides technical assistance to gain grants for ministries. Recent grants were awarded for continued congregational development of a new urban church start-up in Raleigh, North Carolina. SEJANAM has coordinated efforts to provide ecumenical relief and ministry to Native American families and communities who were victims of hurricane Katrina and Rita in the gulf region, as a means of strengthening ministries. Over \$20,000 in funds were contributed for the purchase of appliances, clothing, food and building materials. A large number of cleaning buckets and toiletry kits were donated, and hundreds of volunteer hours were shared and provided to Indian communities in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

SEJANAM networks and provides support and guidance to Conference Committees on Native American Ministry (CONAM) to assure annual conference self-determined initiatives in Native American ministry and promotion. SEJANAM also provides assistance to conferences in developing structures that advocate for increased awareness of and appreciation for Native American presence, history, and structures that address justice, equal opportunity and inclusion issues.

At the national level, SEJANAM is an ex-officio member of other structures and entities and consults and networks with them for ministry. This includes the Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) and the Native American International Caucus (NAIC).

Endowments

Recently, SEJANAM was the vehicle in helping establish the Robert Mangum Endowment. This endowment is designated to educational scholarships with the indigenous children of Bolivia. It also provides for professional training for pastors.

Other endowments in which SEJANAM helped establish the Simeon F. Cummings Native American Endowment and the Tom and Belinda Queen Endowment. The intent of the Cummings Endowment is to provide continued funding for Native American Ministries in the southeast through SEJANAM. A goal of \$100,000 was reached and celebrated in 2007. The Tom and Belinda Queen Endowment was established in honor and recognition of Tom Queen's (Cherokee) commitment, devotion and leadership to the church, community and his people.

SEJANAM Mission Projects are jurisdictional, national and international

Internationally, SEJANAM is working in Bolivia. Since 1995, major accomplishments include erecting 40 homes in the Guarani community (in the jungle), erecting a health clinic and assisting with the installation of a community water system. Recently, team members have worked to build a maternity ward and the foundation for an emergency room at the Red Cross Center. Dr. Dardo Chavez calls the community a "miracle community." Gifts in the amount of \$400,000 have been raised, with some funding given to an all girls' orphanage. In 2007 and 2008, three additional homes were constructed and medical and dental health services were provided with the Red Cross Health Clinic. Leaders from Bolivia and SEJANAM have stated that this ministry has transformed lives and impacted generations.

At the nation level, SEJANAM has sponsored Work Mission Teams for home repairs and construction in Louisiana and Alaska. Within the Southeast Jurisdiction, a tremendous amount of mission work has been provided in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida.

Other accomplishments include:

- Triad UMC and Victory UMC, both urban churches, came into existence because of efforts by SEJANAM
- A Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) training model was developed and utilized by the Southeast Jurisdiction and other national entities
- Training of the CONAMs throughout the conferences of the SEJ for Native American awareness, programming and promotion of Native American Ministries Sunday, with offerings for Native American seminary scholarships and urban ministries
- Work, health and ministry projects with the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia
- The Edisto Tribal and Indian Health Initiative
- Various ministry, cultural and learning events with the Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee Annual Conferences
- Gaining Choctaw clergy leadership for the Mississippi Choctaw Ministry, and
- Ministry provided to members of the Choctaw in Mississippi and the Houma Tribe of Louisiana, both stricken by devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

More recently, SEJANAM has been instrumental in coordinating efforts to bring leaders together with SEMAR and Asbury Homes to discuss plans to construct a group home in the Robeson County area that would be targeted to serve Native Americans who suffer from significant cognitive impairment. In September, this dream and plans will be realized with the final construction of the group home. Moreover, as an advocate for racial and social justice, SEJANAM is a leader in efforts against racism on public radio.

SEJANAM Offers:

An Annual Native American Ministers' and Laity Retreat

There are real needs in Native American Communities that the Native American Churches, SEJANAM, and Annual Conferences seek to address holistically. Some of the responsibilities that SEJANAM is charged with are training and providing services to Annual Conference Committees on Native American Ministries (CONAMs), strengthening and creating congregational and social ministries, and advocating for increased awareness of and appreciation for Native American presence, history, traditions and spirituality.

With programming at the heart of its ministry, SEJANAM is responsible for coordinating the Native American Ministers' Retreat and Training, an event established in 2000. The retreat provides education and teaching that is biblically and theologically centered to strengthen clergy and laity skills in addition to growth and expansion of social ministries and restoration. This event continues to grow and increased in size by 50% in 2007. Moreover, the retreat has brought in revenues of approximately \$75,000, excluding personal purchases estimated at \$5,000.

An Annual Native American Summer Conference

To connect and educate Native American families and leadership, SEJANAM is responsible for coordinating an annual SEJ Native American Conference at Lake Junaluska. One of the largest Native American gatherings within the United Methodist Church, this year's conference brought over 375 Native Americans from across the jurisdiction and beyond for solidarity, increased awareness, instruction, cultural exchange and modeling of ministries. This conference has brought in over \$450,000 since it began in 1989. This does not include an estimated \$30,000 of personal revenues spent at Lake Junaluska.

Other activities and accomplishments of SEJANAM, during this quadrennial, include presentations and consultations made to local churches, conferences and national meetings. In 2006 and 2007 informational packets were disseminated to 2,5000 conference participants, at all the new District Superintendents' training events, to 1,000 youth and adults at the National Youth Conference in Greensboro and to members of the General Commission on Religion and Race at their Annual meeting. Additionally, in 2007, SEJANAM was featured in New World Outlook magazine as part of its focus on Native American Ministries. As a result of this exposure, thousands were reached across the United Methodist Church.

Native American Room Initiative

As part of the welcome center, there will be a room designated as the Native American room. This room will be a meeting room, with a large amount of traffic. There will be artwork on display, which will change frequently to ensure proper representation of various Native American tribes. This will be a tremendous way to foster Native American awareness, which is one of SEJANAM's objectives. The room will be the *Cummings-Queen* Room to honor and appreciate the ministries and work of Rev. Simeon Cummings and Tom Queen who made a tremendous difference to SEJANAM and other ministries within our community.

SEJANAM is honored to be a catalyst for the creation and implementation of programming that enables leadership to have a positive impact in much needed ministries. The ministries created bring awareness in many communities where native population is believed to be non-existent. SEJANAM helps these communities to be unveiled while helping them celebrate their native population and heritage.

SEMAR

Over the past quadrennium, the Southeastern United Methodist Agency for Rehabilitation (SEMAR) Board of Trustees worked closely with the Administrative Council to establish a ministry that represents the mission and history of SEMAR. During this time SEMAR had the opportunity to celebrate the work and ministry of our founder, Dr. Robert Pitzer. Those of us who had the opportunity to work with Bob realize the difference one person can unknowingly make in peoples' lives. Hundreds of adults with developmental disabilities have a faith-based option because of one man's dedication. It is Bob's commitment to provide a Christ-centered program in each Conference of the Jurisdiction that refocused our ministry.

The Laurels of Junaluska, an affordable housing project, was completed this past year. The 100 unit apartment complex was developed through grants, loans, and tax credits secured by SEMAR. The completion of the project would not have been possible without the leadership of the Administrative Council and a partnership with the Givens Estates. The Laurels of Junaluska is a shining

example of God's grace and "good old" Methodist connectionalism. We invite all to visit the Laurels of Junaluska and mention it to anyone looking for affordable housing.

During this quadrennium, the Trustees worked to put SEMAR on firm footing for the future. Under the leadership of Rev. Phil Brown, SEMAR was able to avoid several financial disasters that faced them. At the end of Rev. Brown's term, SEMAR was on the path to solvency and firm footing for the future.

Looking forward, the Trustees engaged the services of Joint Management and Development, Inc. to assist in the development of a long-term plan that will ensure SEMAR's continuing support of Conference ministries that serve persons with disabilities. Mike Dyson, president of Joint Management and Development, and his staff will maintain an office at Lake Junaluska and represent SEMAR throughout the Jurisdiction. Individuals, churches, and conference agencies are encouraged to use this resource.

SEMAR will continue providing resources to the local church. Materials are available with information that include handicap accessibility audits, materials for Disability Awareness Sunday, and information on ministries within the different Conferences. The Robert M. Pitzer Award is presented annually to an individual or agency that represents the ministry Bob envisioned when he created SEMAR. It is the desire of the SEMAR Trustees to highlight those individuals that bring God's grace to persons with disabilities as well as assisting individuals with disabilities to share God's grace with us.

UMVIM

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) began in the Southeastern Jurisdiction about thirty-five years ago as a "grassroots" movement. Rev. Tom Curtis from South Georgia was the founding Director. UMVIM has spread throughout the entire UM Church because everyone has at least one gift or talent usable for the Kingdom of Christ. In 1976, UMVIM became an agency of the SEJ.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, many people wanted to respond with "Christian love in Action" by going through the UMVIM system. One of the unseen benefits to the storm of Katrina was the number of people that tried UMVIM. Because of Katrina response, the last two years have been the busiest ever with record numbers serving their friends and neighbors. In 2006, we had 31,000+ persons serving in short-term missions. While this has strained our resources, we are pleased to have a system in place that is tried, true, and effective.

We are an agency created for the facilitation of persons serving in mission. This means that nearly our entire budget assists in the facilitation of persons rather than supporting the missions. The positive side of this facilitation is that every \$1 spent on facilitation is multiplied thirty times. We offer information, training, protection (insurance), relationships and connection throughout the world. The staff is committed to our cause to the point that all staff members support the agency financially as they are able and the Board of Directors are encouraged to support the agency as they are able.

Other sources of funding for the education and leadership development portions come from budgeted income. Although well-trained and educated team leaders are at the heart of our program, we can never allow ourselves to become mediocre or lax. We offer two trainings per year for anyone who would like to attend. We fulfill training requests throughout the year for conferences, districts or churches; during 2007, we had ten requests for additional training. Form follows need with our education and leadership development components.

With the new protocol established between UMVIM and UMCOR, we have a competent "J" or Jurisdictional disaster team in our jurisdiction. UMVIM, SEJ sponsored a Disaster Academy in April at Merci Center in North Carolina and training in Mississippi and Tennessee. Special thanks go to Rev. Butch Huffman for heading up the "J" team and coordinating the Disaster Academy and trainings.

This year we developed a new DVD for publicity. It is an excellent piece of material and we have a number in the office for sale at cost of only \$5.00. The new brochures and the training manual have the same high quality look and branding as the DVD cover. We commend Landon Taylor and the Communications Committee. This year we developed an office process that has been needed for several years. Whenever a new need emerges for a procedure in the office it is added somewhat ad hoc and as a result, we have a group of pieces that do not always fit together in the most efficient manner. Mr. Carl Pressley, a friend of UMVIM, SEJ for many years, recently retired from Coca Cola Company and his area of expertise is Human Resources. Carl is reviewing our office procedures, practices and systems and the objective is increased efficiency through elimination of redundancies and unnecessary work.

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

Connectional Table Restructuring Proposal

(As Approved at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference)

Section 1 – Background and Overview

The following report comes to the Jurisdictional Conference as a result of a lengthy period of study, reflection, revision, and amendment. Over the last six years the SEJ Administrative Council and the SEJ Connectional Table have engaged in a process of redefining the vision of the ministry of the jurisdiction, redesigning the logo, and revisiting the structure in order to find more effective ways of serving God in the world. A Visioning and Planning Committee began this process during the 2000-2004 quadrennium; an Organizational Task Group continued the work in the first half of the 2004-2008 quadrennium; and, a Transition Team created by SEJAC (renamed the SEJ Connectional Table) in 2006 finalized this report.

The 2004 Jurisdictional Conference adopted recommendations to reduce the size of SEJAC and to reorganize its divisions in order to focus more on ministry and less on the necessities of operating the facilities and property at Lake Junaluska. At the same time the 2004 Jurisdictional Conference expanded the scope of the work of the internal task force. By an overwhelming majority the delegates of that Jurisdictional Conference called for study, reflection and recommendations regarding the ministry and structure of the SEJ. The context and discussion that led to this action were around “apportionments” and “funding” within the SEJ. The names of those persons who have served, studied, and worked on these proposals during this quadrennium are included in an *addendum* at the end of this report.

In order to guide our work and keep us focused on the intent and vision of the ministry of The United Methodist Church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the following statement was adopted at the November 2006 meeting of the Administrative Council:

The primary purpose of the ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is to serve God by connecting and equipping individuals, congregations, and conferences in order to fulfill the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Organizational Chart on page 50 as adopted by the SEJ Connectional Table in November 2007 provides a visual background for the narrative which follows. It is intended to offer lines of accountability and relationships of the various entities within the Southeastern Jurisdiction. It is expected that all agencies and groups in the SEJ shall be gender and racially inclusive in their ministry offerings and staffing.

Section 2 – The Three Agencies of the Southeastern Jurisdiction

Three agencies shall be located within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction: (1) Lake Junaluska Assembly; (2) Hinton Rural Life Center; and, (3) Gulfside Assembly. Each one of these three agencies own property within the bounds of the Jurisdiction and will have its own Board of Directors that will function as *trustees* of the property and the ministry. Each Board of Directors will determine the plan of organization and structure for the work and the mission of the agency, in alignment with the SEJ Purpose statement (see above), and will follow all reporting requirements of the jurisdiction. All three agencies are to be self-supporting by the end of 2012.

In this new jurisdictional plan, each of the three agencies will have its own Executive Director. Working with the Board of Directors, this person will assist in determining and hiring the appropriate number of staff persons, along with determining the necessary position descriptions. Ultimately, each agency – through its Board of Directors – will be accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference and shall file a quadrennial report, including a budget, a business plan and a ministry plan for the coming quadrennium to be approved by the Jurisdictional Conference.

The SEJ Connectional Table has affirmed the following descriptions and visions for the purpose of these agencies:

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY will become the premier United Methodist Conference and Retreat Center providing quality training events and workshops to enhance the ministry of individuals, churches, districts, and conferences. Lake Junaluska Assembly will be *holy ground* where **hospitality, creativity, and excellence** are evident in the events and activities designed to “equip the saints for the work of ministry.” (Ephesians 4:12)

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER has a long history of training and providing resources for the hundreds of small membership churches across the connection. Hinton will be encouraged to continue that focus and to revisit and clarify its mission going forward.

GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY is engaged in a process to discern its mission into the future in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Jurisdiction is committed to providing assistance and resources for Gulfside as it determines its next path of service and ministry.

Section 3 – The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability

This newly created SEJ Committee will be assigned the task of overseeing the work and ministry of The United Methodist Church across the jurisdiction. The responsibilities and function of the committee will include:

1. Having limited power, but with authority, to act between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference on matters such as election of Trustees or Directors for entities requiring such action (e.g., Emory University Trustees and SEJ Agencies).
2. Being the legal body of the Jurisdiction and guardian of the SEJ title and logo.
3. Focusing on the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the Jurisdiction.
4. Coordinating and/or confirming the programs of the General Agencies within the Jurisdiction (§528).
5. Receiving regular reports from the Committee on Finance and Administration, and jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry.
6. Relating to and holding accountable groups mandated by *The Book of Discipline*, Networking Groups, Monitoring Groups, and existing groups organized and functioning within the Jurisdiction (see Section 4 below).

The membership of this committee will be fifteen (15) persons:

- 3 Bishops
- 3 Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries
- 3 Conference Lay Leaders
- 6 At-large members with expertise and for inclusiveness

All 15 members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the SEJ Nominating Committee in consultation with the Bishops, Directors of Connectional Ministries and Lay Leaders, to identify their representatives and ensure that each annual conference be represented on the committee.

The Secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be the staff person assigned duties for and on behalf of the committee (*ex officio* membership, with voice but without vote).

The Executive Directors of the three agencies may be invited to attend meetings of the SEJ Committee for connections and information-sharing (voice but without vote).

The committee shall elect its own officers. Either a bishop or lay leader shall serve as the chairperson on a rotating basis for a two-year term. (For example, if a lay leader is chairperson for two years, a bishop will serve as vice-chairperson, with the next two year term reversed.) The secretary of the committee shall be elected by the committee for a four year term. The committee shall have an organizational meeting at a time and place determined by the President of the SEJ College of Bishops, who shall be or name the convener of the meeting.

The committee shall meet at least annually, with called meetings held as necessary. Telephone conference meetings and audio-conferencing are acceptable. A quorum will be determined by those present at a duly announced meeting.

Section 4 – Jurisdictional Groups for Mission and Ministry

A number of groups, committees, and councils across the jurisdiction will be related to and accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. These groups fall into one of four categories.

Disciplinary Groups – Two primary groups and/or events are mandated by *The Book of Discipline*: there “shall be” a jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and there “shall be” a jurisdictional Ministries with Young People Convocation. Both of these groups currently exist and will continue the work as has been determined. A system for regularly reporting, coordinating, and overseeing the work will be developed in consultation with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

There are also jurisdictional organizations for United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. However, according to *The Book of Discipline*, these two entities are directly accountable to the Women’s Division and the General Commission on United Methodist Men, respectively.

Monitoring Groups – *The Book of Discipline* requires a jurisdictional organization for both the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and requires a Jurisdictional connection with these two General Commissions. Lines of accountability and oversight of their monitoring work will be through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. In addition, it is expected and requested that the monitoring function also be applied to SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability, both in its membership and participation.

Networking Groups – These informal, ad-hoc groups arise among conference leaders and staff. They share common interests, concerns, and ministry-related areas. These groups may gather periodically to benefit from interaction with peers, to develop contacts, and to exchange information. The understanding is that all Annual Conferences will be invited to participate but doing so will be

strictly voluntary. Funding for travel and expenses shall be the responsibility of each participating Annual Conference. Each Networking Group will be responsible for its own life and will have no jurisdictional staff person assigned.

Existing, Established, On-going Groups – Several groups, current “agencies” and organizations are providing much needed ministry, training and outreach within the jurisdiction. Four of these are currently established groups: (1) Intentional Growth Center; (2) SEJANAM; (3) SEMAR; and (4) UVMIM. In the revised organization, these will be continued and will be accountable to the Jurisdiction through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, with the exception of SEJANAM in its redefined relationship with the Lake Junaluska Agency. Each group will continue to have their own Board of Directors and/or Advisors, which will be reviewed and approved annually by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each group will be self-supporting by the end of 2012, and will file annual reports on the ministry, vision, and results of their programming with the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

Section 5 – SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration

The ministry of the jurisdiction requires a unified budget with one office, which will serve as the primary place for receipts and disbursement of funds. In addition, the office will provide for performing and/or receiving and reviewing audits of the Agencies and Jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry. It will propose a quadrennial jurisdictional budget and will provide for the operations of and financial expenses for the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

This committee will be composed of a representative and inclusive group of fifteen (15) persons, nominated by the SEJ Nominating Committee and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference. The committee will elect its own officers at its organizational meeting which shall take place at a time determined by the President of the SEJ College of Bishops, who shall be or name the convener of the meeting. For purposes of information and sharing mutual concerns, the Chairperson and the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction shall make full and regular reports to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

Section 6 – Conclusion and Action Steps

We recommend that the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference adopt this plan of organization as our way of going forward in mission and ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We recommend that upon adoption by the Jurisdictional Conference, the SEJ Committee on Nominations bring forward the names of the fifteen persons to serve on the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

We recommend that the SEJ Committee on Nominations receive names of directors elected by the Boards of Directors of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, and Gulfside Assembly. Those directors will be considered for confirmation by the Jurisdictional Conference. Vacancies on any of these boards between Jurisdictional Conference sessions will be filled by the Agencies submitting names to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, which will act on behalf of the Jurisdictional Conference in confirming the elected board members. If names are not confirmed by the Jurisdictional Conference or the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, the Agency Board would submit other names for consideration.

We recommend that this plan of organization be implemented by September 1, 2008. The Committee on Coordination and Accountability shall meet for its organizational meeting prior to August 31, 2008 in order to complete the steps necessary for implementation.

Submitted by the SEJ Transition Team
on behalf of the SEJ Connectional Table

Addendum

Members of the SEJAC Organizational Task Group (2004–2006)

Clarence Brown (VA), Anne Burkholder (FL), Gary Locklear (NC), Joe May (MS), Michael Stewart (NAL), Anne Travis (HOL) and Bishops Fannin and Goodpaster – Bishop Goodpaster served as chair of the OTG; Anne Travis served as secretary

Members of the SEJ Connectional Table Transition Team (2006-2008)

Bishop Lawrence McCleskey, Charles Smith, Anne Travis, Jim Trollinger, Gary Locklear, Clay Smith, Lyn Powell, Roger Hopson, Bill Walker, Bishop Robert Fannin, Mollie Stewart, Patricia Battle and Jimmy Carr – Bishop Goodpaster served as Facilitator