

Advance Edition

DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

Proceedings of the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

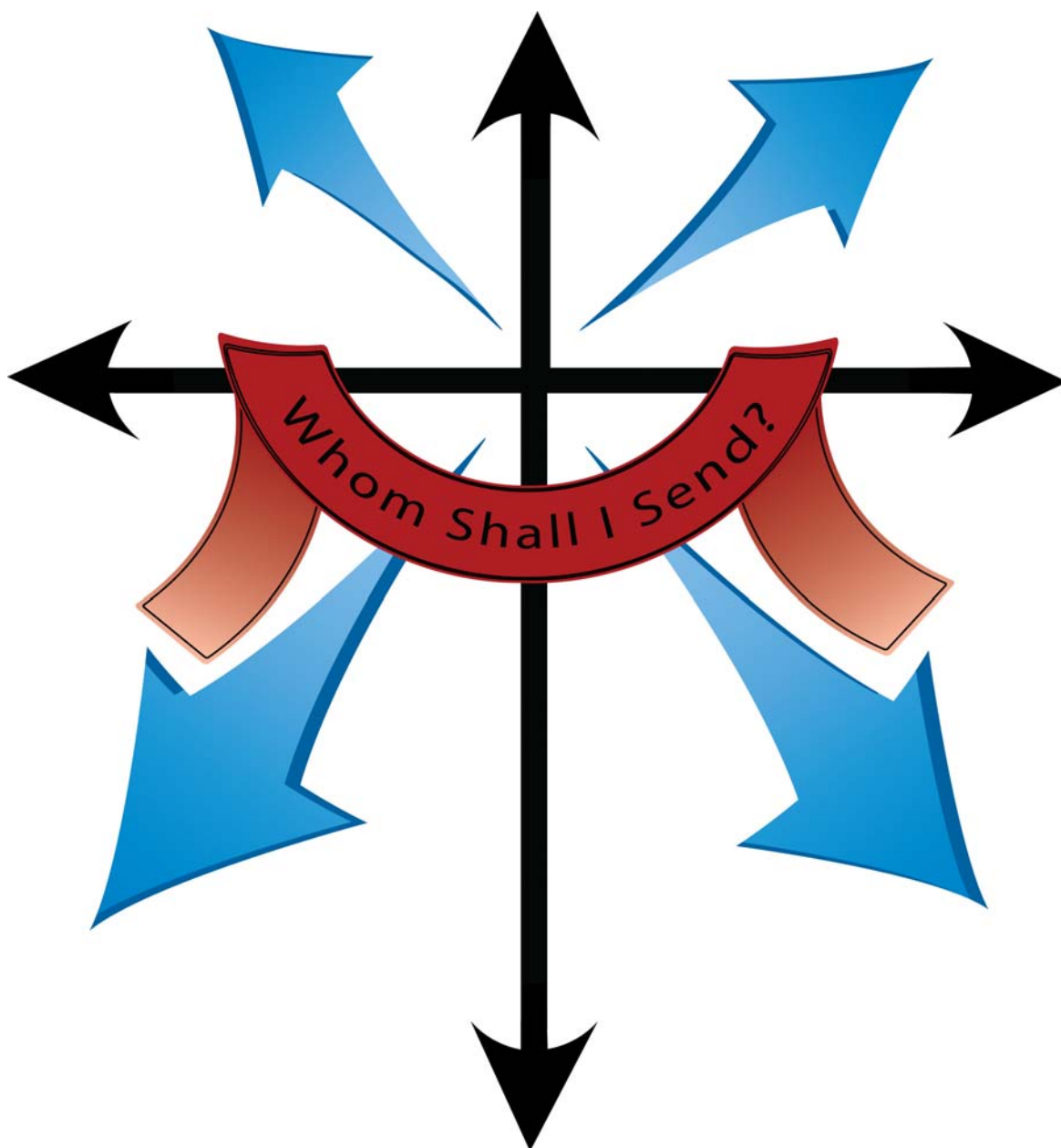


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IMPORTANT NOTICE

BRING THIS DOCUMENT WITH YOU!

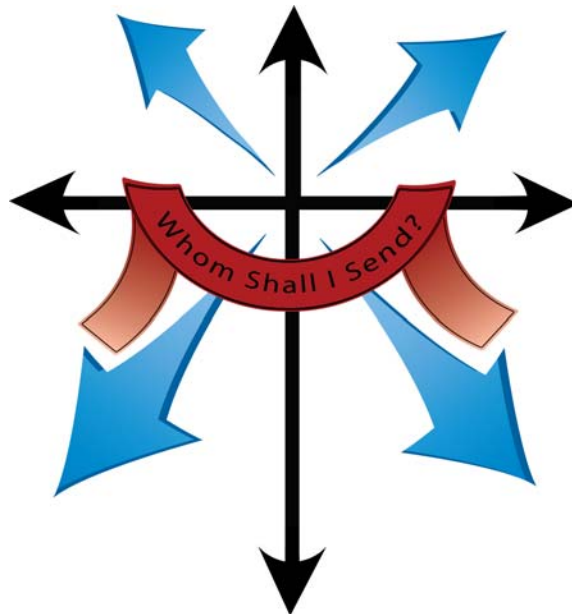
There will be no printed copies of the
Advance Daily Christian Advocate
published and mailed prior to SEJ 2012,
nor available at the site of Conference.

All delegates, reserves, conference officials
and guests are urged to download this document
and bring a copy with you to the conference. You will
need to reference it during conference proceedings.

It is suggested that you either:
print out a copy and prepare a notebook,
download it to your computer, or
download it to an e-reader
(such as, iPad, Kindle, Nook, etc.)

This is one step toward a
“paperless” conference as a way
of being better stewards of God’s creation and
of the available financial resources.

NO PRINTED COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE.



Welcome to the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Session!

We gather as United Methodists from nine Southeastern states organized into fifteen Annual Conferences. We are a diverse people united in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world with a distinctively Wesleyan flavor.

Our 2012 session's theme is from Isaiah 6:8, "Whom Shall I Send? Who will go for Us?" Of course, the first thought that comes to mind when considering this theme is the discernment process surrounding the election of Bishops. Much prayer and conferencing will naturally occur prior to and during the balloting process. Each delegate will earnestly seek to determine the persons God will lift up as a new episcopal leader for our Church. This is holy work.

But, our theme encompasses more than the election of Bishops. Each of us will gather for worship, for re-connection as a body, and for a fresh invitation from God to go make disciples. Lay and clergy, delegates and guests, current Bishops and newly elected Bishops, agency leaders, jurisdictional ministries representatives—all of us will have a fresh opportunity to hear and respond to God's invitation by saying, "Here I am, Send me!" This, too, is holy work.

Please join me in the prayer that God will be glorified by all our words and deeds as we gather at Lake Junaluska.

With prayer and expectation,

G. Lindsey Davis
Senior Bishop

2012 SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Betha Welcome Center at Lake Junaluska

Persons needing to check in for lodging at Lake Junaluska (including cottage rental) will go to the Betha Welcome Center upon arrival on campus. No conference business packets or items will be distributed at this location. A member of the Secretarial Staff will be on duty during peak periods to answer any specific questions about the SEJ 2012 Conference. Also, a “Frequently Asked Questions” answer sheet will be available at the lodging check-in desks.

Credentials for Delegates and Reserves

Name badges serve as the credentials for delegates and reserves. Name badges will be distributed on Tuesday, **July 17**, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Stuart Auditorium. Delegations will be asked to sit in the seats assigned to your delegation. Please see the last page of the ADCA for your delegation’s assigned seats. Reserves, as customary, will sit outside the bar of the conference. Delegation pages will distribute the name badges beginning at 12:30 p.m. at your seating area. Any delegate or reserve that does not pick up the name badge prior to 1 p.m. may get theirs when the delegation meets for individual sessions (assigned rooms) with episcopal nominees in Shackford Hall, following the session in Stuart Auditorium.

Members of the Nominations Committee and Committee on Episcopacy will receive their name badges at your first meeting.

Delegate and reserve contact information will be double-checked and corrected by your delegation secretary during the Tuesday afternoon session at Shackford Hall.

Credentials for Others

- Bishops and Bishop’s spouses will receive their name badge at the first meeting of the College of Bishops.
- Members of the Judicial Council will receive their name badges from John Pinson at the front desk in Stuart Auditorium.
- Communicators will receive their name badges from Ken Howle in the Press Room.
- Monitors will receive their name badges from Jennifer Davis at their Orientation Session.
- Secretarial Staff will receive name badges from Meredyth Earnest at the staff meeting.
- Episcopal Administrative Assistants will receive name badges from John Pinson at the front desk in Stuart Auditorium.
- Delegation pages and at-large pages will receive their name badges from John Pinson at the front desk in Stuart Auditorium.

Guests

Conference guests are welcomed to attend the conference, but will not be issued official credentials.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA July 18-20, 2012 Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

Agenda As of May 15, 2012

Pre-Conference Schedule (Subject to Change—and Additions)

Sunday, July 15, 2012

3:00 p.m. Nominations Committee (2012)
Susan Todd Lounge

Monday, July 16, 2012

8:30 a.m. Nominations Committee (2012)
Susan Todd Lounge

9:00 a.m. Committee on Episcopacy (2008-2012)
Harrell Center 202

TBA College of Bishops
Terrace 319

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

8:30 a.m. Nominations Committee
Susan Todd Lounge

9:00 a.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Harrell Center 202

1:00 p.m. Introductions of Episcopal Nominees
(Coordinated by Committee on Episcopacy)
Stuart Auditorium

Round Robin Sessions
Shackford

7:30 p.m. Nominations Committee
Susan Todd Lounge

7:30 p.m. SEJ Racial Ethnic Delegates Meet Episcopal Nominees
Lambuth Inn

7:30 p.m. Gilbert-Lambuth Presentation sponsored by SEJ Archives and History
Memorial Chapel

First Day of Conference Session

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

7:45 a.m. Pages Orientation (Stuart Auditorium)
7:45 a.m. Ballot Tellers Orientation (Stuart Auditorium)

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Opening Session

All Sessions in Stuart Auditorium

9:00 a.m. Opening Worship with Holy Communion
Bishop William H. Willimon, preaching

10:15 a.m. Transition Break

Bishop G. Lindsey Davis, Louisville Area Presiding

10:30 a.m. Opening Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Roll Call, Quorum Certification
Secretarial Staff Election
Committee on Plan and Organization Part 1
Adoption of Agenda
Committee on Arrangements
Welcome to Lake Junaluska
Nominations from Bishops
Committee on Episcopacy

(Approximately 11:00 a.m.) Balloting Instructions and Testing
Centering Hymn and Prayer
Ballot 1

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Richmond Area Presiding

Laity Address

Results of Ballot 1
Introduction of any new Nominee
Ballot 2
UMW Video
Results of Ballot 2
Ballot 3
Monitoring Report
Results of Ballot 3
Ballot 4
Announcements
Adjourn for Lunch

12:15 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

Organizational Meetings for Committees
Meet in Rehearsal Room (behind stage)

- Committee on Journal

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Afternoon Session

**Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, Charlotte Area
Presiding**

2:30 p.m.

Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Music and Prayer
Results of Ballot 4
Ballot 5
Committee on Coordination and Accountability
Results of Ballot 5
Ballot 6
Unfinished Business

**Bishop B. Michael Watson, North Georgia Area
Presiding**

Candler School of Theology Video
Results of Ballot 6
Ballot 7
Hinton Rural Life Center Video
Results of Ballot 7
Ballot 8
SEMAR Video
Unfinished Business

4:00 p.m.

Standing Break

**Bishop James R. King, Jr., South Georgia Area
Presiding**

4:30 p.m. Gathering Music
Results of Ballot 8
Ballot 9
Committee on Plan and Organization Part 2
Gulfside Assembly Video
Results of Ballot 9
Ballot 10
Lake Junaluska Assembly Video
Results of Ballot 10
Ballot 11
Unfinished Business

5:30 p.m. Supper Break

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Evening Session

**Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker, Florida Area
Presiding**

7:30 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Emory University Video
Results of Ballot 11
Ballot 12
Committee on Finance and Administration
Results of Ballot 12
Ballot 13

**Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Mississippi Area
Presiding**

Monitoring Report
Results of Ballot 13
Ballot 14
UMM Video
Report of Ballot 14
Ballot 15
Archives and History Video
Results of Ballot 15
Ballot 16
Intentional Growth Center Video
Unfinished Business

9:00 p.m. Evening Recess

Second Day of Conference Session

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Morning Session

**Bishop William H. Willimon, Birmingham Area
Presiding**

9:00 a.m. Gathering Hymn
 Call to Order and Prayer
 Results of Ballot 16
 Ballot 17
 Committee on Journal
 Results of Ballot 17
 Ballot 18
 Youth/Young Person's Address
 Results of Ballot 18
 Ballot 19
 Duke Divinity School Video
 Results of Ballot 19
 Ballot 20
 Unfinished Business

10:00 a.m. Morning Break

10:30 a.m. Service of Remembrance
 Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Homily

 Transition Break with Music

**Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Holston Area
Presiding**

11:10 a.m. Results of Ballot 20
 Ballot 21
 Love Offering for At-Large Pages
 UMVIM video
 Results of Ballot 21
 Ballot 22

11:30 a.m. Council of Bishops' Representative
 Ministry with Young People Video
 Results of Ballot 22
 Ballot 23
 Gammon Theological Seminary Video
 Results of Ballot 23
 Ballot 24
 Unfinished Business

**Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Raleigh Area
Presiding**

Noon Results of Ballot 24

Balloting will continue as needed
Unfinished business as needed

1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Afternoon Session

**Bishop Ben R. Chamness, Nashville Area (Interim)
Presiding**

2:30 p.m. Business Session (If Needed)

Committees meet to complete their work for final reports on Thursday evening.

- Nominations Committee in Susan Todd Lounge
- Committee on Episcopacy in Harrell Center 202

5:30 p.m. Supper Break

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Evening Session

**Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Columbia Area
Presiding**

7:30 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Lake Junaluska Singers
Monitoring Report
Committee on Nominations

**Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Alabama-West Florida Area
Presiding**

Celebration of Retiring Bishops

8:45 p.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Episcopal Assignments for 2012-2016
Adjourning Prayer

9:00 p.m.

Area Receptions
(As scheduled by each Delegation by June 1.)

Third Day of Conference

Friday, July 20, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Consecration of Bishops
Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Preaching

PERSONNEL OF THE 2012
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

2012 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF
The College of Bishops
(in order of their election)

Mack B. Stokes (1972).....Retired	G. Lindsey Davis, Jr.(1996) Louisville
Roy C. Clark (1980)Retired	Joe E. Pennel, Jr. (1996).....Retired
Carlton P. Minnick, Jr. (1980).....Retired	Charlene P. Kammerer (1996).....Richmond
R. Kern Eustler (1984)Retired	J. Lawrence McCleskey (1996) Retired
J. Lloyd Knox (1984)Retired	Ray W. Chamberlain (1996) Retired
L. Bevel Jones III (1984)Retired	Larry M. Goodpaster (2000) Charlotte
Robert C. Morgan (1984)Retired	B. Michael Watson (2000).....North Georgia
Thomas B. Stockton (1988)Retired	James R. King, Jr. (2000) South Georgia
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr. (1988).....Retired	Timothy W. Whitaker (2001) Florida
Richard C. Looney (1988)Retired	Hope Morgan Ward (2004) Mississippi
Robert H. Spain (1988)Retired	William "Will" Willimon (2004)Birmingham
C. W. "Handy" Hancock (1988)Retired	James Swanson (2004) Knoxville
Clay F. Lee, Jr. (1988)Retired	Alfred "Al" Gwinn (2004)Raleigh
Robert E. Fannin (1992).....Retired	Richard "Dick" Wills, Jr. (2004) Retired
Kenneth L. Carder (1992)Retired	Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor (2004).....Columbia
William W. Morris (1992)Retired	Paul Lee Leeland (2008).....Alabama - West Florida
Marshall L. Meadors, Jr. (1992).....Retired	Ben R. Chamness (Interim).....Nashville

Southeastern Jurisdiction Judicial Council Member

F. Belton Joyner (NC)

2012 SEJ Conference Secretarial Staff

Names of clergy appear in italics

Secretary

Brad Brady (SGA)

Secretary Designate

TBA

Communications

Meredyth Earnest (SGA)

Logistics

Anne Travis (HOL)

Balloting

Kim Ingram (WNC)

Media Relations

Ken Howle (WNC)

Monitoring Liaison

Jennifer Davis (WNC)

Delegate Relations

John Pinson (NGA)

Worship Coordinator

Roger Dowdy (VIR)

Jurisdictional Conference Treasurer

Raúl Alegría (TENN)

Editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate*

Sybil Davidson (NGA)

Daily Minutes

Jackie Slaughter (AWF)

Photo Coordinator

Matt Brodie (SC)

News Coverage

SEJ Association of Conference Communicators

2008-2012 Committee on Episcopacy

Names of clergy appear in italics

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2012 SEJ Committee on Nominations

Names of clergy appear in italics

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Delegates from the Annual and Missionary Conferences

*Voting delegates are listed in lay and ministerial groups in order of election.
Names of clergy appear in italics. The chairperson of a delegation is indicated with an asterisk.*

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA (24) Section 4, Rows A-D

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HOLSTON (28) Section 4, Rows L-O

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Holston

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Debra Wallace-Padgett

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Mississippi

Bill McAlilly

North Alabama

Mark Parris

North Carolina

Emily Innes

North Georgia

Sharma Lewis

Red Bird

Farley Stuart

South Carolina

Joseph Heyward

South Georgia

Robert Beckum

Tennessee

Harriet Bryan

Virginia

Tom Berlin

Western North Carolina

Ken Carter

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND
RULES OF ORDER 2012**

In keeping with the responsibilities of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, Division V, Section 4(1), the committee has conducted a review of the structure and rules of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and considered suggested changes to the rules.

The proposed changes reflected in our report fall into several of categories:

- 1) Necessitated by the reduction of days at Conference.
- 2) Streamlining structure based on work required for an effective Conference.
- 3) Recognizing that most of our business requiring action comes from an existing committee.
- 4) Refining plan and rules based on living into the new structure that was approved in 2008.

I. Overview of Plan of Organization Proposed Changes

1. Streamlining Committees. We are considering eliminating several committees and shifting their duties to others, as necessary. With a shortened conference, we need to flatten our structure for optimum stewardship of time and resources.

<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Shift Duties To</u>
Credentials	Delegation Head
Arrangements	Merge with Program
Reference	Agenda
Courtesies, Privileges and Intro	Program/Arrangements

Eliminate All Standing (Legislative) Committees.

- Our business comes from an existing committee or can be referred to an existing committee.
 - Reduced agenda time makes adjourning for committee work impossible.
 - The agenda committee can form an ad hoc committee for any new item that doesn't fit an existing committee. One member from each delegation (similar to CFA and CCA) and selected by Delegation Head. (See Plan of Organization, Division V. Section E.6.)
2. Flexibility. Reducing a day of Conference eliminates about 9 hours of available time. We are proposing several changes that move "shall" items to "may" items to give the flexibility to the planners of Conference (for example see: Agenda, Worship, Episcopal Message, Laity Address, Committee on Chairpersons).
 3. Ballot Tellers. Propose allowing reserve delegates to serve as ballot tellers. Most delegations express a sentiment that they consider reserves as full

47 members of delegation and this would allow these members to serve a function
48 at conference. (See V. F. 10)

- 49
50 4. Refining Structure based on Experience. The Committee on Coordination and
51 Accountability and the Committee on Finance submitted several proposed
52 changes seeking to clarify their roles based on living into the Plan of
53 Organization for the last quadrennium. (See V. A and V. B)

54
55 II. Overview of Rules of Order Proposed Changes

- 56
57 1. More flexibility. Current rules are based on a multi-day legislative process similar
58 to General Conference. More flexibility is needed given the shorter length of
59 conference and the nature of the business considered.

60 A. "May" is inserted for "Shall" in several places (example: Rule 15)

61 B. More generalized description of daily agenda is inserted.

- 62
63 2. Voting on Business Items (Rule 11). The raised hand for routine business items
64 is still the norm. Language is inserted to use electronic voting devices (as
65 available) if a "written" or "count" ballot is required.

- 66
67 3. Clarify Episcopal Election Process (Rule 17). Current rules are somewhat vague
68 about the division of duties as actually practiced. We believe this amendment
69 maintains the original intent for the Committee on Episcopacy to guide the pre-
70 elections process. The proposed clarification divides the elections process into
71 three components:

72 A. Committee on Episcopacy will give oversight and direction to the
73 processes, policies, and covenants related to declared nominees and
74 the familiarization with nominees from the various annual conferences.

75 B. Program/Arrangements will determine balloting process and logistics in
76 consultation with College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy.
77 (Both groups have representation on Program/Arrangements
78 Committee.)

79 C. The Presiding Bishop will certify the fairness of the balloting process
80 once balloting begins. Of course, any delegate may raise a question.
81 The Bishop will rule. The house may sustain or overrule the presiding
82 Bishop's decision.

- 83
84 4. Speeches. We are proposing to amend our time limit for speeches to 3 minutes,
85 which is the General Conference time limit. Note: Any eligible elder, who is not a
86 nominee in the episcopal election process and who receives 10 or more votes on
87 any ballot, will be permitted to address the conference for no more than 10
88 minutes.

- 89
90 5. Process for Handling Substitute Motions. Given the nature of the business that
91 comes to the Jurisdictional Conference, it is rare to have a substitute motion.
92 The General Conference will be presented with a proposal to change the process

93 this year so that substitute motions are handled first (GC Rule 26). If substitute is
94 approved, it becomes the main motion immediately. This seems to be a move to
95 save time—so that we don't "perfect the main motion" prior to considering the
96 substitute. (See proposed change to Jurisdictional Rule 23).

- 97
- 98 6. "Published" Reports (Rules 35, 36). Several amendments are proposed around
99 what is considered a "published" report ready for consideration by the
100 conference. These changes are intended to reflect the realities of:
- 101 A. A briefer conference where items cannot be in the "hands of delegates"
102 24 hours prior to consideration. No one is intending to "sneak" a
103 business item past the conference, we just are not in session long
104 enough to have all items in your hands 24 hours in advance (like,
105 Nominations Report).
- 106 B. A move toward a paperless conference where items are "published" on
107 the conference website, appear in the Daily Christian Advocate, and
108 may be distributed on the floor.
- 109
- 110 7. Editorial changes. Several amendments simply offer clarification without change
111 of intent or practice.
- 112

113 The proposed changes or additions appear in **bold print**, while items to be deleted
114 appear with a ~~strikethrough~~. Without notation, the committee has included editorial
115 changes to disciplinary paragraph numbers so we are in harmony with the 2008 edition
116 of *The Book of Discipline*. We propose that the Conference Secretary be granted
117 authority to update any disciplinary references when the 2012 edition is published.

118

119 We have again asked the Conference Secretary to publish in the advance Daily
120 Christian Advocate the texts of all petitions and reports received by the publication
121 deadline. The ADCA will be provided as a PDF document on the jurisdictional website
122 (www.sejumc.org). **Members and guests are responsible for downloading reports**
123 **and documents from the website.** You are encouraged to download reports to an e-
124 device or computer, or print any desired report. Additional reports and business items
125 will be published and released on the jurisdictional website with as much advance
126 availability as possible.

127

128 We authorize the Conference Secretary to renumber the Plan of Organization and
129 Rules of Order following this session of the Jurisdictional Conference based on action is
130 taken by the Conference.

131 Submitted,
132 Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

139 **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**
140 (With Proposed Changes)

141
142
143 I. OPENING SESSION

144
145 The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church shall
146 assemble according to the provisions of the 2008 Book of Discipline (§§ 24, 26, 27) and
147 the law of the Church at a place within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of
148 the United Methodist Church.

149
150 A. Presiding Bishop

151
152 Following the administration of Holy Communion by the Bishops of the Southeastern
153 Jurisdiction, the conference shall be called to order by the senior effective Bishop, who
154 shall preside during the first session of the same. Should he/she be absent, the effective
155 Bishop next in order of election shall perform these duties.

156
157 B. Seating of Special Groups

158
159 Members of the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church residing within the
160 bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be seated on the platform of
161 the Jurisdictional Conference and allowed the same Per Diem and travel as elected
162 delegates, and they shall be without vote.

163
164 The general or executive secretaries of the general boards and agencies of the church
165 who are members of the annual conferences within the bounds of the Southeastern
166 Jurisdiction and who are not elected members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional
167 Conference shall be seated within the area of the conference and shall have the
168 privileges of the floor on matters affecting the interests of their boards and agencies, but
169 without vote, and at the expense of their respective boards and agencies.

170
171 C. Roll Call and Order of Business

172
173 The following order of business shall be observed:

174
175 1. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall call the roll
176 in the following manner:

177
178 a. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and of the
179 delegates-elect of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference who have died since the
180 adjournment of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

181
182 b. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdictional
183 Conference.

185 c. The roll of delegates shall be called by annual conferences. The
186 chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a blank form on which to report in
187 writing the attendance of its members, noting absentees and substitutions, which
188 reports shall be tabulated by the secretary and published in the Daily Christian
189 Advocate. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate by his/her Annual
190 Conference shall meet the requirements set forth in the 2008 Discipline of the United
191 Methodist Church (§§ 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 514). Delegates, including reserves, when the
192 latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their
193 election. ~~All delegates arriving after the opening roll call shall be reported by the~~
194 ~~chairperson of the delegation to the Committee on Credentials in order to be properly~~
195 ~~enrolled.~~ **Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly**
196 **seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary.**
197

198 2. A majority of the whole number of delegates elected to the Jurisdictional
199 Conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (§ 518, 2008
200 Discipline). At the conclusion of the roll call, the secretary shall announce whether or
201 not a quorum is present.
202

203 3. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, prepared by the Committee on
204 Plan of Organization, shall be submitted to the conference for its action and
205 determination.
206

207 4. The College of Bishops shall present a nomination from the clergy or laity
208 membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction for
209 secretary designate. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The Agenda
210 Committee shall schedule the time of election. The election, if there are two or more
211 nominees, shall be by ballot with a majority of the votes cast being required for an
212 election. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of
213 secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in
214 connection with the session, including the preparation, printing, and mailing of the
215 journal, has been completed. The exact date of the transfer or responsibility to the
216 secretary designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops, but shall not be later
217 than six (6) months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. **Other**
218 **details about the Conference Secretary position include:**

219 a. **That the Conference Secretary shall be a part-time, paid position.**
220

221 b. **That the Senior Effective Bishop, the CCA Chair and CCA Vice-**
222 **Chair serve as the direct supervisors of the Conference Secretary.**
223

224 c. **That the Conference Secretary:**
225

- 226 1) **Coordinate the considerable functions associated with**
227 **planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;**
- 228 2) **Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee**
229 **on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important**
230 **work; and,**

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- 3) **Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents.**
- 4) **Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about some action by a pastor, district superintendent or Bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property.)**

5. The College of Bishops shall present nominations for the administrative committees, and such other nominations as are hereinafter committed to them, for election by the conference.

6. Election of Bishop(s) (2008 Discipline, ¶ 27.2).

7. Election of Committee on Episcopacy **for the ensuing quadrennium** (2008 Discipline, ¶ 50).

8. Election of the Committee on Appeals **for the ensuing quadrennium** (2008 Discipline, ¶2716.1).

9. Miscellaneous business.

10. Adjournment.

II. EPISCOPAL MESSAGE

The College of Bishops and the Program Committee ~~shall~~ **may schedule** ~~set~~ the hearing of the quadrennial message of the College of Bishops.

III. LAITY ADDRESS

The Program/Arrangements Committee shall may schedule a Laity Address for the quadrennial session. When scheduled, the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders will designate the presenter(s) for the address.

IV. PRESIDING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAL STAFF

A. The effective Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall preside over the sessions of the conference in the order of their election.

B. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference as elected shall serve as herein provided.

277 C. The conference shall elect, upon the nomination of the secretary, such assistant
278 secretaries from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within
279 the Southeastern Jurisdiction, as it may deem wise.

280
281 D. If in the interim of the Quadrennial Sessions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional
282 Conference, the office of secretary shall for any reason be vacated, the College of
283 Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall elect a successor.

284 285 V. COMMITTEES

286
287 A. The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability

288
289 ~~This newly created~~ **The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability** will be
290 **is** assigned the task of overseeing the work and ministry of the United Methodist Church
291 across the jurisdiction. The responsibilities and function of the committee will include:

292
293 1. Having limited power, but with authority, to act between sessions of the
294 Jurisdictional Conference on matters such as the election of Trustees or Directors for
295 entities requiring such action (e.g., Emory University Trustees and SEJ Agencies)

296
297 2. Being the legal body of the Jurisdiction and guardian of the SEJ title and logo

298
299 3. Focusing on the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church within
300 the Jurisdiction

301
302 4. Coordinating and/or confirming the program of the General Agencies within the
303 Jurisdiction (2008 Discipline ¶ 529)

304
305 5. Receiving regular reports from the Committee on Finance and Administration
306 and jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry

307
308 6. Relating to and holding accountable groups mandated by The Book of
309 Discipline, **Jurisdictional Agencies**, Networking Groups, Monitoring Groups, and
310 Existing Groups organized and functioning within the Jurisdiction (See below,
311 "Definitions")

312
313 The membership of this committee will be fifteen (15) persons:

314
315 • 3 Bishops

316
317 • 3 Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries **or equivalents**

318
319 • 3 Conference Lay Leaders

320
321 • 6 At-large members with expertise and for inclusiveness

323 All 15 members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by
324 the SEJ Nominating Committee in consultation with the Bishops, Directors of
325 Connectional Ministries and Lay Leaders, to identify their representatives and ensure
326 that each annual conference be represented on the committee. **Vacancies occurring**
327 **during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops.**

328
329 The Secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be the staff person
330 assigned duties for and on behalf of the committee (ex officio membership, with voice
331 but without vote). **The SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration Chairperson**
332 **shall be an ex-officio member, without vote, on the CCA.**

333
334 The Executive Director of the three agencies may be invited to attend meetings of the
335 SEJ Committee for connections and information-sharing (voice but without vote).

336
337 The Committee shall elect its own officers. Either a Bishop or lay leader shall serve as
338 the chairperson on a rotating basis for a two-year term. (For example, if a lay leader is
339 chairperson for two years, a Bishop will serve as vice-chairperson, with the next two-
340 year term reversed.) The Jurisdictional Conference Secretary of the committee shall
341 have arrange an organizational meeting at a time and place determined by the
342 President of the SEJ College of Bishops, who shall be or **shall** name the convener of
343 the meeting.

344
345 The committee shall meet at least annually, with called meetings held as necessary.
346 Telephone conference meetings and audio-conferencing are acceptable. Those present
347 at a duly announced meeting will ~~determine~~ **constitute** a quorum.

348 349 Definitions

350
351 A number of groups, committees, and councils across the jurisdiction will be related to
352 and accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the SEJ Committee on
353 Coordination and Accountability. These groups fall into one of four categories.

354
355 Disciplinary Groups – Two primary groups and/or events are mandated by The Book of
356 Discipline: there “shall be” a jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and
357 there “shall be” a jurisdictional Ministries with Young People Convocation. ~~Both these~~
358 ~~groups currently exist and will continue the work as has been determined.~~ A system for
359 regularly reporting, coordinating, and overseeing their work will be developed in
360 consultation with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

361
362 There are also jurisdictional organizations for United Methodist Women and United
363 Methodist Men. However, according to The Book of Discipline, these two entities are
364 directly accountable to the Women’s Division and the General Commission on United
365 Methodist Men, respectively.

366
367 Agencies—Three agencies shall be located within the bounds of the Southeastern
368 Jurisdiction: (1) Lake Junaluska Assembly; (2) Hinton Rural Life Center; and, (3)

369 Gulfside Assembly. Each one of these three agencies own property within the bounds of
370 the Jurisdiction and will ~~have~~ **maintain** its own Board of Directors that will function as
371 trustees of the property and the ministry. Each Board of Directors will determine the
372 plan of organization and structure for the work and the mission of the agency, ~~in~~
373 ~~alignment with the SEJ Purpose statement (see above), and will follow all reporting~~
374 ~~requirements of the jurisdiction. All three agencies are to be self-supporting by the end~~
375 ~~of 2012.~~

376
377 In this ~~new~~ jurisdictional plan, each of the three agencies will have its own Executive
378 Director. Working with the Board of Directors, this person will assist in determining and
379 hiring the appropriate number of staff persons, along with determining the necessary
380 position descriptions. Ultimately, each agency – through its Board of Directors – will be
381 accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference **through the Committee on Coordination**
382 **and Accountability** and shall file a quadrennial report, including a budget, a business
383 plan and a ministry plan for the **upcoming** quadrennium to be approved by the
384 Jurisdictional Conference.

385
386 ~~The SEJ Connectional Table has affirmed the following descriptions and visions for the~~
387 ~~purpose of these agencies:~~

388
389 ~~LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY will become the premier United Methodist Conference~~
390 ~~and Retreat Center providing quality~~
391 ~~training events and workshops to enhance the ministry of individuals, churches,~~
392 ~~districts, and conferences. Lake Junaluska Assembly will be holy ground where~~
393 ~~hospitality, creativity, and excellence are evident in the events and activities designed to~~
394 ~~“equip the saints for the work of ministry.” (Ephesians 4:12)~~

395
396 ~~HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER has a long history of training and providing resources~~
397 ~~for the hundreds of small membership churches across the connection. Hinton will be~~
398 ~~encouraged to continue that focus and to revisit and clarify its mission going forward.~~

399
400 ~~GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY is engaged in a process to discern its mission into the future in~~
401 ~~the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The~~
402 ~~Jurisdiction is committed to providing assistance and resources for Gulfside as it~~
403 ~~determines its next path of service and ministry.~~

404
405
406 Monitoring Groups – The Book of Discipline requires a jurisdictional organization for
407 both the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and
408 Role of Women and requires a Jurisdictional connection with these two General
409 Commissions.

410
411 Lines of accountability and oversight of their monitoring work will be through the SEJ
412 Committee on Coordination and Accountability. In addition, it is expected and requested
413 that the monitoring function also be applied to SEJ Committee on Coordination and
414 Accountability, both in its membership and participation.

415
416 Networking Groups – These informal, ad-hoc groups arise among conference leaders
417 and staff. They share common interests, concerns, and ministry-related areas. These
418 groups may gather periodically to benefit from interaction with peers, to develop
419 contacts, and to exchange information. The understanding is that all Annual
420 Conferences will be invited to participate but doing so will be strictly voluntary. Funding
421 for travel and expenses shall be the responsibility of each participating Annual
422 Conference. Each Networking Group will be responsible for its own life and will have no
423 jurisdictional staff persons assigned.

424
425 Existing, Established, On-going Groups – Several groups, ~~current “agencies”~~ and
426 organizations ~~are providing~~ much needed ministry, training and outreach within the
427 jurisdiction. ~~Four of these~~ **There** are currently three established groups: (1) Intentional
428 Growth Center; ~~(2) SEJANAM; (3) SEMAR; and (4) UVMIM.~~ ~~In the revised~~
429 ~~organization,~~ These groups ~~will be continued and~~ will be accountable to the Jurisdiction
430 through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. ~~in its redefined relationship~~
431 ~~with the Lake Junaluska Agency.~~ **Each group** will ~~continue to~~ have their own Board of
432 Directors and/or Advisors, which will be reviewed and approved annually by the
433 Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each group will be self-supporting by
434 2012, and will file annual reports on the ministry, vision, and results of their
435 programming with the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

436 437 B. The SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration

438
439 1. The ministry of the jurisdiction requires a unified budget with one **Treasurer’s**
440 office, which will serve as the primary place for receipts and disbursement of funds. ~~In~~
441 ~~addition, the office~~ **The Committee on Finance and Administration** will ~~provide for~~
442 ~~performing and receiving~~ **receive and review** audits of the Agencies and Jurisdictional
443 groups for mission and ministry. ~~It~~ **Finally, the Treasurer’s office will work with the**
444 **Committee on Finance and Administration to** propose a quadrennial jurisdictional
445 budget and will provide for the operations and financial expenses for the meeting of the
446 Jurisdictional Conference.

447
448 2. This committee will be composed of a representative and inclusive group of
449 fifteen (15) persons, nominated by the SEJ Nominating Committee and elected by the
450 Jurisdictional Conference. The committee will elect its own officers at its organizational
451 meeting which will take place at a time determined by the President of the SEJ College
452 of Bishops, who shall be or name the convener of the meeting. For the purpose of
453 information and sharing mutual concerns, the Chairperson and the Treasurer of the
454 Jurisdiction shall make full and regular reports to the Committee on Coordination and
455 Accountability.

456
457 a. There shall be a Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on
458 Finance and Administration, consisting of fifteen (15) members ~~and constitutes as~~
459 ~~follows: One bishop, including~~ one representative from each **Annual Conference**
460 ~~Episcopal area, and two members at large, to be elected by the Southeastern~~

461 ~~Jurisdictional Conference on Nomination of the College of Bishops. The composition of~~
462 ~~the Committee shall be seven laity representatives and six clergy representatives,~~
463 ~~exclusive of the bishop. **The Committee shall be constituted quadrennially and shall**~~
464 ~~**be composed of eight lay persons and seven clergy persons.**~~

465
466 ~~If additional episcopal areas should be formed the proportion of laity representatives~~
467 ~~and clergy representatives **on CFA** shall be maintained as nearly as possible according~~
468 ~~to this formula. It is recommended that considerations of ethnic background, the place~~
469 ~~of both men and women, the place of adults and youth, ~~former denominational~~~~
470 ~~affiliation, and ability and experience be recognized. Members of the Committee shall~~
471 ~~take office upon adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference electing them and shall~~
472 ~~serve until the adjournment of the next succeeding quadrennial session of the~~
473 ~~Jurisdictional Conference and until their successors are duly elected. Vacancies~~
474 ~~occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops.~~

475
476 b. The Committee, when elected, shall elect from its members a
477 chairperson, vice-chairperson, and recording secretary, and it shall nominate to the
478 Jurisdictional Conference currently in session a treasurer who, on being duly elected by
479 the conference, shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee. If for any reason the
480 office of treasurer shall become vacant during the interim of the sessions of the
481 Jurisdictional Conference, the Committee shall elect a treasurer, following due
482 consultation with the College of Bishops. The Committee may at any time remove the
483 treasurer from office for cause.

484
485 c. The Committee shall have general oversight of all funds included in the
486 Jurisdictional Conference budget. The treasurer shall render to the ~~officers of the~~
487 Committee an annual statement of receipts and expenditures at the end of each fiscal
488 year and a quadrennial report to each succeeding quadrennial session of the
489 Jurisdictional Conference covering in detail receipts and expenditures for the
490 quadrennium preceding. The treasurer shall ~~furnish~~ **be bonded through** a suitable
491 bond of a surety company of recognized standing and in an amount fixed by the
492 Committee.

493
494 d. The Committee shall meet **at least annually, or** on the call of the
495 chairperson or of a majority of the members thereof. **Telephone conference meeting**
496 **and audio-conferencing are acceptable.**

497
498 e. No member or employee of any group ~~mandated by The Book of~~
499 ~~Discipline, Agency, Networking Group, Monitoring Group, or Existing Group~~
500 ~~Jurisdictional board, or any trustee or employee of any institution, which is a beneficiary~~
501 ~~of the Jurisdictional Conference budget, shall be eligible for membership on the~~
502 ~~Committee. This provision does not apply to Bishops. The expense of the Committee~~
503 ~~shall be paid out of the Jurisdictional Conference Expense Fund **Budget.**~~

504
505 f. It shall be the duty of the Committee to make a careful study of the
506 expense of administration and the causes that may properly be included in the annual

507 Jurisdictional Conference budget, and to recommend to each succeeding quadrennial
508 session of the Jurisdictional Conference for its action and determination an annual
509 budget, showing the share of each Annual Conference in the total. The budget as
510 adopted shall be the ~~annual~~ Jurisdictional Conference budget for the ensuing
511 quadrennium, **including annual budgeted amounts for the ensuing quadrennium,**
512 and the apportionment to each Annual Conference as finally determined by the
513 Jurisdictional Conference shall be its annual share in the said budget. Only such items
514 as are distinctly related to the work of the jurisdiction shall be included in the
515 Jurisdictional budget. The **jurisdictional** treasurer shall transmit annually to the
516 ~~chairperson of each Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and to~~
517 ~~the resident bishop~~ **treasurer** of each Annual Conference, not less than 120 days prior
518 to the regular annual meeting of each Annual Conference, a statement of the amount
519 apportioned such Annual Conference for Jurisdictional causes. The Annual Conference
520 shall apportion the same among the charges of the conference in such manner as it
521 may determine. The Annual Conference treasurer shall remit each month to the
522 treasurer of the jurisdiction the amount on hand for Jurisdictional causes.

523
524 g. The fiscal year of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall be January 1
525 through December 31. All accounts of the Committee on Finance and Administration
526 shall be kept accordingly.

527
528 h. The Committee on Finance and Administration shall ~~may~~ give authority
529 to its treasurer to borrow funds from any reputable bank or trust company to meet any
530 obligation of the Jurisdictional Conference duly authorized in the regular annual budget
531 of the conference; provided, the outstanding indebtedness shall at no time exceed
532 twenty-five percent of the annual budget.

533
534 i. Should any urgent and pressing need arise that had not been
535 anticipated in fixing the jurisdictional budget, and should the same in the judgment of
536 the Committee constitute an emergency, the Committee on Finance and Administration
537 may alter the percentage allowance to any or all agencies or causes receiving funds
538 from Jurisdictional Conference apportionments, or may increase the apportionments to
539 the several annual conferences of the jurisdiction to meet the emergency; provided,
540 such action must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the Committee.

541
542 j. The Committee shall include in the proposed Jurisdictional budget
543 recommended to the Jurisdictional Conference for its actions and determination the
544 following items:

545 1. The Jurisdictional Conference Expense ~~Fund~~ **Budget**, which
546 shall provide for the expense of the quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional
547 Conference or any called meetings of the same, **and the** expense incurred in the
548 preparation of such meeting. ~~, and the expense of the Jurisdictional Committee on~~
549 ~~Finance and Administration, including the treasurer's office.~~

550
551 2. The Jurisdictional Operating ~~Fund~~ **Budget**, which shall make
552 provision for the expense of the ~~central office~~ **Jurisdictional personnel in the**

553 **performance of the stated duties** and for the expense of meetings of the **committees**
554 **and its of the Jurisdiction as defined in Section V.** Items in the Administrative
555 Committee budget for salaries and other administrative costs shall be a prior claim
556 against the jurisdictional fund each month.

557
558 3. Other items which in the judgment of the Committee should be
559 included in the annual Jurisdictional Operating Fund.

560
561 C. Nominating Committee

562
563 There shall be a committee of thirty persons who will serve as a Nominating Committee
564 to consider nominations for the general boards and agencies, ~~including the~~
565 ~~Connectional Table~~ **and designated Jurisdictional Committees.** There shall be two
566 **persons** from each conference, one of whom shall be a laity delegate and one of whom
567 shall be a clergy delegate, elected to this committee by the Annual Conference
568 delegation. ~~No member of this committee shall be nominated by this committee for~~
569 ~~service as a member of any agency; this provision shall not apply to the Red Bird~~
570 ~~Missionary Conference.~~ At least two weeks prior to the conference, the members of the
571 Nominating Committee shall be provided with:

572
573 1. A list of the names of the persons being offered by each Annual Conference to
574 the Jurisdictional pool for consideration as members of the respective program boards,
575 commissions, councils, and agencies. These shall be listed by categories on a form
576 prescribed by the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary. Each person's ethnic
577 background shall be indicated (e.g., Native American, Asian, African-American, etc.). An
578 asterisk shall be placed by the name of any person who is an incumbent and who is
579 eligible for re-election, together with the name of the agency on which he/she is serving.

580
581 2. A recommendation of procedure to be followed by the Nominating Committee.

582
583 3. A reminder that the Nominating Committee shall not only seek to maintain
584 insofar as possible the recommendations of the 2008 Discipline for having one-third
585 representation each of clergy, lay women, and lay men on general church agencies,
586 with attention given to including youth, young adults, older adults, racial and ethnic
587 persons, persons with handicapping conditions, and persons from small-membership
588 churches, but that these same provisions shall be applicable to the total number of
589 nominations made from each Annual Conference to the agencies of the general church.

590
591 4. A list of the total number of nominees to which each Annual Conference is
592 entitled to the agencies of the general church other than those which the Discipline
593 specifically mandates. These numbers shall correspond to the percentage of members,
594 rounded off to the nearest whole, which each Annual Conference has of the total
595 members of the jurisdiction; notwithstanding the above, the Red Bird Missionary
596 Conference shall be represented in the nominations. In compiling this list, the following
597 nominations shall not be included: those which come from recommendation of the
598 United Methodist Women for the General Board of Global Ministries, those for the

599 National Council of Churches, and those which come from another agency or group and
600 are only reported by the Nominating Committee. The information from the annual
601 conferences shall be in the hands of the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary no later
602 than June 20. Preference sheets and biographical data for prospective nominees shall
603 be brought to the first meeting of the committee by the members of the committee from
604 the respective conferences. The Nominating Committee shall be convened for
605 organizational purposes at the site of the conference by the president of the College of
606 Bishops of the jurisdiction at ~~9:00 AM~~ **two 2:00 p.m. three** days prior to the opening of
607 the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Per Diem expenses for the Nominating
608 Committee shall be provided for the extra days. Nominations shall be in the hands of
609 the conference ~~twelve~~ **at a minimum of three** hours before being presented for
610 election.

611

612 **D. Committee on** Episcopacy

613

614 **The membership of the Committee on Episcopacy, shall consist of one clergy and**
615 **one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference from each Annual Conference**
616 **elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination of their respective**
617 **Annual Conference delegations (§ 524.1 of 2008 Discipline). Each quadrennium,**
618 **the Committee shall officially constituted with the election of officers and begin**
619 **its work at the conclusion of the previous quadrennium’s jurisdictional**
620 **conference session. The committee will continue its work through the**
621 **conclusion of the following jurisdictional conference when the new committee is**
622 **constituted.**

623

624 The sitting Committee on Episcopacy shall report to the conference the church
625 membership statistics of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the number of Bishops to
626 which the Jurisdiction is entitled on the basis of church membership and shall
627 recommend to the conference the number of Bishops to be elected and the process and
628 manner of their election (cf. Rule 17). The committee shall perform such other duties as
629 are set forth in §§ 406.1, 524 of the 2008 Discipline.

630

631 ~~§~~ **E. Committee on Appeals**

632

633 There shall be a Committee on Appeals elected in accordance with § 2716.1 of the
634 2008 Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

635

636 ~~F~~ **D. Administrative Committees**

637

638 Nominations to the administrative committees shall be printed in the first edition of the
639 Daily Christian Advocate.

640

641 1. Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

642 There shall be a committee of five, known as the Committee on Plan of Organization
643 and Rules of Order, of which the secretary and treasurer of the conference shall be ex-
644 officio members. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the

645 Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (see Rule 42). This committee shall restudy the
646 Plan of Organization and Rules of Order between sessions of the Jurisdictional
647 Conference and, after making such needed changes and adaptations therein as in their
648 judgment are necessary, shall present them to the Southeastern Jurisdictional
649 Conference for consideration and final action. Any recommendation by the committee
650 as to the organization of the standing committees, their names, number, and
651 responsibilities (except the Committee on the Episcopacy) shall be transmitted to the
652 secretary prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The secretary shall
653 notify the head of each delegation the standing committees as recommended by the
654 Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order so that delegates may make
655 their choice of committee assignments. The committee shall have the authority to
656 consult with various persons and agencies in the exercise of this authority. The Plan of
657 Organization and Rules of Order of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional
658 Conference, thus adopted and published in the journal, shall be the Plan of
659 Organization and Rules of Order until they have been altered or amended by the action
660 of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

661

662 2. Committee on Journal

663

664 There shall be a committee of three, known as the Committee on Journal, which shall
665 examine the record of the secretary daily during the session. ~~and report its findings to~~
666 ~~the conference, recommending appropriate action.~~ Any error subsequently discovered
667 in a section of the journal **materials**, which has been approved ~~verified~~, shall be
668 ~~reported to the conference for correction~~ **corrected**.

669

670 3. Committee on Credentials

671

672 ~~There shall be a committee of five, known as the Committee on Credentials. To this~~
673 ~~committee the chairpersons of the respective Annual Conference delegations shall~~
674 ~~report the names of absent delegates and of available reserve delegates to be~~
675 ~~substituted for said absences. This committee shall in turn report all such cases of~~
676 ~~absence to the conference with recommendations as to seating of reserves, if such are~~
677 ~~available. No reserve delegate shall be seated except by action of the conference and~~
678 ~~after a report has been made upon the case by this committee; provided that reserve~~
679 ~~delegates reported by the chairpersons of the respective Annual Conference~~
680 ~~delegations as submitted at the opening session shall be seated without the action of~~
681 ~~this committee; provided, further, such substitutions shall be reported to this committee~~
682 ~~for review and report to the conference. All changes in the personnel of the seated~~
683 ~~delegates of the Annual Conference delegations shall be reported to this committee on~~
684 ~~blanks provided by the secretary. Per Diem allowances shall be paid on the basis of the~~
685 ~~report to this committee.~~

686

687 4. Reference Committee

688

689 ~~There shall be a Reference Committee comprised of the secretary, an assistant~~
690 ~~secretary designated by the secretary, and three others. This committee shall receive~~

691 all petitions dealing with the regular business of the conference and, after ascertaining
692 that they meet the requirements herein specified, shall distribute them among the
693 several committees according to their respective responsibilities. The Reference
694 Committee may withdraw an item after having assigned it to a committee, either upon
695 request or upon its own motion. It may also withhold from reference or publication any
696 document it shall deem improper, promptly advising the author or authors thereof of its
697 action in order that an appeal may be made to the conference, if desired. This
698 committee shall publish each day in the Daily Christian Advocate a list of the
699 communications it has referred to the several standing committees, identifying each by
700 number, title, origin, and destination. Prior to the conference, the secretary of the
701 conference shall make tentative referrals of all petitions properly received, subject to
702 final approval by the conference upon the recommendations of this committee. Such
703 tentative referrals of petitions received before the publication deadline for the advance
704 edition of the Daily Christian Advocate shall be listed in that edition. No petition shall be
705 assigned by the Reference Committee to any Jurisdictional Conference committee
706 unless it comes from some organization, clergy person, or member of The United
707 Methodist Church and contains information essential to the verification of the alleged
708 facts concerning its origin. All petitions shall be presented in triplicate. Each should deal
709 with only one general subject. All petitions requiring funding shall be so designated and
710 the amount to be specified. These petitions shall be referred to the Southeastern
711 Jurisdictional Committee on Finance and Administration for recommendation and
712 action. Not more than one petition should be presented on a single sheet of paper. All
713 petitions shall be in the hands of the secretary of the conference no later than fourteen
714 days prior to the opening of the conference.

715

716

717 5. Committee on Courtesies, Privileges, and Introductions

718

719 There shall be a committee of five known as the Committee on Courtesies, Privileges,
720 and Introductions, having the following duties, and responsibilities:

721

722 a. To consider, as presented to it by members of the conference, what said members
723 regard as questions or matters of privilege and decide whether they are such or not,
724 and if they are regarded as being such, to recommend to the conference that they be
725 heard. NOTE: Only questions or matters of privilege which are so urgent that they
726 cannot wait for consideration by this committee may be presented immediately to the
727 conference as provided in Rule 9.

728

729 b. To arrange for the extending of the courtesies of the conference to any to whom they
730 may be due.

731

732 c. To prepare, with due regard to brevity, and present to the conference for its actions
733 such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand.

734

735 3. 6. Agenda Committee

736

737 There shall be a committee of five, known as the Agenda Committee. **The senior**
738 **effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary shall be two of the committee**
739 **members.** It shall be the responsibility of this committee to see that all items of
740 business required by the Discipline of the church are brought to the attention of the
741 Jurisdictional Conference. Any consideration, proposal, resolution, or communication
742 which does not clearly refer to the business of the Jurisdictional Conference, as
743 prescribed in the Discipline, ~~or concerning which the Reference Committee may be in~~
744 ~~doubt,~~ shall be referred to the Agenda Committee, which shall determine whether or not
745 it shall be presented to the conference and also whether it shall be printed in the Daily
746 Christian Advocate. The Agenda Committee shall report to the Jurisdictional
747 Conference the disposition made of all matters, which have been referred to the
748 Committee. The Agenda Committee shall consult with the Committee of Chairpersons
749 regarding the inclusion of standing committee reports on the agenda of the conference.

750
751 **No petition shall be assigned to any Jurisdictional Conference committee unless**
752 **it comes from some organization, clergy person, or member of The United**
753 **Methodist Church and contains information essential to the verification of the**
754 **alleged facts concerning its origin. All petitions shall be presented to the**
755 **Conference Secretary. Each should deal with only one general subject. All**
756 **petitions requiring funding shall be so designated and the amount to be**
757 **specified. Petitions with financial implications shall be referred to the**
758 **Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Finance and Administration for their**
759 **review and recommendation to the conference. All petitions shall be in the hands**
760 **of the secretary of the conference no later than fourteen days prior to the opening**
761 **of the conference.**

762
763 **The Agenda committee shall receive all petitions dealing with the regular**
764 **business of the conference and, after ascertaining that they meet the**
765 **requirements herein specified, shall distribute them among the several**
766 **committees according to their respective responsibilities. It may also withhold**
767 **from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper, promptly**
768 **advising the author or authors thereof of its action in order that an appeal may be**
769 **made to the conference, if desired.**

770
771 **When the Agenda committee determines that the particular item of business does**
772 **not naturally flow toward an existing committee, it shall authorize the creation of**
773 **an ad hoc committee to deal with this particular item. Upon authorization, the**
774 **Conference Secretary will contact each delegation leader with a description of the**
775 **business item and a meeting time and place for the committee (including the**
776 **possibility of a conference call prior to the convening of conference). The**
777 **delegation leader will be asked to designate one delegate to represent his/her**
778 **annual conference on the ad hoc committee. The Conference Secretary or**
779 **designee shall convene the meeting until a chairperson is elected. The ad hoc**
780 **committee will consider the item of business and prepare a recommended action**
781 **for conference's consideration.**

782

783 4. 7. Committee on **Program and Arrangements**

784
785 **There shall be a Jurisdictional Conference Program and Arrangements**
786 **Committee composed of one Bishop, who shall be chairperson; a district**
787 **superintendent designated by the Bishop; the Secretary of the Jurisdictional**
788 **Conference; the Treasurer of the Jurisdictional Conference; the chairperson**
789 **Committee on Coordination and Accountability; the president of the jurisdiction**
790 **United Methodist Women or designee; the president of the jurisdiction United**
791 **Methodist Men or designee; and the chairperson of the Jurisdictional Association**
792 **of Annual Conference Lay Leaders or designee; the chairperson of the sitting**
793 **Committee on Episcopacy or designee; and five (5) others who may be selected**
794 **to insure inclusivity and expertise. The Bishop serving on this committee shall be**
795 **selected in the order of seniority from the effective Bishops of the jurisdiction.**
796 **The duties of the committee shall be to arrange the program and logistics for the**
797 **Jurisdictional Conference, other than that covered by the Plan of Organization. It**
798 **shall be established policy of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to have a program**
799 **that will present to the conference a challenge on behalf of the work of the church**
800 **in its worldwide mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the**
801 **transformation of the world.**

802
803 **The Conference Secretary will organize a team to execute the program planned**
804 **and the logistical needs of the conference following the guidance of the**
805 **Committee on Program and Arrangements. Members of this team will be invited**
806 **to Committee meetings as determined by the senior Bishop and Conference**
807 **Secretary.**

808
809 ~~8. Committee on Appeals~~

810
811 ~~There shall be a Committee on Appeals elected in accordance with ¶ 2716.1 of the~~
812 ~~2008 Discipline of the United Methodist Church.~~

813
814 5. 9. Committee on Chairpersons

815
816 **There may be one or more meetings of all committee chairpersons as determined**
817 **by the Agenda committee. Such meetings may seek to coordinate and streamline**
818 **the business of the conference or seek to resolve inter-committee disagreements**
819 **or difficulty.**

820 ~~The chairpersons of the several standing committees shall be constituted a committee~~
821 ~~known as the Committee of Chairpersons, to which shall be referred any inter-~~
822 ~~committee disagreement or difficulty, and which shall arrange through the Agenda~~
823 ~~Committee for the presentation of committee reports to the conference in such order as~~
824 ~~to expedite the business, in accordance with Rule 31. The secretary of the~~
825 ~~Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall convene the Committee of Chairpersons.~~

826
827 6. 10. Tellers

829 There shall be a committee of sixty to act as tellers for the purpose of reporting
830 **assisting with** the ballots ordered by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The
831 committee shall be composed of two clergy and two laity delegates from each of the
832 annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. **For purposes of this committee**
833 **only, reserve delegates may be nominated by their delegation and elected as**
834 **balloting tellers.** The committee shall be divided into two groups of thirty each. Each
835 group shall have reserve tellers in such number as the College of Bishops deems
836 proper. **In case of emergency, additional tellers may be drafted into service from**
837 **among the delegation membership.**

838 839 ~~11. Program Committee~~

840
841 ~~There shall be a Jurisdictional Conference Program Committee composed of one~~
842 ~~bishop, who shall be chairperson; a district superintendent serving under and~~
843 ~~designated by the bishop; the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference; the treasurer~~
844 ~~of the Jurisdictional Conference; the executive director of the Jurisdictional~~
845 ~~Connectional Table/Committee on Coordination and Accountability; the chairperson of~~
846 ~~the Committee on Arrangements; the president of the jurisdiction United Methodist~~
847 ~~Women; the president of the jurisdiction United Methodist Men; and the chairperson of~~
848 ~~the Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders and three (3) others~~
849 ~~who may be selected to insure inclusivity. The bishop serving on this committee shall be~~
850 ~~selected in the order of seniority from the effective bishops of the jurisdiction. The duties~~
851 ~~of the committee shall be to arrange the program for the Jurisdictional Conference,~~
852 ~~other than that covered by the Plan of Organization. It shall be established policy of the~~
853 ~~Southeastern Jurisdiction to have a program that will present to the conference a~~
854 ~~challenge on behalf of the work of the church in its worldwide mission.~~

855 856 ~~E. Standing Committees~~

857
858 ~~At the site of the Jurisdictional Conference the following standing committees will have~~
859 ~~the following duties:~~

860 861 ~~1. Episcopacy~~

862
863 ~~The sitting Committee on Episcopacy shall report to the conference the church~~
864 ~~membership statistics of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the number of bishops to~~
865 ~~which the Jurisdiction is entitled on the basis of church membership and shall~~
866 ~~recommend to the conference the number of bishops to be elected and the process and~~
867 ~~manner of their election (cf. Rule 17). The committee shall perform such other duties as~~
868 ~~are set forth in ¶¶ 406.1, 524 of the 2008 Discipline.~~

869 870 ~~2. Financial Administration~~

871
872 ~~This committee shall consider matters relating to the work and concerns of the~~
873 ~~Jurisdictional Committee on Finance and Administration and relating to pensions and~~
874 ~~publications. The budget and any financial proposals prepared by the Jurisdictional~~

875 ~~Committee on Finance and Administration shall be submitted to this committee for study~~
876 ~~and review.~~

877
878 ~~Thereafter, when the Jurisdictional Committee on Finance and Administration presents~~
879 ~~its report to the Jurisdictional Conference for action, the committee shall present its~~
880 ~~recommendations and may propose amendments.~~

881
882 ~~3. Conferences~~

883
884 ~~This committee shall consider matters relating to annual conferences not made the~~
885 ~~responsibility of any other committee. In addition, all matters pertaining to the~~
886 ~~boundaries and names of the annual conferences within the Jurisdiction shall be~~
887 ~~referred to this committee.~~

888
889 ~~4. SEJ Connectional Table~~

890
891 ~~This committee shall consider matters relating to the mission, ministries, organization,~~
892 ~~and membership of the Connectional Table/Committee on Coordination and~~
893 ~~Accountability of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Attention will be given to the agencies~~
894 ~~and Lake Junaluska Assembly. A unified report will be given to the Jurisdictional~~
895 ~~Conference. To do its work, the committee shall divide into the following sub-~~
896 ~~committees:~~

897
898 ~~a. Jurisdictional Ministry~~

899
900 ~~The subcommittee shall consider the various ministries including the agencies of the~~
901 ~~Jurisdiction in order to affect the direction for the future. It shall concern itself with~~
902 ~~nominations of agency boards to be elected by the conference.~~

903
904 ~~b. Lake Junaluska~~

905
906 ~~The subcommittee shall consider matters relating to administration, operation, and~~
907 ~~fiscal affairs of Lake Junaluska Assembly and Atkins House (Intentional Growth Center).~~

908
909 ~~Each standing committee shall consider all petitions and proposals referred to it and~~
910 ~~shall report its actions thereon to the Jurisdictional Conference in the manner provided~~
911 ~~herein. In addition to consideration of matters referred to it, each standing committee is~~
912 ~~encouraged to initiate new proposals within the framework of its area of concern, which~~
913 ~~will advance the work and mission of the church in the jurisdiction.~~

914
915 ~~F. Membership of Committees~~

916
917 ~~1. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan of Organization or ordered by the~~
918 ~~conference, the membership of all committees shall be constituted by the election of the~~
919 ~~conference on nomination of the College of Bishops.~~

920

921 ~~2. The membership of Standing Committee No. 1, Episcopacy, shall consist of one~~
922 ~~clergy and one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference from each Annual~~
923 ~~Conference elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination of their~~
924 ~~respective Annual Conference delegations (§ 524.1 of 2008 Discipline).~~

925
926 ~~3. In determining the memberships of the Standing Committees No. 2, Financial~~
927 ~~Administration; No. 3, Conferences; No. 4, SEJ Connectional Table, each Annual~~
928 ~~Conference delegation shall place on each committee 10% of its total number of~~
929 ~~delegates, rounded to the nearest whole number, as calculated by the secretary of the~~
930 ~~Jurisdictional Conference, provided that each delegation shall be entitled to place at~~
931 ~~least two members on each of these three committees. Each delegation shall divide its~~
932 ~~aggregate membership on these three committees as equally as possible between~~
933 ~~clergy and lay delegates.~~

934
935 ~~4. An Annual Conference delegation having an insufficient number of delegates to place~~
936 ~~at least one delegate on each standing committee shall have the right to place its~~
937 ~~members on standing committees as it deems appropriate, provided that it shall have~~
938 ~~membership on Standing Committee No. 1, Episcopacy, as provided by the Discipline.~~

939 ~~G. Meetings of Committees~~

940 ~~1. For Organization~~

941
942 ~~Standing Committee No. 1, Episcopacy, shall have been organized at the previous~~
943 ~~quadrennial session. Standing Committees~~

944
945 ~~No. 2 and No. 4, inclusive, shall meet for organization on the afternoon of the first day of~~
946 ~~the Jurisdictional Conference session as the Program Committee shall determine. In~~
947 ~~accordance with § 522.1 of the 2004 Discipline, the Committee on Episcopacy for the~~
948 ~~coming quadrennium shall be convened for organizational purposes by the president of~~
949 ~~the College of Bishops at the close of the quadrennial session of the conference. A~~
950 ~~bishop appointed by the College of Bishops and an assistant secretary appointed by the~~
951 ~~College of Bishops and an assistant secretary appointed by the secretary of the~~
952 ~~Jurisdictional Conference shall serve, respectively as chairperson and secretary to~~
953 ~~effect an organization in each of the standing committees. The first person named on~~
954 ~~each of all other committees shall act as convener, except that the secretary of the~~
955 ~~Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall convene the Committee of Chairpersons.~~
956 ~~Each committee shall elect by ballot a permanent chairperson, vice-chairperson, and~~
957 ~~secretary, after nominations from the floor for these respective officers.~~

958
959 ~~The assistant secretary appointed for the organization of each of the standing~~
960 ~~committees shall report, as soon as possible, to the secretary of the Jurisdictional~~
961 ~~Conference the officers elected. In case of all other committees, the secretary elected~~
962 ~~shall make such report immediately to the secretary of the conference.~~

963 ~~2. Regular Meetings~~

967 a. ~~The standing committees shall meet each day with leave of the conference at a time~~
968 ~~designated by the chairperson of the committee, until the work of the committee is~~
969 ~~completed.~~

970
971 b. ~~All other committees shall meet at such times as they may themselves respectively~~
972 ~~determine.~~

973
974 **3. Quorum for Committee Meetings**

975
976 ~~A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in~~
977 ~~all committees.~~

978
979 **H. Financial Implications**

980
981 Any petitions or proposals from ~~Administrative and Standing Committees~~, organizations
982 or individuals requiring funding shall be submitted to the Committee on Finance and
983 Administration (CFA) for study and recommendations prior to consideration by the SEJ
984 Conference. Submissions shall be made no later than 6:00 PM of the day prior to the
985 CF & A report.

986
987 **VI. DELEGATES' EXPENSE ACCOUNTS**

988
989 A. ~~The report of the Committee on Credentials~~ **Delegation Head** shall be the basis for
990 settlement with principal and reserve delegates for their Per Diem allowance.

991
992 B. Travel expense for delegates to the conference shall be reimbursed as directed by
993 the conference upon recommendation of the Committee on ~~Arrangements~~ **Finance and**
994 **Administration**. The total travel expense shall be payable to the principal delegate if
995 he/she be present and seated. If during the session of the conference a reserve is
996 seated in his/her place, he/she shall adjust the travel expense with such reserve on the
997 basis of the time served by each.

998
999 **VII. SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONNECTIONAL TABLE**

1000
1001 ~~There shall be a Southeastern Jurisdictional Connectional Table organized consistently~~
1002 ~~with ¶ 529 in The 2008 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, accountable~~
1003 ~~to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and governed in accordance with the~~
1004 ~~Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council by laws. [Editors note: The 2008~~
1005 ~~Conference voted to restructure effective September 1, 2008. The Connectional Table~~
1006 ~~will be replaced by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, which is~~
1007 ~~described above in A. V. 1.]~~

1008
1009 **VII. EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1010 **The Conference Secretary may make editorial changes to the Plan of**
1011 **Organization or Rules of Order whenever there is a need to update Disciplinary**
1012 **references or law, or to clarify language without changing the meaning or intent.**

1013 **Any proposed editorial changes must be approved by two-thirds of the Rules**
1014 **Committee.**

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RULES OF ORDER
(With Proposed Changes)

I. DAILY SCHEDULE AGENDA

~~Rule 1. The following shall be the order for the Jurisdictional Conference, Sunday excepted:~~

~~(1) Devotional service under the direction of the Program Committee.~~

~~(2) Morning — Conference business.~~

~~(3) Afternoon — Devotions, committee meetings, and plenary session as deemed necessary.~~

~~(4) Evening — Conference business — Each session of the Jurisdictional Conference shall begin with a period of worship.~~

(1) The senior effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary, in consultation with the College of Bishops and the Program/Arrangements Committee, will develop the agenda.

(2) The proposed agenda will be published in pre-conference materials and placed before the conference for adoption in the opening session.

(3) Once adopted, the Agenda Committee may propose modifications as circumstances may dictate. The conference will be notified of foreseen adjustments in as timely as fashion as possible.

~~Rule 2. After the worship, the daily sessions of the conference shall be conducted as follows:~~

~~(1) Report of Committee on Journal of the previous meeting or meetings.~~

~~(2) Report of Committee on Courtesies, Privileges, and Introductions.~~

~~(3) Report of other administrative and special committees.~~

~~(4) Calendar.~~

- 1059 ~~(5) Non-concurrent calendar.~~
1060
1061 ~~(6) Report of other administrative and special committees.~~
1062
1063 ~~(7) Calendar.~~
1064
1065 ~~(8) Non-concurrent calendar.~~
1066
1067 ~~(9) Balloting as needed.~~
1068
1069 ~~(10) Miscellaneous business.~~
1070

1071 **Rule 2: Worship**

1072 **Each quadrennial session will begin with an opening worship service. Additional**
1073 **worship experiences will be conducted periodically during the session.**
1074

1075 II. PRESIDING OFFICERS

1076
1077 Rule 3. The Bishop presiding shall be legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional
1078 Conference. He/she shall decide points of order raised by the members as he/she
1079 deems necessary to conform to these **Jurisdictional Conference** Rules of Order,
1080 subject to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate; except that the
1081 chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have ~~five~~ **three**
1082 minutes for a statement in support of his/her position. A tie vote in the case of an appeal
1083 shall sustain the chair. When any member raises a point of order, he/she shall cite by
1084 number the rule he/she adjudges to have been violated. The Bishop presiding when the
1085 committee is ~~ordered~~ **created**, unless otherwise directed by the conference, **or as**
1086 **directed by the plan of organization**, shall name the members of any special
1087 committee. **(See Rule 43.)**
1088

1089 Rule 4. When the chairperson stands in his/her place and calls the conference to order,
1090 no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.
1091

1092 III. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

1093
1094 Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves. No member unless hindered by sickness or
1095 otherwise, from being present shall be absent himself/herself from the sessions of the
1096 conference without permission of the conference, and all absentees shall be reported by
1097 the chairperson of the several Annual Conference delegations to the ~~Committee on~~
1098 **Credentials Conference Secretary**. ~~No reserve delegates shall have the privilege of~~
1099 ~~membership until the substitution has been approved by the conference, except at the~~
1100 ~~first session of the conference, as provided in the Plan of Organization, Division V,~~
1101 ~~Section 4, Sub-section (3).~~ **Reserve delegates will be seated as necessary. Each**
1102 **Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a**
1103 **form provided by the Conference Secretary (Plan of Organization, I.C.1.c).**

1104
1105 Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Floor. When a delegate desires to speak to the
1106 conference, he/she shall arise at his/her seat, respectfully address the presiding officer,
1107 and, after recognition, proceed to the speaker's platform or to the nearest microphone,
1108 where, before speaking, he/she shall state his/her name and the Annual Conference
1109 from which he/she comes.

1110
1111 Rule 7. Interrupting the Speaker. No member who has the floor may be interrupted
1112 except for a breach of order, or misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the
1113 conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very
1114 urgent question of high privilege.

1115
1116 Rule 8. Speaking More Than Once. No member shall speak a second time on the same
1117 question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, nor more than twice on
1118 the same subject under the same motion, nor longer than ~~ten~~ **three** minutes unless
1119 his/her time shall be extended by the conference, except as provided in Rule 39. This
1120 ~~ten-three~~ minute limit may be reduced by a majority vote of the conference at any time,
1121 and for any period of duration. **Note: Any eligible elder, who is not a nominee in the**
1122 **episcopal election process and who receives 10 or more votes on any ballot, will**
1123 **be permitted to address the conference for no more than 10 minutes.**

1124
1125 Rule 9. Question of High Privilege. A member claiming the floor at any time for what
1126 he/she believes is a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate
1127 briefly the nature of the question, as if it be adjudged by the chair to be such he/she
1128 may proceed at his/her pleasure, or until the chair judges that he/she has exhausted the
1129 privilege. (~~See Plan of Organization, Division V: Committees, Section 4, Sub-section~~
1130 ~~(5a)~~).

1131
1132 Rule 10. Voting Area of Conference. Only delegates within the area of the conference
1133 when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the area at the time
1134 a question is put shall vote, except such as have been excused for special reasons by
1135 the conference.

1136
1137 Rule 11. Method of Voting. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise
1138 ordered by the conference. An "Aye" and "No" vote by **written** ballot, ~~and also or~~
1139 a count vote may be ordered on call of any member **and** supported by one-third of the
1140 members present and voting. **Ballots and count votes will be taken by electronic**
1141 **voting device when available at the conference session.** No other business shall be
1142 in order when a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called,
1143 until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which
1144 can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the secretaries on
1145 a count vote, or an "Aye" and "No" vote. (Rule 26(2)). When a count vote is ordered,
1146 **and electronic voting devices are unavailable**, the count shall be made by the
1147 chairperson of the delegation, who shall report to the secretary of the Southeastern
1148 Jurisdictional Conference the number of those in the delegation voting for and voting
1149 against a motion or a report.

1150
1151 Rule 12. Division of Question. Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right
1152 to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as he/she indicates. If
1153 no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is an objection the chair
1154 shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

1155 1156 IV. BUSINESS PROCEDURE

1157
1158 Rule 13. Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary. Whenever a
1159 report of a committee, signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a resolution
1160 signed by two or more members of the conference shall be presented to the conference
1161 for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the conference
1162 without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

1163
1164 Rule 14. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions, and Amendments. All
1165 resolutions and committee reports shall be presented in triplicate **and electronically**,
1166 and when requested by the secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be
1167 presented in writing.

1168
1169 Rule 15. Reading of Reports and Resolutions. All resolutions, committee reports, and
1170 communications of the conference shall **may** be read by the secretary **if determined by**
1171 **the conference**, except as otherwise provided in Rule 36.

1172
1173 Rule 16. Alteration of Motions, Etc. When a motion is made and seconded and stated
1174 by the chair, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is made
1175 or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed in possession of the
1176 conference and may not be altered except by action of the conference (see Rule 35).
1177 Introductory, accompanying or explanatory, material shall not be subject to debate or
1178 amendment, nor be considered to have been acted upon by the conference upon
1179 adoption of the motion or proposal itself, unless accompanied by a specific motion that
1180 such material is included in the action of the conference.

1181
1182 Rule 17. Episcopal Election Process

1183
1184 (1) The sitting Committee on Episcopacy has oversight of the election process for that
1185 quadrennium. **Specifically, the Committee on Episcopacy will determine and**
1186 **oversee the processes, policies, and covenants related to the declaring of**
1187 **nominees and the familiarization with nominees from the various conferences**
1188 **and groups. The Program/Arrangements Committee, in consultation with the**
1189 **Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops, will determine the**
1190 **balloting process and logistics. Once balloting begins, the presiding Bishop**
1191 **shall certify the fairness of the balloting process.**

1192
1193 (2) An elder is elected a Bishop when that elder has received the votes of 60% of the
1194 delegates casting valid ballots in the jurisdictional conference.

1195

1196 Rule 18. Non-debatable Motions. The following motions shall be acted upon without
1197 debate:

1198
1199 (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally.

1200
1201 (2) To suspend a rule or rules or any provisions of the Rules of Order.

1202
1203 (3) To lie on the table, except as provided in Rule 39.

1204
1205 (4) To take from the table.

1206
1207 (5) To call for the previous question.

1208
1209 (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion.

1210
1211 (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate.

1212
1213 (8) To call for the orders of the day.

1214
1215 Rule 19. Rights of the Main Question. The main question may be opened to debate
1216 under the following motions: To adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, and to
1217 reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one
1218 under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11. The
1219 foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing
1220 parliamentary situation.

1221
1222 Rule 20. Precedence of Secondary Motions. If any one or more of the following motions
1223 shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their
1224 precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing
1225 below:

1226
1227 (1) To fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to
1228 amendment, or it may be laid on the table.)

1229
1230 (2) To adjourn.

1231
1232 (3) To take recess.

1233
1234 (4) To raise a question of privilege.

1235
1236 (5) To call for the orders of the day.

1237
1238 (6) To lie on the table.

1239
1240 (7) To order the previous question.

1241

1242 (8) To limit or extend the limits of debate.

1243

1244 (9) To postpone to a given time.

1245

1246 (10) To refer.

1247

1248 (11) To amend or substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment).

1249

1250 (12) To postpone indefinitely.

1251

1252 Rule 21. Tabling Related Motions. No motion, which adheres to another motion, or has
1253 another adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the
1254 table, carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere, or which adhere to
1255 them.

1256

1257 Rule 22. Referring a Section of Report. It shall be in order for the conference to refer to
1258 a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for
1259 consideration or any amendment offered thereunto.

1260

1261 Rule 23. Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes. When a resolution or committee
1262 report is properly before the conference for consideration and action, even if
1263 amendments thereto are pending, **a delegate may offer a substitute** ~~therefore may be~~
1264 ~~offered by any member moving that the same be substituted~~ for the resolution or report
1265 under consideration. **The substitute must be an alternative to what is before the**
1266 **body and not simply a negation of the main motion.**

1267

1268 **The conference will first consider the substitution/alternative before the body.**
1269 **Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution**
1270 **only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered**
1271 **during this period of initial consideration. Following the debate on the motion to**
1272 **substitute, a vote on substitution will occur. If the motion to substitute prevails**
1273 **by majority vote, the substitute motion becomes the main motion. If the motion**
1274 **to substitute fails to receive a majority vote, the original main motion remains on**
1275 **the floor for consideration. Debate, including the offering of amendments, moves**
1276 **forward on the main motion as per the rules of procedure.**

1277

1278 ~~The motion to substitute may not be considered or put, however, until the original report~~
1279 ~~or resolution is perfected, including consideration of any action on any amendment to it,~~
1280 ~~which may have been offered. The conference may terminate this perfecting process by~~
1281 ~~ordering the previous question on the motion to adopt the report or resolution. If this~~
1282 ~~were done, the vote shall immediately be taken on any amendments to the report or~~
1283 ~~resolution then pending, but the vote shall not be taken on the adoption of the report or~~
1284 ~~resolution or on making the substitution until the substitute is also perfected. The main~~
1285 ~~question, report, or resolution having been perfected, the substitute shall be considered,~~
1286 ~~which consideration may be terminated at any time by ordering the previous question, in~~
1287 ~~which case, after action on any amendments to the substitute then pending, the vote~~

1288 ~~shall be taken on the motion to substitute. After this, without further debate or~~
1289 ~~amendment, the vote shall be taken on the motion to adopt, if the previous question~~
1290 ~~thereon was ordered as above indicated as being allowable, or if it was ordered later. In~~
1291 ~~the course of the foregoing perfecting process in the case of the main question or the~~
1292 ~~substitute, or both, the time to be consumed in presenting, considering, and acting on~~
1293 ~~amendments may be limited by action or the conference. If this is done,~~

1294
1295 ~~The previous question may not be put on the adoption of the report or resolution, or~~
1296 ~~making the proposed substitution, until two members (including the chairperson of the~~
1297 ~~committee presenting the report and the member presenting the substitute, if the~~
1298 ~~pending question is the adoption of a report of a committee) shall have spoken. on each~~
1299 ~~side of the proposal to substitute or shall have spoken on each side of the proposal to~~
1300 ~~substitute or adopt, as the case may be, after the motions to amend, if there be any,~~
1301 ~~have been acted upon, if there be those who desire to speak.~~

1302
1303 Rule 24. Previous Question (see Rules 18(5), 23, 25, 39). When any member moves
1304 the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions
1305 pending), he/she shall indicate to what he/she intends it to apply, if any secondary
1306 motion or motions are also pending. If he/she does not so indicate, it shall be regarded
1307 as applying only to the immediately pending question.

1308
1309 This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those
1310 present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken without
1311 debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption,
1312 and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies
1313 without further debate, except as provided in Rule 39.

1314
1315 Rule 25. Unlawful Motion after Speech. It shall not be in order for a member
1316 immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to
1317 make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

1318
1319 Rule 26. Exceptions to Majority Vote. A majority of those voting, a quorum being
1320 present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

1321
1322 (1) A tie vote sustains the chair, if an appeal is made from his/her decision (Rule 3).

1323
1324 (2) One third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for an "Aye" and
1325 "No" vote or a count vote (Rule 11).

1326
1327 (3) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend or amend a rule or
1328 rules or any provision of the Rules of Order (Rules 41, 42); to sustain a motion for the
1329 previous question (Rule 24); to set aside a motion for the previous question (Rule 24);
1330 to set aside a special order; to consider a special order before the time therefore; or any
1331 motion whose adoption would limit debate.

1332

1333 Rule 27. Reconsideration. A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in
1334 order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the
1335 motion proposed for reconsideration is non-debatable, then the motion under
1336 reconsideration may not be debated.

1337
1338 ~~Rule 28. Calendar: Regular, Non-Concurrent. The secretary shall keep a chronological~~
1339 ~~record of orders of the day and reports of committees (see Rule 34), and this record~~
1340 ~~shall be called the calendar, and the matters of business placed in it shall be considered~~
1341 ~~in order, unless by a two-thirds vote of the conference an item is taken up out of its~~
1342 ~~order. Standing committee reports recommending non-concurrence shall be kept upon~~
1343 ~~a separate calendar to be taken up when the regular calendar is exhausted, or at the~~
1344 ~~pleasure of the conference, except when a minority presents a report recommending~~
1345 ~~concurrence, in which case both shall be included in the regular calendar.~~

1346
1347 Rule 29. Motion to Adjourn in Order, Except. The motion to adjourn, when unqualified,
1348 shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except

1349
1350 (1) When a delegate has the floor.

1351
1352 (2) When a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally
1353 decided.

1354
1355 (3) When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending.

1356
1357 (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened.

1358
1359 (5) When a motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending. The
1360 foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

1361

1362 V. COMMITTEES: DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES

1363

1364 ~~Rule 30. Reference Committee to Allocate the Episcopal Message and the Report of the~~
1365 ~~Jurisdictional Connectional Table/Committee on Coordination and Accountability. The~~
1366 ~~Reference Committee shall allocate the Episcopal Message and the report of the~~
1367 ~~Jurisdictional Connectional Table/Committee on Coordination and Accountability to~~
1368 ~~appropriate committees dealing with the matters germane thereto. The adoption of the~~
1369 ~~report of the Reference Committee shall be notification to those appropriate~~
1370 ~~committees, which have a report on the Episcopal Message and the report of the~~
1371 ~~Jurisdictional Connectional Table/Committee on Coordination and Accountability.~~

1372

1373 Rule 31. Preparation and Presentation of Committee Reports. Every committee of the
1374 Jurisdictional Conference is hereby authorized to delegate to the chairperson and
1375 secretary of the committee the duty of preparing and presenting to the Jurisdictional
1376 Conference the action taken by the committee on any given subject, and every
1377 committee is authorized to grant to a minority of the committee the right to draft and to
1378 present to the Jurisdictional Conference a minority report without reading the same

1379 before the full committee, providing the substance of the said minority report has been
1380 stated to the committee.

1381
1382 ~~Rule 32. Duties and Prerogatives of Committees. When a petition or resolution or any~~
1383 ~~such item is referred to one of the several standing committees, it shall be understood~~
1384 ~~that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred to that committee for~~
1385 ~~such action as it may deem wise. Committee reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall~~
1386 ~~cite the same, identifying them by the numbers they bear, respectively, in the published~~
1387 ~~manner. When a committee ascertains that another committee is or should, in its~~
1388 ~~judgment, be considering a subject, which the former is also considering, it shall~~
1389 ~~proceed to arrange for a conference of representatives from the respective committees~~
1390 ~~in order to settle the question at issue. If by this process agreement as to location of~~
1391 ~~responsibility cannot be reached, the matter shall be referred to the Committee of~~
1392 ~~Chairpersons.~~

1393
1394 Rule 33. Alterations in Restrictive Rules. Reports from committees and all other papers
1395 which propose an alteration in the restrictive rules of the church shall state that
1396 alteration proposed to be made, and the form of the motion shall be: "Will the
1397 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference recommend to the General and Annual
1398 Conferences the change indicated above?"

1399
1400 ~~Rule 34. Standing Committees Report to Secretary. At the close of each day's meeting,~~
1401 ~~the chairpersons and secretaries of the several standing committees shall provide the~~
1402 ~~secretary of the conference with copies in triplicate of all reports adopted by their~~
1403 ~~respective committees for presentation to the conference. The secretary shall enter said~~
1404 ~~reports on the calendar in the order in which they reach him/her and shall furnish the~~
1405 ~~editor of the Daily Christian Advocate with one copy of each of the said reports for~~
1406 ~~publication in the next day's issue.~~

1407
1408 Rule 35. Published Reports in Possession of Conference. A report of any committee
1409 signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof shall be regarded as in possession of
1410 the conference **on the next day after when posted to the conference website**, its first
1411 appearance **published** in the Daily Christian Advocate, **or distributed on the floor of**
1412 **conference. The business shall be** in order for consideration at the pleasure of the
1413 conference **anytime thereafter**. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of
1414 any committee signed by one tenth of the members of the committee or by ten
1415 members thereof (see Rule 17 and Rule 23).

1416
1417 Rule 36. Preparation and Printing of Reports. ~~All committee reports shall be presented~~
1418 ~~to the secretary of the conference in triplicate on paper provided for that purpose and~~
1419 ~~bearing at the top the name of the committee, its total membership, the number present~~
1420 ~~at the time the report was adopted, the number voting for and against the report, and~~
1421 ~~the number not voting. Reports of the standing committees shall be printed **posted to**~~
1422 ~~**the conference website and distributed** in the Daily Christian Advocate at least one~~
1423 ~~day before **with as much advance notice as possible given the abbreviated**~~
1424 ~~**duration of conference prior to** being presented for consideration by the conference,~~

1425 and they shall not be read unless by its order. Reports of minorities of committees
1426 adopted by them with a view to their being offered as substitutes for committee reports
1427 shall likewise conform to this rule so far as it is applicable, indicating clearly to what
1428 committee the respective minorities belong and for what report or reports, by serial
1429 numbers, etc., they propose the respective substitutes.

1430
1431 Rule 37. Committee on Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report. When a chairperson
1432 of a committee is not in harmony with a report adopted by the committee, it shall be
1433 his/her duty to state the fact to the committee, which shall elect one of its members to
1434 represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and privileges
1435 of the chairperson in relation to such report.

1436
1437 Rule 38. Presentation of Report of Minority. A member selected by the signers of a
1438 minority report of a committee to present the same shall have the same rights and
1439 privileges in relation thereto which belong to the chairperson in the presentation of the
1440 regular (majority) report of the committee, ~~except that he/she may not present said~~
1441 ~~minority report until the majority report has been presented.~~

1442
1443 Rule 39. Speakers For and Against. When the report of a committee is under
1444 consideration, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain, ~~when he/she~~
1445 ~~recognizes a member of the conference,~~ on which side **a speaker** he/she proposes d to
1446 speak. **The speaker** and he/she shall not **be granted** assign the floor to ~~any member~~
1447 ~~proposing~~ to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker
1448 immediately preceding if any member desires to speak on the other side thereof.
1449 Except for non-debatable motions, no report shall be adopted or question relation to the
1450 same decided without opportunity having been given for a least one speech for and one
1451 against the said proposal, provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly
1452 authorized member representing the committee's report, of the minority report if there
1453 be such, is present to close the debate. When all have spoken who desire to do so, or
1454 when (and after) the previous question has been ordered, the chairperson and/or duly
1455 authorized member or members presenting the committee's report (and the minority
1456 report, if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. This right of
1457 the chairperson and/or other member or members to close the debate shall prevail in
1458 like manner to a limit of five minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to
1459 amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, to lay on the table, or any other motion
1460 whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration, provided that this
1461 five minute limit shall not apply to a motion to substitute a minority report for a regular
1462 (majority) report of a committee.

1463
1464 Rule 40. Legal Enactment. All actions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of
1465 The United Methodist Church shall become effective upon the adjournment of the
1466 present session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist
1467 Church, unless otherwise specified.

1468
1469 VI. SUSPENDING, AMENDING, AND SUPPLEMENTING
1470

1471 Rule 41. Suspension of Rules. The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of
1472 Organization or the Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote
1473 of the conference (see Rule 26 (4)).

1474
1475 Rule 42. Amending Rules. The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be
1476 amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the conference, provided the proposed
1477 change or amendment has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to
1478 the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which committee shall
1479 report thereon not later than the day following (see Rule 26 (3)).

1480
1481 Rule 43. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised: Supplemental Authority. In any
1482 parliamentary situation not clearly covered by this Plan of Organization or these Rules
1483 of Order, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its actions by
1484 *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised*.

COMMITTEES ON ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAM (Planning Group)

In preparation for the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference, the Committee on Arrangements met three times (once by conference call). Realizing the overlapping responsibilities of the Arrangements Committee and the Program Committee, these two committees met together for the teleconference and the July 2011 meeting. For the purpose of this report, these two committees and the Secretarial Staff are known as the Planning Group.

Motion to Reduce Length of Conference

The Planning Group took seriously the motion made at the 2008 SEJ Conference by Gloria Holt, (North Alabama) which requested that consideration be given for reducing SEJ Conference by one day and increasing the per diem to cover the costs of room and board at Lake Junaluska. To comply with the intent of the motion, changes had to be made to accomplish the one-day reduction. A long-standing agreement existed for all Jurisdictional Conferences to begin on the same designated day and have the Consecration of Bishops on the same designated day. We are grateful for the work of our episcopal representatives to the Council of Bishops' Executive Committee who were able to modify this agreement thereby enabling the Planning Group to consider ways to reduce conference by one day.

Official Dates of Conference

The 2012 SEJ Conference will begin with a worship service on Wednesday, **July 18**, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at Lake Junaluska Assembly. The first business session will begin at 10:15 a.m. The Consecration of Bishops will be the final act of the conference on Friday, **July 20**, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. with adjournment around noon. The Committee on Episcopacy will be hosting activities on Tuesday, **July 17**, at 1:00 p.m., to afford delegations an opportunity to get acquainted with the episcopal nominees.

Balloting Method

The balloting method for the episcopal elections was a major challenge. The Planning Group researched options for electronic voting and selected OptionTechnologies to test simulated balloting in Stuart Auditorium in July 2011. About 30 persons, including the Planning Group, tested the OptionTechnologies' equipment and services from various locations within the auditorium. Several issues related to the space and the technology were discovered and resolved during the testing. The Planning Group approved OptionTechnologies to provide the electronic services for the 2012 Conference and expect the balloting system to expedite the voting and the tabulation for each ballot.

The Conference Secretary convened a sub-committee to amend the SEJ Conference procedures to accommodate the electronic balloting process with Gloria Holt representing the Committee on Episcopacy. An informational document regarding the electronic balloting details has been distributed to delegations and a thorough

explanation of the voting process and balloting will precede the first ballot on Wednesday morning.

Per Diem and Travel

The Committee on Finance and Administration gave consideration to the amount of per diem in response to the second part of the motion. The per diem was established as \$84 per day for the three days of Conference (Wednesday-Friday). This is based on the cost of double-occupancy at Lake Junaluska with the required meal plan cost of \$29 per day.

The travel reimbursement rate will be 55.5 cents per mile for automobile travel. For delegates flying to Asheville NC, the ground transportation reimbursement rate will be limited to the round trip mileage (80 miles) from/to the Asheville Airport and Lake Junaluska Conference Center at the IRS mileage standard in effect during the 2012 SEJ Conference.

Delegation Seating

Delegation seating was determined during the July 2011 Planning Group meeting. With representatives from almost every conference present, numbers were drawn and seating selected by representatives in that order. Planning Group members selected the best available seating for conferences not represented at the meeting.

Child-Care

Child-care will be provided by Lake Junaluska. Pre-registration is required with the cost being paid by the users of the service. See the jurisdictional website (www.sejumc.org) for registration information regarding child-care. Questions may be directed to Anne Travis (AnneTravis@holston.org).

A Move Toward Being Paperless

In an effort to be better stewards of creation and financial resources, the Planning Group decided to prepare for a "paperless" conference by having the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate* posted on the jurisdictional web site (www.sejumc.org) as a downloadable document for delegates and guests. Delegates may print the report directly from the website and bring the copy to conference, or download the report to a computer or e-reader (iPad, Kindle, Nook, etc.). **No printed copies of the ADCA will be available for distribution at the conference.** Other documents will be uploaded to the web site for those who prefer this paperless access of documents. The DCA will be published daily and will be available in printed format each morning. The final DCA will be uploaded and available on the website after conference adjournment. The 2012 SEJ Conference Journal will be published and mailed to each delegate.

Secretarial Staff

Brad Brady, Conference Secretary, has recruited an outstanding staff to assist with the many details associated with the planning and administration of the 2012 SEJ Conference. The following persons will be serving on the Secretarial Staff:
Meredyth Earnest, Journal Editor

Anne Travis, Logistics
John Pinson, Delegate Relations
Roger Dowdy, Worship
Ken Howle, Communications
Jennifer Davis, Monitoring Liaison
Kim Ingram, Elections
Raúl Alegría, Treasurer
Sybil Davidson, DCA Editor
Jackie Slaughter, Daily Minutes

Many others will serve as volunteers throughout the conference to attend to all the details. We are grateful for each of these persons for their willingness to serve.

There is one “Action Item” that comes from the Planning Group:

- The official area or bar of the conference shall be the stage platform and that portion of Stuart Auditorium designated for delegate seating.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Brady, Conference Secretary
2012 SEJ Planning Group

SEJ COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY 2008-2012

In accordance with ¶524.3.h of the 2008 *Book of Discipline* the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall “prepare a report of its decisions, activities, and recommendations to be transmitted to its successor through the office of the secretary of the jurisdictional conference. The report shall be made available to delegates of the jurisdictional conference prior to the jurisdictional conference.”

The responsibilities and functions of the Committee on Episcopacy can be found in ¶¶524, 406, 407 and 410 in the 2008 Book of Discipline. The current Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy has followed carefully these requirements, guidelines, and expectations in doing our work.

During this past quadrennium we faced some economic challenges, due to the economy, natural disasters, etc. Because of this the SEJCOE, in consultation with the College of Bishops, elected to meet only once a year, and later decided to eliminate one of our meetings as an effort to be better stewards the financial resources.

In our first meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, we spent a lot of time in prayer and reflection on our responsibilities as members of the COE. After engaging in some exercises involving our coming together as a team, and after visiting with the Bishops

about their expectations of our committee, we put together an SEJCOE Team Covenant and every member of the committee signed it. We also shared this covenant with the Bishops. This Team Covenant best expresses our commitment to carry out our responsibilities. It addresses both the opportunities and challenges that we have as a committee. The Team Covenant is as follows:

With God as our witness and help, we commit together as the Southeastern Jurisdiction committee on Episcopacy to labor for the whole good of the Southeastern Jurisdiction by:

1. Prayer: we are committed to weekly prayer for the work and needs of the members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, our Bishops, and Annual Conferences, so that the Spirit can impart the will of God to us.
2. Faithfulness: attendance is expected at each meeting unless illness or crisis prevents participation. Notification of absence will be given to the Chairperson. Executive Committee will give ample notification of meetings to committee members.
3. Dependability: committee members will be prepared spiritually and will have interim assignments completed prior to meetings.
4. Spiritual Discernment: the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy will rely on a process of spiritual discernment for the assignment of Bishops based on the gifts and graces of Bishops and the needs of Annual Conferences. This process will happen during the meetings of the Committee on the Episcopacy. There will be no conversations regarding where Bishops should be assigned among committee members across Episcopal areas except during official meetings of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy.
5. Confidentiality: discussion of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy is to remain confidential within the committee.
6. Truth spoken in love: within our meetings committee members will share the strengths and weaknesses of Episcopal leaders and annual conferences for the good of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

At our first meeting relational teams were established whereby two member of the COE would be assigned to a Bishop. The purpose of this is to provide a channel of communication to our group from each individual Bishop. Members of the COE would be in contact with their relational Bishop at various times during the quadrennium. This also served as an opportunity to be sure that every Bishop was prayed for everyday by a member of the committee.

In consultation with the Bishops, Hal Brady led the committee in developing an evaluation process which would involve more people from the Episcopal areas in the

evaluation process and would serve as a helpful tool in enhancing the ministry of the Bishops. A task force has been assigned to look at ways in which the committee might be helpful to Bishops who express a desire for improvement in certain ministry areas.

Tom Berlin led a group from our committee in putting together an SEJCOE handbook which will serve as a guide for future committees. Darlene Amon led a committee who would help design and implement the election process for Bishops at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference.

One of the major responsibilities is the assignment of Bishops. Jorge Acevedo and his committee have designed ways in which we can improve this process.

One discussion of concern involved the uniformity of benefits that Bishops receive. Charlene Black led a committee to help evaluate these benefits and establish a line of communication for the Bishops on these issues.

The committee has made an extra effort in striving to enhance the relationship of the Bishops with the committee. There has been intentionality in providing an atmosphere that produces both a confidential and non-judgmental relationship.

We have found that in subsequent meetings our relational team gave excellent feedback from their conversations with Bishops. This is one avenue that the committee receives information. The other avenue is when we ask individual Bishops to meet with the entire committee and share dreams, concerns, etc. It is very important for the committee to receive as much information as possible in order to carry out our responsibilities.

There have been some very candid and helpful conversations in trying to deal with some of the struggles and concerns that Bishops have.

In trying to enhance the effectiveness of electing Bishops, our committee has offered eight questions that the Episcopal candidates might want to answer to give delegates an opportunity to learn about the candidates as each Episcopal candidate addresses the same issues. We made suggestions in the election process that all candidates should be involved in any function. We tried to make the playing ground level for all candidates.

The SEJCOE had 20 new members out of the 30 member committee. This gave us an opportunity to rely on the great work of committees of the past, but also to forge some new areas for the future. The committee was extremely helpful and supportive. The use of the Team Covenant always gave accountability to what we tried to do as a committee.

Serving on this committee has been a rich experience for all of us. The very nature of fulfilling our responsibilities necessitated a unique relationship which could only be cultivated by the work of the Holy Spirit. The committee made a commitment to pray

for each other on a daily basis, as well as our Bishops. This time of prayer and intercession for each other has been fertile soil for God's Spirit to work through this committee. It has been more than an administrative responsibility – it has been a spiritual journey.

Respectfully submitted,
John Ed Mathison, Chair

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR 2012 SEJ CONFERENCE

Updated: May 15, 2012

The SEJ 2012 Jurisdictional Conference will use electronic handsets to register our votes quickly and accurately. This device will be used for balloting during Episcopal elections and any other business when requested by the presiding bishop or at the suggestion of delegates.

By voting electronically, we will be able to reduce the amount of time involved in making these important selections and increase the accuracy of the balloting process.

These voting handsets look a bit like a TV remote control, but instead of pushing buttons to change channels, we'll be pushing buttons to enter the three-digit candidate number of the individuals we prefer to elect as Bishop.

In the first round, you will enter five sets of three digit numbers using your keypad. Candidate numbers will be entered one candidate position at a time. There will be a 30-second voting interval for each selection. You will be prompted as to when to cast your next selection.



Delegates will receive a list of ballot numbers on Wednesday morning to use throughout the elections process. Additionally a worksheet will be provided to assist delegates organize information needed to cast your ballot.

All nominees who speak in the “get acquainted process” sponsored by the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee will be assigned the lowest numbers. Additionally, we will assign a three-digit code for all Elders who are members of a delegation. This will virtually eliminate the need for write-in ballots, which will expedite the tabulation process.

Casting Your Vote

1. Select the ballot number for the desired candidate. For example, you wish to vote for Jane Doe. Look at the ballot sheet to find her number. Let’s say, her ballot number is “101.”
2. When prompted by the Secretary, enter the number of the desired candidate. In this example, you enter “101.” This number will be displayed on your handset’s screen.
3. When you see the desired number on the device screen, press the “Send” button. Your selection will be wirelessly transmitted to a computer that will record all votes. You will see a message “Received” once your vote has been collected.
4. After a 30-second interval, the Secretary will prompt delegates to make their next selection. The process will be repeated based on the number of Bishops to be elected. (We plan to shorten these intervals as delegates demonstrate proficiency in using the equipment.)
5. If you vote for a person who is already elected or for a number outside the active range of assigned numbers, you will see an “Invalid” message on your screen. You should double-check your number and cast another vote.
6. The presiding Bishop will close the ballot when the required intervals are concluded.
7. OptionTechnologies will tabulate the results. Two tellers, under the supervision of the Head Tellers, will tally any write-in votes (see below). The Head Tellers will give these results to the Elections Secretary who will add this data to the results from the electronic devices. The Elections Secretary and Head Tellers will certify these combined results.
8. Once certified, the results will be delivered in a sealed envelope to the presiding Bishop. The Bishop will announce the results as soon as practical based on the business-at-hand.
9. All of votes will remain private.

Write-In Ballots

There should be very few instances when a write-in ballot is needed.

First, if by chance you would like to vote for someone for whom no ballot number is provided, you will vote entirely by paper ballot. As the ballot period begins, please notify your Delegation Page that you need a paper ballot. We expect this to be a rare instance since all Elders who are members of a delegation are already assigned a ballot number. Once a write-in candidate receives 10 votes, he or she will be assigned a ballot number for the remainder of the ballots; thus, eliminating the need for further write-in ballots for that individual.

Second, if your electronic device is inoperable, you should raise your hand and your Delegation Page will take your device and give you a paper ballot upon which you will vote for your desired candidates using the ballot numbers. If you have already begun balloting and the device fails mid-ballot, you will take your entire ballot by paper. Any selections from your device will be eliminated for that ballot. A new device will be delivered to you for the next ballot.

Reserve Delegate Keypads

Reserve delegates will use the voting device of the primary delegate for whom they are substituting. The primary delegate will give their device to the Delegation Head who will then distribute the device to the reserve delegate. A log will be kept of who has possession of the device so we can track any unreturned devices.

Device Difficulty

Every handset will be tested before the conference, so the probability of a handset failing is very low. That said, if after entering your preferred ballot number and pushing the “Send” button does not produce the word “Received” on its display to confirm that your vote has been tabulated, please try again. If you still have difficulty, notify your Delegation Page. Who will quickly provide you with a paper ballot to record your vote, and you’ll be issued a new handset. We don’t expect this to happen, but we are prepared for this eventuality.

FYI

If you’re wondering how much radio energy is used by a handset to convey your vote wirelessly, it uses half the power of a typical cell phone, and transmits for only a brief instant after you vote by pushing the “Send” button, using the same frequencies as Wi-Fi wireless internet access.

Keypad Distribution

Keypads will be distributed each morning within the delegation. Your Delegation Page will deliver the devices to the Delegation Head. The Page and Tellers will distribute the devices to primary delegates under the supervision of the Delegation Head. All Delegates are in a covenant to vote using only the device personally issued to you. Any delegate observing an unauthorized person voting on a device should stand immediately and notify the presiding bishop of the irregularity.

As stated above, reserve delegates will use the voting device of the primary delegate for whom they are substituting. The primary delegate will give their device to the

Delegation Head who will then distribute the device to the reserve delegate. A log will be kept of who has possession of the device so we can track any unreturned devices.

Test Voting

Since electronic voting is new, we'll start off with "test votes" to get everyone comfortable with the procedure. The presiding Secretary will pose a question and give everyone 30 seconds to vote. You will press the 1 button for Yes, and press the 2 button for No.

During this interval, you'll be able to change your vote should you wish to do so. The system counts only the last entry you "Send." When the 30-second interval is over, the presiding Bishop will announce that the vote is complete, and shortly thereafter he or she will announce the results.

Reminders

- Each time, you'll have 30 seconds to convey your vote.
- If you don't want to participate in a particular vote, don't push any buttons during the 30 second voting interval.
- If you make a mistake in voting, simply vote again. The system will tabulate the last vote that you enter.
- If you input an incorrect number during the voting and you see it on the keypad screen before you press send, and would like to change it press the DEL button on the upper-left to remove one number at a time.
- If you inadvertently turn your handset off by pushing the power button in its lower-right corner, push this button again to turn your handset back on. Pushing any other buttons on your handset will have no effect and will be treated as invalid.

Invalid Ballots

The following actions will invalidate your ballot:

- Voting for fewer than the number to be elected on a particular ballot.
- Voting for someone who has already been elected.
- Voting for the same nominee more than once per ballot.

Returning Devices

The delegation Page will collect the devices at the end of each major segment (noon, supper, evening). If you forget to turn in your handset, we will follow-up with you and ask you to return it. You will be financially responsible for any unreturned device.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the electronic voting systems or procedures, please visit the electronic voting help desk in the rear of the Auditorium.

COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Introduction

The 2008 Jurisdictional Conference approved a new structure, which eliminated the SEJ Administrative Council (SEJAC) and created the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA). After receiving an interim report, the 2004 Jurisdictional Conference charged the task group “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 properties at Lake Junaluska” (2008 Journal, 52).

The Organizational Task Force received additional focus in 2006 when the Administrative Council approved a mission statement for the Jurisdiction:

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 (2008 Journal, 52).

The 2008 Jurisdictional Conference approved the creation of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as a group to oversee the work and ministry of The United Methodist Church across the jurisdiction. The following responsibilities were listed:

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.

Fifteen persons, one from each Annual Conference, were elected at the 2008 Session to serve on this inaugural committee, each falling into one of several categories spelled out in the organizing document.

- Three Bishops: Bishop Al Gwinn (NC), Bishop James King (SGA), and Bishop Dick Wills (Memphis).

- Three Conference Lay Leaders: Shirley Cauffman (VA), Joseph Heyward (SC), Ellen Harris (NAL). Note Ellen Harris' term as Conference Lay Leader ended. Steve Lyles, her successor followed her on CCA.
- Three Directors of Connectional Ministries: Beth Fogle-Miller (FL), Anne Travis (HOL), and Loyd Mabry (TN). Mid-quadrennium, Bettye Lewis became DCM in TN and succeeded Loyd Mabry.
- At-Large: John Denham (KY), Herzen Andone (NGA), Phoebe Hathorn (MS), Philip Wingeier-Rayo (WNC), Ronnie Strunk (RB), and Edna Williams (AWF). Edna Williams was unable to serve. Willa Harris replaced Edna Williams.
- Ex-officio (without vote): Brad Brady (Conference Secretary) and Raul Alegría (Conference Treasurer)

Bishop Al Gwinn was elected chairperson for the first two years of the quadrennium and Dr. Joseph Heyward served as Vice-Chair. Dr. Heyward and Bishop Gwinn switched roles for the last half of the quadrennium.

Committee members have met twice each year. Attendance and engagement has been high throughout the quadrennium. The CCA met with representatives from each agency and ministry once each year during the summer meeting. Written reports were received and reviewed at the Winter/Spring meeting.

After living into this new model for a quadrennium we offer the following observations about the benefits and other discoveries about this model of ministry oversight:

1. Greater oversight: Each agency and ministry has received much more focused attention than was possible in the previous structure. Jurisdictional leadership has a much more comprehensive understanding of what each ministry is about, its successes and its struggles.
2. Better stewardship: Reducing the number of people on this oversight group has cost less to the jurisdiction than the previous model. Likewise, the smaller group has offered more significant stewardship (oversight) of the jurisdiction's ministries.
3. Common viewpoint: It has been remarkable to experience the common viewpoint each committee member brought to our meetings about the role of jurisdictional ministries and their relationships to Annual Conferences and local churches. The committee is diverse in its make-up, random in its selection, and yet united in understanding the big picture.
4. Best practice: Early in the quadrennium, the CCA reached out to the Committee on Finance and Administration. We invited CFA leadership to join us in our meetings. CFA and CCA held joint meetings during the last two summer meetings when each agency and ministry met face-to-face with CCA. We believe this has allowed CFA to more fully understand the work of these agencies and ministries and to share in offering its oversight to these

organizations. We wholeheartedly support the continuation of this practice in the new quadrennium.

Celebration of Ministries

The CCA affirms the ministries of our jurisdiction. We are grateful for the faithful leadership that each ministry executive and governing board offers for the sake of each of these ministries.

In the pages following our report, you will find individual reports from each of the these jurisdictional ministries, which have been part of CCA's ongoing review:

Agencies

Gulfside Assembly
Hinton Rural Life Center
Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

Disciplinary Groups

Archives and History
Ministry with Young People's Convocation

Ministries

Intentional Growth Center
SEMAR
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

We affirm the fruit of each ministry and invite local churches, districts and annual conferences to explore more fully the resources each ministry offers. Some resources would enrich your disciple-making ministry in your local setting. Other ministry offerings would expand the reach of your local ministry. Each of these ministries needs financial support to carry out their work. Most of that support will come from those who receive benefit and feel connected to these ministries, just as with most agencies and ministries within our Annual Conferences.

Observations

CCA members spent the final meeting looking back over the quadrennium to see what we have discovered as common questions or challenges facing our jurisdictional ministries. We feel as through three of these are worth placing before the members of the 2012 SEJ Conference.

The Relationship Question

In a time when financial support is being eliminated or reduced for Jurisdictional agencies and ministries, the question arises, **“What is the nature of the relationship between the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and these ministries?”**

Most of us were not around when these ministries were first associated with the Southeastern Jurisdiction. As persons looking back, we cannot imagine that the relationship between each of these ministries was grounded in legalities around ownership of ministry or a dependency on financial support.

What connected us in the beginning, what connects us today, and what will connect us in the future is a covenantal relationship grounded in our common understanding of what it means to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Book of Discipline declares the United Methodist understanding that each local church within boundaries of our Annual Conferences is the primary setting in which disciple making occurs (§ 201). The Jurisdiction is the connecting link with these local churches and their home Annual Conferences.

Agencies and ministries at the Annual Conference level and at the Jurisdictional level extend disciple making in a variety of ways. Some provide venues for spiritual formation events and experiences that would be difficult to host within the local church. Others create settings or structures for extending the witness through Word and Deed for the transformation of the world that a local church cannot do by itself. In short, agencies and ministries, at all levels, help us achieve more by working together than we would if left to ourselves.

So, as covenant partners agencies and ministries broaden our view, enrich our experiences, expand our reach, and provide structure to help us achieve more.

As a covenant partner, the Southeastern Jurisdiction connects agencies and ministries to local churches, districts, and Annual Conferences who may benefit from more formation as disciples or leaders, and more expansive witness opportunities through the offerings of our agencies and ministries.

As a covenant partner, the Southeastern Jurisdiction encourages and holds agencies and ministries accountable to their core mission by observing their work from a balcony view and seeing how each individual ministry relates to the whole. We believe there is wisdom and insight within this larger community. Every observation offered is done so with Christ-like love; with conviction about the means of grace each ministry is and can be; and with an eye toward what the local churches, districts, and annual conferences find most helpful and needed. These observations come primarily from the members of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, which is comprised of one representative from each Annual Conference.

As a covenant partner, the Southeastern Jurisdiction seeks to find ways to support the agencies and ministries in ways that go beyond money. In this report you will find concerns that several of our agencies share in common. You will see that the SEJ CCA is proposing a means by which the Jurisdiction will come alongside our agencies and ministries by financially supporting an action item intended to strengthen all the governing boards. This is not financial support for operational costs, but we believe this action item can have an exponentially positive impact for each body.

So, why be connected if not for ongoing operational budget support? First, as covenant partners we share a common mission, and a common journey through faith in Jesus Christ. Second, as covenant partners we are mutually enriched by what each offers to the whole.

As we move forward into this new age where financial support is reduced or eliminated, it is our prayer that we will explore the richness of our covenantal relationship and therein live more fully as Christ's representatives in the world.

Each local church, district, annual conference, agency, and ministry within the Southeastern Jurisdiction exists to help people of every description come to know Jesus as Lord and fall more completely in love with the God who sends and empowers us all.

We pray that our next quadrennial report will give testimony to more transformed lives and to a more palpable reign of God in our region of the world. All glory to God!

Financial Stress and Missional Creep

We have not found any segment of ministry that has been exempt from the economic stressors facing our nation during the last quadrennium. Local churches, Annual Conferences, and Jurisdictional agencies and ministries have each been significantly impacted.

As we have come to know each of the jurisdictional agencies and ministries more fully during these last four years, we have found each organization making tough budgetary decisions while scrambling for new income streams.

Some of these new income sources stretch the organization beyond its core mission. These decisions have raised questions and concerns from CCA members. Some organizations have so generalized their mission statement that almost anything "Christian" would fit within the scope of their purpose for existence. Some proposals have raised concerns about potential liability to the jurisdiction and our Annual Conferences. Some organizations are dipping into reserves (designated and undesignated) to fund operational costs. We all know this can not be sustained.

At the heart of the struggle is tension between supporting the current infrastructure of a ministry organization and prayerfully discerning whether a ministry needs to be

curtailed, re-focused, or down-sized to get back to the original calling that brought the organization into existence.

The reality is that the UMC today is decreasing in members and financial support for ministries throughout the Jurisdiction. To be good stewards of the Kingdom, we encourage each ministry's governing body to face reality by living within its means. As we have in our local churches and in our Annual Conferences, this will require making tougher decisions about how each organization's ministries and priorities fit within its core mission and what ministries can be funded.

With as much appreciation as we all have for our jurisdictional agencies and ministries, the CCA does not foresee a time in the near future when funding operational costs for these organizations will once again become the norm. Just as our local and conference ministries are adjusting to this new reality around financial support from the Annual Conference, our jurisdictional ministries must prayerfully struggle and creatively strive within this new reality.

Governance

The confluence of all factors facing our agencies and ministries heightens the need for fully engaged governing bodies. As we have reviewed the ministries of the SEJ agencies, certain themes around governing bodies have emerged:

- Focus on the clear mission and review mission for relevance given changing situations is much needed.
- Don't confuse the mission with the ability to generate revenue to support physical buildings. The buildings should support the mission (rather than the other way around). The same is true for staffing.
- Staffing should also respond to the mission, not hire or maintain personnel based on personalities.
- It is essential to have a well-trained board of directors who will carry the vision and a strategy for funding it.
- There should be an alliance with the executive director, but not just a booster club for his/her personality.
- The board size may vary but it should be functional with attention to diversity (race, gender, age, geographical representation, lay vs. clergy, etc.)

We know that being a board member is a significant responsibility. We are grateful for each person who agrees to serve these ministries. You come from among us as members of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to offer active stewardship of these ministries. The CCA members urge you to feel empowered to look at the challenges presented in these observations. The ministry's executive would welcome your full participation as steward of the ministry. Your supportive work with the ministry's executive with an eye toward expressing communal wisdom that will serve God's mission above all will be most appreciated.

Recommendations

The Committee on Coordination and Accountability offers the following recommendations for action by the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

1. That the quadrennial budget includes a total of \$75,000 so the CCA can coordinate training and development for the governing board members of our agencies and ministries. Rather than offer operational funding, we believe this one action item has the potential of helping each of our ministries as each comes to grip with its core mission, its strategies for accomplishing and funding their mission in today's context. The next CCA would devise a plan for implementation as soon as possible, but certainly within the first year of the quadrennium.
2. That the Jurisdictional Conference create a part-time paid Conference Secretary position to:
 - A. Coordinate the considerable functions associated with planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;
 - B. Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important work;
 - C. Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents; and
 - D. Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about some action by a pastor, district superintendent or bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property. All of these are referred to appropriate people within the UMC connection, but together take a significant amount of time throughout the year.)

A full rationale for this staff position appears in Appendix 1 at the end of the CCA report.

- b. That the Nominations Committee nominates at least one-third of the current members of CCA for service during a second quadrennium. This will offer some much needed continuity in the institutional memory that has been generated during the last four years.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Joseph Heyward, Chair
Bishop Al Gwinn, Vice-Chair

Appendix 1:

Conference Secretary

Background

The reorganization plan approved by the SEJ 2008 Conference significantly reshaped the staffing pattern for the jurisdiction's work. Prior to the 2008 Conference:

- The daily oversight of the jurisdiction's ministry was lodged with an executive director position. This staff person also served as the CEO of Lake Junaluska Assembly. As such, this executive director coordinated the work of the Connectional Table (also known by several other names through various stages of reorganization). The staff at Lake Junaluska provided any necessary secretarial support.
- The ministry staff of Lake Junaluska carried some responsibilities for resourcing ministry across the jurisdiction.
- The Lake Junaluska Treasurer also served as the SEJ Treasurer on a part time basis.
- The Jurisdictional Secretary for the preceding 12 years was a part time employee of Lake Junaluska with additional staff support available through Lake Junaluska.

The reorganization plan approved in 2008 virtually eliminated jurisdictional staff. Two positions are identified in the Plan of Organization. One is the part time Treasurer and the other position is the Conference Secretary, who receives an honorarium for work surrounding the quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference.

While not fully defined in the 2008 reorganization plan, the Jurisdictional Secretary took on some of the executive and administrative functions previously connected to the full-time Executive Director's position and his support staff. The only direct reference to these responsibilities appears in a statement found in the Plan of Organization, Section V. Sub-section A., connecting the Secretary to the work of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, "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)."

No one involved in proposing the restructuring could foresee the scope of additional responsibilities this one sentence would place on the Conference Secretary's position. The assigned duties for and on behalf of the CCA have ranged from planning and coordinating two meetings a year; communicating with ministry representatives prior to meetings and following up after meetings; and consulting with various jurisdictional leadership as needed. These responsibilities have been handled in a voluntary capacity by working the duties in, around and in addition to other full time employment.

Having lived into this new structure for a quadrennium, the Conference Secretary and Committee on Coordination and Accountability recognize that it is impossible for someone to add these responsibilities to an otherwise full-time position. The amount of follow-up needed to resolve recurring issues has not been possible. In short, we are organized to get incomplete results.

As work associated with planning for the quadrennial conference session is intensifying, the extra work of CCA is also increasing. While the Plan of Organization does not supply a neat list of job expectations, there are a number of references to groups with whom the Secretary is to work and to tasks associated with planning, executing, and reporting on the quadrennial session.

Based on these realities, the following proposal is placed before you:

1. That a part-time position be created and funded by the SEJ for the Conference Secretary.
2. That the College of Bishops search, interview and nominate a new Conference Secretary effective at the end of the 2012 quadrennial meeting.
3. That the Senior Effective Bishop, the CCA Chair and CCA Vice-Chair serve as the direct supervisors of the Conference Secretary.
4. That the Conference Secretary:
 - E. Coordinate the considerable functions associated with planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;
 - F. Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important work; and,
 - G. Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents.
 - H. Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about some action by a pastor, district superintendent or bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property.)
5. That the Rules Committee amend the Plan of Organization to define this position.

While it is impossible to fully calculate the time involved with this position, it is anticipated that an average of 40 hours per month would be reasonable. Time required increases with the planning, execution and follow-up for the Jurisdictional Conference. Additionally, this would include planning, attending and following up on jurisdictional business. Six-to-eight nights away annually would be an expected range of travel days.

The recommended salary would be \$1,250 per month, \$15,000 annually. Travel expenses would be reimbursed at the rate set by the Jurisdictional Conference. Also, the Jurisdictional budget should be constructed to anticipate reasonable and customary business expenses (office supplies, postage, etc.).

SEJ COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

SEJ HERITAGE CENTER

Mission

Our mission is to preserve and keep alive the stories of the remarkable persons, places and events that make up our unique history as United Methodists in the Annual Conferences that comprise the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ).

Our vision is to become, through the work of the SEJ Heritage Center, the primary source of information related to archives and records management for persons responsible for, or seeking access to, records documenting the history and function of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

The connection is perhaps best expressed by Russell Richey in *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives* (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2009), “If we neglect or refuse the invitation [to look into the windows of our past], we threaten to cut ourselves off from our genius, our mission, our rich contribution to the church catholic. Our history, our polity, our texts, our connectionalism – are these encumbrances from the past, barriers to effective mission, walls that entrap us? Or are they windows through which we see, with God’s guidance, a vision for our calling as a church?”

In the same volume, from an essay entitled “Itinerancy in Historical Perspective,” Richey says: “Memory, including the memory of our own tradition, constitutes an important source of Methodism’s self understanding, a point reinforced in the *Discipline’s* theological guidelines and its own appeal to history. We do need to be reminded of our forebears’ vision *and* their perplexities.”

Remembering is an essential ingredient of our faith journey and appears again and again in our rituals. “... in remembrance of these your might acts in Jesus Christ.” “Remember your baptism and be thankful.” Perhaps the most important word about the importance of memory is said when we take the bread and the cup in communion, for Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

By allowing us to know what happened in the past, the Heritage Center helps us recognize the demands of grace in the present and prepare for what it will ask of us in the future. Archives activities are not merely a remembrance of the past, but a work of faith for the present and the future.

Fruitfulness

In 2011 our staff and volunteers participated in presentations to 989 individual members of confirmation classes. This is an increase of 116 over the previous year and nearly 300 over 2009.

Our staff responded to a total of 52 reference inquiries received via mail, telephone and email in 2010. In 2011, we responded to a total of 23 reference inquiries.

In 2010 we accepted a total of 32 linear ft. of records from Lake Junaluska Assembly and other SEJ agencies and assisted several offices by providing information needed for various reports. In 2011, 16 linear ft. of organizational records were accepted along with 7 linear ft. of personal papers.

Our confirmation presentations are geared toward the young persons who are preparing to be confirmed in the church. Almost without fail, however, one or more of the adult leaders tells us that although they have been United Methodists for many years they were not previously aware of the history of the denomination, particularly as it relates to our jurisdiction. We are also gratified to observe what we refer to as “light bulb moments” when we are able to capture the interest and imagination of the youth by what we teach in these sessions.

Our primary goals for next quadrennium are:

- A. The creation and implementation of a records management program for jurisdictional agencies. In addition to the management of paper records, this program will begin to address the many issues related to electronic records.
- B. Education across all levels of the jurisdiction as to the many roles of the Heritage Center and its place within the structure of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History. The Heritage Center as place is only one aspect. Consultation, development of policies and procedures, training in archival care and handling and records management, as well as research assistance are included in the services that we provide.
- C. Continued cooperation with and assistance to the SEJ Historical Society and the annual conferences within the jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, preparations for their annual reports and other support services.
- D. Continued assistance with the planning of the Lake Junaluska Centennial celebration through the end of 2013. This includes plans for the 2013 meeting of the SEJ Historical Society hosted by the SEJ Commission on Archives and History.
- E. Continued processing of collections to make them accessible to all researchers.

The Heritage Center director, assisted by qualified outside consultants, will create and implement a records management program for Lake Junaluska Assembly that addresses both paper and electronic documents. When the program is put into operation, office staff will work more efficiently and the retention of records needed for legal, administrative and historic documentation will be assured. The Lake Junaluska program will serve as a model for other jurisdictional level agencies.

Information about the Heritage Center's services will be disseminated through the use of the Lake Junaluska website, existing UMC news publications and of vital and historic records at the local church, district and conference level. Two such workshops are planned for Lake Junaluska. Additional workshops will be presented at other locations as requested.

The Heritage Center will play a major role in activities and events related to the Lake Junaluska centennial celebration in 2013 by working collaboratively with the Centennial Planning Committee and its subcommittees. In connection with the Centennial celebration, the Commission will host the SEJ Historical Society when it holds its annual meeting at Lake Junaluska July 10-13, 2013.

Financial Plan

The Heritage Center has no liabilities. As of December 31, 2011, our financial assets included United Methodist Development Fund investments totaling \$430,315.70 (designated as an endowment for the work of the Heritage Center), plus checking and savings accounts totaling \$24,078.83. Furnishings and major equipment purchased in 2010 and 2011 are valued at \$20,499.85. At this time we do not have an established value for older furnishings and equipment or for our museum, library and archival holdings. We have, however, recently purchased an insurance policy which includes \$100,000.00 coverage on the contents of the Heritage Center and general liability coverage. The structure is insured and maintained by Lake Junaluska Assembly.

Governance

According to the Bylaws of the Commission on Archives and History of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the membership of the Commission includes a representative from each Annual Conference within the Jurisdiction, nominated by the Commission and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, as well as at-large members chosen for their expertise. At-large members are elected by the Commission. The Director of the SEJ Heritage Center is a member without vote.

The Director is elected by the Commission and is responsible to the Commission for the performance of his or her duties.

Since the Commission meets annually, the Director and the Chair of the Commission meet and communicate on a regular basis between meetings of the Commission. The Director sends regular updates on the work of the Heritage Center to members of the Commission.

GULFSIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mission

The core mission of Gulfside, as we continue to rebuild post-Hurricane Katrina with limited income, is to minister according to the Word of God. The Gulfside Association Board of Directors completed a strategic planning process for the entire organization's values, vision and mission. We value our heritage and the legacy we create. We value and practice Christian principles, spiritual development, renewal and recreation. We value human dignity and justice for all God's people.

We envision a caring community where all God's people are transformed by the love of Christ.

Gulfside goal is to provide facilities with our programs that further the development of ministries to the whole person through education, spiritual nurture, family support of all ages and all groups. Gulfside was built on the spirit of diversity.

We are engaged in programs that affect the quality of life of individuals. We are scripturally and spiritually based. The Circles – Move the Mountain Program has local UMC minister, Reverend Heather Henserling moving forward in the Bay-Waveland area. In conjunction, we have partnered with Sager Brown (Kathy Kriza in Baldwin, La.) and Voices of Calvary (in Jackson, MS). The director of Spiritual Leadership, Inc., Reverend Craig Robertson is working in partnership with us to develop the Abide program to train future spiritual leaders in ministry and in the church.

Our effort is to make disciples of Christ by developing contact with individuals across the country and helping them to be a part of these programs. By doing the work of the Circles, the Abide Programs and our youth and young adult ministries. We are accomplishing the mission of Christ.

Fruitfulness

The Mission Educational Leadership Tour is one activity that focuses on the youth of the Mississippi Conference. Gulfside sponsors this event annually every summer, introducing young black men and women to U.M. colleges available to them once they graduate high school. We feel it is imperative to the future for youth to see their continued need for education and involvement in business and ministry. During this week long tour they are involved in a 'hands- on' mission and then conclude the tour at SEJ Harambee where they are involved in an intense leadership development event. Every year these young people return home with wonderful stories of hope and vision. Gulfside tracks the young black youth who have been involved in the Harambee/Leadership Tour and have gone on to college to get their degrees. We then sponsor these young collegiates to attend seminars to further their skills as leaders. We currently have twenty such graduates at the General Board of Church and Society this month in Washington DC, through an ethnic local church grant.

Being the agency without walls, everything we do is reliant on faith in action. We hold events on the grounds of where our facilities once stood. After the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast, we hosted a major prayer event for the families of those who were killed in the Deep Water Horizon explosion and the multitude of coastal families whose

employment and businesses were affected by the spill. News agencies from all over the country covered the prayer service which was attended by church leaders from several denominations, including our own UMC Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. Lutheran Bishop Julien Gordy sent his personal representative Reverend Dr. Delmar Chilton to represent the Lutheran Church in this time of prayer and intercession. The Associated Press interviewed Gulfside's President & CEO Mollie Stewart and ran the article nationally. Other prominent attendees, including our city's Mayor Tommy Longo, were also interviewed with national coverage. The top television station on the Gulf Coast, WLOX ran their clip several times bringing much attention to the care and concern displayed at the Gulfside Prayer Event by so many in attendance.

Gulfside also extended a one-day invitation to the National Black Methodist for Church Renewal holding their Annual Meeting in New Orleans in February 2011. They willingly chose to host part of their business session and worship service on the property with 275 persons in attendance. While there the group toured the ground hosted by the Gulfside staff, with pictures of where each building once located. A spiritual and very emotional message was delivered by Bishop Alfred L. Norris at the gravesite of Founder Robert E. Jones and former director Bishop Robert Brookes. The day ended with powerful worship and a message of hope by the Reverend Dr. Cedric Bridgeforth, District Supervisor from Western Jurisdiction. The BMCR attendees were saddened by the loss of what had been but encouraged and pledged support for the vision of what is yet to be.

In the upcoming quadrennium, there are specifics Gulfside is focused on:

- One primary focus is producing spiritual leaders in ministry and in the church through the Abide Program. With the condition our nation is in, we recognize its not only leaders but spiritual leaders that are essential to our existence.
- Through the Move the Mountain Program, the effort is to teach individuals to eliminate poverty in their own lives. Teaching men to fish, rather than handing the fish to them. This program also has the potential for leading individuals to Christ and church involvement. These goals are directly connected to the foci of the church.
- With the elimination of poverty and educating leaders, our intention through these programs is for persons to learn how to practice better health care and to attain better health & medical opportunities.
- The spiritual health and wellness of the whole person is our desired spiritual fruit. To learn to lead others in their Christian walk; to work and manage financial responsibilities and to live a lifestyle that promotes physical and spiritual well being.
- Because Gulfside is not a church, but an agency, we are able to cross civic, religious and denominational barriers that may constrict and confine the church. The programs we are utilizing has a team available for churches to participate with local ministries and then replicate to other groups and churches across the country. These opportunities allow us to generate our own revenue through models designed for these meetings.

- Our original intent is to build a spiritually based retirement campus that will physically care for the lives of aging individuals in need of particular care and attention. Because of the economy, the 2010 Gulf Coast tragic oil spill and our continued efforts toward recovery from devastation, we have shifted our mission and vision since the last quadrennial conference to rebuilding our Ministry Center on the property first. We still have sight of our original intentions of the Senior Living Community, LLC and have included Chautauqua housing, which our Founder initiated on the property in 1923.
- We have begun the silent phase of a Capital Campaign for the Ministry Center. For the retirement village we hope to accomplish our goals by continuing to solicit seniors who are committed to the buy in process. We will not build until the villa is filled, as not to jeopardize loss of the land. For the Chautauquas, we are asking annual conferences, as well as individuals to purchase a building and/or units within the building.

Financial Plan

Presently Gulfside owns sixty acres of prime beach front property. We have purchased one hundred acres of land for affordable construction projects such as cabins for youth and family camping and reunion events, boy scouts, etc. and workshop seminars. We also own two residential dwellings, one parsonage for the President and one residential staff house. All of these properties are paid in full and debt free in our efforts toward to good stewardship.

Requests

Gulfside was founded in 1923 by the 1st Black Bishop elected by the Jurisdictional Conference in the Methodist Episcopal Church. For 89 years, she has stood for education, social justice issues, spiritual leadership, advocacy for women and children. In the era of racial unrest, was a safe haven for meetings of all persons. Gulfside is a place for spiritual retreats and a nurturing setting. Gulfside's standards are for the advancement of all God's children. These things have been and will continue to be the foundation for its mission and ministry.

In light of the fact that Gulfside has experienced total disaster in the last quadrennium, it would be our hope the Jurisdictional Conference will see the critical need to include Gulfside in its next quadrennial budget. Even though we are aware of the statement that all agencies should become self-sufficient by 2013, we think that Gulfside falls into a different category than the other agencies. That's why we prayerfully hope that Gulfside will be reconsidered as a part of the quadrennial's future budget.

Finally, we request confirmation of our Board of Directors as the Nominations Committee presents its report on Thursday, July 19, 2012.

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

Mission

Mission: Inspired by Jesus Christ, the Hinton Rural Life Center seeks to be a creative catalyst for building healthy and effective communities of faith by advocating for churches of small membership, providing resources and consultation for all congregations, offering opportunities for service-based mission and reflection, addressing issues that affect human well being and quality of life, and furnishing sacred space for hospitality, spiritual growth, and renewal.

The above is the current mission statement of Hinton created in 2010 in a strategic planning process. For the last four years, there has been significant transition in leadership at Hinton. Hinton is at a crossroads. One goal of the current leadership is to help discern who Hinton is and strengthen what is at the core of Hinton's existence.

Hinton's mission directly connects with the church's mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Hinton provides a place for retreat and reflection, learning about self and others, the opportunity to grow in Christ, and the opportunity to be in service to others through retreats and missions.

Fruitfulness

In 2011, Hinton staff focused on the core ministries that have defined Hinton for many years including: Small Membership Church Consultation, First Parish Project (FPP), Volunteer Mission Experience, Self-Help Affordable Housing, and Conference and Retreat Center.

FPP continues to be vital and impacting for those who participate in the program, as they come with open-minded, heartfelt commitment for the sake of calling and ministry. Because many find themselves in small congregations, unlike those of their own experiences, and in unfamiliar locales, this cohort program offers refuge, continuing education, spiritual formation, support, and respite. In 2011, FPP served 42 young pastors within three different FPP groups. This included 23 women and 19 men from 24 states, who represent 11 different denominations. This diversity is one of FPP's greatest strengths. These broad and diverse backgrounds provide a unique atmosphere for learning, exploring, and worshipping while encouraging participants to share in thoughtful and holy conversations. Inevitably, friendship blooms and, ultimately, lives are transformed. This spirited sharing, also, impacts the Hinton Center, as we have the privilege of journeying with FPP participants. We connect with young clergy in formative ways and, in turn, connect with the wider church in a way that would not be possible without FPP.

The Volunteer Mission Experience hosts approximately 1,000 volunteers each year hosting weeks specifically for youth and other weeks for groups of all ages in mission together. Fifty houses were repaired including the installation of ramps, new flooring, toilets, etc. We currently have over 200 families on the waiting list in need of services with more families added each week.

The Mutual Self-Help Housing Program began in 2005 with a completion of 50 houses over the course of operation. With a significant amount of sweat equity and volunteer manpower, these families now have shelter and financial security for themselves and

their family for generations to come. These families have an average of \$29,400 in equity upon completion of their homes.

In 2011, six new families in our mutual self-help housing program spent their first Christmas in homes built by their own hands. No one was more excited about this than Denahi, who for the first time in his life has his entire family at home with him for Christmas. Denahi is six and full of all the enthusiasm and energy that young life brings. Prior to moving in he offered us a tour of his new home. Beaming proudly in what would become his bedroom; Denahi asked if we could see what was in his closet. Although we saw nothing there, he assured us that his closet was full of love. "Full of love?" we asked. Denahi exclaimed, "It's full of love because that's where the volunteers signed my walls." He was right. While sheetrock had long ago covered up the wall, Hinton volunteers have a tradition of signing the 2 X 4 studs with messages of hope and love. Even though hidden from our sight, those messages remain within Denahi's heart.

Goals

- i. Develop financial strategies to attain stability – diversifying revenue streams, evaluate efficiencies, and ensuring accountability;
- ii. Increase the presence and visibility of Hinton Center among key UMC constituents;
- iii. Develop Program Ministries Yearly Calendar and increase usage of retreat and conference facilities;
- iv. Develop computer, media and internet technologies for staff and programming;
- v. Strengthen and update models of ministry used in rural church consultations adding to online model for expanded accessibility;
- vi. Enhance the effectiveness of the web site as a marketing tool and resource for current and prospective participants;
- vii. Enhancing recreational opportunities for Hinton guests.

Strategies for Attaining Goals

- i. Develop financial strategies to attain stability – diversifying revenue streams, evaluate efficiencies, and ensuring accountability

In order to attain this goal, we have hired a Director of Development, rebuilt a donor database, and reevaluated our donor base. In 2013 -2016, we will be strengthening the relationship with our current donors, ultimately growing the size and frequency of contributions as well as cultivating new donors who support programs such as low income housing and rural church initiatives.

- ii. Increase the presence and visibility of Hinton Center among key UMC constituents

Currently, we are in the process of redoing our website and updating links that we have on other websites such as our listing on SEJ. In 2013-2016, we will have a more visible presence by participating in annual conferences throughout the SEJ, providing cutting edge programming, and providing information to our guests about all of our ministries and not only information about the specific avenue of their participation.

iii. Develop Program Ministries Yearly Calendar and increase usage of retreat and conference facilities

In 2012, we will have a calendar on our website that includes a calendar of events. We are in the process of hiring a Hospitality Coordinator to insure the guest experience is one of radical hospitality. We will also include an online survey for feedback regarding programming and experience of stay implementing improvements as needed.

We have received a grant this year and will continue to apply for grants that will enable Hinton to improve facilities including new mattresses, bed coverings, blinds, shower curtains, and appliances.

iv. Develop computer, media and Internet technologies for staff and programming

We have received a grant from the Duke Endowment to enhance technology resources. Most of our campus has wireless internet capabilities. We are rebuilding and repairing existing databases and are evaluating new options to improve efficiencies here at Hinton.

v. Strengthen and update models of ministry used in rural church consultations adding to online model for expanded accessibility

Currently, we are in the process of rebuilding the website to allow for online learning opportunities. Through Hinton's website, we will be able to provide our models of ministry as a free resource to small membership churches. Through the next quadrennial, we will continue to add to the resources with a focus on the small membership church.

vi. Enhance the effectiveness of the web site as a marketing tool and resource for current and prospective participants

We will also add virtual mission trips for those who may not be able to physically participate in a home repair project but want to follow it through the process ultimately connecting an untapped group with Hinton.

In the near future, we will add the ability to make reservations online including group and individual registrations proving ease for group coordinators make arrangements with less stress from direct oversight of the process.

vii. Enhancing recreational opportunities for Hinton guests

We are currently applying for grants and working with the insurance company to begin the process of adding new recreational facilities for our guests.

Our plans include rebuilding our lakeside pavilion, improving the dock, and adding, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats. We will be adding storage for the boats, paddles, and life jackets as well. Furthermore, we plan to add more hiking trails including Stations of the Cross and a disc golf course.

Financial Plan

Our financial position is not strong. We have significant debt and have not been able to pay down our debt. However, all of our debt is secured. We are a seasonal operation and have tremendous difficulty covering general operating costs on a monthly basis particularly in August, September, and October. We have had to downsize our staff and

are in the process of reevaluate the operating efficiencies of every aspect of our organization. We are placing significant focus on our lodging rentals for groups and individuals in order to generate the revenue necessary for operating the ministries of Hinton. Our current assets as of 12/31/11 are \$2,222,313. Our liabilities as of 12/31/11 are \$1,215,433.

Governance

The Board shall consist of not fewer than twenty four (24) or more than thirty (30) persons with the exact number from year to year to be set by the Board. The Board shall include at least one representative from each annual conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church with lay and clergy equally represented, a representative of the Southeastern College of Bishops, the President/CEO of HRLC, the District Superintendent of the Waynesville District-Western North Carolina Conference, at least four persons from the larger Hinton Center community, at least two local representatives from Hayesville, NC area as At-Large Directors, and others as the Board may choose. Up to three Board members may be from other denominations.

The President/CEO of the organization reports to the full board and is assessed annually.

INTENTIONAL GROWTH CENTER

Mission

Transforming Leaders for Shared Christ-Centered Ministry.

Our mission connects directly with the church's mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world by transforming and equipping leaders within the church to lead the church toward achieving its primary mission.

All of our approaches and the content of our seminars are directly or indirectly in harmony with the way of Jesus Christ. Our ways of interacting are grace filled and generous. We embody and promote openness, acceptance and maturity in Christ.

Fruitfulness

We always evaluate our events in terms of effectiveness as well as our own institutional goals. Some examples of our fruitfulness:

1. We plan and lead an annual gathering of the persons we have trained nationally to serve as Transitional/Intentional Interim Ministry Specialists. The last gathering was in April, 2011. We had three strong resource leaders and workshops. Roy Oswald led "Managing Polarities in Congregations," Bishop Larry Goodpaster led "Self-Care During the Interim," and Darryl Stephens led "Traumatized and Abused Congregations: Recognition and Referral." We had 34 persons in attendance. One person said it was the best continuing education event they had attended in 40 years of ministry.

2. We offer “Leading the Mid Size Church” every summer in person at Lake Junaluska and have offered it three times virtually. We believe this is a niche not being met by others. Our instructor, Rev. Burt Brooks, does an outstanding job. I assist in the leadership of the virtual offerings. Once again, we have had participants say things like “the best continuing education event I’ve ever experienced.” Another person said, “This event has changed my life!”
3. Between August 2010 and May 2011, I co-led with Carl Arrington a group leadership development coaching and educational program with 10 African American pastors and churches in the SC Conference. We used 10 specific outcomes and measurables. Most participants indicated they improved during the course of the coaching in all 10 outcomes. On average, there was improvement in each area of focus. Some of these outcomes were things like improving average worship attendance and level of financial stewardship, each by 5%, clarifying and living from a congregational vision statement, etc.
4. Unique to our ministry within the SEJ are Transitional/Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist (TIIMS) Training, Coach Training that is approved by the International Coach Federation, Leading the Mid-Size Church, and being a combination of a training/retreat/coaching organization able to produce quality experiences including renewal leaves for clergy involving expert coaching and spiritual direction. All of the above are not available at least to the degree of excellence at the local church, district, conference, or other entities within the SEJ to my knowledge. Many would miss these offerings if we were not offering them.
5. We operated through risk-taking faith as we created our major programs related to coaching and coach-training, as well as our TIIMS training. Often I’ve told our Board that God has us on the Manna plan of finances. We get by, but just barely, and just in time. For example, we were on the verge of canceling what turned out to be a very meaningful TIIMS Gathering in April, 2011. At the last minute, I was able to get a \$3,000 grant from GBHEM which enabled us to have the event.

Goals

In 2013 – 2016 we plan to continue our contributions in the areas most unique to us and which we do best: Coaching, Coach Training in partnership with Coaching4Clergy, Transitional/Intentional Interim Ministry Trainings, Leadership Development Seminars, Confirmation Weekends, Road Scholar programs, and Older Adult events. These relate primarily to the focal area of “Developing Principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.” However, through our programs, which are mostly leadership development oriented, we have impacts on the other three focal areas, most particularly through “helping to revitalize existing congregations.”

The anticipated or desired spiritual fruit is more effective, mature and whole leaders/persons working for God’s Beloved Community to come more fully in the world.

Some of our training as outlined above is unique to us and some of our events make their strong contributions partially because they bring together leaders from across the SEJ and indeed the whole connection.

There are no shifts or realignments in our mission and vision since the last quadrennial conference. However, our implementation has shifted by:

- Greater focus on Coaching and Coach Training within our offerings
- Downsizing our staff while consolidating our programming a bit
- Moving from offering all the training in Transitional Interim Ministry Training in the country, to developing and overseeing a regional plan within each jurisdiction.

We plan to accomplish our goals by better focus and efficiency within what we do best.

We are planning to recommend additional Board Members on July 19, 2012, at our regular meeting to include more women and lay persons.

We will continue a year round program of offering 40 – 50 events mostly at Lake Junaluska. We will continue to test the waters in the venue of virtual learning events. We continue our symbiotic partnership with Lake Junaluska. With Lake Junaluska moving away from sponsored events, our partnership since we do sponsor events becomes even more significant.

Financial Plan

We have reduced our budget by about 10% from 2010 to 2011. We increased our budget by only 1% for 2012. Now we believe we are in a position to create balanced budgets for 2012 and beyond.

Governance

Our board is made up of eight members representing different conferences in the SEJ. We also have four ex-officio members without vote. We will be nominating several new members at our July 2012 board meeting to increase inclusivity and representation.

We plan to update our By-Laws at the July 2012 meeting of our board.

Our Executive Director is accountable to our board. He is also accountable to the Executive Director of Lake Junaluska regarding events held at Lake Junaluska. Our Director regularly consults with the Board Chair and committees as needed. There is at least one annual board meeting in person. There are normally several virtual meetings of the board and committees each year.

Regular reports are shared with the board. The board sets policies and advises the Executive Director about pertinent matters on an ongoing basis.

Larry Ousley
Executive Director of the Intentional Growth Center

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

Mission

The mission of Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.

All events designed and carried out by Lake Junaluska are for the specific purpose of fulfilling the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We see Lake Junaluska as being one of the primary places in The United Methodist Church where disciples of Jesus Christ are made. There may be no other place in all of United Methodism that has as many unique participants each year as Lake Junaluska who are transformed by their experiences here.

Lake Junaluska is not only responsible for designing and carrying out events to fulfill our mission and that of the church but it hosts many other events, planned and carried out by other groups, that also fulfill these missions. Being a place of Christian hospitality for these conferences and retreats is a very important part of our reason for being. While we have been good at this role we are getting much better.

Fruitfulness

The following numbers represent the cumulative total for the first three years of the current quadrennium:

- i. Hosted United Methodist Events - 569
- ii. Sponsored Events – 52
- iii. Sponsored Events Participants – 44,391
- iv. Sponsored Events Youth Attendance – 13,845
- v. Guest Nights – 113,752

The following few stories are a sample of the life transforming experiences that have occurred at Lake Junaluska:

Over MLK, Jr. Weekend in February of 2011 over 800 youth and adult leaders gathered at Lake Junaluska for a weekend of skiing, fellowship, and worship. The youth were encouraged to bring with them gifts of money, blankets, and clothing to share with Haywood Street Ministry, a United Methodist ministry in Asheville, NC. On Saturday evening during the worship service in Stuart Auditorium the youth were invited to bring their offerings and place them at the front of the auditorium. It was a powerful experience to watch these young people walk forward carrying their envelopes, jars, sleeping bags, and blankets and to see the pile grow. This amazing experience became even more powerful when one young man walked forward, apparently not having anything to give, when suddenly he took off his winter coat and laid it on the pile. Many youth who observed this selfless generosity followed suit by bringing their coats to the pile. There were few dry eyes in the auditorium as the giving of these gifts was projected on the big screens.

“I have spent the past two months working as the Summer Worship Coordinator for Lake Junaluska’s Summer Worship Series, a nine-week series featuring guest preachers from all over the world (www.lakejunaluska.com/summer-worship). As part of my job, I get to design and order worship and then reflect on the ways in which our community is being shaped as a Christian people through our liturgy, literally, “the work of the people.” All of this has taken place against the resplendent backdrop of the Smoky Mountains, in a place that has served for almost 100 years as sacred space to Christians, particularly, United Methodists in the Southeastern portion of the United States. Lake Junaluska seems to maintain this sense of liminality. I will always remember my Candler Advantage internship as an intense, hands on, real-world experience set within this sacred space where the threshold between reality and divinity seem to be blurred.” – Kim Jenne, Summer Worship Intern from Candler School of Theology.

Goals

The Board of Directors of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. approved a Strategic Vision and Plan at its October 2011 Board meeting. It is attached.

Financial Plan

As of December 31, 2011 the total assets of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. were \$27,829,499. Of this total \$5,570,299 were in investments and \$19,214,913 were in property and equipment. The total liabilities at the same time were \$3,863,717 down from over \$5 million the previous year.

Governance

The Board of Directors of Lake Junaluska is comprised of 32 persons, 24 of whom are elected with the remainder serving in an ex-officio role.

Beginning in 2013 the elected persons will be placed in classes of eight to serve for three year terms. These elected Directors will be limited to serving three consecutive terms. The elected Directors serving in 2012 represent the following states:

1. Alabama – 1
2. Florida – 2
3. Georgia - 3
4. Kentucky – 1
5. Mississippi – 1
6. North Carolina – 8
7. South Carolina – 3
8. Tennessee – 2
9. Virginia – 2

The ex-officio members include:

10. Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference
11. Bishop of the Holston Conference

12. An active Bishop selected from and by the SEJ College of Bishops – Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor of the South Carolina Conference
13. The Chairperson/President of four volunteer organizations related to Lake Junaluska – The Junaluska Associates, The Junaluskans, The Junaluska Assembly Community Council, and the Lake Junaluska Property Owners Organization
14. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Intentional Growth Center (without vote)

The Executive Director/CEO is directly responsible to the Board of Directors. The organizational and functional relationship of the Executive Director and the Board of Directors is very similar to most institutions of higher education.

The Executive Director/CEO stays in regular communication with the Chairperson of the Board, Bishop Goodpaster, and meets several times each year with the Executive Committee in addition to the two meetings each year of the full Board.

Requests

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. requests that the SEJ continue to invest in Lake Junaluska, your asset, by continuing to provide financial support for debt reduction and capital improvements as you have in the current quadrennium. The amount that is requested is \$2,000,000 over the quadrennium. The total external debt at the end of 2012 is projected to be approximately this amount.

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. has developed some very exciting and ambitious plans for the future. The funding of these plans will come from both charitable gifts and borrowing of funds. We understand that we will need to receive the approval of the SEJ for borrowing any funds. We are still in the process of developing the plans for these improvements but it is anticipated that the amount of funds that may need to be borrowed will be between \$20 and 30 million.

MINISTRY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE (SEJYMO)

The SEJ Division on Ministries with Young People struggled during this quadrennium. This has been difficult for us considering we have long been considered a leader in Jurisdictional youth ministries by the other jurisdictions.

For several years, the SEJYMO has met together yearly for a leadership training event for youth and young adult councils on the conference level. Due to the funding for youth ministry being cut from our Jurisdictional budget, our annual gathering required additional funding from the conferences in attendance. Since conference budgets are tighter than ever, this became difficult and proved to bring about the end of this annual training. This leaves the SEJYMO with just the Disciplinary requirements to meet every four years for the election of representation to the General Church Division on Ministries with Young People.

There is still an underlying concern by the conference staff persons that we are required by the Book of Discipline to elect a group that will hold an event, that will, in essence, plan an event in which the main purpose is to elect a group that will hold an event. While we do want to be represented at the national level, a group whose only job is to self-perpetuate is not a group that we can give a lot of attention to in the larger scope of disciple-forming ministries. Our by-laws therefore have been reworked to fulfill the requirements of the Discipline in, what we feel, is the most cost effective way.

In brief, the by-laws will give direction for the election of our General Church representatives while meeting in conjunction with the International Youth Gathering held every four years. It allows for other options should this event not happen. We will no longer elect a leadership team, but will meet to elect our two youth representatives to the Division on Ministries with Young People (DMYP) and to deal with any other jurisdictional business. Between these meetings, the Association of Youth Staff will consider any other business. We asked the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability to review and approve the new by-laws of the SEJ Division on Ministries with Young People, which they have done.

As the SEJYMO, we do realize that the Youth Ministry activities sponsored by Lake Junaluska are still considered by many to be our jurisdictional youth ministry. We applaud the work of the Lake Junaluska staff to continue to be a leader in this area, and to continue to bring relevant and effective youth ministry opportunities to our local churches. We hope that the phasing out of apportionment funding will not cause these ministries to suffer.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a report with you.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION UNITED METHODIST AGENCY FOR REHABILITATION (SEMAR)

Mission

The core mission of SEMAR is to assist individuals, churches, and agencies create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities to worship. Creating an environment of acceptance within our Methodist communities creates opportunities to share God's graces to all people. SEMAR embodies the life of Jesus Christ by removing barriers so all people can worship.

Fruitfulness

Over the last quadrennium SEMAR has seen God's work in many ways. The Laurels at Lake Junaluska stands as a witness to the miraculous work of God serving 100 low income families from the Lake Junaluska area. The North Carolina Conference is ministering to the Native American community in Pembroke, NC. The Florida Conference is developing new homes for persons with disabilities in different parts of the state. SEMAR continues to work with churches and individuals by providing Accessibility Audits and "Disability Awareness Sunday" materials for special services.

SEMAR has a unique role in supporting disability ministries through experience and knowledge gained over the past 25 years. Programs like UMAR, Heart Havens, and Wesley Glenn are example of growing ministries because of the support of SEMAR throughout their development. Agencies like these reflect the ministry of SEMAR through their own unique Conference ministry. Other Conferences are relying on SEMAR to assist in their development of ministries to persons with disabilities. Local churches still depend on SEMAR for information and resources in their efforts to minister to persons with disabilities.

SEMAR serves as an at-large member of the United Methodist Task Force on Disabilities. The Task Force is using much of SEMAR's work within the Southeastern Jurisdiction as a model for all Methodism. SEMAR assisted the Task Force in creating the attached Petitions to the 2012 Meeting of the General Conference.

Governance

The SEMAR Board of Trustees consists of representation from seven of the thirteen Conferences in the Jurisdiction. All of these Trustees are actively supporting disability ministries within their Conference. The management of the Agency is currently under contract with Joint Management and Development. JMD, Inc reports to the Board through quarter conference calls and an annual meeting. Mrs. Martha Stokes is the current Chair of the Board of Trustees

Requests

SEMAR requests that the Southeastern Jurisdiction continues to fund SEMAR at the 2011 level for the next quadrennium. The Church has responsibility to minister to all people and SEMAR's role remains vital in providing this resource. (This request was referred to the Committee on Finance and Administration.)

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION, SEJ

MISSION

The core mission of UMVIM, SEJ is **to inspire** change in the world; **to inform**, connect and equip volunteers; **to interact** as servants of Christ in order to transform the world through ***Christian love in action***. UMVIM provides the organizational reality through education, support and viable opportunities. We believe that faithful discipleship of Jesus requires responding to people who are in need. Volunteers share the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways through word and deed. Thus the UMVIM, SEJ office exists to help Christians fulfill their call to discipleship by connecting them to mission opportunities and preparing them for mission service.

FRUITFULNESS

Each year over 10,000 volunteers serve through UMVIM SEJ. In 2011, teams had more than 80,000 volunteer days; an estimated value of almost \$12 million in volunteer hours. In addition, teams served in 23 different states within the United States and 63 different countries. The increasing number of volunteers annually indicates that people's lives have been changed and they continue to feel called to serve both in the US and internationally on short-term mission trips.

“This was a wonderful, life changing experience for me. I have been amazed at how many people at church have stopped me and asked about the trip since I returned. Several have expressed real interest, and I have tried to encourage them to think seriously about making a mission trip. It is my prayer that as I share my experience, others will be led to make the decision to go.” – Lillian Lee, Galloway Memorial UMC in the Mississippi Conference, serving in El Salvador (Comments from team member’s evaluations)

Many volunteers are repeats who, because of their mission experiences, develop a “mission-culture” mentality. Dr. Nath T. Camp, one such volunteer, began taking medical teams to serve in Honduras in 1998 following Hurricane Mitch. Seeing the need for medical care in the remote areas especially the Mosquito Coast, he continues to return several times a year, recruiting other volunteers and team leaders networking together through the Alabama Honduras Medical Educational Network (AHMEN) to provide needed resources. Sending about 15 teams annually, AHMEN has built a hospital and provides medical resources including testing and treatment for malaria. UMVIM, SEJ maintains the International Project list for the denomination and shares the information with the other jurisdictions and Global Ministries Mission Volunteers office.

The coordination and accountability provided to volunteers and project volunteer sites is vital. Not only do we serve as the connector in these relationships, we create the infrastructures and offer training to both the volunteer team leader and the project site leader. Following the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, jurisdictional coordinators met with Rev. Gesner Paul, President of the Methodist Church in Haiti, to discuss their priorities, needs and logistics of volunteer management. Collaboratively, a system and staff were put in place to facilitate volunteers assisting in earthquake recovery in the affected communities in Haiti. Over 400 teams have served in Haiti with each of those teams contributing project funds which received a matching grant from UMCOR. There have been twenty-five different sites operating and over half of the original projects listed on the priority list have been completed.

Goals

The focus of the ministry of UMVIM, SEJ relates to the four foci of the United Methodist Church:

Congregational Development is one way teams serve with UMVIM. In addition to building new churches, teams and Individual Volunteers provide resources and training for churches, both new and existing, along with their pastors. UMVIM, SEJ has short-term teams serving with Global Ministries Mission initiatives including Cambodia, Honduras, Mongolia, and Malawi helping to build new places for worship and ministry and assisting missionaries with resources and evangelism for planting new churches. Members of Belmont UMC in Nashville, TN have been involved with church development in Malawi building 16 new churches through funds received from their Christmas Miracle Offering. Global Ministries’ missionaries, Teddy and Sylvia Crum, will assist short-term teams serving in Malawi.

Leadership Development begins with staff development. As part of our mission to equip and train volunteers for service, UMVIM, SEJ makes it a priority to develop a knowledgeable staff that is trained to advise, assist and even lead volunteer teams. Having worked as UMVIM, SEJ staff while attending Candler School of Theology, Rev. Matt Lacey, North Alabama Conference, and Rev. Dalton Rushing, North Georgia

Conference, now serve appointments to local churches within their respective annual conferences as well as serving as their conference's UMVIM Coordinator. UMVIM, SEJ formalized "Best Practices for UMVIM teams" which are being encouraged by all jurisdictions and provide a standard expected by church and project leadership and insures appropriate management and accountability. One of the "Best Practices" is having a trained team leader. In 2010, we developed resources for the UMVIM team leader "Train the Trainers" program. This program creates qualified trainers that are then equipped to train team leaders in the respective annual conferences. This program has increased the number of new team leaders who are taking new teams to serve. In 2011, over 400 persons attended team leader trainings in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Ministry with the Poor was the premise of earlier initiatives to create a model of working with the "least of these." Many of our UMVIM projects are located in areas where poverty exists and volunteers work in those communities to help people gain access to resources like food, housing, education and work to empower them to create ways to escape the cycle of poverty. Through our trainings, we encourage volunteers to return from their experiences as advocates sharing about what they have witnessed and working within their own community to come up with solutions for alleviating extreme poverty. Because one of the major issues our volunteers encounters is the urgent need for livelihood (to get daily food), many teams serve with projects like Rice and Beans in Costa Rica who provides immediate food sources to assist families. The North Georgia Conference is recruiting interns to serve at Humble School in Uganda to help create a sustainable agricultural program developing techniques and methods to produce better, more diversified crops which can be utilized by the school to feed the students or sell locally to offset food cost. Additionally, they have partnered with "Stop Hunger Now" to send food packets that are fortified with vitamins and minerals to supplement the food sources for Humble School students.

Global Health remains to be a current focus as UMVIM, SEJ sends short-term medical teams and Medical Individual Volunteers to numerous countries. All aspects of medical care and surgery are performed including treatment of Malaria and AIDS. Rather than sending medical teams to hold clinics and hand out prescriptions, the UMVIM, SEJ Medical Committee is developing "Best Practices" to create venues for these teams to share their expertise with local health providers and also learn from them in return. They continue to create specific medical site information and resource lists for the website www.umvim.org.

Additional goals for the next quadrennium include:

Creating and Implementing Board Restructure Plan: Re-structuring in 2011 reduced the board membership from thirty-four members to fifteen and reorganized the teams/committees into areas determined by the Strategic Plan. It also created the UMVIM Advisory Team (a networking group consisting of representatives from each annual conference including the conference UMVIM Coordinators). The purpose of the restructure is to provide orientation for new Conference UMVIM Coordinators and strengthen the Board of Directors by focusing on diversity of leadership.

Strengthening the Brand: Creating strategies that will make UMVIM visible to local church congregations including branding all organizational items such as the

website, printed materials and displays for a uniformed and standardized look. The Communications Team will create and implement a public relations and marketing plan which will include resources for local churches for UMVIM Awareness Sunday, including bulletin inserts, posters, etc. which will be available on the website.

Building Connectional Relationships: Maintaining connection through training and resources with the annual conferences and local churches is important for the ministry of UMVIM, SEJ. Providing information and resources on “How to host teams” for the new missionaries and bishops will be needed as leadership changes. Using technology such as Skype to dialogue and communicate with missionaries and church leaders without having to travel will be vital to building connectional relationships.

Creating Opportunities for a New Generation of Volunteers in Mission: Recruiting and training youth leaders and providing opportunities that are easy for the leadership logistically will be a major focus. “GO!” our program for youth and young adults will serve as an introduction to UMVIM for those who have never served with us before and provides hands-on training and guidance to the team leader during the planning process and gives students the opportunity to serve.

Identifying places for Exploratory Trips: Offering exploratory trips annually to introduce annual conferences and local churches to new projects. In 2012, the staff will lead exploratory teams to Malawi, Romania, and South Sudan.

Addressing needs following disasters: Developing resources and training for Early Response and Long-term Recovery team leaders. The Southeastern Jurisdiction has been the recipient of thousands of volunteers following continual devastation from hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. Since Hurricane Katrina, more annual conferences have offered Early Response Team training which credentials volunteers to serve soon after a disaster. Many of these trained volunteers provide emotional encouragement and support to survivors. Disasters in 2011, one of the hardest hit years, will require volunteers to assist with rebuilding and recovery efforts for many years to come. The collaboration between UMVIM and UMCOR following disasters in the United States has created the opportunity to partner internationally following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti and March 2011 Tsunami in Japan. These efforts have created a process and model for how we can cooperate and work together following future international disasters.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Over half (65%) of UMVIM, SEJ's revenue is generated through the services offered by our office, such as the insurance and registration fees and team leader handbooks. In the past, registration fees have offset the declining amount of support from the Church. The new on-line registration process will reduce the need for additional staff to enter data. The Train the Trainers program has increased the number of team leader trainings in annual conferences contributing to an increase in handbooks sold. Local UMC church covenants and gifts account for about 16% and 6% from individuals. Ten years ago, the Global Ministries Grant and SEJ Allocation accounted for 25% of the revenue to UMVIM SEJ. After 2012, less than 5% will come from Global Ministries.

The relocation of the office from the Atlanta area to Birmingham, AL has allowed for better stewardship of resources and provided an opportunity to update and streamline

our office technology. CISCO phone system– one that exceeds what we could have afforded and allows for future capabilities; installation of the phone system, computers and software; much of the office furnishings were all donations. Having a conference room allows us to host board meetings on-site.

A Development Director was hired to specifically focus on creating ways for churches and individuals to partner with us financially in ministry which are communicated through the UMVIM website, Facebook Causes page, Twitter and Network for Good as well as the weekly Priority Emails and monthly Updates. The goal is to increase covenant churches from 42 to 100 and increase the number of individual donors annually.

GOVERNANCE

UMVIM, SEJ has a fifteen member board of directors, all with short-term mission experience. The officers, who serve as the executive committee, together with the chairs of the standing committee, a representative from the Council of Bishops, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, one of the international projects, and GBGM Mission Volunteers make up the board. The executive director is hired by its board of directors.

Prayer is an important part of our ministry. During our staff meetings, we pray for teams and Individual Volunteers serving, Global Ministries mission personnel and staff, and UMVIM and GBGM projects.

We ask that you continue to pray for all those serving through UMVIM but especially for our office. To those of you serving as delegates who have never experienced short-term missions, I encourage you to GO!

Transforming the world through Christian love in action

Respectfully,

Paulette West, Executive Director

Request for Action by 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction

Request 1

Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday –Local Churches are encouraged to observe Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference or local church. UMVIM Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term mission and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference Volunteer in Mission program.

Rationale: UMVIM began in the Southeastern Jurisdiction 40 years ago. As indicated in resolution #3111 Volunteers in Mission, 2008 Book of Resolutions, the UMVIM movement is one of the most dynamic mission outreach programs of the denomination with over 100,000 participants annually to bring Christ's love to people and churches in need around the world, but there still needs to be more awareness at the local church level of the ministry of UMVIM. The 2004 General Conference ruled that each annual conference may set aside a Sunday to be declared Volunteers in Mission Awareness Day.

Request 2

Volunteers in Mission Southeastern Jurisdiction Office of Coordination (UMVIM SEJ). Short-term mission teams are encouraged to coordinate through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Southeastern Jurisdiction Office. Short-term mission teams are encouraged to follow “best practices” as outlined in the UMVIM Team Leader Handbook which include having a trained team leader, complying with their annual conference’s Safe Sanctuary policy, registering with UMVIM SEJ, developing spiritual disciples for the mission, and serving with an UMVIM project.

Rationale: To move UMVIM SEJ toward self-sufficiency by engaging and training short-term volunteers and local churches. **The 2008 Book of Resolutions 3111.**

Volunteers in Mission:

Whereas, the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) movement is one of the most dynamic mission outreach programs of the denomination today; every conference has a UMVIM coordinator in place. Some jurisdictions have paid full-time UMVIM Coordinator who, because of the time commitment, able to assist their respective conferences more effectively than those coordinators in a part-time or volunteer position; and

Whereas, although United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is a major mission outreach no, with thousands of United Methodists participating annually, the potential is much greater; and

Whereas, the church needs to invest in ways that will enhance the program, involve even more United Methodists, and bring Christ’s love to people and churches in need around the world. Full-time jurisdictional coordinators will be a great help in the expansion of this effective, hands-on mission and service outreach of the United Methodist Church, Therefore, we recommend that every jurisdiction include in its budget a line item to cover the salary, professional expenses, and office expenses for a jurisdictional United Methodist Volunteers in Mission coordinator. In addition, we request the General Board of Global Ministries to enter into discussion with the Central conferences relative to discovering the possibility of Volunteers in Mission programs in those conferences. (ADOPTED 2000 READOPTED 2008 RESOLUTION #55, 2004 RESOLUTION #49, 2000)

However, just months following the adopting of the Resolution at General Conference, the Southeast Jurisdiction Conference adopted the following:

Resolution of the Financial Administration Committee to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference: “WHEREAS, SEJAC has proposed a plan of reorganization which requires SEJAC, Gulfside and Hinton along with the other current SEJ agencies to move toward self sufficiency in their financial operations....”

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration (SEJ CFA) was created by the 2008 SEJ Conference in the Plan of Organization. The focus of the work of the SEJ CFA was to review the financial progress of the SEJ Agencies and the existing established ongoing groups (former SEJ Agencies) as they transitioned from dependence on the SEJ apportionments as a funding source for their program and administrative financial support, to full self-sufficiency. Consistent with the action of the 2008 Conference, the budget recommended to the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference provides no operational funding for these groups. Further, no request for special askings for dam repair or other infrastructure needs are included. However, the SEJ CFA in joint meetings with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability (SEJ CCA) determined that external capital debt approved with jurisdictional funding by Jurisdictional Conferences and the former SEJAC Board prior to 2008, along with funding for the SEJ's own expenses, should continue to receive apportionment funding through the coming quadrennium.

We recommend that the quadrennial SEJ budget be reduced by 50% from \$8,870, 315 (2009-2012) to **\$4,435,156** (2013-2016). This massive reduction is made possible by the 2008 action, and the commitment from the CFAs and Treasurers of most of the annual conferences to support funding 100% of their jurisdictional askings.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the Treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, Raúl Alegría, for his service to the Jurisdiction from 2004 through 2012, and also to thank Lake Junaluska Assembly for providing accounting services to the Jurisdiction through Raul's office. To support Lake Junaluska Assembly as it works to be more efficient and effective in its ministry, the Treasurer and Office of Administrative Services of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference have agreed to take over those accounting functions effective January 1, 2013. As part of that transition, CFA is nominating WNC's Treasurer, Jennifer L. Burton, CPA, as the new Treasurer for the SEJ for the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

Since the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference, CFA made the decision to change audit firms. The annual audit of the SEJ is now conducted by Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, CPAs of Asheville, NC. In compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures, the presentation of the SEJ's audited financial statement is now consolidated with the financial reports of the three SEJ Agencies: Gulfside Assembly, Inc., Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. and Hinton Rural Life Center, Inc. The most recent audit of the SEJ is posted on the SEJ Website at www.sejumc.org.

The SEJ CFA met with representatives of the SEJ Agencies and Existing Established Ongoing Groups and reviewed their financial reports. We also reviewed the business and financial projections these organizations submitted for the next quadrennium.

A summary of payments by annual conferences of their SEJ apportionments follow as Exhibit 2 to this report. They reflect a faithful commitment to the ministries of the Jurisdiction with collections on apportioned funds of 77.20% in 2009, 80.23% in 2010 and 81.75% in calendar year 2011. The SEJ Special Asking to fund the dam repair and restoration of Lake Junaluska approved at the 2004 and 2008 SEJ Conferences has been generously supported by the annual conferences. The financial reports on the

payments by the SEJ Conferences to the SEJ Special Asking for 2009-2011 and 2005-2008 follow as Exhibit 3 to this report.

The Committee on Finance and Administration of The Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church presents the following recommendations to the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference for action.

1. We recommend a budget for the 2013 –2016 quadrennium in the total amount of \$4,435,156 allocated as provided on Exhibit 1.
2. We recommend that this amount be apportioned to the annual conferences each year as provided on Exhibit 2.
3. We recommend the election of Jennifer L. Burton as Treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdiction for the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

This concludes our report.

James R. Allen, *Chair*

EXHIBIT 1			
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED METHODIST			
PROPOSED BUDGET 2013- 2016			
	PROJECTED (Actual)		
	REV/EXP 2009-2012	Approved 2009-2012	REQUESTED FUNDING 2013-2016 SEJ BUDGET
	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
REVENUES			
CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT	7,094,198	8,870,315	4,435,156
less RESERVE FOR UNPAID APPORTIONMENT (12%)			(532,219)
INTEREST EARNED	543	0	
TOTAL REVENUES	7,094,741	8,870,315	3,902,937
	79.98%		
SEJ EXPENSES @100%			
JURISDICTIONAL COMMITTEE and OPERATIONS EXPENSES			
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY	47,125	87,805	72,000
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMIN	20,111	21,952	27,000
COMMITTEE ON Program and ARRANGEMENTS	843	6,097	7,500
PROGRAM COMMITTEE	6,080	6,097	0
COMMITTEE ON RULES & REVIEW	0	1,219	1,000
COURT OF APPEALS	11,570	9,756	8,000
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	53,520		60,000
CCA-Board Training and Executive Coaching			75,000
SEJ Conference Secretary/SEJ CCA Staff and related expense			60,000
COMMITTEE ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY	233,960	285,317	123,000
SEJ YOUTH/SEJ CONVO			0
SEJ TREASURER	20,000	24,390	80,000
SEJ WEBSITE/IT EXPENSE	(2,223)		22,500
SEJ AUDIT	19,659		27,000
SEJ INSURANCE (GENERAL LIABILITY/PROPERTY/D&O)			40,000
TOTAL COMMITTEE/OTHER EXP.	410,644	442,633	603,000
SEJ AGENCIES & EXISTING, ESTABLISHED, ONGOING GROUPS			
HINTON RURAL LIFE (SEJ Agency) - Debt	100,085	125,876	351,200
GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY (SEJ Agency)	116,769	146,854	0
LAKE JUNALUSKA (SEJ Agency) - Debt	5,676,995	7,063,171	2,000,000
SEMAR (Existing, Established Ongoing Group)	108,434	136,366	0
IGC(Existing, Established Ongoing Group) - Scholarship	116,769	146,854	0
UMVIM	116,769	146,854	0
TOTAL SEJ and EEOG EXPENSES	6,235,821	7,765,975	2,351,200
JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE	435,376	539,756	492,000
CONTINGENCY, CALLED SESSIONS AND OPERATIONS	2,463	121,951	456,737
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,084,304	8,870,315	3,902,937
EXCESS REVENUES/(EXPENSES)	10,436		0
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	392,834		403,270
ENDING FUND BALANCE	403,270		403,270

EXHIBIT 2				
2012 SEJ JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE				
Proposed 2013-2016 APPORTIONMENT				
	SEJ CFA			
	Apportioned	\$ Received	% Received	Proposes:
	2009-2012	2009-2011	2009-2011	2013-2016
ALABAMA-WEST FLA	\$467,039	\$207,267	44.38%	\$233,519
FLORIDA	1,034,906	567,832	54.87%	517,453
HOLSTON	525,940	330,535	62.85%	262,970
KENTUCKY	433,969	317,373	73.13%	216,984
MEMPHIS	315,060	171,264	54.36%	157,530
MISSISSIPPI	519,543	269,337	51.84%	259,771
NORTH ALABAMA	523,984	293,214	55.96%	261,992
NORTH CAROLINA	613,555	460,164	75.00%	306,777
NORTH GEORGIA	1,029,218	685,900	66.64%	514,609
RED BIRD	1,242	938	75.52%	621
SOUTH CAROLINA	680,747	420,206	61.73%	340,373
SOUTH GEORGIA	460,827	279,347	60.62%	230,413
TENNESSEE	336,862	188,356	55.91%	168,431
VIRGINIA	1,001,928	567,410	56.63%	500,964
WNC	925,495	545,054	58.89%	462,747
TOTAL	\$8,870,315	\$5,304,198	59.80%	\$4,435,156
		(3 years)	(3 years)	

EXHIBIT 3				
LAKE JUNALUSKA & DAM RESTORATION				
Special Asking @ .50/Member				
	2005-08	2009-2012	2009-2011	2009-2011
			3 years	3 years
	Amount Paid	GOAL	Amount Paid	% Paid
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	\$49,943	\$73,806	\$41,147	55.75%
FLORIDA	160,580	163,136	105,000	64.36%
HOLSTON	84,425	83,857	42,500	50.68%
KENTUCKY	71,227	76,066	54,338	71.44%
MEMPHIS	15,285	44,412	21,507	48.43%
MISSISSIPPI	67,836	94,730	58,330	61.58%
NORTH ALABAMA	47,718	77,829	35,547	45.67%
NORTH CAROLINA	119,456	117,769	121,057	102.79%
NORTH GEORGIA	100,251	168,818	145,697	86.30%
RED BIRD MISSIONARY CONF	750	700	357	51.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA	44,698	120,840	60,990	50.47%
SOUTH GEORGIA	4,485	69,546	55,719	80.12%
TENNESSEE	57,354	58,297	41,722	71.57%
VIRGINIA	33,334	170,925	66,666	39.00%
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	100,339	146,868	150,889	102.74%
TOTAL	\$957,683	\$1,467,599	\$1,001,467	68.24%

ALABAMA – WEST FLORIDA AREA REPORT

Bishop Paul L. Leeland

During the last few years of this quadrennium the congregations of the Alabama-West Florida Conference have embraced the intent of our Call To Action by shifting our attention, resources and energy toward vital congregations and fruitful ministries. The vision of our conference has been the clear belief that every congregation can be a missional and evangelistic congregation regardless of location or size. As a result the leadership of our conference has been intentional in seeking spiritual leaders who will engage their present context, providing appropriate nurture and preparation to be strategically placed to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This year our Annual Conference recognized pastors who began 10 new faith communities and churches bringing greater attention to our commitment to birth new congregations. One aspect of this commitment is our new focus on a comprehensive plan of inclusiveness to begin new African American congregations and strengthen the diversity of our ministry.

The hope of our denomination to dramatically reform clergy leadership development has been embraced by the establishment of a new Academy for Congregational Excellence (for both clergy and lay leaders) where continued attention to pastoral leadership and ministerial gifts can be shaped to meet the changing needs of our communities. In addition to this academy, the conference also established a Committee on Pastoral Effectiveness to offer continued support and guidance for those who have found the demands of ministry to be overwhelming. Conference staff met every district connectional leadership team for the purpose of creating a common language and focus of ministry by encouraging every district leadership team to link pastors, congregations and lay leadership around the same areas of ministry.

Intentional efforts have been made to reduce the perceived distance between the general Church and local congregations. Following a year-long commitment of superintendents to meet solely around the issues of leading churches and pastors to fulfill ministry, each superintendent created ministry teams of laity and clergy within each district to prayerfully embrace how they model vital congregations. One response to these district ministry teams was the celebration of over 400 laity who gathered to affirm their desire to be partners in the gospel, pledging support and leadership within their local churches to become vital congregations.

While the annual conference has received a recommended decrease each year in its conference budget, more ministry with less conference dollars has emerged such as our Circles of Transformation, sharing in a ministry with the poor; and our Academy for Congregational Excellence. As a result we have “changed our mindset so that our primary focus and commitment are on fostering and sustaining congregational vitality” (The Call to Action).

For the past two years, our Alabama-West Florida Conference has trained 35 spiritual directors. As we seek spiritual leadership for our churches, we have come to appreciate how isolated clergy can feel, and we are now in the process of linking clergy and

churches with spiritual directors who can strengthen the spiritual disciplines that shape and inform their lives. Instruction was offered by the Rev. Wendy J. Miller, Professor of Spiritual Formation at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and instructor for training in spiritual direction in several United Methodist conferences over the last 8 years.

The last four years have also presented new challenges for our conference. At the beginning of the quadrennium we were withdrawing more than one million dollars each year to meet expenses and demands of ministry. With a decision to move toward “direct bill” for all health care and pension benefits, many congregations discovered they could no longer offer full time work for clergy. This has resulted in a reduction of 60 congregations from full time to become less than full time. The good news in light of the national and denominational economies has been a stronger conference now operating within financial strength and no longer withdrawing funds from reserve accounts. The difficult decisions regarding our stewardship now offers evidence of a renewed commitment to the missional covenant set by our sisters and brothers at every level of the Church with increased trust and support of our missional priorities.

Alabama-West Florida Conference continues to be placed in a vulnerable position geographically in regard to the storms, hurricanes and tornados that have devastated some of our communities. Our disaster response ministry has closed all cases related to the storm known as Katrina and now has turned attention to the communities south of Tuscaloosa and Birmingham where so much of the most recent damage occurred.

Janet and I offer thanks for new friendships and emerging places of service. We are blessed by the gracious reception and encouragement of this annual conference. May God’s presence, power and love continued to be manifested in the faithful and fruitful work of wonderful congregations. In the words of John Wesley, “The best of all is God is with us.”

BIRMINGHAM AREA REPORT

Bishop William H. Willimon

The North Alabama Conference was pleased to learn that when the Vital Congregations survey results were in, North Alabama was tied (with Zimbabwe) for the highest percentage of vital congregations in the connection.

We took this as validation of our efforts these past eight years to redirect our Conference energies and resources toward planting, igniting, and sustaining vital congregations.

To that end, we have transformed the way we call, credential, and deploy clergy through a top-to-bottom reorganizing of our Board of Ordained Ministry. We continue to lead the church in the planting of new churches, having created our New Church Planters “Boot Camp” to select and train new church pastors. Our success rate has dramatically

improved. We are particularly proud of the innovative congregations we have birthed for the addicted, the marginalized, and the young.

Our innovative Dashboard, in which every congregation reports every week on baptisms, giving, professions of faith, mission involvement, and attendance has changed our Conference life. We run about 95% participation in Dashboard reporting. Our clergy and lay leaders show that having real time data on actual ministry results is a key to vital congregations. We are heartened that, through the bishops' Call to Action, the entire connection is implementing our experiments in measurement of ministry and its accountability.

Like every Conference, we have had a financial challenge this past quadrennium. However, we were determined to make necessary cuts in administrative costs while preserving mission funding. We faced great challenges in some of our institutions like Birmingham-Southern College and Camp Sumatanga and are attempting to utilize these challenges to better focus our resources.

Among the challenges undertaken by our Cabinet were: use of consultation teams to intervene and to make prescriptions in troubled congregations, experimented with a tithe system of connectional giving rather than traditional apportionment formula, exited ineffective and nonproductive clergy, recruited potentially effective clergy, broadened the use of our D.S. Triads for interviews with all clergy, cluster Charge Conferences focused on mission ideas sharing and narratives of ministry, and the use of external consultants for congregated growth.

In all that we have done, we have attempted to be empowered by the North Alabama Conference Vision Statement:

“Every church challenged and equipped to grow more disciples of Jesus Christ by taking risks and changing lives.”

The work we have undertaken, and the results we achieved have confirmed in us the belief in the vital involvement of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and our conviction that Jesus Christ never calls us to do work that he will not give us the gifts we need to do the work.

CHARLOTTE AREA REPORT

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster

In alignment with the mission statement of The United Methodist Church, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference has been focused this quadrennium on living into our unique expression of that statement: *Following Jesus, Making Disciples, and Transforming the World*. Adopted eight years ago, our purpose statement has guided a lengthy process of realignment and reorganization that culminated in the action of the 2011 Annual Conference to move to eight districts from the existing fifteen. This radical

action is intended to redirect the flow of energy and resources, and to reset our conference financial baseline. It is creating new opportunities as well as a renewed hope for ministry in the twenty-first century.

As the quadrennium began we, like everyone else, were impacted by the global economic crisis. In response, we chose to establish our “Power of 3” goals that include reaching new people with the good news of Jesus Christ, starting new churches, revitalizing existing churches, and sending mission teams into the world. Of particular note, our goal of annually sending 3,000 mission teams into communities and the world has been surpassed in each of the last three years. While we have not yet achieved all of our goals, one sign of hope has been an increase in apportionment payments from a low of approximately 65% to more than 85% in 2011. We believe that as we continue to focus our attention, energy, and resources around increasing the number of vital, missional congregations there will be more generosity and greater missional engagement in communities and the world.

During the first three years of this quadrennium we have started 14 new faith communities, in four different languages. Many of our existing churches have launched a second or third campus to reach new people, and some of our existing churches are partnering with other existing churches around a common mission field. And, for the first time, several of our local churches have entered covenant relationships with “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century” in an effort to discover and implement a future with hope. As we have encouraged churches to “go missional,” we have seen a rise in the levels of community engagement, including such things as community gardens, partnerships with public schools, and “welcome tables” where people from every part of society are provided hot meals. There has also been a renewed spiritual energy around the ministry of evangelism and witness.

In the spring of 2010 we were awarded a Lilly Grant in the amount of almost one million dollars to focus on developing young clergy leaders for the future of the church. Our conference already leads or is near the top of our denomination in the number of clergy under the age of 35. This grant has now challenged us to put into place a Transition into Ministry program that includes internships and mentoring relationships for seminary graduates who have a minimum of thirty years to serve Christ through The United Methodist Church. After a year of planning, identifying and equipping mentors, and receiving applications, the appointments of our first cohort of clergy in the Transition into Ministry program were made in June, 2012. The current grant will allow us to continue and to expand the program over the next three years.

On Saturday, June 5, 2010 more than 13,000 United Methodists across the conference were involved in our first “Impact Community Day” touching the lives of more than 600,000 people. Every District was involved in numerous projects as our people put faith into action. In a grand celebration at the session of the Annual Conference the following week, volunteers arrived in our red Impact Day shirts and rejoiced at the signs of God’s love and grace that were made visible through feeding programs, home repair, community clean-up, and visitations to jails, nursing homes, and schools. We followed this first effort with a second conference-wide “Impact Community Day” in October 2011. According to United Methodist Communications, an independent research company found that a favorable impression of The United Methodist Church among the 18-34 demographic went up dramatically (68%) in our conference, the highest in the

country and far above the 25% national average. Of even more joy, many churches are now engaged in regular community service days, joining with other churches and organizations to share God's love in tangible ways. Beyond surveys and projects, the lives of people are being impacted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we have focused our efforts and redirected our resources toward increasing the number of vital churches engaged in the mission of Christ, we are in the midst of a major paradigm shift in the role and responsibilities of District Superintendents and the Conference Staff. We began the journey with a year-long training event to prepare superintendents to serve as consultants and coaches to churches. We are utilizing new technologies to enhance our work, including a web-based system for appointment-making that allows information and profiles of clergy and churches to be readily available to all superintendents. In addition, Plowpoint Ministries has trained more than 100 people to serve as members of Church Transformation Teams, prepared and equipped to intervene in conflicted situations or to assist churches in visioning and planning for the future.

A memorable, Spirit-filled moment at the June 2009 Annual Conference session came at the close of the Ordination Service when an invitation to come forward was given to anyone sensing God's call on their lives. More than 30 people came to the stage of Stuart Auditorium that evening. In June 2012 the first of those persons graduated from seminary and are receiving their first appointments. An emphasis on the Annual Conference as "worshipful work" has created a new sense of holiness and spiritual focus in an otherwise routine business setting. Creative and inspiring worship along with regular times of Bible study and prayer are transforming our days together each summer, with an impact across the conference.

Since Deborah and I arrived in Charlotte in September, 2008, we have been richly blessed by the people and churches of this conference. We are seeing God at work in every corner of the conference and we are grateful to God for the privilege of serving our Risen Christ in the Charlotte Area. We are excited about and cannot wait to see what God is going to do next through the more than 290,000 United Methodist Christians scattered across the western half of the state of North Carolina.

COLUMBIA AREA REPORT

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

During the past four years, the South Carolina Conference has worked to strengthen the mission and ministry of its more than one thousand local United Methodist Churches. The conference has continued to assist congregations in self-assessment through the use of Natural Church Development in determining church health. Healthy churches are growing churches and that has been a central focus during this quadrennium. Because of the emphasis on strengthening local churches through Natural Church Development, the conference was well positioned to participate in the goal setting for Vital Congregations and the Call to Action of the Council of Bishops.

The effort to resource local churches through deployed staff and coaching which began last quadrennium has continued during this four year period. A congregational specialist devoted to strengthening the African American churches in the conference was added to the conference staff, so that there are now seven congregational specialists available to assist local churches and districts. These specialists have had contact with over 70% of our churches.

The conference has completed the restructure of Connectional Ministries and shifted much of the conference ministry to the districts in order to enhance the work of the local church. This design is focused under four ministry areas; Advocacy, Discipleship, Lay Leadership, and Outreach. All twelve districts have organized their District Connectional Ministries and are listening to local churches about their needs. The new Conference Connectional Ministries is comprised of members from the District Connectional Ministries, so there is a direct connection between the local churches and the annual conference. With this reorganization, the size of the group has been reduced from over 400 to around 140 persons and participation has increased from 50% to 95%.

Three years ago, the conference began an annual youth spiritual life weekend event called "Revolution". This event has averaged more than two thousand youth, each year. It has been a great success with the youth of South Carolina. One component of the weekend is to give young people the opportunity to hear God's Call upon their lives. At the 2012 Revolution, 105 youth responded to the invitation for fulltime Christian Service in the Church. The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and local churches are nurturing these decisions.

Establishing new places for new people has been a strong focus for South Carolina. The conference is currently supporting eleven new church starts. Three of these are mission congregations; two seeking to reach the Latino communities in Greenville and Columbia, and the third one is a Native American congregation in Springfield. Journey United Methodist Church is a new predominately African American congregation in Columbia which is averaging more than 500 each Sunday. Six of our new church starts reflect average worship attendance of 235. In addition, the rebooting of existing congregations in high potential areas has been part of the congregational development strategy. During this quadrennium the conference has assisted two congregations in relocating and building new church campuses.

Through missional offerings from the annual conference, we have funded the building of the Hatcliffe United Methodist Church in Harare, Zimbabwe. \$48,128 has been contributed toward this project. It is anticipated that this new church will be completed by this summer. In addition, the annual conference has supported through conference missional offerings the Bethlehem Bible College, UMCOR response to Kenya, and the Central Conference Pension Fund. The offerings from the 2012 annual conference are designated to support the Imagine No Malaria Campaign.

The membership of the Annual Conference at the beginning of this year is 235,504 laity and 1,108 clergy. In 2011, there were 3,378 professions of faith and 2,588 baptisms. We continually strive to reach more people for Jesus Christ, more younger people for

Jesus Christ, and more diverse people for Jesus Christ. Our mission field is ready for the harvest. We continue in our efforts to extend God's invitation to all.

The South Carolina Conference is led by outstanding servants of Jesus Christ; twelve district superintendents and an Extended Cabinet which includes the Conference Lay Leader, Connectional Ministries Director, Director of Congregational Development, Conference Treasurer, and the Director of Clergy Services. I am indebted to these fine persons as well as my Administrative Assistant, Bettye Rivers. It is a joy and privilege to serve beside them.

FLORIDA AREA REPORT

Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker

During the 2008-2012 quadrennium, the Florida Conference adopted new structure to enable it to more effectively fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The new structure primarily involves the creation of a Strategic Leadership Team appointed by the bishop to focus and communicate the total work of the conference. The previous structure primarily consisted of a Conference Table. The new Strategic Leadership Team has benefited from the creative work accomplished by the Conference Table, but it is able to provide overall direction for the work of the conference not possible in the previous structure. The Strategic Leadership Team adopted as its first task in 2010-2011 the development of a comprehensive plan for the conference with the assistance of the Jhodka Group of Atlanta, Georgia as its consultant. The Strategic Leadership Team presented its plan to the 2012 annual conference.

The Florida Conference faces many challenges and opportunities. The primary challenge is to address the steady decline in membership and worship attendance of its more than 700 congregations. Florida is a rapidly changing society marked by a decrease in the population of retirees who choose Florida, a decrease in the number of citizens from other states who migrate to Florida, and an increase in the number of migrants from other nations in the Caribbean, Latin America, and other parts of the world. The United Methodist Church in Florida has been affected by the decline of the church in the northeast and the mid-west in that the number of United Methodists transferring their membership is lower than in the past. Consequently, the congregations in Florida must become more effective in intentional disciple-making, especially in reaching more diverse people and younger people.

Through its office of Congregational Excellence, the conference provides strategies and resources for congregational transformation. This office has developed its own process for transformation called New Realities, and it has equipped persons to serve as coaches for the process of transformation. Every district has a committee of congregational transformation that works with the conference office. What has been learned is that congregational transformation is a difficult, long-term process and that

appropriate pastoral leadership is crucial. The future development of the structure and work of Congregational Excellence will be assured by the Strategic Leadership Team.

Through its office of New Church Development, the conference has used a variety of approaches to begin new communities of faith, including reproduction of healthy congregations, satellite campuses of healthy congregations, and occasional “parachute drops.” In the past, the conference office has worked with the district committees of new church development to identify new communities of faith and to provide funding from a \$12,000,000 endorsement. It has also created a process of assessing potential new church start leaders, a process which is a national model for other conferences. However, the present system is primarily district-based. The Strategic Leadership Team has asked for the development of a conference-wide strategic plan for new church development that would involve the sharing of district resources. The conference has invested deeply in the ethnic communities of faith, but many of these require continued finance support, thus inhibiting the financial capacity of districts to start other new communities of faith. The Strategic Leadership Team will seek to find ways to address this practical challenge.

In order to address the challenge of evangelizing an increasingly ethnically diverse state, and to address patterns of racism and exclusion, the conference initiated a series of mandatory three-day training sessions on inclusivity called “The Beloved Community” led by Visions, Inc. This training will be the basis for future development of growth in inclusivity for clergy and laity.

New initiatives in reaching next generations is a priority for the Strategic Leadership Team, including more interaction among campus ministries, the conference youth camping program, and other ministries of the conference. The conference has some outstanding campus ministries. The hiring of a full-time director of campus ministries will be an aid in developing a more effective state-wide mission employing a variety of approaches and managing a limited budget, which is nevertheless a major part of the conference budget. The summer camping program is successful with thousands of youth participating, and it will be enhanced by the renovation of the Barnett Lodge of the Warren W. Willis Camp in 2012.

The office of Clergy Excellence now has a young adult clergy staff person who oversees a program of enlisting and supporting young persons in becoming deacons and elders.

The conference has a common social witness of a mission to children in poverty. More congregations are engaged in ministries to poor children. The conference is a partner in the state program of End Childhood Hunger Now. For 10 years, the bishop, United Methodist Women, and others have advocated for children at the state legislature along with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and ecumenical leaders.

During this quadrennium the themes of the annual conferences have focused on the church’s call to participate in God’s purpose of transforming the world. The four themes have been “ Transforming the World by Cherishing the Creation” (2008), “...by Eradicating Extreme Poverty” (2009), “... by Living as Peacemakers” (2010) and “...by Being United in Christ.” (2012).

The conference has three global partnerships with the Methodist Church in Cuba, the East Anglo Annual Conference, and the Methodist Church in Haiti.

In 2010 the conference opened its new “Florida United Methodist Center” near downtown Lakeland.

With excellent leadership by the Conference Treasurer, the conference has remained sound financially in its operations, its pension program, its health insurance program, and its insurance program, Ministry Protection. A conference development office is operated by the Florida United Methodist Foundation. Over \$ 9,000,000 was raised in the Together! campaign. The Strategic Leadership Team is planning to assess the overall financial future of the conference.

KNOXVILLE AREA REPORT

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.

In the 2004-2008 Quadrennial Report I reported that the Knoxville Episcopal Area (Holston Annual Conference) after much prayer and discernment had adopted the following vision statement,

“God envisions bold, passionate, and joyful communities of faith where the spiritual hunger to worship God and to serve Christ sets disciples on fire with Spirit-filled, risk taking love for all God’s children until Holston Conference reflects the saving grace and redeeming justice of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We have continued to live into that vision statement and have discovered some bold new territory that the Holy Spirit is leading us into.

We have observed the steady decline in our average attendance and realize that if we are to be faithful to the call of Christ as expressed in the Great Commission and the Great Commandment we needed to concentrate resources and energy on developing new churches and transforming existing congregations that have expressed a desire to be alive in Christ. We set a goal that by 2013 we will plant 15 new churches and as of today we have started 7 and believe we will reach our goal because of the plans we have in place with some of our growing congregations to assist them in starting second and in some instances third locations. We have developed specific coaching groups for our downtown churches and for our mid-size churches with plans in place for other targeted groups. These coaching groups include laity as well as pastors. We are working with existing congregations in rural, suburban and urban setting to help them see that that the Call to be Vital Congregations is their call and a call they can answer.

This emphasis on developing new congregations and transforming existing congregations must be supported by developing both transformative lay and clergy leadership. We are developing through our Office of Connectional Ministries a very effective movement called “Leadership Holston” where we purposefully target persons that we believe have demonstrated that they are interested in giving leadership in their

local churches, on the district and conference level. Our model is to equip these persons to be leaders that also equip other persons to be spiritual leaders that are willing to share their gifts with the church. Resurrection and Divine Rhythm are annual programs that reach teenagers and young adults and we extend an invitation to them to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit calling them to full time ministry. As a result of this during the quadrennium Holston continues to be a leader in annual conferences that have the highest percentage of clergy under the age of 35 serving as ordained clergy.

We also know that young people today want and desire opportunities to be world changers. Their desire is to make a difference in the lives of the people that suffer in this world from war, hunger, poverty, homelessness, violence and despair. So we continue to offer multiple opportunities for young persons to be involved in mission near their homes, in their communities, in our conference area, in the United States and in the areas we serve in Africa, the Philippines, Europe and now in Southeast Asia. We have discovered that young people are not the only one that wishes to be world changers that those that are older than them want this opportunity also. We have experienced many professions of faith while people are engaged in mission activities and in many of those mission trips old saints have experienced a revival of their faith.

There is another ministry that we have seen growing fruit from that we have been engaged in, in partnership with our Foundation in a quiet yet productive way. It is a ministry to equip and empower our pastor to lead the congregations they serve in developing a biblical understanding of stewardship. Over the last four years we have trained about 93 persons and we are beginning to see the fruits of this training as the people in the places where these pastors serve are responding to the modeling and teaching of how Christ desires for us to share the money the God blesses us with.

We decided in addition to the above movement to begin to finance our conference ministries through the tithing system. Our CF&A presented this at our Annual Conference Session and as a part of their commitment decided that we cannot ask our people to faithfully support their conference if we did not faithful support the general church so in 2011 we paid 100% of our general church apportionment for the first time in many years.

In closing I will say that our confidence in the power of the Lord to be present with us is at and all time high and we are convinced that every church can be a Vital Congregation because we have taken seriously our Call to Action.

LOUISVILLE AREA REPORT

Bishop Lindsey Davis

The Louisville Area covers ninety percent of the state of Kentucky and includes the Red Bird Missionary Conference and the Kentucky Annual Conference. I have been privileged to share in ministry over these past four years with some of the most dedicated lay and clergy leaders in our church. The Kentucky Annual Conference has

been following this quadrennium the Four Areas of Focus as we have sought to strengthen the United Methodist witness in the Commonwealth.

The first area of focus is planting new churches. During this past quadrennium we have planted 16 new faith communities. Six of these have been Hispanic, two African American and one a satellite congregation for people from a variety of African nations. The other congregations, while predominantly Caucasian in their demographic mix, have also included persons of other ethnicities. The new church planting continues at a vigorous pace as we seek to move into communities where the United Methodist presence is not as strong as it should be.

The second area of focus has been Leadership Development. One of our primary agendas has been the development of greater leadership capacity, particularly in the recruitment of younger clergy. At the beginning of the quadrennium we only had six elders under the age of 35. We now have 15 elders under the age of 35 and almost 100 persons in the ministry pipeline from Candidacy to Ordination. We believe that this influx of younger talent and the deep commitment that we are seeing in them, will equip us for the future as our faithful clergy continue to retire at an increasing rate.

As a part of our Leadership Development we have emphasized the Isaiah Program, which is an internship program for young people to spend their summers working in churches and church related institutions. To date we have over 50 young people who have participated in this program and many of them are already in the process for ordained ministry.

On the laity side of our priorities is the LACE program, which has been phenomenally successful in equipping laity for stronger ministries in local congregations, districts and the Annual Conference. Our Board of Laity has been very effective in strengthening our program so that we might equip stronger lay leaders for the future.

The third area of emphasis has been our ministry with the poor. Although we have been involved in working with projects in a variety of countries including East Africa, Venezuela, and Thailand, one of our major directions has been to forge a partnership with the Red Bird Missionary Conference. We feel we have been successful in strengthening that relationship and we look forward to it bearing much fruit in the future.

The fourth area of emphasis for us this quadrennium has been the issues related to global health. In this arena we have been able to work to build a medical clinic in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. We have also been able to support the ministry of a missionary couple in South Sudan and have been able to sustain a few projects in East Africa as we wrap up our involvement in that area.

The Kentucky Annual Conference is growing stronger. In 2011 we experienced a net growth in membership of 979 and an increase of profession of faith and overall average attendance. The challenge for us will be to continue to have this kind of fruitfulness in the future.

The Red Bird Missionary Conference continues to try to enable and equip the churches of the conference to be healthy and growing bodies of Christ. At the same time, because we are a mission based ministry in one of the poorest areas of the country and depend upon outside financial support, we are experiencing a decline in income in this struggling economy. Almost since the inception of this conference, formed around the

time of uniting in the sixties, the conference has had a broad base of support from across the country. Those generations which were great supporters have grown older and many have died. Churches and individuals are doing more mission work in own local communities, so money to support the kind of work we do is dwindling. We are developing a plan to help our churches become more self-sustaining and for the churches to support more of the work of the conference. For a lot of our churches this will be quite a challenge in an area where unemployment is high and low, fixed incomes are the norm.

The churches and outreach centers of the conference continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and action. Most of our churches have some type of outreach into their communities with food, clothing, utility assistance, addiction recovery groups and hosting work teams that work in the local communities. When you add the agencies of the conference: Red Bird Mission; Henderson Settlement and The Bennett Center we have multiple food pantries, clothes closets, clinics, thousands of work team members, a K-12 school, community gardens, groups for senior citizens, youth, expecting mothers and a working farm, we have a broad program. We also house other non-profit agencies that do work in our communities. We do all of this on low budgets and people who work for low salaries and limited resources.

In 2010 we embarked upon a partnership with the Kentucky Annual conference so that together we were doing ministry in all of Kentucky and sharing our resources. 890 people from both conferences participated in "IMPACT Appalachia" in August of 2011, spreading out over the Red Bird Conference to impact the local communities. In 2012 we will once again join together to help tornado victims in our state rebuild their homes and communities. This is in addition to Red Bird Churches working with Kentucky Conference Districts and churches to do projects and ministry all year around.

The Red Bird Missionary Conference, an agency of the General Conference and a part of the Louisville Episcopal area is being the presence of the United Methodist Church in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. People of strong faith and pastors with sacrificial attitudes of service, are living out the mandate of Jesus to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel."

MISSISSIPPI AREA REPORT

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

Mississippi Conference, "Arise, Shine!"

The Mississippi Conference lives the invitation of the prophet Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your light has come!" In the four years of the quadrennium, we embraced these themes: "Arise, Shine, Open Your Doors!", "Arise, Shine, Grow!", "Arise, Shine, Go!", and "Arise, Shine, Give!" We are committed to radical hospitality, spiritual and numerical growth, intentional evangelism and overflowing mission, and extravagant generosity.

Through a process of dialogue across our districts in 2008, we identified a central need to reach more people, more younger people and more diverse people. In dialogue with young adults, we heard young adults say, "We want to lead. We want the mentoring of more seasoned leaders. We hope to be welcomed as leaders." With wisdom, vision and confidence in the next generation, Aubrey Lucas, conference lay leader 2004-2008, challenged the annual conference to elect a lay leader half his age. We elected Tim Crisler, age 34 in 2008, to serve as lay leader. We intentionally worked to lower the average age of lay members of the annual conference by 1) inviting churches to identify younger people as lay members, 2) working to identify young people to serve as equalizing members, and 3) moving the annual conference session to weekends for greater accessibility by younger people. We have given particular attention to ministries with young adults. We celebrate United Methodist campus ministries on 27 campuses in Mississippi (every university and community college campus in the state), vibrant camping ministries, a re-designed youth ministry, and consistent ranking in the connection in the highest number of young clergy.

The partnership with the Mississippi Conference, Millsaps College, and the Center for Ministry is fruitful for the development of clergy and lay leaders through Shepherd's Sabbath, Spiritual Direction Training, Clergy Leadership Schools and retreats for clergy, laity and the Cabinet. Seven of our clergy have received Lilly Sabbatical Grants, and many others have experienced inspiration, community and renewal through two cycles of generous grants from the Lilly Foundation. We are developing coaching networks for leaders in partnerships of the Seashore District with the Board of Discipleship and the Starkville District with LeBonHeur Methodist Healthcare in Memphis.

The planting of new faith communities moves forward, beginning in 2009 with 100 persons participating in a visioning retreat for clergy and laity led by Path 1 and other key church planting leaders. We encourage every church to create a space for more people, more younger people, more diverse people. Anderson South in Jackson, LifeBridge in Southaven, The Point in Brandon, Innovation at Ramsey in Gulfport, ACTS in Biloxi, and Iglesia Christiana in Southaven have been planted in this quadrennium. Mississippi has the lowest wealth indicators in the United States: ministry with the poor begins at home for us. We celebrate churches offering the embrace of Christ and the necessities of life - food, shelter, employment, medical care, community with others.

We celebrate global connections in mission. A strong partnership with Stop Hunger Now has grown to include the Mississippi Conference Warehouse and staff, food packaging events across the conference and at annual conference sessions with millions of meals provided. The Seashore District has created a dynamic partnership with the Methodist Church of Nicaragua, including mutual participation in ordination services, volunteer teams and shipments of food through Stop Hunger Now. Significant partnerships continue with Russia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

We celebrate seven years of United Methodist response to Hurricane Katrina. As we come to this Jurisdictional Conference, we report the transforming of Katrina recovery into ongoing work with families in substandard housing. Over 17,000 households are back home in Mississippi through the effort of 172,000 volunteers. Tornadoes have repeatedly impacted communities, including a swath across the poorest section of our state from Yazoo City to Smithville in the spring of 2011. Rising water from the

Mississippi River in the spring of 2011 contributed to our challenges. In 2011, we divided Disaster Response into three sections: hurricane response in the south, flood response in the west, tornado response in the east. We thank you all for your partnership in ministries of response and recovery.

Wellness is a Mississippi Conference heartsong. We focus on exercise, which improves any medical issue. Over 80% of our clergy participate in the Amazing Pace program with 336 using pedometers to measure their level of exercise and 630 in Health Coaching. Savings in prescription medications through our health insurance program amounted to over \$100,000 the first year of the pedometer program. In 2011, we sent a rebate to every church in the annual conference as a result of this continued effort. We cultivate and celebrate churches who engage in health ministries with "Healthy Church Awards.". We urge churches to become centers for health in their communities, and we have pilot churches offering medical screening services in connection with the University Medical School in Jackson.

We are engaged in global health through the Global AIDS Fund and Nothing But Nets/Imagine No Malaria. Support flows through an annual Footsteps of Hope Walk for HIV-AIDS awareness and funding. Young people particularly are energized in support of Nothing But Nets. Many UMMVIM teams focus on medical and dental services.

We celebrate a Covenant of Common Life with the Episcopal Church including an annual celebration with the Episcopal and United Methodist bishops preaching and presiding at The Lord's Table, gatherings for study of our shared and unique heritages, mutual prayer and service. The Mississippi Conference offers strong leadership in the Mississippi Religious Leadership Council, the connecting organization for communities of faith in Mississippi for over 50 years in ministries of mission and social justice.

We were the first conference to engage the FACT team created by GCFA to assist annual conferences in stewardship and finance. The process helped us identify the need to focus on three key areas: 1) increasing Wesleyan ethos, 2) strengthening communication, and 3) leadership development. Total money raised has improved for the past three years, as well as the percentage of mission shares supported by local churches. This continues to be an area of concern and focus.

We engage several times a year in "Journeys to the Light" - gatherings at places of painful racial memory in Mississippi. We listen and speak and grow And worship together. We focus in Lent on reconciliation with meditations written and published. In 2011, we hosted the annual JustPeace Gathering around the theme of racial reconciliation. We gather in conference, district and local settings around other issues that threaten to divide us, in order to listen and to speak while honoring one another.

The hopes and experiences of the Mississippi Conference converge remarkably with the stated mission focus areas of The United Methodist Church. We are committed to identifying, developing and offering space for principled Christian leaders. We believe that the planting of new faith communities is key in evangelism. We are engaged in ministry with the poor and in initiatives toward wellness and global health. We know the need for continued dialogue, strong community and mutual compassion within our churches, districts and annual conference. It is a good time to be United Methodists, and we rejoice to be Wesleyan bearers of the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

NASHVILLE AREA REPORT

Bishop Richard J. Wills

Bishop Ben R. Chamness, Interim Bishop

In 2008 Bishop Richard J. Wills was reassigned as the Resident Bishop of the Nashville Area for a second quadrennium. His emphasis continued to be on spiritual formation, Bible study and Wesleyan covenant groups.

During the next three years the Area underwent two major floods, one covering a great part of the city of Nashville and much of Middle Tennessee with significant damage to the Opryland Shopping Center, houses and other structures, and the second covering much of the Memphis Conference with severe damage to houses, barns, and area crops,. Fortunately only minor damage was caused to our churches and parsonages. The economy of the Area was adversely affected each time. In addition to these natural disasters, the Area suffered along with the national economy as it lost major auto plants and related industries.

In addition, the remarkable service of the Lambuth University came to a sad end. Its doors were closed in the Fall of 2011 after educating men and women of the Area for decades. It was one more significant blow to the economy and the morale of the state of Tennessee.

After significant health problems continued to plague Bishop Wills, he was given early retirement in 2011, and moved with his lovely wife, Eileen, back to Florida. Their seven years in the Nashville Area made a lasting impression. The service he rendered will not be forgotten.

Then the Council of Bishops, upon the recommendation of the Southeastern College of Bishops, assigned Bishop Ben R. Chamness as the Interim Bishop to serve for one year (September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012) to finish the quadrennium in the Nashville Area.

During the last year of the quadrennium much effort has gone into developing the spirit and the commitment to participate in the Call to Action at the local and conference level. Plans of ministry in local churches of both conferences have led to metrics that bring participation in the development of new disciples and vital congregations to new levels.

A cooperative effort with the Supreme Court of Tennessee has begun to give Access to Justice by identifying attorneys in our congregations and communities that will give their services through pro bono work with the less fortunate who need legal assistance but cannot afford it. Also, Justice for our Neighbors (jfon) has been engaged, along with efforts by the bishop and clergy to guide the state legislator away from harsh language affecting immigration.

In consultation with the College of Bishops the two conferences (Memphis and Tennessee) are now focused on moving toward uniting their efforts to become one great conference to serve alongside other great conferences in this Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Since January of 2012 the two Cabinets have begun to function as one. Decisions relating to the two conferences are made by the Nashville Area Cabinet. Appointments have been made jointly, with several appointments being made across conference boundaries. The one Cabinet is moving the Area toward acting as one. A Committee on the Uniting Conferences was formed with Gary Shorb and Reverend Harriet Bryan co-chairing lay and clergy representatives from both conferences as they seek to address issues that will make it easier to bring about full union of the two conferences. Several cooperative efforts are underway to demonstrate how the two can function together in a healthy way. The Committees on Episcopacy meet and function together.

Conversations have begun between Boards of Ordained Ministry and other agencies of the two conferences. The full Cabinet attends both sessions of Annual Conference. The dream and hope is that this, the third time to consider unification of these two conferences, will be the charm that allows the spirit of God to pull us together for greater service in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

The morale of the clergy and laity is improving as this Area looks forward to reclaiming its rightful place as the location of vital ministry begun by early Methodists who came to Tennessee soon after the birth of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. During this year we have celebrated the 200th anniversary of Methodism in Tennessee. Joye and I are grateful to have had a wonderful year serving the Lord Jesus Christ with the fine people of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences and with the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Allowing us to come from the South Central Jurisdiction to serve in your midst for this year is one of the great gifts we have been extended by the church. May God's richest blessings be yours!

NORTH GEORGIA AREA REPORT

Bishop B. Michael Watson

North Georgia is a blessed conference. It was especially thrilling to end 2011 with an increase in both average worship attendance and membership, which is now the highest in our history at 358,811 and is the largest in the country.

Our conference was busy identifying, recruiting, training, coaching and deploying clergy who have a passion to make disciples of Jesus Christ through new churches. We constituted 11 new churches this quadrennium, and we started 9 more new churches, 2 next step churches, 3 Hispanic missions, 1 Korean mission, and 2 multicultural mission churches.

Our Office of Connectional Ministries continued to roll out new and innovative ministry solutions that are aimed directly at supporting local churches. Our training component, the "Connectional Cafe", is a web-based varied menu of workshops led by our own highly qualified laity and clergy. Each district has formed a training task force that works side by side with Connectional Ministries to design contextually relevant experiences for district and sub-district groups. Our menu streamlines event development and gives effective leadership a way to share their best practices for the good of our conference life. This open menu model will be especially helpful as we develop sub-district connectional groups (8-12 congregations) with each seeking unique and tailored training experiences.

Connectional Ministries is also developing a new "Bridges" mission program, building more mission and ministry bridges to our world parish in Asia (Philippines), Africa (East Africa Annual Conference), the Caribbean (Bahamas), Eastern Europe (Russia), Western Europe (Portugal), Latin America (El Salvador), the Middle East (Israel), our State of Georgia (Action Ministries), and throughout the whole world (World Methodist Evangelism).

We are embracing the Vital Congregations approach being presented by the General Church. Positive results are already being reported with the expectation of more to follow.

The conference has also revitalized our Board of Christian Camping and Retreat Ministries. This board will advance new ministries to children, youth, and young adults by exporting programming to and through local churches on local church properties rather than always expecting churches to "come to camp." Our goal is to reach more children, youth and young adults.

One of our most helpful ministries is the local church consultations provided by conference staff. Last year alone staff members were invited to provide over 500 consultations in churches throughout our conference.

When the Wesleyan Christian Advocate of the North and South Georgia conferences ceased operation, we began publication of the North Georgia Advocate. An online edition has been added to provide broader distribution of the news of the conference and the denomination. In an effort to serve more effectively, the conference website has been redesigned and advances have been made in other areas of electronic communication.

Our Conference Board of Laity sponsors many programs to enhance the lay/clergy partnership in mission and ministry. Lay Revitalization Ministry is a team of lay volunteers willing to share their experience in utilizing individual gifts and graces within the local church. Lay Speaking Ministries has certified over 1,700 lay speakers representing over one-half of our local churches. They are active in the local church, district, conference and community. Each district offers Lay Speaking courses every spring and fall that encourages all laity to participate and become witnesses. Leadership UMC equips emerging lay leadership for service in mission and ministry within the local church, district, conference and beyond. This four-workshop series is offered annually. It covers United Methodist theology and doctrine, structure and polity, spiritual gifts, leadership skills and group dynamics, and spiritual growth enabling

participants to really see and understand more about our marvelous connection.

Through holy conferencing during our annual conference sessions, North Georgia continued to witness through activities in which the local community was invited to participate. Events such as prayer walks, Red Cross blood drives, mobile food pantries, Stop Hunger Now food assemblies, and 5-K runs have been offered. Major conference-wide offerings have supported the mission efforts of the global church: the Central Conference Pension Initiative, Imagine No Malaria, and World Methodist Evangelism. This quadrennium we have emphasized the denomination's Four Areas of Focus through our conference themes and logos. Our continued growth in youth and young adult member participation energized and blessed our conference sessions.

During this past quadrennium 61 clergy have died and 103 clergy have retired. Changes made in the way we provide Medicare Supplemental Coverage for our retirees will continue to provide adequate benefits in a more cost effective manner that will help move us toward a more financially stable position.

Since January 2009, 299 candidates were interviewed by our Board of Ordained Ministry. Of these, 90 became provisional members, 18 were ordained as deacons, and 71 were ordained as elders.

It is great to report that during the past four years we have rejoiced in our steady pattern of membership growth resulting in a net increase of 8,724 members. We were the largest contributor to General Church apportionments this quadrennium having paid \$25,517,807, while also contributing \$3,092,893 to advance special offerings. CFA has worked diligently to carefully manage our budget and worked with Connectional Ministries to develop a sharp conference focus on stewardship education and training. We have experienced an uptick on the percentage of conference apportionments paid by our churches culminating in the 2011 figure of 90%, the highest percentage in several years.

We joined with South Georgia to merge our conference foundations into the \$90,000,000 Georgia United Methodist Foundation. This new foundation is stronger than ever.

North Georgia continues to focus on creating an adequate contingency fund with a reserve balance goal of 15% of the annual budget. In 2008 we had essentially no contingent reserve fund, but now have a steadily growing reserve balance. The Treasurer's Office effected a conversion to a comprehensive web-hosted integrated accounting system to improve conference financial reporting. North Georgia strongly endorses transparency in all financial operations.

Margaret and I are honored to be assigned to North Georgia. It is a holy privilege to serve this great Episcopal Area.

RALEIGH AREA REPORT

Bishop Al Gwinn

Joyce and I have been deeply blessed during our 8 years serving with the North Carolina Annual Conference. As we get ready to retire, we are deeply appreciative of those 8 years and the people who've touched our lives and souls.

Since 2008, we have started 29 new faith communities. Since Jesus said that we are to make disciples, while He builds His Church, our philosophy is to create movements of Missional Discipleship rather than churches. By reclaiming the "method" of the early Methodist movement, we are focusing initially on Discipleship Huddles (like Bands), Missional Communities (like Class meetings) and Social Spaces (like Societies) that first create and grow "Oikos" (spiritual family). Eventually, through multiplicative growth among these groups of different size, there is enough critical mass to begin regular worship services and "Ekklesia" (church) finally takes shape. We believe this model will allow us to start and maintain a wide variety of creative worshipping families of faith – including multisite campuses, faith communities centered around social justice ministries and "traditional" new church starts.

Thanks to the generosity of our laity and clergy and the support of our CF&A we have continued to pay 100% of our World Service Apportionments each year even during the economic downturn.

In 2008 our Annual Conference approved a major restructuring of our Conference Connectional Table, moving from five circles of ministry to four teams (Outreach, Leadership, Christian Formation and Stewardship).

In January of 2010 our Conference staff underwent restructuring in an effort to direct more of our resources to the local church and align themselves with the four teams of the Conference Connectional Table. As a part of that restructuring we embraced a coaching model as a vehicle for assisting the local church in discerning vision and establishing plans for growth and health.

We dedicated a new conference headquarters building in June 2010. The 32,000 square foot building is located just off I-40 in an accessible location for the annual conference. The building was dedicated debt-free, having been paid for by the sale of the old building and property in Raleigh. It was certified LEED compliant by the US Green Building Council. The chapel, and largest gathering room, was dedicated to the memory of the Reverend Dr. Sam Dixon, a beloved colleague and member of the North Carolina Annual Conference. While in ministry with UMCOR, Dr. Dixon lost his life in the January 2010 earthquake which struck Haiti. The chapel features 14 wall sculptures depicting the Stations of the Cross. Those sculptures were created by a Haitian artist in order to honor Sam's work with the "least, the last and the lost."

That fall our cabinet participated in a mission trip to the Ryan Epps Orphanage in Haiti in memory of our brother Dr. Sam Dixon. We spent a week at the Orphanage erecting a dormitory. We are grateful for the teams that followed us and completed that dormitory so that the ministry can continue to reach the children of that area.

The 2011 Annual Conference voted to affirm the recommendation of a task force reducing the number of districts from 12 to 8. Included in this plan was a rethinking of the work of the District Superintendents so that they might better focus on coaching, mentoring, teaching, team-building and vision-casting with pastors and local churches. A team was appointed to assist in this transition which took effect in July 2012. We believe this will allow our District Superintendents to be far less involved in “busy” work and far more involved in the work of building up the Kingdom.

In cooperation with the Sanford and Fayetteville Districts, we began a new initiative called BRAC Connection. BRAC is the acronym for Base Realignment and Closure. As part of this an estimated 40,000 military and civilian personnel and their families will arrive at Fort Bragg located in Fayetteville, NC. The BRAC Connection seeks to connect those personnel and their families with United Methodist churches in the Fayetteville area.

Due to the generosity of laity across our annual conference, our Academy for Leadership Excellence continues to equip our lay and clergy leaders to be the best God intended them to be. The National Leader Series brings some of the most well-respected church leaders, authors and leadership consultants to share their advice through dynamic and experiential workshops. These interactive, practical seminars provide both clergy and laity the opportunity to hone their skills. Several years ago the Academy began a Leadership Fellows Program. The purpose of the program is to develop effective, Christ-centered servant leaders dedicated to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ within the world today.

The Program annually brings together 15 clergy and 15 lay church leaders to form a community of learning and follows a two-year format. The curriculum modules focus on the development of a variety of practical leadership skills.

While I have attempted to highlight some important ministries we’ve accomplished together in the last four years, there is no way to write all that has been done for the Kingdom of God through the faithfulness of our clergy and laity. To paraphrase the Gospel of John, “But there were many other things that Jesus did (among us and through us); if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25).

As our time in ministry with the North Carolina Annual Conference draws to a close we find ourselves in a reflective mood. It has been our honor and privilege to serve our Lord and His people in this ministry these last eight years. As we recall all of those people who have touched our lives we remember those heartwarming words of the Apostle Paul, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly words of the Apostle Paul, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying for you with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5, NRSV).

RICHMOND AREA REPORT

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

The Virginia Conference has been on a journey this quadrennium. We are focused on developing more Vital Congregations. With our strategic initiative, called ALL THINGS NEW, we are positioned to grow numerically and spiritually. We have reduced districts to 16, restructured our Conference staff to create Centers of Excellence, and are resourcing Peer Learning Groups for small, medium, and large membership churches. We have completed a cycle of training with our 5 Talent Academy for lay/clergy teams that represent well over 100 churches. We have had strong success in attracting younger clergy to the conference. We are using the Vital Congregations website to hold ourselves accountable to becoming more fruitful in our ministry settings. Our Common Table continues its visioning work on behalf of the conference. An ongoing challenge is to align our financial resources with our mission and ministry needs.

We have organized 20 new faith communities this quadrennium. Two are in districts where no new church community had been planted in decades. Mission and outreach ministries are part of the DNA of this conference. There remain a dazzling number of global, national and local partnerships, involving all ages and hands-on opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is inspiring to witness how Virginia United Methodists continue to lead the Connection in so many expressions of mission, showing Christ's love.

With the economic downturn beginning in 2008, our Conference has struggled with a declining payment of apportionments. This does not reveal a discontent with The United Methodist Church. It rather reflects the increased costs of churches to pay for pastors and clergy benefits. Yet when disaster strikes or a crisis in the world emerges, Virginia United Methodists step up sacrificially and give and serve in order to respond. We are encouraged that 2011 giving is up almost 3 percentage points. God has been faithful and is blessing us as a conference.

Please permit me to express my deep gratitude for the privilege of serving the Richmond area. As Leigh and I approach retirement, we can only give thanks for what has been, and for what will yet be, by the grace of a loving God.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I hold a goodly heritage.
You show me the path of life, In your presence is fullness of joy;
In your right hand are pleasures forever more. (Psalm 16: 5-6,11)

SOUTH GEORGIA AREA REPORT

Bishop James R. King Jr.

The South Georgia Area is filled with clergy and laity who are excited about the gospel of Jesus Christ and are engaged in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Building on the Past

The strong and solid traditions of the past continue to feed the future ministries that touch the lives of so many in the South Georgia Area as well as throughout the connection. Our vision statement which exceeds the last two quadrennia is: “God envisions faithful, fruitful and bold congregations and ministries passionately growing mature disciples of Jesus Christ who are living vessels of the Holy Spirit’s desire and miraculous power to redeem every soul and circumstance”.

Some of the significant ministries that continue to mark our call to discipleship and characterize our commitment to be a disciple – making annual conference include the following:

We have remained in partnership with the East Africa Annual Conference. Numerous mission teams have dug wells where water has been scarce. Others provided medical and dental assistance for those who suffer. We have also provided teaching teams to resource those who seek to grow in the word of God.

Conference wide Confirmation Retreats reach hundreds of young people every year, and summer camps are the training ground for spiritual formation in the lives of many.

“Pathways to a Healthy Church” is an annual training event for laity and clergy. A variety of workshops provide opportunities for participants to learn about how to become effective as servant leaders.

New and Revitalized Congregational Development: Our commitment to expand the kingdom of God by starting new congregations continues. During this quadrennium we have started 10 new congregations. Starting new congregations has proven to be one of the most effective ways to attract potential disciples of Jesus Christ.

Embracing the Future

Identifying the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is a big step in the right direction. How to make disciples is still not clear for many in the church.

Some of the steps to draw us closer to our vision statement include:

- Adding a vision slogan, *Growing a Christlike World*, to our vision statement.
- Asking every congregation to develop a disciple plan.
- For two years we have invited local church leadership teams to our Disciple Covenant Conference to develop and adjust their disciple plans.

To address financial challenges and membership decline we identified a way into a brighter future called *Project Turnaround*. Project Turnaround places an emphasis on pruning forward rather than cutting back. Also included in this new directive is a revenue driven budget, a sharper emphasis on the role of the District Superintendent to provide spiritual formation opportunities, empowerment of the laity and the use of a consultant to assist us in our evaluations and projections.

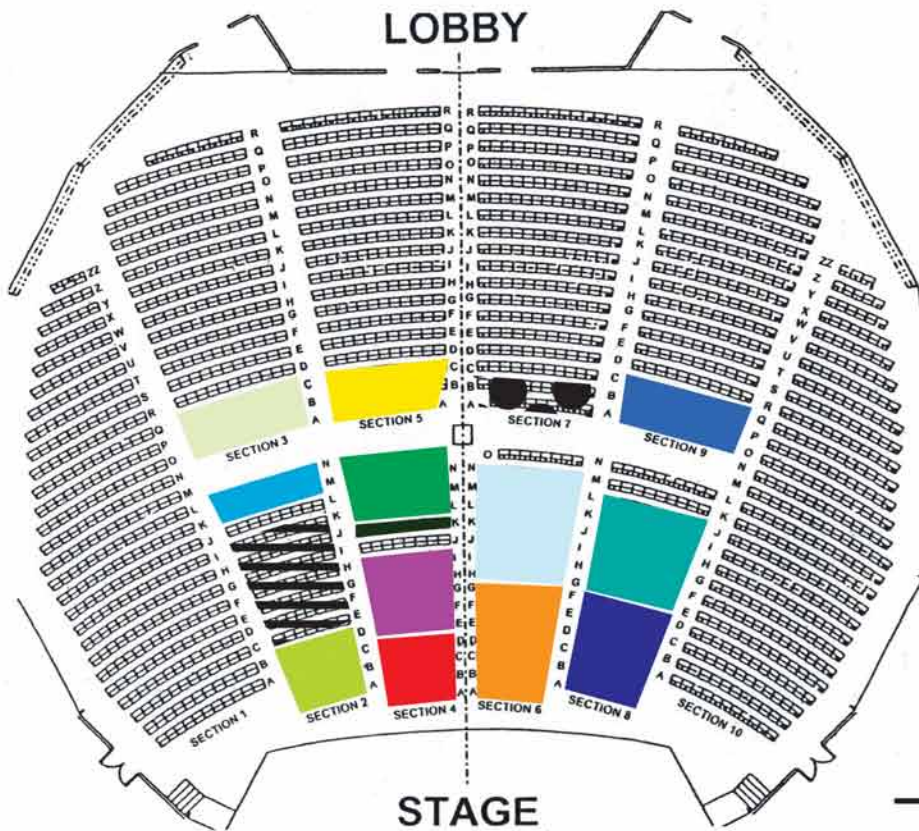
A New Conference Center

We are still a young Episcopal Area. One of our focal points includes raising funds for a new Conference Center that will assist us in being more effective in coordinating our work as well as being better stewards of our resources.

Getting Better

We are blessed by the grace that God provides to get better in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our commitment in South Georgia is growing to this end. The path to a more Christlike world has many challenges to be addressed. With a loving focus on Jesus Christ combined with our faith in God, we believe the best is yet to come.

DIAGRAM OF STUART AUDITORIUM



- AWF: Section 4, Rows A-D
- Florida: Section 6, Rows A-G
- Holston: Section 4, Rows L-O
- Kentucky: Section 9, Rows A-C
- Memphis: Section 2, Rows M-N
- Mississippi: Section 5, Rows A-C
- North AL: Section 2, Rows A-D
- North Carolina: Section 4, Rows E-I
- North GA: Section 6, Rows H-N
- Red Bird: Section 4, Row K
- South Carolina: Section 8, Rows A-F
- South GA: Section 3, Rows A-C
- Tennessee: Section 7, Rows A-B
- Virginia: Section 2, Rows E-K
- Western NC: Section 8, Rows G-L

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- Bishops:** On platform
 - Judicial Council Members:** On Platform
 - Bishops' Spouses:** Section 1, Rows D-E
 - Staff of Episcopal Offices:** Section 1, Row F
 - Press & Photography:** Section 1 or 10
 - General Boards/Agencies/Special Guests:** Section 10