2013 Annual Conference Session
North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church

June 11-13 | The Classic Center | Athens, Georgia
Bishop B. Michael Watson, presiding
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2013 Annual Conference Session Handbook

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Connection is one of the great things about The United Methodist Church. We United Methodists have a common direction and a shared mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are at our best when we work together.

The image of a bridge perfectly symbolizes our shared direction and, most importantly, signifies two-way travel.

That’s why North Georgia has named a major mission initiative “Bridges.” The conference has established long-term international connections to Methodists in El Salvador, the Bahamas, Russia, Portugal, the Philippines and Africa. Action Ministries offers a bridge to service in our communities and World Methodist Evangelism offers us an avenue to spread Jesus’ name around the world. Each of these connections represents a long-term commitment, a well-planned set of mission opportunities and represents a true partnership.

This year, we will focus annual conference on the commitments and connections outside of our buildings and celebrate the partnerships –bridges to mission – around the world and to our communities.

Beyond the North Georgia Conference-wide Bridges initiative, the ministries of related agencies, institutions of higher learning, and conference offices are also building bridges to mission.

The 2013 Annual Conference logo tells the story in three ways:

- We may be members of the North Georgia Conference, but the globe represents our parish: the whole world.
- The arrows point in the general direction of the six international bridges that we have already established and the homes of the international delegations joining us at Annual Conference this year.
- The third element, the people – men and women, young and old, as colorful as the rainbow – are linked together, hand in hand all the way around the globe. None of us is alone. All of us are connected.
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Welcome to the 2013 session of our North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We will joyfully share in worship, spiritual nourishment, church family reunion and conference ministry planning.

It is a delight to be together in the newly renovated and enlarged Classic Center in Athens for the 147th Annual Conference session, and we are grateful to the Athens-Elberton District Host Committee and The Classic Center staff for their excellent preparations. Their hospitality always blesses the conference.

Our conference theme this year is “Bridges to Mission.” Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In a truly Wesleyan spirit we are seeking to engage our world parish, and we rejoice to welcome many of our mission partners from around the globe.

As baptized Christian leaders we are called to witness in word, deed and sign so that everyone may know Jesus Christ as Lord. We are gathered as leaders in the church. Our task is to remind each other of our call to ministry and to encourage each other to exercise leadership in our own way according to the gifts and graces given to us. Ours is a missionary faith with an evangelistic zeal.

Our special offering this year will go for the support of our conference Bridges to Mission efforts including Portugal, Russia, the Bahamas, El Salvador, the Philippines, East Africa, World Methodist Evangelism and Action Ministries. Our morning devotions each day will again be led by outstanding laity within our annual conference.

It is wonderful to share in the ministry of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to answer God’s call!

Grace and peace,

B. Michael Watson
Dear Members of the 2013 Annual Conference,

On behalf of the Athens-Elberton District and host committee, welcome back to Athens! We are excited you are coming our way once again to strengthen The Connection and establish Bridges to Missions! Annual Conference will begin with the Laity Orientation and Clergy Executive Session at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, and end Thursday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. All forms and information about the conference will be available on the conference website, www.ngumc.org or in this handbook.

Remember, each member to the 2013 Annual Conference is responsible for his or her own lodging reservations.

♦ A list of area hotels is on the website (see above). Be sure to mention to the hotel that you will be attending the North Georgia United Methodist Annual Conference. They have special rates to offer.

♦ If you made reservations last year, confirm them and verify the nights of stay.

♦ PLEASE cancel any reservations you do not plan on using.

♦ If you need assistance, direct your questions to the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 706-357-4433.

Using the Parking Permit, complimentary parking is available at the Classic Center, in the county parking deck across from the Classic Center, and in the UGA North Campus deck. Enter the North Campus deck from the entrances on Thomas Street or Jackson Street, but be aware that the shuttle to and from the Classic Center only picks up at the THOMAS STREET entrance. Additional handicapped parking is available at covered meters. Regular street parking meter fees and fines extend until 10:00 p.m. and are strictly enforced.

Athens downtown is filled with a variety of restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the Classic Center. As in past years, breakfast and lunch vendors are available at the Classic Center. All meal event reservations (i.e., Laity; Retiree; Order of Deacons; Extension Ministry; Local Pastor; and Clergy meals) must be made on-line by June 3. Tickets will be distributed at a designated location at the Classic Center.

Along with Bridges to Missions, our mission project this year will be the American Red Cross blood drive, Tuesday, June 11 and Wednesday, June 12, from noon to 5 p.m. A Red Cross registration link will be on the website.

Again, welcome. May you feel blessed by having been here in the Classic City. May God’s will prevail as we attend to the work of the church.

Gary L. Whetstone, District Superintendent
Dianne Morrison, Lay Co-chair, Host Committee
Leon Jourolmon, Lay Co-chair, Host Committee
Chuck Hodges, Clergy Chair, Host Committee
Kathy Whitaker, Lay Leader
Agenda
147th Session of the North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 11 - 13, 2013
The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia

Theme: “Bridges to Mission”

Location of reports within the agenda are subject to change.

Sunday, June 9, 2013
TBA  AV load in
2:00 pm  Cokesbury set up begins – Oconee 2
TBA  Volunteer meeting
4:00 pm  Assembly – supplemental materials in tote bags – High Shoals

Monday, June 10, 2013
8:00 am  Prayer Room and labyrinth set up – Empire
8:00 am  Display set up - Oconee and Willow
9:00 am  Connectional Table – Athens First UMC
11:30 am  Extended Cabinet lunch – Parthenon 1
12:00 pm  Organ set up – Grand Hall
12:00-5:00 pm  Extended Cabinet Meeting – Athena C – D
1:00 pm  Registration set up begins – Foundry Building
3-6 pm  On-Site Registration begins
          On-Site Payment stations begin
          Laity – Cypress 1
          Clergy – High Shoals 1

Tuesday, June 11, 2013
6:30-10 am  Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room
7:00 am  Breakfast for Tuesday’s presenters – Parthenon 1
7 am-9 pm  Prayer Room – Foundry Bldg Empire
7:00 am  Extension Minister Breakfast – Athena
7:00 am-4:30 pm  Concessions open – Atrium
7:30 am  Service of Holy Communion – Foundry Bldg Empire
7:30 am  On-Site Registration continues
          On-Site Payment Stations continue
8am-7 pm  Cokesbury Bookstore – Foundry, Oconee 2
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>Rehearsal for communion servers – Grand Hall</td>
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<td>Blood Drive – Firehall</td>
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7:30 pm  Session Two – Theatre  
Service of Ordination/Commissioning  
Preacher: Bishop Rodolfo A. Juan  
Manila Area, Philippines  
Offering – Annual Conference Expense  
Ordination Reception following worship – Atrium  

Co-hosted by the Board of Ordained Ministry and  
UM Connectional Credit Union  

Wednesday, June 12, 2013  
6:30-10 am Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room  
6:30 am Housing and Homeless Council 5-K Fun Run  
7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Wednesday’s presenters – Parthenon 1  
7 am-9 pm Prayer Room – Empire  
7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Foundry Bldg. Empire  
7:30 am-4 pm Concessions open – Atrium  
7:30-6 pm Displays – Foundry  
7:45 am Gathering Music –  

8:15 am  Session Three – Grand Hall  
Call to Order – Bishop Watson  
Music  
Morning Devotion  
Prayer  
Pension and Health Benefits  
Musical welcome: El Salvador  
El Salvador - Bridges to Mission  
Musical response  
Consent Agenda – to present  
Standing Rules – to present  
Conference Com. on Nominations – to present  
Musical welcome: Philippines  
Philippines - Bridges to Mission  
Musical response  
Recognition of Retirees  
Passing the Mantle Liturgy  
Announcements  
Prayer  
12:15 pm Adjournment  
12:00 pm Blood Drive – Firehall
1:45 pm  Pre-service music

2:00 pm  Session Four – Grand Hall

Service of Remembrance
Preacher: Jamie Jenkins
  Director, Office of New Church Development
Annual Conference Offering:
  Bridges to Mission
Call to Order – Bishop Watson
Prayer
  Musical welcome: Portugal
Portugal - Bridges to Mission
  Musical response
Committee on Episcopacy
  Musical welcome: Russia
Russia - Bridges to Mission
  Musical response
Declaratory Judgment Task Force
Simpsonwood
Wesley Woods
Announcements
Prayer
5:15 pm  Adjournment

5:15 pm  Bridges to Mission:
  UMW/UMM assembly project – Grand Hall Pre Function

7:00 pm – Session Five

Bridges Presentations I: 7:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
  -Bahamas
  -East Africa Conference, Kenya
  -El Salvador
  -Philippines
  -Portugal
  -Russia

Bridges Presentations II: 8:00-8:45 p.m.
  -Bahamas
  -East Africa Conference, Kenya
  -El Salvador
  -Philippines
  -Portugal
  -Russia
Thursday, June 13, 2013

6:30-10 am  Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room
7:00 am  Bishop’s Breakfast for Thursday’s presenters – Parthenon 1
7am-6 pm  Prayer Room/ Labyrinth – Foundry Bldg Empire
7:30 am  Service of Holy Communion – Empire
7:30 am  Concessions open – Atrium
7:30 am  Displays – Foundry Building
7:45 am  Gathering Music

8:15 am  **Session Six – Grand Hall**

- Call to Order – Bishop Watson
- Music
- Morning Devotion
- Prayer
- New Church Development
- Conference Board of Laity
  - *Musical welcome: Action Ministries*
- Action Ministries - Bridges to Mission: local
  - *Musical response*
- Connectional Ministries
- Conference Personnel Policy & Practices Committee
- Equitable Compensation
- Treasurer’s Report
- CFA
- Churches of Excellence in Outreach
- Constitutional Amendments
  - *Musical welcome: World Methodist Evangelism*
- World Methodist Evangelism - Bridges to Mission
  - *Musical response*
- Consent Agenda – remove items or vote
- Announcements
- Prayer

12:15 pm  **Adjournment**

2:00 pm  **Session Seven – Grand Hall**

- Call to Order
- Prayer
- Georgia UM Commission on Higher Education
- Black College Fund intern
- Housing and Homeless Council
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| Preacher: Bishop Watson | 27 |
| **5:15 pm** Adjournment | 28 |
2013 Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite business during the annual conference session by adopting reports to be included in the Conference Journal without verbal action by the annual conference. Many of the following reports indicated by number, name of agency and page are offered as the 2013 Consent Agenda. These reports will be accepted by consent of the Annual Conference unless they are removed from the Consent Agenda on Wednesday, June 12, during Session Three. Please read the reports carefully prior to that session. Reports removed from the Consent Agenda will be presented for conference action on Thursday, June 13, Session Seven.

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<td>*Wesley Woods</td>
<td>157</td>
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## 2013 Consent Agenda, Continued

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<td>500</td>
<td>*Conference Board of Laity</td>
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<td>501</td>
<td>*United Methodist Men</td>
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<td>502</td>
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<td>*Africa University</td>
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<td>601</td>
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<td>*Drew University Theological School</td>
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<td>603</td>
<td>*LaGrange College</td>
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<td>604</td>
<td>*Order of Deacons</td>
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Registration and Assistance Committee

The Registration and Assistance Committee provides name badges to all persons attending annual conference. It also distributes and collects reimbursement forms for persons eligible for financial assistance.

Registration begins Monday, June 10, 3 – 6 p.m. and continues Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 7:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Registration is located in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building at the Classic Center: Laity – Cypress Room Clergy – High Shoals Room.

Registration

There are four styles of name badges. Appropriate styles of North Georgia Conference name badges are necessary for participation within the Bar of the Conference. Badges list name and indicate voting status within the conference. We recycle the plastic name badge holders. Do not place stickers on holders.

1. Top bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.
   - Deacons or elders in full connection (active or retired)
   - Leave categories eligible to vote: Voluntary Leaves of Absence (personal, family, transitional) (¶354), Sabbatical Leave (¶352), Maternity or Paternity Leave (¶356), Medical Leave (¶357)
   - Provisional members who have completed all their educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership – with the new wording of ¶35, deacons and elders who have been elected to provisional membership, but not yet commissioned, are eligible to vote.
   - Associate members, active or retired
   - Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election.

2. Bottom bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.
   Laity: Local Church Lay Members – ¶251.1
   District At-Large Lay Members – ¶32
   Diaconal Ministers – ¶32
   Deaconesses – ¶32
   Members by virtue of current conference or district position ¶32
3. Cross and Flame only – eligible to vote on all matters except general and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots, constitutional amendments, character/conference relations of clergy:
  - Clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence (¶355.7)
  - Local Pastors who do not meet the criteria listed above in Number 1

4. Vertical Bars – non-voting participants

1. Clergy:
   - Student local pastor – ¶318.3
   - Affiliate members – ¶334.5; ¶344.4
   - Supply pastors – ¶16.2
   - Clergy serving on honorable location – ¶359.2
   - Clergy on administrative location – ¶360.3
   - Clergy from other conferences /denominations
     serving in North Georgia – ¶346.1

2. Lay members:
   - Local church reserve and district at-large reserve members

3. Guests
   - Clergy spouses (including surviving spouses)
   - Candidates for ordained ministry (not under appointment in North Georgia during the 2012-2013 conference year)
   - Agency, staff, etc.
   - Other guests

Financial Assistance

Persons eligible for financial assistance must complete and submit a reimbursement form to Val Bligh prior to the close of the 2013 annual conference session. A check will be mailed within 30 days. Reimbursement forms received after June 13 cannot be processed.

A. Eligibility. Financial assistance is offered for the following:

1. Retired clergy not serving churches, retired clergy serving churches whose compensation does not exceed $6,000 per year.
2. Widows or widowers of clergy persons who are not married to persons designated in #1 above.

B. Assistance Guidelines.

1. Travel. One round trip to conference site at rate of $.28 per mile.
2. Lodging and Meals. Maximum of three (3) nights lodging and three (3) meals per day at a maximum TOTAL of $50 per day.
3. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement.
2013 Information for Conference Members and Visitors

Annual Conference Registration
The online process helps conference members register for annual conference, make reservations for meals, order the 2013 North Georgia Conference Journal, pay the $30 Annual Conference registration fee and all meals requiring payment. No reservations or payment for meals will be accepted at annual conference.

Online registration: click on the orange registration button at this location: http://www.ngumc.org/ac2013register.

On-site registration: Monday, June 10, 3–6 p.m.; Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. and Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 a.m.–noon, Foundry Building Lower Level, Classic Center

Lay – Cypress Room; Clergy – High Shoals Room
Pick up name badges at either Lay or Clergy registration sites listed above. Meal tickets are available at a centralized location in the Lower Lobby of the Foundry Building. Payment stations for cash, check or credit card are available in registration areas on Monday, June 10, 3–6 p.m.; Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wednesday 7:30 a.m.–noon

The Conference Special Offering for 2013: Bridges Partnerships
This 2013 Annual Conference Special Offering will be used to support the North Georgia Conference “Bridges” mission partnerships. The greatest need of North Georgia’s six international mission partners is for assistance in leadership training. Your gifts this year will go toward providing training in El Salvador, The Bahamas, Russia, the Philippines, Kenya and Portugal.

You are encouraged to give generously to bring training to the “next level” for our mission partners. Place a check in your church offering plate made out to your church with “Bridges” in the memo line. A representative from your church will then present a check from your congregation during a special Annual Conference worship service on Wednesday, June 12, 2:00 p.m.

Annual Conference Web Site
Information on the 2013 annual conference session is available on the North Georgia web site: www.ngumc.org/ac2013. Daily audio and video streaming is available from 2:00 p.m. on June 11 through 5:15 p.m., or the close of conference, on June 13, 2012.
**Blood Drive**
The Red Cross blood drive is scheduled in The Classic Center Firehall, 12:00 noon–5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 11 and Wednesday, June 12. Make your appointment at: www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: ngaconf, or call Athens Red Cross office, 706-424-9025, ext 224.

**Cokesbury Book Store**
The Cokesbury Book Store, located in the Foundry Building Oconee 2, offers a selection of books and church supplies for sale.

**2013 Conference Journals**
The 2013 Conference Journal can be ordered on the conference website www.ngumc.org/journal or during annual conference in the Classic Center Foundry Building Lobby. Orders with payment can also be mailed to: North Georgia Conference, Attention: Journal, Box 102417, Norcross GA 30368-2417. Cost: $40 print version; $20 digital CD version.

**Concessions**
Concessions located in the Lower Lobby of The Atrium open at 7:30 a.m. Lunch can be purchased 11 a.m.–2 p.m. in The Atrium and the 130 Foundry Building Plaza.

**Day Camp and Child Care Providers in Athens**
Check the North Georgia Conference website www.ngumc.org for a list of Athens-area child care and day camp providers compiled by the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB). Neither ACVB nor the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church evaluates, advocates, recommends, guarantees or warrants any of the childcare providers as listed, and neither ACVB nor the North Georgia Conference (UMC) or their agents shall be liable for any reasons, conditions, situations or injuries relating to the actions of any such provider or agency. Parents and/or guardians are responsible for selecting caregivers appropriate to the needs of their child(ren) and are solely accountable for any conditions, situations, injuries or accident resulting from contractual day care agreements during annual conference 2013.

**Displays**
Display tables are an extension of reports presented at the annual conference session. The displays interpret and celebrate the program ministries of the annual conference. Various conference boards, committees, commissions,
councils, teams and related agency displays are located in the Foundry Building lobby, Oconee and Willow rooms.

Family Restrooms
The Classic Center family restrooms are located on the upper and lower floors of the Foundry Building. Baby changing stations are located in the men’s and women’s restrooms located near the Athena Ballroom and the Grand Hall. Baby changing stations are also located in the women’s restrooms on each level of the theatre lobby and near the Olympia Room. Location of space for nursing mothers is available at the Information Center.

Gluten-free Communion Elements
Gluten-free communion elements are served for worship.

Housing
Members make and confirm housing arrangements directly with hotels in the area. Information is on the North Georgia Conference website http://www.ngumc.org/ac2013register or call the Athens Convention/Visitors Bureau, 706-357-4410 or 800-653-0603.

Information Center
The information center is located in The Classic Center at the top of the escalators. Messages are placed on a display board and emergency messages are displayed electronically in the Classic Center Grand Hall. The telephone number for the message center is 706-357-4513.

Language Translation
Audio interpretation for Spanish and Korean is available in the Grand Hall. Please contact the appropriate person by Wednesday, June 5.
Spanish: Juan Quintanilla, 678-533-1388, jquintanilla@ngumc.org
Korean: Hyo Kim, 678-533-1448, hyokim07@gmail.com

Mission Project – UMCOR Cleaning Kit Assembly Wednesday, June 12
Conference members are invited to bring supplies and help assemble UMCOR cleaning kits on Wednesday, June 12, 5:45 p.m., in the hall outside the Grand Hall facing Foundry Street.
Drop off supplies in the hall outside the Grand Hall facing Foundry Street beginning Monday, June 11.
UMCOR Cleaning Buckets enable people to begin the overwhelming task of cleaning up after a natural disaster, such as a flood, hurricane or tornado. UMCOR Cleaning Buckets may be the only supplies available soon after the disaster. The Conference UMW and UMM invite members of the Annual Conference to bring supplies and help assemble UMCOR cleaning buckets on Wednesday, June 12, 5:45 p.m., in the Atrium outside the Grand Hall.

Cleaning Bucket Kit Items Needed: 5 scouring pads, 7 sponges, 1 scrub brush, 18 cleaning towels, liquid laundry detergent (50 ounces), household cleaner (12-16 ounces), disinfectant dish soap (17-28 ounces), 50 clothes pins, clothes line (100 feet), 5 dust masks, 2 pair latex or rubber gloves, 1 pair work gloves, 24 roll of 30-45 gallon trash bags, insect repellant spray (6-14 ounces), and air freshener (8-9 ounce can). All items will be placed in a 5 gallon bucket which will be provided by Disaster Response Team for a $5.00 donation by the person packing the bucket.

Name Badge Lanyards
The conference thanks Wesley Woods Senior Living for providing the name holder/lanyards and all the volunteers for organizing distribution of the name badges. Please recycle the name badges for use next year.

Offering for Annual Conference Expense
The offering received during worship on Tuesday night, June 11, supports the cost of the 2013 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference

Parking and Transportation
Parking:
1. Complimentary parking for delegates will be available in parking spaces at the Classic Center, Court House parking deck and the UGA parking deck.
2. Only delegates with state handicap parking permits will be allowed on the bridge leading to the Classic Center parking deck.
3. Annual Conference parking permits must be displayed so they can be seen in all parking spaces for free parking. The UGA parking deck will accept either a parking permit or a nametag.
4. The upper deck at the Classic Center will be reserved on Wednesday, June 12 for retirees. The bridge entrance will be closed to through-traffic until noon on Wednesday only.
5. Level one of the Classic Center parking deck will be used for non-conference parking all week during the conference.
6. The bridge to the parking deck will be closed each evening after conference is adjourned beginning Monday night through Thursday night during the conference.

7. Parking at the Classic Center is during the hours of the event. No overnight parking is allowed. Your vehicle may be towed if left overnight.

8. Spaces are reserved for persons with handicap permits during registration on the flat lot behind the 130 Foundry Street building.

9. The spaces in front of the theatre will be reserved for church vans and emergency vehicles.

10. Parking is strictly enforced Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. On-street parking rates are 75 cents per hour.

Transportation:

1. Church vans will be used to transport delegates to and from the UGA parking deck and the Classic Center as needed from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. They will load and unload in front of the theatre and the lower level of the UGA parking deck on North Thomas Street.

2. Anyone in need of transportation during the conference may go by the information center or call 706-357-4513.

3. Foundry Street will be closed all week and a police officer will be on duty all day starting Tuesday until the conference ends on Friday.

Prayer Room/Labyrinth

The Conference Prayer Room, located in The Foundry Building of The Classic Center, Empire Room, is open 7 a.m.–9 p.m. beginning Monday, June 10, 2013. A labyrinth will also be available daily in the Conference Prayer Room for personal prayer and meditation following morning Holy Communion. The labyrinth is a path of prayer, a walking meditation, and a ‘watering hole for the spirit’ that has been used in the Christian church since the 4th Century. The labyrinth is provided by Harmony Grove UMC in Lilburn.

Prayer Walk

During the lunch break on Wednesday, June 12, and Thursday, June 13, walk around downtown Athens. Walk for your own health and to pray for the community. Walk at your leisure.

Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® - Oak Room, Foundry Building

Your Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits invites all HealthFlex members to take the Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® during annual
conference. The screening is available in Oak Room, Foundry Building. Times are available from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 11–Thursday, June 13. You will be evaluated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid disorders, anemia or excess iron, and prostate cancer. Results will be mailed directly to you.

It is highly recommended to make on-line appointments during May. Limited walk-in appointments are available. Twelve hour fasting is requested. Bring your HealthFlex insurance ID card. Active participants and spouses can earn $100 each in HealthCash for taking the health screening.

Registration Fee
Standing Rule E.7. states a $30.00 registration fee shall be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired clergy and youth members are exempt from the assessment. Members may pay the registration fee online at http://www.ngumc.org/ac2013register or onsite at lay and clergy registration in the Foundry Building.

Request for Video Duplication
Duplicated DVDs are not available for the 2013 Annual Conference Session. Please log on to www.ngumc.org/2013ACVIDEO for viewable and downloadable segments and celebrations of the 2013 annual conference.

Special Annual Conference Offering
The special Annual Conference offering for mission supports Bridges for Missions. Bring 2013 mission offerings to the Service of Remembrance at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 12.

Walk/Run – 7th Annual North Georgia Conference 5K Walk/Run
The 5K will begin at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12. The race route starts on Washington Street near the Classic Center and follows a route through downtown Athens and along the river, ending behind the Classic Center. The 5K benefits the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council. There will be no race day registration. You may register with active.com (with an additional fee) or at http://www.nghhc.org/5K.html. There will also be registration and shirt pickup on Tuesday, June 11, at the Housing and Homeless Council display in the Foundry Building. We also welcome sponsors for the event and phantom runners who get a shirt but do not run. Contact Virginia Tinsley at virginia.tinsley@ngumc.net for details or information.
Safety
Please be aware that Athens is an urban city. Use caution after dark, do not
walk alone or leave valuables visible in parked/locked cars.

Special Needs and Medical Care
Direct special needs requests to the Information Center located in the Classic
Center at the top of the escalators.
First aid and medical care is located in the lower level escalator lobby
during sessions held in the Grand Hall. First aid is located in the Theater lobby
main level for the evening service on Wednesday. Contact the Message and
Information Center for directions or assistance.

2013 Annual Conference Session Survey
The North Georgia Annual Conference Planning Committee would like to hear
your feedback concerning your experience of the 2013 Annual Conference
Session. Please take a few minutes to fill out a brief survey found at

Tote Bags - Handbook Supplemental Reports
Supplemental reports are provided in a packet of materials at registration. The
conference thanks The United Methodist Children’s Home for providing the
tote bags and all the volunteers for collating the materials into packets.

Wireless Internet Access
Unsupported wireless internet service, available throughout the Classic Center,
is now password protected. The password is available at the Conference
Information Desk. Wireless internet is not available in the Grand Hall because
of interference with live streaming.
Downtown Athens
On-street metered parking carries 1-2 hr. limits
Cars are regularly ticketed. Please do not use. Please
do not park in the on-campus UGA lots except for the
UGA North Campus Parking Deck on Jackson Street

130 Foundry Street
The Foundry meeting rooms are in the
building behind The Classic Center and
beside the main parking deck.
Displays and Registration are located there.

The Reserved Handicap parking will be
located on the bridge between the
Theatre and the News building. This
is reserved at all times and requires an
official state Handicap permit.

Shuttles will run from the
East Campus Street side of The UGA parking deck
and the front of the Classic Center during the
morning and the afternoon sessions of the conference.
No shuttles will run during the evening except for
emergencies which may be requested at the Information
Center

P
Delegate Free parking
(walk to Classic Center)
Permit must be displayed

PP
Delegate Pay Parking
(walk to Classic Center)

RP
Free Reserved Handicap Parking
(walk to Classic Center)
State Permit must be displayed

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Shuttle stops
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<td>Firehall – Tuesday and Wednesday</td>
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<td>Board of Ministry</td>
<td>Parthenon 2</td>
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<td>Business Sessions</td>
<td>Grand Hall – Lower level</td>
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<td>Clergy Executive Session</td>
<td>Theatre – Tuesday</td>
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<td>Clergy Registration</td>
<td>Foundry Building High Shoals 1</td>
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<td>Concessions 7:30 am-4 pm</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
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<td>Concessions lunch-11am-2pm</td>
<td>Atrium &amp; Outdoor Plaza</td>
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<td>Foundry Building, Oconee 2</td>
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<td>Displays</td>
<td>Foundry Building, Lobby, Oconee, Willow</td>
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<td>First Aid – Daytime</td>
<td>Grand Hall – Lower level escalator</td>
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<td>First Aid – Tues. Evening</td>
<td>Theatre Lobby</td>
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<td>Handicap Parking (permit)</td>
<td>Classic Center Bridge – Thomas St entrance</td>
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<td>Information Center</td>
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<td>5K Run</td>
<td>Washington Street</td>
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<td>Journal Sales</td>
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<td>Tote Bag Assembly</td>
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<td>Theatre and Grand Hall</td>
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Meals and Gatherings
2013 North Georgia Annual Conference

Monday, June 10, 2013
12:00 pm Cabinet Lunch – Parthenon 1
6:00 pm Order of Deacons Dinner – Athens First UMC
7:00 pm Youth – Athens First UMC, Youth area
8:00 pm Young Adult Kick Off, Two Story Coffee House

Tuesday, June 11, 2013
7:00 am Breakfast for Tuesday’s Presenters – Parthenon 1
7:00 am Extension Ministry Breakfast – Athena ABCD
7am-4 pm Concessions – Atrium
11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Atrium
12:15 pm Clergy Luncheon – Athena EFGHIJ
Sponsored by LaGrange College
12:15 pm Young Adult Lunch – Your Pie Pizza, 350 East Broad St.
5:15 pm Clergywomen’s Dinner – Parthenon 1 & 2
Following Ordination - Ordination Reception – Atrium
Co-hosted by the Board of Ordained Ministry and
UM Connectional Credit Union

Wednesday, June 12, 2013
7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Wednesday’s Presenters – Parthenon 1
7:00 am UMW Breakfast – Athena BCEF
7am-4 pm Concessions – Atrium
11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Atrium
12:15 pm Retired Ministers Luncheon – Athena A-F
12:15 pm Young Adult Lunch – Fuzzy’s Taco Shop, 265 North Lumpkin St.
12:15 pm Local Pastor Lunch – Parthenon 1 & 2
5:15 pm Candler School of Theology Dinner – High Shoals
5:15 pm United Methodist Ministers’ Fellowship – Athena F-J
5:30 pm Asbury Theological Seminary Dinner – Athena E
5:30 pm Duke Divinity Alumni Reunion Dinner – DePalma’s Italian Cafe
5:15 p.m. UMW/UMM assembly project:
Grand Hall 7-8 hallways/ Foundry Street side
9:00 pm Youth Pizza – Athens First UMC
**Thursday, June 13, 2013**

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<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Bishop’s Breakfast for Thursday’s Presenters – Parthenon 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7am-4 pm</td>
<td>Concessions – Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Concessions – Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>New church development Hispanic Latino Luncheon– High Shoals</td>
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<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Laity Luncheon – Athena IJ</td>
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<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Clergy Spouse Luncheon – Parthenon 1 – 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Christian Educator’s Fellowship – Porterhouse Grill</td>
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<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Reconciling Ministries Network – Hilton Garden Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Young Adult Lunch – Clocked, 259 W. Washington St.</td>
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**Youth:** The Youth Delegation (and any who would like to join the youth) will gather before each meal break by the stage in the Grand Hall where the youth delegates sit and will travel together to meals. Please feel free to join the youth and their leaders at any of these gatherings.

Additional meals are scheduled by various groups. Please check directly with each sponsoring group for information.
Responsibility of the Clergy Members of the Annual Conference

Each clergy member has the responsibility to:
1) Attend pre-conference orientation session held in his/her district.
2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of his/her district superintendent.
   Attendance is not optional. “Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2012 Book of Discipline, ¶ 602.8.)
3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2013 Conference Handbook and discuss with his/her lay member(s).
4) Read pre-conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Prior to annual conference, consult with his/her lay member(s) so that he/she might understand the various reports and their implication for the life of the Church. Keep in mind that the lay member(s) as well is/are obligated to express views and vote as each feels is best.
5) Participate fully at the annual conference and help in policy-making decisions.
6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
7) Serve as interpreter of the annual conference actions along with the lay member. (2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 251.2).

Responsibility of the Lay Members of the Annual Conference

It is an honor to be elected as a lay member to the North Georgia Conference. This is an assignment of great responsibility. By virtue of this office, he/she is also a member of her/her church’s council (¶ 252.5.g), finance committee (¶ 259.4), and the pastor parish relations committee (¶ 258.2.a). (2012 Book of Discipline.)

Each member has the responsibility to:
1) Attend pre-conference orientation session held in his/her district.
2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference. When he/she must be absent from the conference every effort should be made to see that the alternate lay member is able to be present.
3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference Standing Rules as printed in the 2013 Conference Handbook.

4) Read pre-conference reports in the Conference Handbook provided at the district pre-conference session and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Consult with the pastor and church lay leader. While the lay member is obligated only to use his/her own best thinking in the conference, the dialogue with others ahead of time should prove helpful in clarifying issues.

5) Participate fully in the work of the annual conference policy-making decisions.

6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.

7) Prepare report for his/her local church. This report may be presented at a Sunday morning worship service and/or a more detailed report at a meeting of the administrative board/council. In either case it should be done as soon after annual conference as feasible, and “not later than three months after the close of the conference” (¶ 251.2, 2012 Book of Discipline). Consult with his/her pastor before conference about scheduling and time limit. The North Georgia Advocate, conference handbook, the NGC web page www.ngumc.org, handouts received at annual conference, and personal notes on the sessions can be used as a basis for the report. Mention major issues raised and any action and how they might affect the local church. Refer to conference preachers and share highlights from worship services. Do talk about the positive aspects of the conference. Try not to dwell on the trivia.

Parliamentary Guidelines for Participation at Annual Conference

1. The presiding Bishop is the “chair” of the conference.

2. To address the conference: raise your hand until recognized by the chair; move to the microphone as directed; state your name, the name of your local church, and whether you are a lay delegate or clergy delegate.

3. To request a conference committee review the business currently under consideration: after recognition by the chair, state: “I move that the item currently before the conference be referred to …” (state the name of the
committee to which you think the matter should be referred or request referral
to a committee to be recommended by the chair).

4. **To request clarification of business being conducted**: after recognition by
the chair, state: “I request a point of information/clarification regarding …
(state the specific clarification you seek).

5. **To change the wording of a resolution, or business item, that is before
the conference**:
   a. Write down the specific wording of the proposed amendment/change,
      include handbook page and line number.
   b. Raise your hand for recognition. When recognized by the chair, state the
      reasons for your proposed amendment/change.
   c. After recognition by the chair, say, “I move to amend Line______, on page
      ___ by: (deleting or inserting) the following words: . . .” Read only the exact
      wording proposed. **Have a written copy of the amendment ready for the
      conference secretary immediately after the motion is read.**
   d. The chair will ask for a second, state the motion and ask for discussion.
   e. Other persons may be recognized to discuss/debate the motion. The motion’s
      presenter is allowed a final chance to speak for the motion.
   f. After “the question is called” and discussion is closed, the motion is voted
      on by the conference.
Annual Conference 5K Run/Walk
Wednesday, June 12 – 6:30 a.m.

The 7th Annual Conference 5K will benefit the North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council. More information is at www.nghhc.org. We also need sponsors and volunteers!

Registration and Shirt/Number Pickup
Entry fee is $20.00. Mail-in registrations must be received by Friday, June 7. Make checks payable to “North GA Conference UMC.” Please mark “5K Race” in memo. Mail registration form and entry fee to Virginia Tinsley, 4105 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta GA 30345.

Registration and shirt/number pickup will be Tuesday, June 11, at the Housing and Homeless Council table in the Classic Center between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

No race-day registrations will be accepted, but pre-registered runners may pick up shirts and numbers on the top level of the Classic Center near the top of the escalators between 6:00 and 6:25 a.m. on race day.

Not able to run or walk the course that morning? Be a Phantom Runner! Support a good cause and get a shirt!

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Official Entry Form

( ) I plan to Run/Walk in the 5K  ( ) Phantom Runner
Name ____________________________________________________________Age ___DOB______Sex _____
Address: City/State/Zip__________________________________________
Email ________________________________________________________
Race Day T-shirt Size (Circle): Adults: S M L XL XXL

Waiver: in consideration of acceptance of this entry, I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against officials and sponsors of the North Georgia Conference 5K Run/Walk for injury or illness which may result directly or indirectly from my participation. I further state that I am in proper condition to participate in this event. I hereby grant full permission to the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church to use photographs, video recordings, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

___________________________ _____________________________
Runner’s Signature       Parent or Guardian (if runner is under 18)
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PARKING PERMIT

for Members of the
North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church

JUNE 11-13, 2013
ATHENS, GA

To display: fold in half and place on dashboard of vehicle

This permit must be displayed for
Annual Conference Free Parking
AND
Special Rates at the
Annual Conference Pay Parking Decks
See maps in Handbook
[Page intentionally left blank]
The Conference Special Offering for 2013:
Bridges Partnerships

Each year the Conference Special Offering is gathered and used to advance the saving message of Jesus Christ. This year the offering will be used to support Bridges To Mission.

The Bridges project has been designed to assist our local congregations wanting to reach beyond their own walls. The underlying assumption is our conference churches want to be in mission, but moving into new areas, near or far, can be daunting in myriad ways. To make the paths of mission smoother and more accessible, the conference has identified areas in the world where God is at work in powerful ways and established clear and reliable networks for people, groups and churches to follow. The intent has been to lower the threshold of complication while raising the likelihood of connecting to what God is doing in the world.

Many of our churches are heavily involved in missions now and we celebrate those efforts and encourage them to continue. At the same time, we recognize that not every church is in world mission, and those that are may consider recharging the mission energies with new and/or additional paths of service.

Speakers and bishops, pastors and leaders from each of the eight Bridges are in attendance during our annual gathering this week. You will have an opportunity not just to hear them, but meet them and talk about ideas and ways to connect you and your church, or class or small group to a new possibility of global missional outreach. The opportunities range from dozens of initiatives right here in North
Georgia through Action Ministries, to six specific locations in various continents, and to the entire world through the World Methodist Evangelism Institute.

The loudest cry from our international partners is for assistance in leadership training so their clergy and laity can better meet the needs of the people in their communities. Many of the leaders attending training events we’ve participated in have traveled for days at a time just to learn. Their travels are often a combination of walking, bike riding and hopping bus after bus. Wouldn’t it be a precious gift to offer well equipped teachers, safe lodging and appropriate meals at a cost that is manageable for those hungry for knowledge and willing to give that much energy to attend? Your gifts this year will go a long way toward making training a real possibility.

Each congregation is encouraged to do three things:
- First, receive a special congregational offering prior to annual conference.
- Second, write a church check for the full gathered amount, (make out to the North Georgia Annual Conference, with the words "Bridges To Mission" in the memo line.)
- Third, bring the check to annual conference and have a representative from your congregation present the check at the Service of Remembrance at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12.

You are encouraged to give generously to bring learning and development to the “next level” for our mission partners. You are further challenged to find one specific Bridge Partner (or more), connect with them, go and participate personally in this effort to equip the saints doing God’s good work in nearly any corner of the world.
Bridges to Mission: Bahamas

The Methodist Church of the Bahamas is a thriving and robust organization spread out over small islands, a unique and distinctive setting. The mission arm is called Methodist Habitat (not related to Habitat for Humanity or Bahamas Habitat). Bahamas Methodist Habitat is the disaster relief and emergency home repair outreach ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church through which volunteers work together to repair and build homes for low-income families in the Bahamas. The goal is to improve the living conditions and lifestyle for families in need in the Bahamas, while offering transforming experiences for volunteers and homeowners alike, all the while sharing and receiving the love of Jesus Christ. Volunteers return home with an expanded view of the world and an inspiration for creating ways to be involved in their own communities.

This Bridge enjoys a special appeal to youth groups and young adult teams, but is very open to any age or interest group. For the past four years teams of youth from North Georgia have ventured to the islands and worked to repair all manner of concerns—spiritual and physical. The proximity of the Bahamian Islands, the temperature, and the lack of a language barrier, all make missions to this part of the world inviting, relative to places further away, which add to cost and complexity.

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is well organized and ready to help you or your small group to join in meaningful and memorable ministry.

For more information contact Sam Halverson at sam.halverson@ngumc.net.
Bridges to Mission: East Africa

The sheer size of the geography of the East Africa Conference is breathtaking, and the complexities and possibilities for the work of Christ are equally as large. We have a sizable number of opportunities in this portion of Africa that are located in different countries. Currently we are linking to work in Kenya and considering new avenues of service and connection in areas of providing clean water, training of United Methodist clergy and lay leaders, and an emerging need to help with reaching, training and supporting youth ministry.

Through a relationship with Start With One Kenya (SWOK) this missions opportunity is focused on changing one life at a time by building foundational infrastructure, promoting independence and sustainability, nurturing human dignity, training of clergy and church leaders, and throughout it all, sowing the love of Jesus Christ. This ministry effort places emphasis on the importance of clean water, water filter distribution, brick making and the building of homes, schools and relationships in Nakuru, Kenya.

For more information, contact Will Zant at will.zant@ngumc.net, Blair Zant at blair.zant@ngumc.net, or Tonya Lawrence at tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net.
Bridges to Mission: El Salvador

The Bridge to El Salvador is alive with many dynamics and many options for service. This new conference has 11 Methodist congregations, and they are outgrowing their ability to serve.

They have dynamic young leadership who serve with passion and zeal, and they are looking for how to expand, how to structure for growth, and how to help clergy grow their congregations rather than seeking funds from abroad. This approach reflects our aim in all of our Bridge partners: equipping them to lead in their own contexts with their own styles. To accomplish this, there is a hope for more training, and additional facilities to accommodate learning, growth and encouragement.

If you are interested in engaging mission and ministry in Latin America, this is a grand place to begin. It’s close and less costly than some other partnership, plus friendlier people are hard to find.

If you would like more information, contact Carol Cook, carol.cook@ngumc.net, Jim Lowry at jim.lowry@ngumc.net, or Juan Quintinilla at jqiintanilla@ngumc.org.
Bridges to Mission: Moscow

Moscow is a bustling first-world city that is rich with history and teeming with deep and long standing traditions. The Bridge to Moscow has two faces.

One face is academic and largely engages teaching and student exchanges between the Moscow United Methodist Seminary and Candler and Gammon here in North Georgia.

The other face is local-church oriented and engages us in matters of new churches, youth and young adults, scholarships for seminary students, and endowing a new faculty chair at the seminary.

Another key development is re-training current clergy to adapt to the new realities of Protestant life in a largely Russian Orthodox nation. Full time clergy positions are no longer the norm in their present political landscape and they are seeking help in how to become bi-vocational and more entrepreneurial as they grow into their mission fields.

This is a challenging mission field if for no other reason than the simple fact that it's difficult to get approval even to go, let alone make the long journey. However, it is well worth the effort as you can meet wonderful people of God, United Methodists with warm hearts and a stirring passion for Christ lived and Christ taught.

If you are interested in finding a way to teach evangelism that inspires youth and young adults, or training new and emerging pastors on how to blend church leadership with business acumen, there is plenty to engage here.

If you are interested in this Bridge, contact Mike Selleck at mselleck@ngumc.org.
Bridges to Mission: Philippines

The United Methodist Church in the Philippines is teeming with energy, passion and purpose for Jesus Christ. There are 11 conferences in that country, and the Manilla conference alone is huge (10 million people live in that city.) Methodism is deeply established there and the leadership is excellent and experienced. The challenges for the church in the Philippines are many but extreme poverty is a root cause: 25 percent of Filipinos get by on less than $1 a day.

The United States of America and the Philippines have had a close relationship with one another for over a century. Prior to 2012, the Manila Episcopal Area (MEA) of the Philippines Central Conference did not have a relationship with any Annual Conference in the United States.

We are currently developing several areas of mutual ministry. Among them are:

• Medical and dental mission teams serving the poor in urban and rural environments;
• Working with a UM group in Manila committed to helping local churches live out its identity as the embodiment of Christ’s love among the poor in metro-Manila, especially with children;
• Working with those who are victims of human trafficking and the sex trade both in the Philippines and Atlanta;
• Working with MEA leaders to establish vital and life-changing United Methodist campus ministries on no less than seven major universities in metro-Manila;
• Working to strengthen the leadership skills of the pastors and deaconesses in MEA through continuing education opportunities on the campus of Philippine Christian University;
• Developing a cross-cultural Clinical Pastoral Education experience with Mary Johnston Hospital, a UM affiliated hospital in downtown Manila.

Churches or individuals interested in participating in the Philippines Bridge should contact Herzen Andone at herzen.andone@ngumc.net for more information.
The Portuguese Methodist Church has a long and storied history. Brought originally by British soldiers who were stationed there in John Wesley’s time, it has risen and fallen over the past several hundred years. Some years ago, the Methodist church was healthy and deeply connected to education. Most every Methodist church was yoked to a school and the relationship between the church and classroom was a mainstay for the community, the parish and the pastors. Due to complications, the laws of the land were modified and the schools were removed from the Protestant churches. This left the congregations in an identity crisis that affected their vision, finances, buildings and their communities.

Over the past several years the primary Protestant churches have had to join together under an umbrella of inclusiveness and mutual support to survive and carry on. They are not without resources or possibilities. The healthier churches are now finding ways to replace the schools with “solidarity” centers, what we would call “community” centers. These buildings, often contiguous to the churches themselves, offer a range of resources and support to their community: pre-school, hostel rooms, dining halls, coffee rooms and even apartments for retired persons. While they are slowly finding their new footing in ministry to their communities with excellent leadership and committed laity, there is a desire to know more about how to minister evangelistically to the people in and around their churches. There are 14 Methodist congregations in Portugal. Several are served by pastors of other denominations because there is great difficulty identifying and training new pastors or advancing the skills of current pastors. This Bridge is nascent and our connection with them is not like anything they have ever done before. We are the first western mission partnership they have ever had.

Your church can partner with the Portuguese Methodists to help develop new worship spaces, rehab old ones, and to meet their most specific request -- connections to other congregations for prayer support, encouragement and occasional resources such as books and supplies as needed.

If you are interested in connecting with a pastor, a congregation, and being in support of a newly emerging partnership that is going “where God leads,” this is a great place to begin.

Contact Dana Everhart at dana.everhart@ngumc.net for information.
Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On April 30, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 865 Yes, 50 No (Calendar Item 211, DCA p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶ 6, Article VI, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶ 6, Article VI)) amend by addition as follows:

After “it will” add “pray.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 6 (¶ 6) would read:

Ecumenical Relations—As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will pray, seek, and work for unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches and united churches related to The Methodist Church or The Evangelical United Brethren Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 731 Yes, 181 No (Calendar Item 205, DCA p. 2430). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.
In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “shall meet” delete “in the month of April or May” and after “duly authorized committees.” add a new sentence, “The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 14 (¶ 14) would read:

The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.

A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III**

On May 3, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 618 Yes, 306 No (Calendar Item 54, *DCA* pp. 2672-73). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.
In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, Article I, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, Article I) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “director of Lay” delete “Speaking” and add “Servant”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:
The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

AND
Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 848 Yes, 57 No (Calendar Item 207, DCA p. 2431). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, Article I, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, Article I) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete the first two words, “Changes in” and following “episcopal areas” delete “may be effected” and add “shall be determined” and after “and the central conferences” add “The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:
The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

100a. Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The United Methodist Church
Voted General Conference April-May 2012

I. (¶ 6) The proposed amendment acknowledges God’s action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

II. (¶ 14) The proposed amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.
III. (¶ 32) The proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the spiritual gifts of the laity.

IV. (¶ 40) The proposed amendment gives the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

101. Candler School of Theology

Candler School of Theology prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 478, with 365 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 30 the Master of Theology, 18 the Doctor of Theology, and 15 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 10 percent international, and 50 percent women. Half of MDiv students are United Methodist, with 43 denominations represented in all programs. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 27, with 58 percent under 30.

Candler remains steadfastly committed to making theological education financially feasible, dedicating nearly $5 million to financial aid. Eighty percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 66 percent of tuition.
Construction preparations for the second phase of Candler’s new building got underway at the end of 2012 thanks to an extraordinary gift of $15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation. The new building, which will house Pitts Theology Library, community space, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel, will be completed in late spring of 2014 in time for Candler’s Centennial Celebration. Candler’s phase one building was named in memory of Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation’s namesake, in honor of its generous financial gift.

Candler had an excellent presence at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa. In addition to my attendance, Associate Dean Anne Burkholder took a class of 20 students so they could learn firsthand about United Methodist governance. Mathew Pinson and Alice Rogers attended as delegates, and the Candler Singers, directed by Barbara Day Miller, performed at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry reception and the plenary session.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 19 academic exchanges with theology schools across five continents and 15 countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, this year’s travel seminars included the Middle East and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to Zimbabwe, Peru, and Israel.

Our public events supported our commitment to strengthen the church by offering opportunities for clergy and lay people to hear fresh, new voices. Last fall we hosted Christian activist and bestselling author Shane Claiborne for two major addresses, “Jesus for President” and “Resurrection Church,” with nearly 1,000 in attendance. Our Spring Conference, “The Singing Church,” gathered experts to lead an exploration of the best practices and emerging trends of congregational song.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

Jan Love, Dean
102. Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of six historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world’s premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman’s Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world’s largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religious Education, the Master of Arts in Church Music, the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Pastoral Counseling, and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). There are also a number of dual degree programs offered in cooperation with seminaries and schools in the Atlanta Theological Association. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

Because of the support of this annual conference, Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had an exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Included below are just a few examples of how this historic institution of the church has lived out its mission and furthered its vision:
1) In last year’s report to this annual conference, we shared the great news of Gammon enrolling its largest entering class on record in the fall of 2011. This record was shattered as Gammon enrolled an even larger first year class in the fall of 2012. In fact, under the leadership of the current president, Albert D. Mosley, Gammon has experienced over an 80% increase in enrollment, and the average age of entering students continues to be younger and younger. Gammon is privileged to serve as a training ground for the next generation of prophetic leaders who will engage in the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

2) In August of 2012, Gammon hosted its first ever Racial Justice Institute, which is a component of the Gammon Center for the Study of Religion and Race (a program funded by a generous grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race). Over 35 college students, professors, social activists and community leaders from around the country gathered for a week-long intensive immersion experience that explored issues of health care reform, unemployment, affordable housing, immigration policy and marriage/gender equality. The Racial Justice Institute concluded with a very successful Immigration Reform Rally on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol using GCORR’s theme – “Drop the I-Word: No Child of God is Illegal.” The Racial Justice Institute enabled Gammon to continue its great work of addressing issues of cultural competency, advocacy and education in areas that further racial justice and equity.

3) This past fall, in advance of the 2012 presidential election, Gammon launched a comprehensive voter registration/voter education campaign in the Atlanta University Center. This campaign enabled Gammon students to register students at Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark-Atlanta University, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. In addition to registering over 500 previously unregistered college students, Gammon also sponsored a series of Issues Sessions that were designed to enlighten voters about the prevalent social, political and economical issues in advance of their participation in the election process.

Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this annual conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God’s church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.
Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! Since returning from Tampa last May, GBHEM staff has been busy with two initiatives assigned to the Board by the 2012 General Conference — the Young Clergy Initiative and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund.

In addition to these two major new initiatives, here are some other ways GBHEM is working hard to resource our church:

- GBHEM’s Division of Ordained Ministry trained group candidacy mentors for 32 annual conferences, and about 1,000 BOM members, BOM staff, dCOM members and district superintendents in ministry legislation for the new quadrennium. Webinars of some trainings are posted at www.gbhem.org/bom/webinars.

- Work began on the Young Clergy Initiative with a summit held in Nashville. Staff are surveying data about young clergy, mentoring, and debt; and also considering forming partnerships, sharing best practices and creating or supporting pilot programs to test what works.

- The Commission on Central Conference Theological Education meets August 25-29 in Copenhagen. The commission will set the policies and procedures governing disbursement of funds from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund.

- Africa University just celebrated its twentieth anniversary and is launching a major new fundraising campaign to ensure its financial independence. Since its founding, more than 4,000 AU graduates are changing the face of Africa.

- More than 560 college students, campus ministers and chaplains attended Imagine What’s NEXT last fall, an event which focused on helping students consider the next faithful steps for their vocations, communities, churches and the world.

- For the 2012-2013 academic year, GBHEM’s Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded 2,204 recipients a total of $4,803,604, all accomplished while converting to a new loans and collections software. Read more at www.gbhem.org/loansandscholarships.

- For the first time, an issue of Interpreter magazine was devoted to a single topic — United Methodist higher education. The March / April 2013 issue chronicles the commitment of the denomination to education, with a special emphasis on students.
• Planning is well underway and registration is open for Exploration 2013, a three-day event for young adults age 18-26 to hear, discern and respond to God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. The event will be held in Denver, Colorado, November 15-17. Read more or register at [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration).

• GBHEM is collaborating with GBOD to raise $30,000 to buy 100 electronic books preloaded with text for professors and students at the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia. Donate online at [www.gbod.org/ereaderproject](http://www.gbod.org/ereaderproject).

• Training materials for annual conference BOMs, presentations from a churchwide sexual ethics summit and a lecture by a well-known civil rights activist are among the materials now available through the UMC Cyber Campus, part of the new UMC Learn Portal. See the presentations at [www.gbhem.org/umccybercampus](http://www.gbhem.org/umccybercampus).

Terri Hiers, Executive Director, Office of Interpretation

104. Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Ministry

United Methodist campus ministries across the state of Georgia create bridges from our local United Methodist churches to college campuses. These bridges allow students to stay connected to the church during an intense transformational time. During college, students are asking important questions about the world and their role in it. By examining their past and plotting their future, these students are taking critical steps toward a new life. It is important that the church walk alongside them on this transformational journey.

Your apportioned dollars have helped to build the bridge between the church and campus. Although no campus ministry is solely funded through apportionments, this giving is a vital resource for being the church on campus. The Commission on Higher Education understands its role as a steward of this money and takes careful steps to ensure that our campus ministries are effectively reaching out and ministering to students throughout their college journey.

The money that our local United Methodist churches give for our campus ministries is also an investment in the future of our church. Students who stay connected to their faith while in college grow into mature and dynamic leaders in our churches. While in college, many serve as youth directors, worship leaders, camp counselors, etc. Upon graduation, these students become our trustees, missions chair and even our pastors.
Currently about half of your apportioned dollars for higher education provide vital support to 18 Wesley ministries which connect to 21 college and university campuses across the state. These include: Berry, Columbus State, Emory, Fort Valley State, Georgia College, Georgia Regents (Augusta), Georgia Southern, Georgia Southwestern, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State, Macon Area Foundation (Mercer, Middle Georgia (Macon), and Wesleyan), North Georgia, Savannah district schools (Armstrong Atlantic, Savannah State, Savannah College of Art and Design), University of Georgia, University of West Georgia, and Valdosta State. The other half of your apportioned dollars supports seven of our United Methodist colleges and universities which include: Andrew, Oxford, Clark Atlanta, LaGrange, Reinhardt, Wesleyan and Young Harris. Thank you for your support.

Leigh Martin, President

105. Georgia Pastors’ School

“Turning Points in the Life of Jesus” was the theme for the 2012 Georgia Pastors’ School held July 23-26 at beautiful Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. The 2012 Georgia Pastors’ School was one of the most well attended in many years as clergy from the North and South Georgia Annual Conferences gathered to hear members of the staff of Explorations in Antiquities examine the historical context of Jesus’ ministry; as well as the preaching of Timothy Tennent, President and Professor of World Christianity at Asbury Theological Seminary. Each speaker offered inspiration to the attendees.

The Board of Managers is also very pleased to announce the theme for the 2013 Georgia Pastors’ School will be “Preaching: Different Voices, One Word.” Faculty will be J. Ellsworth Kalas, the former president and current Beeson Distinguished Preacher in Residence at Asbury Theological Seminary, and James Howell, senior pastor of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, NC and adjunct professor of preaching at Duke Divinity School. The preacher for 2013 will be Bishop Violet L. Fisher, retired bishop of the New York West Area. The 2013 Georgia Pastors’ School will be July 22-25.

The theme for the 2014 Georgia Pastors’ School will be “Elements of Worship.” Marsha McFee will have a significant role in leading the 2014 Georgia Pastors’ School and the Board of Managers will announce the rest of the leadership for 2014 and make a significant announcement about 2015 at Georgia Pastors’ School 2013.
We affirm the presence and our care of families at Georgia Pastors’ School. Nursery, children’s programming and youth programming will be led by the leadership team from The Chapel UMC and will be available during all lectures and worship services. Georgia Pastors’ School is a time for clergy families to worship, study and relax together. With all the stresses that face pastoral families, the Board of Managers wants to do everything possible to make the experience of Georgia Pastors’ School an outstanding event that ministers to clergy and their families in addition to providing continuing education units from prominent faculty in their fields.

To conserve resources and manage school funds efficiently, registration forms are no longer mailed. Register online at www.georgiapastorsschool.org. Room reservations can be made through www.epworthbythesea.org. We look forward to what God will do at the 2013 Georgia Pastors’ School and beyond.

J. Michael Finn, Co-Chair, South Georgia Conference
Kathy Lamon, Co-Chair, North Georgia Conference

106. Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

At the heart of the existence of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation is a desire to help United Methodist churches, entities and individuals sow seeds of faith for future generations. We do this by encouraging faithful stewardship through our offerings, which include:

- **Planned Giving Services** to help churches create long-term financial stability through planned gifts and legacy ministry webinars.
- **Investment Services** to manage and grow funds entrusted to us.
- **Lending Services** to extend low-interest loans to churches and entities wishing to refinance debt, or build, expand or renovate their facilities.
- **Fundraising Services** to assist churches and entities with capital and debt reduction campaigns.
- **Endowments** to establish a permanent source of income to support programs and ministries.
- **Grants and Scholarships** to support vital ministries and future leaders of the Church.

As a nonprofit organization with a vision of serving the Church, our ministry goals include:
• encouraging and equipping each United Methodist church and ministry to implement a planned giving program,
• partnering with United Methodists to grow God’s kingdom for the transformation of the world,
• strengthening the financial resources of The United Methodist Church,
• maintaining high Christian and professional standards, and
• providing expert counsel, superior value and a wide range of stewardship services.

Please call the Foundation at 770-449-6726 or 877-220-5664, visit www.gumf.org or www.gumfplannedgiving.org or email info@gumf.org for assistance with your stewardship needs.

Kermit R. Griner, Jr., Chair
Charles W. Savage II, President
Wayne Racz, Senior Vice President

107. Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

On June 25, 1913 the first conference was held at Lake Junaluska, NC. Several thousand people attended the event focused on raising awareness and money for the missionary movement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Despite having no lodging facilities, no completed dam, but a nearly finished auditorium, the participants were deeply inspired and gave generously for the work of the church. In today’s dollars $3.5 million was raised for missions. What a wonderful beginning that was for this amazing place that has served the United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies for 100 years. We have much to be thankful for and hopeful for as we celebrate our centennial year.

How grateful we are for the partnership we have had over the years with the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church and with the annual conferences associated with it. We began as a place to serve the church and we continue to do so today. While the relationship between Lake Junaluska and the SEJ continues to evolve, we are excited about our ability to continue to strengthen the UMC through fulfilling our mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body. Thank you for the generous support provided to Lake Junaluska over these 100 years with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your witness.

The highlight of 2012 was the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in July as the delegates selected five new bishops of the United Methodist
Church. 2012 was a very good year for us financially. While we received $750,000 less in operational apportionment support than we did in 2009, we ended the year with a balance of nearly $100,000. The main message we tried to convey to the delegates was that we have been good stewards of the resources that were provided. One symbolic and functional reflection of our mission of renewal was the presence of 100 new Lake Junaluska branded rocking chairs spread throughout the campus.

The future is very bright for Lake Junaluska. We balanced our budget in 2012 and believe we can continue to provide high quality service and experiences while living within our means. We have a renewed commitment to Christian hospitality. Our vision document states that we want to be the standard against which other organizations measure themselves for Christian hospitality.

The Board of Directors approved a campus master plan that will include an addition to and renovation of historic Lambuth Inn, renovation of Jones Dining Hall, renovation of the Terrace Hotel, and replacement of the Harrell Center. We will add a conference center to the north side of Lambuth that will accommodate up to 400 people. We hope to break ground on this project in 2013 with completion in 2015. Another event occurring in 2013 may be the transfer of municipal services from Lake Junaluska Assembly to the town of Waynesville. This transfer is being pursued as a culmination of a yearlong process engaging all property owners and the leadership of the SEJ. The “DNA” of Lake Junaluska will not be changed as a result of this transfer, formally known as annexation.

Jack Ewing, Executive Director and CEO

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108. United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union

2012 was another great year for your credit union. We continued to enjoy growth in membership and assets and our capital base remained strong. We also took a giant step and made the decision to change our credit union's name to United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union. Your board and management feel that this name better reflects the entire membership as it stands today and includes all of our members whether they are located in Georgia, Florida, Alabama or anywhere throughout the U.S.

Our other achievements include:

- Completed entry into social media and now present on Twitter and Face Book.
• Revamp of our web site to better reflect our new name and updated products and services.
• Four $1000.00 college scholarships were awarded to members ages 17 - 24 of the Florida, North Georgia, South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida Conferences.
• We continue to stay involved in community affairs throughout the areas we serve participating in golf tournaments, gifts to children's homes and much more.
• We have seen an increase in the number of members participating in all of your Credit Union's planned activities.

Of course, we once again have to thank our staff for all of the great work they continue to do. I also want to thank my fellow board members and the other volunteers who helped make 2012 another great year for your credit union. Most importantly, however, I want to thank you, our members, for continuing to do business with your credit union.

Throughout the years, your Board of Directors has adopted strategies for short and long-term goals that insured our future development and growth. We will continue to do what is necessary to maintain this strong financial picture. And, by the way, I'd like to ask every member who reads this report and understands the value we bring to our members' financial lives to tell other eligible friends and family about us and encourage them to join.

We're Safe. We're Secure. We Are Your Credit Union!

James R. Mitchell, Chairman
### 108a. Credit Union Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/11</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$394,395.09</td>
<td>$435,151.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans To Members</td>
<td>$16,884,053.64</td>
<td>$16,579,189.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan Participation</td>
<td>$1,120,843.45</td>
<td>$1,321,960.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allowance for Loan Losses</td>
<td>-$148,411.60</td>
<td>-$122,087.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$7,610,766.09</td>
<td>$8,390,473.30</td>
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<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td>$74,422.08</td>
<td>$69,997.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Exp &amp; Defer Charges</td>
<td>$22,377.21</td>
<td>$23,265.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$549,716.59</td>
<td>$550,083.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Assets</td>
<td>$89,042.57</td>
<td>$89,042.57</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,597,205.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,337,076.77</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$191.71</td>
<td>$7,326.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividends Payable</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes Payable</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes Payable</td>
<td>$83.33</td>
<td>$148.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$40,015.53</td>
<td>$25,395.12</td>
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<td>Deferred Credits</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$6,033.49</td>
<td>$12,647.27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,324.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>$45,517.60</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shares of Members</td>
<td>$24,194,535.64</td>
<td>$24,834,218.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$682,937.04</td>
<td>$682,937.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undivided Earnings</td>
<td>$1,593,033.11</td>
<td>$1,673,408.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$80,375.27</td>
<td>$100,995.66</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,550,881.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,291,559.17</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Total Liabilities & Equity| **$26,597,205.12**       | **$27,337,076.77**       |
## Income Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/11</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Loans</td>
<td>$1,097,985.81</td>
<td>$1,109,538.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income on Investments</td>
<td>$48,277.85</td>
<td>$52,367.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees &amp; Charges</td>
<td>$123,467.75</td>
<td>$164,236.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operating Income</td>
<td>$61,314.57</td>
<td>$64,778.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,331,045.98</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,390,921.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/11</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>$387,610.84</td>
<td>$440,457.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$120,721.17</td>
<td>$135,157.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Conference</td>
<td>$60,845.35</td>
<td>$64,888.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Dues</td>
<td>$17,449.00</td>
<td>$18,018.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Occupancy</td>
<td>$44,030.20</td>
<td>$42,168.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Operations</td>
<td>$102,566.74</td>
<td>$113,672.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Promotion</td>
<td>$52,770.51</td>
<td>$59,647.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Servicing</td>
<td>$44,813.60</td>
<td>$35,064.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof &amp; Outside</td>
<td>$164,562.88</td>
<td>$188,591.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Loan Losses</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Insurance</td>
<td>$56,250.09</td>
<td>$13,531.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Operating Fee</td>
<td>$5,328.49</td>
<td>$5,999.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on Borrowed</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Short/Over</td>
<td>-$12.49</td>
<td>-$91.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
<td>$5,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$6,046.27</td>
<td>$4,520.99</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,073,985.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,140,925.81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/11</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income From Operations</td>
<td>$257,060.33</td>
<td>$249,995.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Before Dividends</td>
<td>$257,060.33</td>
<td>$249,995.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>$176,685.06</td>
<td>$148,999.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain/(Loss) on Assets</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$80,375.27</td>
<td>$100,995.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
200. Board of Ordained Ministry Report

The duties of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry are outlined in Paragraph 635 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. Among the duties listed, the Board of Ordained Ministry has primary responsibility to enlist and recruit ordained clergy, to renew a culture of call in the church with special attention to youth and young adults, to create and maintain a program of mentoring for potential candidates for ordained ministry, to examine candidates as to their fitness for ordained ministry, to provide support services for ordained clergy, to provide means of evaluating the effectiveness of ordained ministers in the annual conference, to interpret the high ethical standards of ordained ministry, and to administer the Ministerial Education Fund. Highlights of this year's work of the Board of Ordained Ministry include the following.

- Gave special attention to the recruitment of youth and young adults into ministry through organization and participation in retreats aimed at helping young people discover their call to ordained ministry. Most recently, our conference joined with the South Georgia and Florida annual conferences to host *Summons to Ministry Weekend* at Epworth by the Sea in January. Over 100 inquirers, mostly young adults participated.
- Increased grants from the Ministerial Education Fund for seminary students who are certified candidates in order to reduce student indebtedness. The Board will consider an additional increase next year.
- Developed a new group mentoring process for inquiring candidates for ordained ministry. Inquiring candidates will participate in group mentoring rather than working with individual mentors beginning July 2013.
- Interviewed candidates for Provisional and Full Connection membership in the annual conference.
- Developed a proposal for a revised clergy continuing education policy of the annual conference (available in the conference handbook).
- Hosted Clergy Sexual Ethics seminars under the leadership of Tom Camp of the Samaritan Counseling Center in Athens. 1,136 clergy participated, thus fulfilling the 2011 mandated training for clergy.

Several significant items are under study, and the Board of Ordained Ministry will bring a report next year concerning the following potential changes.

- Revision of the protocols for the psychological evaluations of candidates for ordained ministry to offer tools that are more helpful to the candidate and the Board and to avoid expensive repetition of evaluations.
- Revision of the Residency program for Provisional Members of the annual conference to incorporate the General Conference's new fruitfulness in ministry project for Full Connection interviews and to address the expressed needs of residents in the program.
- Revision of the clergy evaluation process to utilize peer-reviewed research developed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry.
- Revision of the interview process for candidates for Provisional and Full Connection membership to streamline the process, making it more discerning for the Board and less stressful for candidates.
- In addition to its own work, the Board of Ordained Ministry partnered with Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Cabinet, and Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to project future needs for clergy supply related to numbers, skills, gifts and graces. The purpose is to measure potential financial commitment of the annual conference to clergypersons over the lifetime of their appointments and to seek solutions to the evolving needs for clergy in the conference.

As evidenced by this report, the Board of Ordained Ministry has taken a high altitude examination of its work with an eye toward effectiveness, efficiency and transparency. The Board of Ordained Ministry seeks to do its work in partnership with clergy, laity, the Cabinet and candidates. The Board invites your input.

The Office of Ministerial Services had significant personnel changes in September 2012. John Simmons was appointed to serve as pastor of St. James United Methodist Church (Atlanta) to replace Bishop Jonathan Holston, and Jane Brooks was appointed as the new Director of Ministerial Services and Executive Assistant to the Bishop. The Board thanks John for his faithful service and leadership. He led us well, and we are grateful. In addition, the Board expresses continued appreciation for Barbara Waits, the administrative assistant in the office.

 Glenn Ethridge, Chairperson
Jane Brooks, Director of Ministerial Services
200a. Policy on Clergy Ethics in the North Georgia Annual Conference

I. Purpose
A. Clergy as church professionals are in a position of great trust, power and responsibility. This provides the opportunity for unique relationships of grace and caring. Clergy sometimes violate the trust given them. Sexual misconduct is one of the gravest violations of this trust.
B. Incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment have been reported in United Methodist churches, agencies and institutions, including seminaries. It is both the ethical and legal responsibility of the Annual Conference to ensure that there are mechanisms for addressing grievances in matters of sexual misconduct.
C. The purpose of the Policy on Sexual Ethics is to ensure that fair and clear policies and procedures will be employed when someone is accused of misconduct.
D. Misconduct of a sexual nature within the life of the Church interferes with its moral mission. The North Georgia Annual Conference stands in opposition to the sin of misconduct of a sexual nature in the church and society at large and commits itself to fair and expedient investigation of any charge of sexual misconduct within the Church and to take action deemed appropriate and in compliance with the Book of Discipline. Further, the North Georgia Annual Conference accepts affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, male or female, which is free of misconduct of a sexual nature and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ.

II. Theological Foundation
A. All persons are created by God. In the Genesis stories, as in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is affirmed that we are created in the image and likeness of God. God values human life, intending all women, men and children to have worth and dignity in all relationships with God and others. God calls us into covenant with each other in God. We are one connected body, holy in Christ, created equal. Where one part of the body is injured, physically, emotionally or spiritually, the entire body is rendered less than God’s intended wholeness. We are called to use our bodies, including our sexuality, in a responsible way. Sexual misconduct of any kind violates a person’s integrity and is an unjust use of status and power, and a sinful behavior against God and one another.
B. The Old and New Testaments witness to a God who brings about justice and gives special care to those who have been wronged. The Church is
called to express God’s love in concrete actions of justice and compassion. Victims of sexual misconduct by clergy especially need and are entitled to the pastoral care, understanding and spiritual support of the faith community.

C. One who repents for sinful behavior is promised forgiveness. However, discipline should be distinguished from forgiveness. Clergy guilty of sexual misconduct need and may receive forgiveness and be offered avenues for redemption and change. And yet, the church must still take steps to protect the people of God.

III. Definitions

A. Sexual misconduct occurs when clergy engage in sexual conduct or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, etc. (adult, teenager or child) within the professional relationship. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment and any form of criminal sexual conduct.

B. The Social Principles, under ¶ 161.I of the 2012 Book of Discipline, defines sexual harassment as “any unwanted sexual comment, advance or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.”

C. For purposes of this policy, clergy as church professionals are elder, deacon, diaconal minister or local pastor whose appointment is set by the Bishop.

D. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have regular required Clergy Sexual Ethics Training. All appointed clergy shall be required to participate in Clergy Sexual Ethics Training during identified scheduled times in order to have continued eligibility for annual appointment (¶¶334.2d, 351.1, 340.2).

IV. Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Complaints of Sexual Misconduct

A. Anyone who desires to discuss a concern regarding sexual misconduct may contact their minister, another UMC minister, a district superintendent or the Bishop.

B. The provisions of ¶363, ¶413, ¶2701 and ¶2702 of the 2012 Book of Discipline shall determine the procedure.

C. All clergy of the United Methodist Church are charged to maintain all
confidences inviolate, including confessional confidences. However, in
conformity with ¶ 341.5 of the 2012 Book of Discipline of the United
Methodist Church, in those circumstances when knowledge of child sexual
abuse is required to be disclosed to state authorities, under the Official Code
of Georgia Annotated Title 19-7-5 enacted 2012, it is the policy of the
Annual Conference that clergy shall provide the same information to the
Bishop.

Revised 3/2013

200b. Continuing Education Standards and Guidelines

Rationale:

Book of Discipline - Paragraph 351.1, Continuing Education and Spiritual
Growth—Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education
for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in
order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus
Christ. This shall include carefully developed personal programs of study
augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual
growth activities.

Paragraph 334.2.d, Growth in professional competence and effectiveness
through continuing education and formation. The Board of Ordained Ministry
may set the minimum standards and specific guidelines for continuing
education and formation for conference members.

The North GA Conference Board of Ordained Ministry recognizes the
importance of continuing education for clergy. While the Book of Discipline
requires continuing education, the requirements are not clearly defined and the
Board desires to be clear and helpful regarding accountability so as to ensure
the completion of the appropriate amounts of continuing education credits.

It is the role of the district superintendent to review annually with the clergy
and the local church the needs and provisions for continuing education for
clergy. (¶351.5)

CEU/Credits: All clergy (elders, deacons, associate members, local pastors
serving full time) shall have at least four (4) CEUs per quadrennium.(Note:
One CEU, or continuing education unit, equals ten (10) contact hours of
participation in an organized continuing education experience in person or online.

**Reporting and Accountability:** A report with certificates, letters and other documentation of continuing education attached is to be included with the clergy’s charge conference report annually, in compliance with ¶ 351.5 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*. The district superintendent shall ask for the report. In addition, the district superintendents will review continuing education, past and future, as part of the annual ministry review. Staff/Pastor Parish Relations committees will be encouraged to discuss with the clergy his or her continuing education needs and establish a plan for providing time and financial support for those needs.

*Adopted by the Board of Ordained Ministry 3/11/2013*

**201. Board of Pensions and Health Benefits**

**201a. Pension Section**

Beginning 2014 annual conferences must choose the way they will sponsor the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), the current UM pension plan. The plan was amended by General Conference in May 2012 and continues to provide defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) components at church expense. Changes include

1) Reducing the DB benefit in both cost and benefit. These changes reduce NGA’s annual payment for CRSP DB by $1,170,000. Churches can expect a reduction in the CRSP DB cost for 2014.

2) Changing the DC to a partial matching plan requiring clergy to contribute at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP to receive the full 3% church contribution. Up to 2% will be contributed by churches where no personal contribution is made to by their clergy.

3) Choosing the service time increment required to be covered by CRSP by the annual conference. General Conference eliminated those serving at less than ½ time and mandated full-time. It is up to conferences to choose whether to provide coverage for ¾ and ½ time service. The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits (CBOPHB) recommends coverage for clergy appointed at ½ time or greater. Clergy appointed at less than full-time may still voluntarily waive out of the plan.
Many active clergy have pension due from previous pension plans of the UMC. Pension for service prior to January 1, 1982, referred to as Pre-82, is determined by the number of years of service multiplied by the Past Service Rate (PSR) approved by annual conference each year. The proposed PSR for 2014 is $698, a 1% increase over the 2013 PSR. Over 550 retired clergy or surviving spouses receive Pre-82 pension. Another 180+ active clergy will begin this benefit at retirement. Our current unfunded liability for this plan is approximately $25,000,000. (This does not include invested fund balances of approximately $8.2M which reside on the Conference balance sheet and are designated for this liability). By Disciplinary requirement the annual conference must approve an updated funding plan annually indicating full funding of our Pre-82 plan by 12/31/2021. Annual payments aimed at reducing Pre-82 pension liability are from apportionment Area II Retired Ministers Pension/Insurance. For 2014 the Pre-82 portion of this apportionment is budgeted at $3.5 million. The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) was the denomination’s plan from 1982-2006. Beginning 1/1/2014 clergy will convert exactly 65% of their MPP account to a lifetime annuity.

The North Georgia Conference sends a monthly bill and statement to local churches for pension and health benefits of covered clergy and lay staff (where applicable.) The conference must pay the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits (GBOPHB) for most benefits every month, making it incumbent on local churches to make apportionment and billing payments in a timely and consistent way.

201b. 2013 Recommendations

Recommendations of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to the 2013 Annual Conference

1. That the 2014 annuity rate for each year of service rendered by our clergypersons prior to 1982 (the PSR) be set at $698.
2. That the 2014 apportionments for past service pensions for retired clergypersons (pre-1982 pensions) and related benefits administered by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be set at $3,500,000.
3. That the annual conference approves the 2013/2014 Comprehensive Funding Plan recommended by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.
4. The annual conference adopt the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for clergy appointed ½ time or greater.
5. That the Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits remain in effect for 2014.
6. That the Optional Life Benefits (formerly BPP) agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits terminate December 31, 2013 in favor of a self funded benefit of the same amount ($10,000).
7. That the annual conference adopt the Resolution Related to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Ministers of the Conference, so as to designate the 2014 pension and disability payments as a rental/housing allowance for income tax purposes, within the limits of the Internal Revenue Code (see Resolution).

Morris Henderson, Chair

201c. Health Benefits Committee

Health Insurance
The North Georgia Conference health insurance is provided by HealthFlex which is administered by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). In addition to seeking the best insurance coverage for the most favorable rates, the program also encourages wellness practices.

In 2013, the North Georgia Conference offers two Healthflex options:
- The PPO B750 (P2) option is a “traditional” health plan that features a $750 deductible per individual and a $1,500 deductible per family.
- The Consumer Driven Health Plan (P2) features a $2,000 deductible per individual and a $4,000 deductible per family with $1,000 deposited into a Health Reimbursement Account ($2,000 per family).

Because of relatively small differences in cost, charged premiums are the same for both plans. In 2013, the active member rates increased less than 1%.

Health Care Reform (HCR) is changing the landscape of health insurance. Due to the evolving guidelines and regulations, the Health Benefits Committee has determined to maintain the current health insurance program for next year. In 2014, rates will increase approximately 4%. The committee will continue to evaluate options for the future.

2013 Incentives
The Health Benefits Committee encourages all members to be good stewards of their physical well-being. Through wise choices, we can enjoy healthy lifestyles
AND save money. Participants are called to be proactive partners in their healthcare and to take advantage of these steps:

- **Step 1:** Take the Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® biometric blood screening between April 1 and July 31. Primary participant and covered spouse can each earn $100 HealthCash if enrolled in Virgin HealthMiles.

- **Step 2:** Take the HealthQuotient online between August 1 and September 30 and avoid a higher 2014 medical deductible ($250 higher for individuals, $500 higher for families). Both the participant and covered spouse must complete the HQ.

- **Step 3:** Take action! HealthFlex encourages individuals to “take action” after receiving their screening and HQ results. Participants can earn up to $150 HealthCash for accumulating wellness points on the WebMD website.

**Virgin HealthMiles**

The Virgin HealthMiles walking program is continuing virtually unchanged. Participants have quarterly activity goals and can earn up to $150 in HealthCash annually.

**Ernst and Young**

The General Board is once again providing free, personalized financial planning assistance from Ernst and Young in 2013. Webinars are also offered periodically. The site can be accessed from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits web site at [http://www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org).

**Extend Health**

In 2013, the North Georgia Conference entered into a relationship with Extend Health for retiree health care elections. Retirees receive a maximum, annual amount of $3,600 per participant and $3,600 per covered dependent ($7,200 maximum per household) in a Health Reimbursement Account. The amount available is based on years of service using the following tiers:

- 35+ 100%
- 25-34 80%
- 15-24 60%
- 10-14 40%
- 1-9 0%

*Note that retirees and their spouses who retired before 2005 are “grandfathered” into the program and funded at 100% of the HRA.*
The committee recommends maintaining the same funding levels and service tiers in 2014.

**Retiree Medical Liability**
During the past quadrennium, the Retiree Medical Liability Task Force worked diligently to reduce the conference’s financial liability. The 2010 Annual Conference approved a supplemental cap of $5,000 per individual and $10,000 per family that decreased the liability by approximately $20,000,000. In 2012, the Annual Conference approved moving retirees and dependents to Extend Health. This has resulted in additional savings.

An actuarial report from Towers Watson reveals the Accumulated Postretirement Benefit Obligation (APBO) went down $4,262,725 from 2011 to 2012. Although the numbers are constantly changing, here is a snapshot of the situation as of December 31, 2012.

- $54,918,078 APBO
- $27,035,000 Assets towards liability
- $27,883,078 Unfunded liability

Finding a complete solution to the APBO is a complex equation. Variables include rising health costs, investment returns, new income sources, and more. The good news is that the financial liability has been cut almost in half during the past four years. However, a $27,883,078 liability remains.

**Life Insurance**
The Comprehensive Protection Plan provides active clergy with $50,000 in life insurance. In the past, the North Georgia Annual Conference has purchased an additional $10,000 policy through UMUM with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Currently, the premiums run about $25,000 annually. After a cost/benefit analysis, the Health Benefits Committee voted to discontinue the UMUM policy and to replace it with a self-funded program that provides the same benefit.

**A Note of Thanks**
I'm especially grateful for the great work of our benefits’ office staff, including Karen Fullerton, Valerie Henry and Val Bligh.

William R. Burch, Chair
201d. Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness®
Oak Room, Lower Level of the Foundry Building
Tuesday, June 11 – Thursday, June 13

Your Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits invites all HealthFlex members to take the Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® during annual conference. The screening is available in the Oak Room located on the lower level of the Foundry Buildings. Times are available from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday.

You will be evaluated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid disorders, anemia or excess iron, and prostate cancer. Results will be mailed directly to you.

On-line appointments made during May are highly recommended. Some limited walk-in appointments will also be available. Twelve hour fasting is requested. Please bring your HealthFlex insurance ID card.

Remember— active participants and spouses can earn $100 each in HealthCash for taking the health screening.

202. Commission on Equitable Compensation

202a. Commission on Equitable Compensation Guidelines
¶ 625.1. of The Book of Discipline 2012 provides that in each annual conference there shall be a commission on equitable compensation. The purpose of this commission is found in ¶ 625.2, where it states:" It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference. For pastors receiving equitable compensation, once the base compensation supplementation has been paid by the annual conference, and the minimum base compensation and base compensation supplementation has been received by the pastor, the annual conference shall
have no further financial obligation or responsibility to the pastor, the charge or anyone else regarding the pastor's compensation.

How this purpose is to be carried out can be found in the balance of ¶ 625.3-13. These guidelines detail how the North Georgia Conference will strive to accomplish this disciplinary task.

202b. Conference Arrearage Policy

In ¶ 624 entitled Payment Obligation of The Book of Discipline 2012 the language has been amended and new language added that explains the steps that should be taken when a church or charge is unable to pay any portion of the pastor(s) Full Compensation when it is due. ¶ 624.2. allows for each annual conference to establish an arrearage policy to deal with the situations that arise or that have arisen in the past. ¶ 625.2.d., entitled Equitable Compensation, also references the conference arrearage policy. Below is ¶ 624.1. where it states:

"Each church or charge has an obligation to pay the full compensation as approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the church or charge SPRC chair, finance chair, or treasurer, shall immediately notify, both in writing and verbally, the pastor, district superintendent and congregation. This communication shall indicate all avenues explored to meet the salary, including requesting consideration for a short-term emergency subsidy grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund."

The Commission of Equitable Compensation proposes that the North Georgia Annual Conference approve the following Arrearage Policy in accordance with ¶¶ 624.2. and 625.2.d of The Book of Discipline 2012.

Proposed Policy:

We recommend that any church that is unable to pay its pastor’s salary and/or benefits when due, must notify the appropriate district superintendent within 24 hours of making that determination. Notification can include telephone call and/or email. Upon receipt of such notice, the district superintendent will notify the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation of the issue for its expeditious disposition.

Further, churches which are in arrears to the Annual Conference with respect to benefits payments will be reported in the Annual Conference Handbook and Journal as “churches receiving equitable compensation.” These specific churches will be reported based on the following methodology:

1. Benefits balances "greater than 180 days" at the end of the current year to the end of the previous year.
2. Any church whose "greater than 180 days balance" increased based on item (1) will be reported as a “church receiving equitable compensation.”

3. Funding for such churches will be provided via the Equitable Compensation Fund, and will equate to the annual estimated net benefits premiums for each respective church. (“net benefits premiums” is defined as the aggregate difference between estimated annual premiums and the aggregate premiums amounts paid in the previous year for the reported churches)

4. Churches with benefits arrearage paying above minimum cash compensation have 18 months from January 1, 2014 to pay benefits in full or reduce base salary to minimum cash compensation.

202c. Conference Pastors Payment Recommendations
The Commission on Equitable Compensation continues its long standing recommendation that all pastors be paid in advance. Furthermore, we recommend that upon the first of each month that any payment(s) due to the conference office or other designated office(s) for the pastor(s) pension and insurance be paid as to not be in violation of ¶ 624.1. and the conference’s arrearage policy.

202d. Conference Standards for Pastoral Support
The Commission recommends the following items be included in the definition of Full Compensation and Pastoral Support for 2014:

1. Base compensation, which includes cash compensation payments, pension plan payments, payments to cover or assist personal Social Security taxes of the pastor and any other cash benefits paid to the pastor.

2. Annual Conference life and health insurance premium.

3. Provision for a parsonage or a housing allowance.

4. Reimbursement for travel/business expenses and continuing education, and any other expenses as may be required by the annual conference.

Note: Base compensation may be divided into salary and a utilities/furnishings allowance to minimize a pastor’s tax liability. Local churches should be familiar with Internal Revenue Service requirements for pastors receiving nontaxable reimbursement when establishing compensation.

202e. Minimum Cash Compensation
The Commission recommends the following minimum cash compensation for the Annual Conference in the year 2014:
Category | 2013 | 2014
--- | --- | ---
* Full Connection | $34,000 | $34,000
* Associate Member | $32,200 | $32,200
* Probationary member | $32,200 | $32,200
* Full Time Local Pastor | $29,200 | $29,200

* This amount represents the total of Sections I and II of the "Clergy Financial Support Worksheet" as found on the Conference website under the Office of Ministerial Services.

Local churches are expected to reimburse pastors for travel/business expenses and continuing education expenses under an Accountable Reimbursement Plan that complies with Internal Revenue Service regulations. These IRS regulations require reimbursements made outside an Accountable Reimbursement Plan to be reported as taxable income. The local church shall budget sufficient funds to meet the anticipated cost of pastoral travel and business expenses based on the most current year’s actual expenses or the amount determined with the pastor. The local church shall budget sufficient funds to meet the pastoral continuing education expectation of the Pastor (Staff)-Parish Relations Committee [(The Book of Discipline 2012 /258.2g(8))], which shall be no less than $800 annually.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends each church assess the economic condition of its community and consider increases as their economy warrants.

202f. Vacation Recommendations
The Commission recommends that all charges of the conference provide their pastor(s) annual vacation periods of at least the following schedule and make necessary financial arrangements for pulpit supply during the pastor’s absence from the pulpit. Guidelines for vacation periods shall be based on the credited year of service indicated in the Chronological Roll published annually in the Conference Journal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credited Years of Service</th>
<th>Vacation Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 years</td>
<td>3 weeks (including 3 Sundays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10 years</td>
<td>4 weeks (including 4 Sundays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 plus years</td>
<td>5 weeks (including 5 Sundays)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vacation shall be calculated based on the conference year July 1 – June 30.

202g. 2014 Equitable Compensation
The Commission recommends the following items be included in the Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan for 2014:
**Estimated Costs associated with a Full-Time Elder for:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Cash Compensation</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Housing allowance</td>
<td>$17,100</td>
<td>$17,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>$11,010</td>
<td>$8,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>$13,788</td>
<td>$14,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,898</strong></td>
<td><strong>$74,110</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) May be broken out between cash, utility allowance and parsonage-related allowances.

(2) Where parsonage is not provided.

(3) Actual cost may vary based on a variety of factors. The minimum cost for 2014 will be $8,526. The reduction from 2013 to 2014 is due to action of 2012 General Conference.

(4) This is the minimum amount for 2013. The 2014 amount is an estimate due to changes in health insurance caused by the Affordable Care Act.

**202h. Equitable Compensation Fund**

The Commission recommends that all full-time clergy, appointed to serve as Pastor-in-Charge, be eligible to receive grants from the Equitable Compensation Fund under the North Georgia Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan. Churches may not receive salary supplementation funds from both Church Development and Equitable Compensation. The Commission administers the Equitable Compensation Fund to assure each pastor receives a minimum compensation package approved by the Annual Conference (¶ 625.3 *The Book of Discipline* 2012). A local church that demonstrates the ability to maintain a full-time ministry may apply to the Commission of Equitable Compensation for a grant. We recommend that the North Georgia Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan provide for grants not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total equitable compensation costs (as outlined above) for the original grant.

The Bishop, Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation must approve any exception to the above Equitable Compensation guidelines on an annual basis and must request any additional funds over the original Equitable Compensation Budget from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration before an exception is made. The Commission shall report to the Annual Conference the charges and the clergy members receiving or who have received disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund during the past calendar year, including the number of years such funds have been disbursed to the charge and the clergy member.
The Commission will make disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund in accordance with *The Book of Discipline 2012*, ¶¶ 342, 624 and 625. By May 31 of each year the district superintendent must file with the Commission a list of standard supplement requests to be provided churches/charges in his/her district effective July 1-June 30. By November 30 of each year the district superintendent must file with the Commission any changes to the supplements for the period January 1-June 30.

The Commission will assemble advisory material including but not limited to IRS regulations, denominational resources, annual conference resources and such information helpful in understanding and establishing compensation in The United Methodist Church. The Commission will provide such material and/or consultants from the Commission upon request by district superintendents, committees on Staff/Pastor Relations or any event where such information would be beneficial in developing or maintaining an effective compensation package or program. The Commission will be responsible for making adequate requests from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration as needed for approval of budget and expenditures.

**202i. Evangelism / Stewardship Seminar**

Any church or charge receiving Equitable Compensation Funds from the annual conference will be required to attend a seminar dealing with, but not limited to, stewardship and evangelism. The pastor(s) will be required to be in attendance, with other key leaders of the church or charge. This seminar will be conducted by Connectional Ministries in conjunction with the Commission of Equitable Compensation.

**202j. Guidelines for Housing Allowance and Parsonage**

Every church must provide adequate housing for its pastor. The church or charge may meet this need by means of a parsonage or by providing a housing allowance sufficient to buy or rent a home in the area served by the church.

**202k. Minimum Requirements for Church-provided Parsonages**

While the Committee understands that many parsonages within the Annual Conference do not meet these new minimum requirements, it is expected that measures will be taken by the local church to bring their parsonage(s) within these requirements by 2016.

1. **Bedrooms:** The parsonage shall have at least four bedrooms of at least 120 square feet each with ample lighted closets in each. The master bedroom shall
have its own bath. It is recommended that the master bedroom be located on the main level. At least one bedroom and bath shall be on the main level.

2. **Bathrooms:** There shall be at least two full baths in the house. The main floor of the parsonage shall be handicap accessible.

3. **Kitchen:** The kitchen shall be large enough for family eating space or a breakfast nook as well as built-in cabinets, double sink, cooking range, self-cleaning oven, and frost-free refrigerator with a large freezer and ice maker.

4. **Climate control:** Central heat and air are required, along with storm windows and insulation to meet present day building codes. Storm windows and doors should be provided to conserve energy. Screens must be provided for all windows and doors.

5. **Study:** A study shall be provided either at the parsonage or at the church.

6. **Living/Dining Area:** There shall be a family room/dining room and/or a living room and separate dining room that may be used for entertaining. It is desirable to have a den or family room away from the main living room.

7. **Floor coverings:** The church shall provide proper floor coverings in the parsonage with either carpeting or hardwood flooring in living spaces and tiled or vinyl flooring in the kitchen and bathrooms.

8. **Window treatments:** The church shall provide blinds or shades for all windows. Curtains may be provided but are not required.

9. **Television:** Cable or satellite television connection should be provided. Service is to be paid for by the pastor.

10. **Telephone:** The telephone line must be private with jacks in at least the study, living area, and master bedroom.

11. **Wiring/Plumbing:** All wiring and plumbing must conform to present day codes and are to provide for present and future needs in order that all appliances and computer equipment may be used safely. All receptacles must be properly grounded.

12. **Security and Safety:** The church shall provide smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher. It is recommended that the church also provide a security system for the parsonage with the pastor paying for the monitoring services.

13. **Parsonage grounds:** Parsonage grounds should have foundation shrubbery, shade trees, and adequate yard space for children. It is recommended that the church provide lawn maintenance service for the parsonage; if not, a powered lawn mower must be provided for the parsonage. The mower should be a riding mower if the yard is larger than ½ acre. Maintenance of the mower is the responsibility of the church. A fenced play area is recommended.
14. **Garage/Carport and storage:** A two-car garage or carport shall be provided and a minimum of 120 square feet of outdoor storage space shall be provided.

15. **Insurance:** An amount of insurance equal to at least 80% of the replacement value of the parsonage and church-owned contents should be carried by the church (fire and extended coverage). The pastor should carry adequate insurance to cover the pastor’s family’s personal belongings and furnishings.

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## 2021 General Guidelines for Parsonages

### Guidelines for Privacy:

Although the parsonage is the property of the church, it must be understood that it is also the private home of the parsonage family. Courtesy dictates that the parsonage be visited only upon invitation by the parsonage family. Even the annual mandatory parsonage review and parsonage committee meetings must be scheduled with the parsonage family with at least a two week notice.

### Guidelines for Care of Property:

The parsonage family should take care of the house, furnishings, and property, making it a policy to leave them in good condition. Best results will be obtained as the parsonage family and parsonage committee work together, feeling free to discuss the needs with each other. It is understood that there will be a natural depreciation of property and contents which calls for repairs and replacements periodically.

### Guidelines for Parsonage Upkeep:

1. The church’s annual budget should include a parsonage fund equivalent to at least 3% of the value of the property for the purpose of repairs, maintenance, pest control, and insurance. Unused yearly funds should be placed in an interest bearing account to be used for capital expenses of the parsonage to include the future purchase of a new parsonage where the current does not meet minimum parsonage standards.

2. The parsonage family should be consulted in the selection of color schemes, window treatments, and equipment.

3. The parsonage should be kept well painted inside and out.

4. Every parsonage should have a parsonage book. The parsonage book is to be maintained by the parsonage family and should include all guarantees, repair parts lists, instructions for use of equipment, and an inventory of all church-owned contents. The book should also include a maintenance log which will list when and from whom items were purchased, who to call for repairs, when and by whom improvements were made, and any other information helpful to future
parsonage families. A pictorial record, preferably in video format, should be taken as soon as possible on or after each moving day. This record will be invaluable for insurance purposes in case of fire or other catastrophe. It also would serve as a record of the parsonage’s initial condition. An extra copy of the pictorial record and the parsonage book should be stored in a secure place away from the parsonage.

Guidelines for Pets:
Keeping animals outside the parsonage is recommended. It is understood, however, that family pets kept inside the home bring much comfort and joy. Therefore, if they are kept inside the parsonage, the following guidelines must be met:
1. The church trustees must be kept informed of any pet inside or outside the parsonage.
2. Only a domestic pet, which will be defined as a small dog, cat, caged bird, or aquarium fish can be kept in the parsonage. Guide animals are not to be considered pets. Any other animal requires the approval of the church trustees. Also, more than one indoor pet requires the approval of the trustees.
3. All damages incurred by any pet will be the responsibility of the pastor and will be reported to the church trustees and assessed. Payment for repairs should be immediate, but no later than moving day. Flea and tick treatment is required.
4. If pets are kept inside, the parsonage family must make an extra effort to thoroughly clean the parsonage to eliminate any evidence of pets having been present, which includes fleas, ticks, pet hair, pet dander, stains, excrements, etc.

Guidelines for Smoking:
It is recommended that there be no smoking inside a parsonage with the understanding that smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc., causes a residual odor to remain in carpets and walls in addition to being a health risk. All damage that is incurred will be the responsibility of the pastor.

Guidelines for Damages to Parsonage:
Any damages other than those which are due to normal usage shall be assessed by the chairperson of the parsonage committee and must be paid by the pastor prior to moving from the parsonage.

Guidelines for Utilities:
Arrangements should be made by the pastor with appropriate companies to prorate all utility bills up through moving day. The moving pastor should not have the utilities turned off. It is recommended that the church have the utility accounts in the church’s name with the pastor paying the amounts due for the utilities to the church a week prior to the due date. This will prevent any transfer issues arising from pastors moving.
Guidelines for Parsonage Updates:
All parsonages should be updated or renovated to conform as nearly as possible to the suggested minimum standards in these guidelines.

General suggestions for updating parsonages:
1. To enhance the relationship between the congregation and parsonage family, it is suggested that an “open house” be observed occasionally.
2. Periodic meetings with the parsonage committee should be held in the parsonage to discuss needed updates. Dates are to be agreed upon by the committee and the pastor. This is the suggested time to update the parsonage book. Copies of the parsonage book and the pictorial record should be kept by the pastor, parsonage committee chairperson, and on file in the church or a safety deposit box.
3. Discarded furnishings from church members should not be placed in the parsonage.
4. The pastor’s family is responsible for thoroughly cleaning the parsonage and grounds when he/she is moving. This is not the responsibility of the church.

Mandatory parsonage review guidelines:
1. A meeting concerning the parsonage will be conducted each year prior to charge conference.
2. This meeting will be held in the parsonage and will include a mandatory review of the entire parsonage—inside and out.
3. The attendance of the following individuals is expected: the pastor, the trustee chairperson, the parsonage committee chairperson, and the chairperson of the pastor/staff relations committee (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2533.4) If the pastor has a spouse, he/she should also be included.
4. The specific date can be set any time during the year, but it must be set at least two weeks prior to the church’s annual charge conference with all parties agreeing to the date set.
5. Even though this mandatory meeting takes place to satisfy a disciplinary requirement, it is recommended that other parsonage committee meetings be held to consider parsonage improvements and other concerns.
6. A parsonage report will be completed and signed by all in attendance at the parsonage review detailing the findings and recommendations made during the meeting. This report will be submitted to the district superintendent during the charge conference.
7. Any concern by either the pastor or church may be addressed at a later meeting. The district superintendent may become involved, if deemed necessary by either party.
8. Continual patterns of parsonage abuse will be documented and stored in each pastor’s file.

**Check lists:**

The checklist when vacating a parsonage shall include checks for:

1. Windows cleaned inside and out.
2. Window treatments cleaned.
3. Rugs and carpets vacuumed (shampooed if needed).
4. All hard surface floors cleaned.
5. All appliances cleaned.
6. All cabinets cleaned inside and out.
7. Basement, closets and shelving cleaned.
8. Light bulbs replaced.
9. Bathrooms thoroughly cleaned, including fixture, tile grout, shower doors/curtains, medicine cabinets, walls, and floors.
10. Garage, carport, and outside buildings swept and left orderly.
11. All trash is properly disposed. (It is recommended that the church provide an extra refuse container during move week.)
12. All items needing the attention of the parsonage committee. The checklist when moving into a parsonage shall be used by the incoming pastor to rate the items on the move out list as excellent, satisfactory, or poor.

**202m. Housing Allowance Standards**

1. The district superintendent of the church involved must review all housing allowance requests and the Bishop and Cabinet must approve such requests. Questions about housing allowance may be referred to the District Committee on Church Development for its ruling. Each local congregation, conference agency, or district that decides to provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage and sells the existing parsonage, must place the proceeds from such sale in an escrow account, or use the proceeds for capital expenses (*The Book of Discipline 2012* ¶ 2542).

2. **The minimum housing allowance for 2014 shall be $17,100.** The district superintendent must approve exceptions to this minimum. The allowance should respect the Internal Revenue Service regulations and rulings. The housing allowance should be clearly established, recorded in the Charge Conference minutes and excluded from Box 1 but listed in Box 14 in the W-2 form provided to the pastor.
202n. Pastors Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clergy Eq. Comp.</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Years on E. C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Brown</td>
<td>45,646</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crawford</td>
<td>30,818</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Johnson</td>
<td>26,718</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert C. White*</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Woodruff</td>
<td>41,420</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Received Equitable Compensation only for first half of 2013

202o. Churches Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Eq. Comp. Received</th>
<th>Continuous. Years on E.C</th>
<th>Appt. Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flat Shoals</td>
<td>ADOX</td>
<td>45,646</td>
<td>10+ years</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redemption Comm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar Springs</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>30,818</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentley Hill</td>
<td>GRFN</td>
<td>26,718</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverdale</td>
<td>GRFN</td>
<td>41,420</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope*</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Received Equitable Compensation only for the first half of 2013

202p. Statistics to assist Staff Parish Relations Committees in establishing a fair and equitable package for their pastor(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary and Housing Data For Senior Pastors Appointed To A Church At Above Minimum Salary (Does not include Associate Pastors)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4500 plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500-4499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-2499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-1499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300-499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The members of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy were grateful that we could begin a new quadrennium by welcoming back Bishop and Mrs. Watson for a second four years as our Episcopal leader in North Georgia. The new quadrennium began for the Episcopacy Committee with a gift and a challenge from Bishop Watson. Each person was presented a copy of the “Daily Companion Bible” and challenged to share with him the daily devotions it provides.
The year reflected Bishop Watson’s emphasis on evangelism as chairperson of the World Methodist Evangelism Committee of the World Methodist Council. The Episcopacy Committee shares and supports this emphasis both world-wide and as it is lived out in North Georgia. As a conference we continue to focus on building bridges of ministry around the world. Through Bishop Watson’s leadership, the North Georgia Conference now has Bridges spanning the globe, from the work of Action Ministries here at home, to connections with the Philippines, El Salvador, the Bahamas, Portugal, Israel, Uganda and Russia.

Throughout the conference year Bishop Watson has given leadership in the areas of spiritual formation and conference responsibilities, as well as supporting healthy living as a form of Christian stewardship. The Episcopacy Committee seeks to live out its responsibilities by proactively supporting this leadership by meeting with Bishop Watson quarterly for accountability; being available to him for council, dialogue and support; advising him of concerns that affect relationships within the Annual Conference; and by praying daily for the Bishop, his family and his work.

The Committee thanks the Episcopal Residence Committee chaired by Wiley Stevens for continuing to assure a safe and comfortable living space for our Episcopal family.

In conclusion, we give thanks to God for the leadership we have in Bishop and Mrs. Watson and their attention to the opportunities for mission and ministry in the North Georgia Conference.

Skip Matson, Chairperson

204. Loan Guarantee Committee

“The United Methodist Development Fund was organized in 1960 for the purpose of making loans to local United Methodist churches for the construction of first worship facilities for new congregations, the expansion of facilities on existing sites, the renovation, remodeling and replacement of existing facilities, the relocation of existing congregations, the purchase of sites, and refinancing of existing loans where local churches are unable to obtain loans from local financial institutions at acceptable rates of interest as a result of the requirements imposed under current banking regulations.”

- 2012 Conference Guidelines
The annual conference shall guarantee any loan made by The United Methodist Development Fund and must have reserves equal to twenty-five percent of the annual payments of the loans, in the aggregate that it guarantees.

The North Georgia Loan Guarantee Committee met on December 17, 2012, to review a request from Sugarloaf United Methodist Church. The congregation was planning to request a $3.5 million loan from The United Methodist Development Fund. The request was approved with the proviso that CF&A and the Conference Board of Trustees also approve the request.

CF&A, the Conference Board of Trustees, and the Loan Guarantee Committee met on January 25, 2013, and reviewed the request from Sugarloaf United Methodist Church and the recommendation from the Loan Guarantee Committee. The request was affirmed by CF&A and the Conference Board of Trustees.

The intent of the Loan Guarantee Committee is to provide a vital ministry to our conference as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

L.B. Caywood, Chair

205. Committee on Personnel Policy and Practices (CPPP)

The work of the CPPP is a special privilege and responsibility. We reached a consensus for our recommendations following thorough research and careful consideration. For the first time in its history, the CPPP includes members who are experienced in human resources administration in secular employment. We rejoice in their inclusion, as their experience brought valuable expertise to our deliberations and decisions.

For 2014 CPPP is recommending the adoption of two tiers of salary adjustments: one for Cabinet level clergy and the other for the staff governed by CPPP policies. For many years, up until 2005, salaries for Cabinet level clergy were set by formula at 95% of the Episcopal salary. CPPP is recommending steps to return to this formula to assure that the Bishop is able to offer a compensation package to those who are invited to accept a Cabinet level appointment that is favorably comparable to their current compensation. To move in this direction for 2014, CPPP is recommending that Cabinet level clergy receive a 4.29% increase in base salary. At an assumed 2% growth rate in Episcopal salary, raises on the order of magnitude of 4.5% plus would be necessary for the next four years to return to the 95% level.
District superintendent compensation for 2013 is:

Salary - $118,614
Housing Related Allowances - $37,749 (n/a for those districts that own parsonages)

2014 Recommendations:
1. Base salary for district superintendents be increased by 4.29% effective January 1, 2014
2. The following district superintendent financial support components be either included in the conference budget, or provided for by the respective district:
   a. Continuing Education-$800/annum (same as 2013) (Conference expense)
   b. Business expenses not related to Cabinet meetings-$7,000/annum (non-metro), $6,000/annum (metro) (District expense) (same as 2013)
   c. Cabinet meeting-related business expenses (Conference expense)
3. 3% increase in base compensation for other staff governed by its CPPP policies. 3% is the amount recommended by our lay HR professionals, who derived this figure from information from their professional sources, including surveys
4. No change in the housing allowance for any staff.

The cost of the raises included in the 2014 budget is:
1. Cabinet - $83,100
2. Staff - $33,597
Total cost included in the 2014 budget - $116,697

CPPP Goals for 2014 include:
1. Revising the system of providing annual performance appraisals
2. Developing a formal review process for adding staff positions
3. Updating salary scales to be of more practical use

We have an excellent supervisory and support staff. We are grateful for their ministry and blessed by their faithful service.

Chuck Hodges, Chair
206. Conference Communications Office

In July 2012 the Conference Communications Office became a part of the Office of Connectional Ministries. Charged with helping keep North Georgia clergy and laity informed and inspired, the Communications Office offers a variety of resources so that you and your church members can stay connected.

Website
The website is “city center” for Conference Communication. For a treasure trove of information and tools, use ngumc.org to find anything from basic clergy contact info to in-depth resources for your particular ministry area. Click the “news” tab for need-to-know information, peruse the blog posts of conference staff members, and check out upcoming events on the conference calendar.

E-Newsletters
Find news and information right in your inbox by subscribing to conference e-newsletters. Start your week with an inspirational reflection from a lay or clergy person by signing up for *Monday Morning in North Georgia. Weekly Conference Update* is distributed on Thursdays with a digest of the week’s news and a look at upcoming events. *Prayers & Celebrations* is a daily notice of clergy prayer requests. *Emergency Alerts* lets you know when and where disaster response or mission teams are needed.

Whether you are clergy, laity or church staff, stay connected by signing up at www.ngumc.org/site/stayconnected.

North Georgia Advocate Newspaper
The North Georgia Advocate newspaper continues its rich tradition of telling the stories of our North Georgia churches and offering an insightful look at happenings around the conference. For just $23 per year, you can subscribe to the twice-monthly print edition which includes the denomination’s newspaper, *The United Methodist Reporter*. Call 1-877-465-1685. Or sign up for the e-Advocate at no cost at www.ngumc.org/site/stayconnected.

Social Media
“Like” North Georgia on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ngaumc), follow us on Twitter (@connectNGUMC) and find us on Instagram (NGUMC). Be the first to know breaking news, join in the conversation and share it all with your church.
207. North Georgia Conference Housing and Homeless Council

Through the Housing and Homeless Council, the church ministers to people who are homeless, inadequately housed, or in situations that place them at risk for becoming homeless. The Council is an administrative agency of the North Georgia Conference, and it is made up of lay and clergy representatives from each of the districts, plus at-large members and ex-officio representatives. David Gravitt serves as chair of the Council, and Virginia Tinsley serves as Director.

In September the Housing and Homeless Council office moved from the United Methodist Center to Briarcliff UMC. The new address is 4105 Briarcliff Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30345. The phone number is 1-866-333-1760 and the fax number is 1-866-380-2348 (both toll-free).

The Housing and Homeless Council awards grants twice a year to churches and non-profit agencies that are providing housing and services to poor and homeless persons in North Georgia. From 1990 through 2012, the Housing and Homeless Council has awarded grants totaling $3,931,988. Grant applications are due on March 1 and September 1 (or the first business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday), and application information is available at www.nghhc.org. Housing and Homeless Council members make site visits to the applicant organizations.

The Housing and Homeless Council gives 100% of the Homeless Offering to ministries serving poor and homeless people throughout the North Georgia Conference in the form of grants. February 26, 2012, was designated as Homeless Offering Sunday, and total offering receipts were $159,772.

The Housing Trust Fund, held with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, ended the year with a value of $1,306,223. Most of the administrative expenses of the Housing and Homeless Council are paid from this fund.

During 2012, the Housing and Homeless Council awarded capital grants totaling $112,645 and operational grants totaling $46,876, for a grand total of $159,521. These grants were awarded in all 12 districts. The total grants are less than the total Homeless Offering because some money came in after grants were awarded in November. These funds will be added to 2012 grants.

### Capital Grants
- Action Ministries - Atlanta: $2,385
- Action Ministries Athens: $5,000
- Action Ministries - Housing, 12 communities: $13,600
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Another Chance of Atlanta, Inc.</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Athens Nurses Clinic</td>
<td>$1,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Breakthru House, Inc., Decatur</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cascade Community Services (CCS), Atlanta</td>
<td>$2,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Faith In Serving Humanity, Inc. (F.I.S.H.), Monroe</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Family Promise of Augusta</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Family Promise of Hall County</td>
<td>$2,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Glenn Memorial UMC, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Habersham Homeless Ministries, Clarkesville</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity - North Central Georgia (Cherokee)</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Greene County</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity Southern Crescent, Jonesboro</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union County, Blairsville</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Isaiah House, Inc., Ellijay</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jerusalem House, Inc., Atlanta</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lewis Memorial UMC, Evans</td>
<td>$530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MUST Ministries - Cherokee, Canton</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry, Inc., Buford</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Rainbow Community Center, Inc., Covington</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Redemption Outreach, Inc., Ellijay</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Saint Mark UMC, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Salvation Army Metro Atlanta Area Command</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Salvation Army of Athens</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Salvation Army of Gainesville</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sober Living America, Inc., Atlanta</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Trinity UMC, Atlanta</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>United Methodist Children's Home, Decatur</td>
<td>$5,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>United Way of the Central Savannah River Area, Inc., Augusta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 | Operational Grants                                     |         |
<p>|31 | Action Ministries - Augusta                            | $1,250  |
|32 | Action Ministries Gainesville                          | $1,000  |
|33 | Feed the Hungry Foundation                             | $1,250  |
|34 | Bowdon Area United Christian Ministries                | $1,250  |
|35 | Brookhaven UMC, Atlanta                                | $1,250  |
|36 | Catossa County Children's Fund, Ringgold               | $1,250  |
|37 | Ceek to Fulfill, Covington                             | $1,000  |
|38 | Chatsworth First UMC                                   | $1,000  |
|39 | Collins Memorial UMC, Atlanta                          | $1,000  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Action Mission Program (C.A.M.P.), Austell</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Welcome House, Inc., Newnan</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County Shelters, Inc., Douglasville</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Promise of Whitfield County, Inc., Dalton</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville First UMC</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Shoals UMC, Decatur</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA Ave. Community Ministry, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Chapel UMC, Palmetto</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Initiative of North Fulton (Homestretch), Roswell</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Outreach Home, Inc., Doraville</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intown Collaborative Ministries, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodeco on the Road Food Pantry, Stockbridge</td>
<td>$1,366</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaGrange First UMC</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonough First UMC</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midtown Assistance Center, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope Mission (Union Chapel UMC), Marietta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norcross Cooperative Ministry</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nourishing Children in Catoosa, Ringgold</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach, Newnan</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our House, Inc., Decatur</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Village, Inc., Duluth</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapha Clinic of West Georgia, Inc - Bowdon</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapha Clinic of West Georgia, Inc. - Temple</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringgold UMC</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd's Staff Ministries, Inc., Loganville</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center, Inc., Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Community Ministries, Atlanta</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Point UMC</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Well at Chattoga, Inc., Summerville</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

David Gravitt, Chair
Virginia Tinsley, Director
At such a time as this, when report results and information are often negative and declining, I am glad to report the findings from the statistical data retrieved from the 2012 end-of-year reports, as compared to data received for the 2011 report. A full report of each church, district, and the North Georgia Conference is available at [www.ngumc.org/eoy](http://www.ngumc.org/eoy). A few of the end-of-year report highlights for 2012 are:

- While the growth of professing members increased by less than 1%, the number of professions of Christian faith increased by 9%;
- The total number of persons baptized in 2012 reflects an increase of 12%;
- The average weekly attendance in Sunday School declined by 3%, but the total participation in Christian formation groups increased by 4%, and the number of persons active in covenant discipleship groups increased by 18%;
- The number of ongoing classes for learning in Sunday Church School remained relatively the same; however, the number of ongoing classes for learning other than Sunday Church School reported a 13% increase.

Another significant summary is in regard to missions:

- The number of mission teams sent out from the church increased by 18%;
- The number of persons sent out in mission work increased by 60%;
- The number of persons served by community ministries for daycare and/or education increased by 14%; and
- The number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice and mercy increased 71%.

Praise be to God! I am thankful and grateful for the support team of Cabinet and conference members, including the conference treasurer, director of accounting, director of information technology, support specialist of information technology, district superintendents, district statisticians and each appointed pastor who completed their report in a spirit of integrity.

Darris Baker, Conference Statistician
The Simpsonwood United Methodist Conference and Retreat Center continues to face challenges. The Brooks Complex will need approximately $175,000 in repairs in order to address moisture issues in the carpet and drywall. Fortunately, the Georgia United Methodist Foundation has agreed to convert, for the next 18 months, our mortgage loan to an “interest-only” loan, giving us some financial flexibility to make such repairs. This will also enhance our ability to market the facility as well as to garner “repeat” business.

We continue to contend with the challenges of securing the facility, while also making it accessible to staff and guests. Guest and staff safety are paramount Board priorities. Our current revenue levels make it almost impossible to break even. Much of our business traditionally comes from churches and other non-profit entities, and their budgets have, by and large, retrenched in the past several years. This fact, coupled with physical plant issues, has made facility utilization increases a very difficult goal to achieve. The Board met with the owner and the entire senior staff of Hotel Equities, Inc. in January to share concerns and to gain input about how to improve operating results. That meeting served as impetus for planning repairs at Brooks.

We understand that a framework for an agreement with Wesley Woods regarding our complex deed issue has been developed. We pray that such a resolution will facilitate the possibility of a long term solution for the Simpsonwood property, and one that will leave all parties feeling that they were treated equitably, while at the same time preserving Miss Ludie’s vision for the use of this property or the proceeds of it.

Keith Cox, CFO of Simpsonwood, submits the following unaudited report: In 2012, Simpsonwood generated a net loss from operations of $147,529 versus a net operating loss of $63,197 in 2011. The variance was due to a one time gift in of $59,000 in 2011 which was offset against A&G expenses, and security expenses of $46,000 which were not in the 2011 results. Cash flow was negative in 2012, as we were required to return $212,000 in MRPA credits after the developer decided not to use them. Net loss, on an accrual basis, was $817,704 in 2012 versus $804,350 in 2011. (Depreciation of $359,701 is included in the net loss for 2012). Simpsonwood will continue to be operated as efficiently as possible until there is a formal plan presented to and approved by the Conference to find an alternative use. For 2014, the Conference has included in its proposed budget $550,000 as an apportioned direct subsidy, up $50,000 from 2013.

Coy Hinton, Chair
209a. Simpsonwood Balance Statement

2/18/2013 at 9:08:27 AM

**BALANCE SHEET**
Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center
The Lodge at Simpsonwood
Period from 12/1/2012 to 12/31/2012
Year from 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2012
Prior Month from 1/1/2012 to 11/30/2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Prior Month</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>656.07</td>
<td>656.07</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash - Operating</td>
<td>53,382.16</td>
<td>118,671.24</td>
<td>-65,289.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable - Guest Ledger</td>
<td>442.08</td>
<td>442.08</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable - City Ledger</td>
<td>53,322.42</td>
<td>66,876.71</td>
<td>-13,554.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable - RISC</td>
<td>984,157.50</td>
<td>980,050.82</td>
<td>3,106.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due From Conference</td>
<td>10,249.27</td>
<td>10,249.27</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory - Linen</td>
<td>76,525.46</td>
<td>76,525.46</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory - Food &amp; Bever.</td>
<td>13,664.89</td>
<td>12,939.32</td>
<td>725.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>26,797.84</td>
<td>34,093.23</td>
<td>-7,295.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>130,223.73</td>
<td>201,734.92</td>
<td>-71,511.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets (At Cost)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>2,500,342.82</td>
<td>2,500,342.82</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>2,368,981.31</td>
<td>2,368,981.31</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>12,232,834.91</td>
<td>12,232,834.91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>17,402,180.04</td>
<td>17,402,180.04</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accum. Deprec. - F&amp;E</td>
<td>-2,449,546.53</td>
<td>-2,449,546.53</td>
<td>190.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
<td>-8,230,147.12</td>
<td>-8,215,447.41</td>
<td>-24,699.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets, Net</strong></td>
<td>9,163,442.84</td>
<td>9,186,954.90</td>
<td>-23,512.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Costs</td>
<td>10,368.66</td>
<td>10,368.66</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>386,552.15</td>
<td>386,552.15</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>30,110.91</td>
<td>30,110.91</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>447,551.71</td>
<td>447,551.71</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>9,741,218.28</td>
<td>9,836,241.53</td>
<td>-95,023.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 209a. Simpsonwood Balance Statement Continued

**2/19/2013 at 9:08:27 AM**

**BALANCE SHEET**
Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center
The Lodge at Simpsonwood
Period from 12/1/2012 to 12/31/2012
Year from 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2012
Prior Month from 1/1/2012 to 11/30/2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Prior Month</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCOUNT NAME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - TRADE</td>
<td>95,025.94</td>
<td>69,521.74</td>
<td>25,514.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - MSC.</td>
<td>25,114.34</td>
<td>29,620.27</td>
<td>-4,471.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVANCE DEPOSITS</td>
<td>227,591.18</td>
<td>166,716.51</td>
<td>60,874.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCRUED PAYROLL</td>
<td>7,420.13</td>
<td>27,840.85</td>
<td>-20,420.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCRUED PROPERTY TAXES</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-6,197.48</td>
<td>6,197.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE SALES TAX - ROOM</td>
<td>-7,649.70</td>
<td>3,293.02</td>
<td>-10,942.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL OCCUPANCY TAX - ROOM</td>
<td>9,716.21</td>
<td>15,700.16</td>
<td>-6,083.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION</td>
<td>568.05</td>
<td>568.05</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTES PAYABLE - LINE OF CREDIT</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,760,026.66</td>
<td>1,710,308.41</td>
<td>49,718.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Debt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES PAYABLE</td>
<td>4,746,477.91</td>
<td>4,760,024.32</td>
<td>-13,546.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS: CURRENT PORTION OF LTD</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Long Term Debt</strong></td>
<td>4,746,477.91</td>
<td>4,760,024.32</td>
<td>-13,546.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>6,506,504.57</td>
<td>6,470,332.73</td>
<td>36,171.84</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETAINED EARNINGS</td>
<td>-804,340.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE</td>
<td>2,889,320.00</td>
<td>2,889,320.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWNER CONTRIBUTIONS/DISTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>3,290,732.48</td>
<td>1,196,319.48</td>
<td>1,094,413.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAID IN CAPITAL</td>
<td>667,715.00</td>
<td>667,715.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT NET EARNINGS</td>
<td>-817,704.18</td>
<td>-583,566.00</td>
<td>-234,138.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>3,234,713.71</td>
<td>3,365,908.80</td>
<td>-131,195.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>9,741,218.28</td>
<td>9,836,241.53</td>
<td>-95,023.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**INCOME STATEMENT**

**Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center**

The Lodge at Simpsonwood

Period from 12/1/2012 to 12/31/2012

Year from 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>511,392</td>
<td>468,867</td>
<td>42,525</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td>425,244</td>
<td>397,627</td>
<td>27,617</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Operating Income</strong></td>
<td>86,148</td>
<td>71,240</td>
<td>14,908</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Income**

- 43,020 (0.08% of total revenue)
- 56,200 (0.12% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>45,379</td>
<td>42,687</td>
<td>2,692</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>15,492</td>
<td>13,073</td>
<td>2,419</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>86,832</td>
<td>80,263</td>
<td>6,569</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department Expenses**

- 10,828 (0.02% of total revenue)
- 11,090 (0.02% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>37,395</td>
<td>34,910</td>
<td>2,485</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>11,529</td>
<td>9,502</td>
<td>2,027</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>12,258</td>
<td>10,056</td>
<td>2,202</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unrestricted Endowment**

- 114,300 (0.05% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>28,684</td>
<td>25,987</td>
<td>2,697</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>7,535</td>
<td>5,903</td>
<td>1,632</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>5,582</td>
<td>4,670</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue**

- 1,992,101 (100.0% of total revenue)
- 1,886,088 (100.0% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>159,662</td>
<td>157,216</td>
<td>2,446</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>41,797</td>
<td>38,808</td>
<td>2,989</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>117,000</td>
<td>113,064</td>
<td>3,936</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses**

- 1,564,295 (100.0% of total revenue)
- 1,481,718 (100.0% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>119,879</td>
<td>118,015</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>26,364</td>
<td>24,086</td>
<td>2,278</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>18,352</td>
<td>16,727</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Operating Income (NDI)**

- 327,896 (17.2% of total revenue)
- 288,920 (15.8% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>92,754</td>
<td>87,405</td>
<td>5,349</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>8,335</td>
<td>7,851</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>14,407</td>
<td>13,624</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxes**

- 327,896 (17.2% of total revenue)
- 288,920 (15.8% of total revenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>12/31/12</th>
<th>1/1/12</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Sales</strong></td>
<td>70,107</td>
<td>67,409</td>
<td>2,698</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Sales</strong></td>
<td>3,333</td>
<td>2,851</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>7,407</td>
<td>6,852</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Simpsonwood Budget

#### Fiscal Year 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Var. %</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Var. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCUPANCY %</td>
<td>23.06%</td>
<td>24.14%</td>
<td>4.64%</td>
<td>23.05%</td>
<td>24.13%</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV %</td>
<td>71.70</td>
<td>79.11</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
<td>71.64</td>
<td>79.11</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVMARR</td>
<td>16.23</td>
<td>23.92</td>
<td>47.45%</td>
<td>16.23</td>
<td>23.92</td>
<td>47.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT REVENUES</td>
<td>85,552</td>
<td>81,437</td>
<td>4.84%</td>
<td>82,575</td>
<td>79,215</td>
<td>4.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD SALES</td>
<td>54,844</td>
<td>51,390</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
<td>51,390</td>
<td>47,957</td>
<td>6.46%</td>
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<td>TELEPHONE SALES</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>OTHER INCOME</td>
<td>3,326</td>
<td>3,302</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
<td>3,326</td>
<td>3,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>102,803</td>
<td>101,953</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
<td>120,959</td>
<td>119,086</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION EXPENSES</td>
<td>35,483</td>
<td>34,567</td>
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<td>34,567</td>
<td>33,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOD EXPENSES</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
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<td>29,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE EXPENSES</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER EXPENSES</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>84,985</td>
<td>82,065</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>98,000</td>
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<td>DEPARTMENT PROFIT</td>
<td>17,818</td>
<td>19,888</td>
<td>11.47%</td>
<td>20,959</td>
<td>21,089</td>
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<td>ROOFS</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>6,818</td>
<td>6,888</td>
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<td>6,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL DEPARTMENT PROFIT</td>
<td>9,024</td>
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<td>11.55%</td>
<td>13,970</td>
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<td>9,050</td>
<td>9,050</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME PROFIT</td>
<td>7,174</td>
<td>7,174</td>
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<td>7,174</td>
<td>7,174</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND EXPENSES</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUND EXPENSES</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET OPERATING INCOME (NOI)</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET INCOME</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>-9,943</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center

**The Lodge at Simpsonwood**

1/2/2013 at 10:42:02 AM
210. Conference Trustees

At the 2012 Annual Conference session, the Trustees were authorized, via
resolution, to work to resolve all matters related to obtaining a declaratory
judgment relative to the Simpsonwood deed. The Trustees have been exercising
their duties via a “Declaratory Judgment Steering Committee,” as provided for
in the empowering resolution. Members of this Steering Committee are:
- Chuck Bachman, Esq., Chair, Conference Board of Trustees
- Tom Cook, Esq., Conference Chancellor
- Chuck Savage, CEO, Georgia United Methodist Foundation
- Henry Bowden, Esq., Chair, Conference Operations Task Force
- Lyn Powell, Simpsonwood Board Member

Prior to the filing of the Declaratory Judgment lawsuit, Wesley Woods
Senior Living, Inc. (WWSL) raised deed issues arising from “Wesley Homes”
being specifically named in the original deed of gift. The Declaratory Judgment
Steering Committee worked with WWSL and reached an agreement in which
WWSL will support the Conference’s Declaratory Judgment lawsuit. If the
Declaratory Judgment Lawsuit is successful, the Conference would share a
portion of any sale proceeds from any sale of the Simpsonwood property above
a certain amount with WWSL, with the understanding that WWSL would spend
its proceeds on a WWSL senior housing facility that would be named after Miss
Ludie Simpson and other specified WWSL operations.

Such a sale of the property would allow the Conference/Simpsonwood to
pay off the debt associated with Simpsonwood and provide for a recapture of
the original capital contribution made by the Conference in 2001 to occupy its
current office space following the sale of the Ralph McGill property.

The Declaratory Judgment Lawsuit is pending in the Superior Court of
Gwinnett County. The named executor of Miss Simpson’s Estate, William
Carroll, declined to serve as the Estate’s Executor for purposes of the lawsuit,
and the Conference is working on getting a replacement Estate administrator
appointed by the Probate Court. The Attorney General has been named in the
lawsuit to ensure that no “charitable trust” issues are implicated in the lawsuit.
The Declaratory Judgment Steering Committee will keep the Conference
apprised on developments in the lawsuit.

We also have one action item for Annual Conference approval: The legal
names of neither the Trustees nor the Conference proper contain the word
“United.” We seek Annual Conference approval to empower the Conference
Chancellor to take whatever actions are necessary in order to revise the legal names of both the Trustees and the Conference to include “United” in the name.

The work of the Declaratory Judgment Task Force, the current status of the declaratory judgment action regarding the Simpsonwood property, and any recommendation for further action by the annual conference will be reported by the Board of Trustees at annual conference.

Chuck Bachman, Chair

211. Council on Finance and Administration

211a. Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

North Georgia Conference apportionment payment percentage improved to its best level in seven years in 2012, reflecting an improving but still “cautious” economic environment. Total apportionment payments were $22,165,590, a decrease of $612,563 from 2011. However, since there was a budget decrease year over year, this equates to a 2.2 percentage point increase to budget. Payments to Conference and General Advances, and to special offerings, totaled $1,657,976 compared to $2,213,553 in 2011.

For the eleventh consecutive year, the North Georgia Conference was the top payer of General Church apportionments, with a total paid of $6,332,964. While this is a significant accomplishment, our goal is to be able to support General Church apportionments at a 100% payment rate in the future.

The Atlanta-Roswell District achieved the highest percentage of apportionments paid, 98.1%. Please note that it was reported that AROS paid 99.5% in 2011. In actuality, they paid 100.3%! The difference was due to an error in reporting a church originally in AMRY, when it should have been in AROS. My apologies to my fellow members of the AROS District and to our district superintendent! The Atlanta-College Park and the Gainesville districts tied for the second highest percentage at 95.5%. Atlanta-Roswell District had the highest payment total, followed by Atlanta-Emory and Atlanta-Marietta.

79.0% of our churches paid 100% of their apportionments in 2012, compared to 76.0% in 2011. This marks the third year in a row that we have seen an uptick in this critical measure! As the conference budget has declined, we continue to hope and plan for an increase in the number of churches paying 100% and an increase in the overall payment percentage. The conference’s long term financial stability and flexibility cannot be assured in an era of declining or
virtually flat budgets if we do not experience increased payment support from our churches.

The treasurer’s office continues to emphasize financial administration training for local church treasurers and finance committees. We continue to utilize both district training events as well as meetings with individual churches for the purposes of providing information on administrative best practices, interpreting applicable statutes and regulations and answering questions specific to individual churches.

This office strives to update our website with current information, and routinely communicates directly with local church treasurers. We have implemented an electronic apportionment remittance system in 2012, as we had committed to last year.

We appreciate and rely on feedback from the local churches to help us focus on issues that are critical to them.

The annual conference audit and the district office reviews will be substantially concluded prior to Annual Conference session. The conference audit for 2011 is posted on the North Georgia Conference website, and the 2012 audit will be posted upon completion.

211b. Investment Summary

Conference funds are invested strictly in accordance with the Investment Guidelines approved by the Annual Conference in 2010 and published in the Annual Conference Journal. Investment maturities and rates of return vary based on projections of cash needs, as well as both short and intermediate term investment performance. Return on invested balances in 2012 was approximately 7.7% (realized and unrealized).

Total investments at December 31, 2012 were $45,344,729 with approximately $39,268,186 of the total representing reserves designated for health and pension benefits programs.

Keith M. Cox, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services

211c. Council on Finance and Administration Investment Policy
Revised 3/2013

General Provision Investment Policies

A. Purpose: As defined in the 2012 Book of Discipline (¶612.5) the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (Council) shall develop, maintain,
and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and
administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the Annual
Conference including:

1. Policies governing the investment of conference funds, excluding
provisions applicable to pension funds as detailed in 2012 Book of
Discipline (¶1508), whether short-term or long-term instruments, with the
aim of maximizing funds available for mission consistent with the
preservation of capital, the Policies Relative to Socially Responsible
Investments (¶717) and the Social Principles of the Church. A statement
of such policies shall be presented in the Conference Journal at least once
in each quadrennium (¶612.5).

2. Authorizing the conference treasurer to invest funds in accordance with
policies and procedures established by the Council (¶619.1(5)(2)(d). A
listing of securities held shall be printed annually in the Conference

B. Standard of care: To use the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the
circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity
and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a
like
class and with like aims.

C. Investment Ethics: We affirm that all financial resources of the church and
its members are God-given resources, to be held in trust for use or
investment in ways which promote the reign of God on earth. Further, we
recognize that every investment has ethical dimensions. Financial
investments have consequences which are both fiscal and social. We believe
social justice and social usefulness must be given consideration together
with financial security and financial yield in the investment of funds by
United Methodist Church agencies and affiliated institutions and
congregations as well as individual United Methodists. Socially responsible
investing by Christians, institutions and individuals must take account of
both sets of considerations. We also concur and abide by the policy goals of
the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, its general
agencies, and entities under its control.

D. Social Responsibility:

1. In accordance with (¶717) of the 2012 Book of Discipline, it shall be the
policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and
agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits,
and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals,
homes, educational institutions, Annual Conferences, foundations, and
local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious
effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds which
practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles;
and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or
indirectly, to support racial discrimination, apartheid, or the production of
nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing
in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful
consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate
disinvestment.

E. **Guidelines:**

1. To purchase fixed income securities only where issued by the United
   States Treasury, an agency of the United States Government, or corporate
   bonds rated in one of the top four letter classifications by Moody’s or
   Standard and Poor’s. (Convertible securities will be considered as equity
   securities.)

2. To purchase short-term securities only when issued by the United States
   Treasury, an agency of the United States Government, non-collateralized
   commercial paper rated P-1 by Moody’s Investor Services, Inc., A-1 by
   Standard and Poor’s or acceptances of the ten largest commercial banks
   in the United States where such certificates of deposit or bankers
   acceptances are fully insured by an agency of the Federal Government.

3. Investments shall not be made in foreign securities including American
   Depository Receipts, except the common stocks, and the American
   Depository Receipts thereof, of those foreign securities listed on the New
   York Stock Exchange.

4. Investments shall not be made in commodities, commodity contracts,
   derivatives, oil, gas, mineral leases, mineral rights, or royalty contracts.

5. Margin transactions, short sales, options, puts, calls, straddle, and/or
   spreads shall not be used.

6. No investment shall knowingly be made in which any officer of the
   Council or any member of the Council has a known significant financial
   interest.

7. Investments shall not be made in the securities of an issuer which,
   together with any predecessor, has been in operation for less than three
   years, and/or in equity securities of issuers for which market quotations
   are not readily available.

8. Investments shall not be made in securities for the purpose of exercising
   control or management.
9. To make no unsecured personal loans of any of the assets contributed under the provisions of any of the funds, plans and programs administered by the Council.
10. Investments shall not be made in asset backed securities, nor any structured investment vehicles such as collateralized debt obligations, collateralized mortgage obligations, etc.
11. Acceptable investments will include funds managed by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, the United Methodist Development Fund or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

F. **Supervision:**
   1. CFA may authorize an Investment Committee comprised of no more than 6 members, 3 serving in a Benefits Subcommittee and 3 serving in a Working Capital Subcommittee, and may be delegated the following duties:
      a. Develop and review investment policies and objectives of the Conference
      b. develop for a periodic analysis, at least quarterly, of the application of these investment policies and objectives and the performance resulting therefrom.
      c. develop the investment risk profile and for establishing benchmarks against which performance referred to in item (b) can be measured.
   2. Procedures for handling the receipts, deliveries, transfers, and safekeeping of securities and the safeguarding of assets.

### 211d. Schedule of Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments</th>
<th>As of Dec. 31, 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment - General Board of Pensions</td>
<td>$ 27,056,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - GA UM Foundation</td>
<td>10,485,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - GA UM Foundation CD Program</td>
<td>6,506,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - SunTrust CD</td>
<td>1,131,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - GA/FL Methodist FCU</td>
<td>103,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - Vanguard/Wellington Trust</td>
<td>54,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment - Wells Fargo Stock (Designated)</td>
<td>7,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 45,344,729</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 211e. Net Assets (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unrestricted Designated</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connectional Ministries</td>
<td>89,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministries - Transitioning</td>
<td>84,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>622,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid</td>
<td>677,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-liquid</td>
<td>631,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Church Development</strong></td>
<td>1,308,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Benefits Reserve</td>
<td>5,918,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre - 1982 Pension</td>
<td>9,255,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Retiree Medical Reserve</td>
<td>(27,907,730)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Benefits Programs</strong></td>
<td>(12,733,935)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees - Methodist Ctr, Episcopal Res.</td>
<td>2,378,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Laity</td>
<td>32,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Homeless Council</td>
<td>1,213,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Barnes Fund for Church Development</td>
<td>488,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpsonwood Chapel and Hummel Maint. Funds</td>
<td>398,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Unrestricted Designated</td>
<td>77,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Designated</strong></td>
<td>(6,039,644)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Temporarily Restricted**                                | 2,040,712|
| **Total Permanently Restricted**                                | 284,161 |

| **Total Fund Balances**                                         | ($2,562,466) |

Note 1: Does not include Pre-82 unfunded liability of approx. $25 mil.
Note 2: Includes 12/31/12 actuarial gain of $4,262,725
211f. National Association of Church Business Administrators Certified Members-North Georgia Conference

Class of 2009 (lapses 12/31/13)
S. Ellen Hopkins......... North Georgia

Class of 2010 (lapses 12/31/14)
Lynn Adcock............. North Georgia

Class of 2011 (lapses 12/31/15)
Rene Watson.............. North Georgia
Johnie J. Wright......... North Georgia

Class of 2012 (lapses 12/31/16)
Winston Worrell......... North Georgia

211g. Council on Finance and Administration

The work of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) to develop a fiscally sound and responsive budget for the North Georgia Conference is both a blessing and a challenge. The prayerful consideration of our faithful local churches who continue to demonstrate the strengths of connectionalism through their faithful response in giving is a definite priority. Likewise, the ministry needs of our Annual Conference and global work, which are a similar priority, demand we carefully examine the many deserving requests for funding which inevitably stretch the Conference’s revenue expectations.

The work of the CF&A this year began on February 18 as we prayerfully began to receive 2014 budget requests. The context of our work was: 92.27 percent of apportionments were paid in 2012; although continuing to modestly improve, the overall state and national economies continued to be in a “cautionary” mode; the Simpsonwood Conference Center's dependency on a substantial subsidy from the Conference budget continues; and the ongoing concern about funding of substantial (though decreasing!) unfunded liabilities in the health and retirement obligations of the Conference provide a context for all of our financial plans, both immediately and well into the future.

These factual circumstances require that financial prudence and spiritual balance combine to produce a responsible recommended budget. The members
of the Council feel that we were able to achieve that goal. We were able to
recommend a modest increase in program budgets, with Action Ministries,
Connectional Ministries, Higher Education/Campus Ministry and New Church
Development all receiving recommended increases. (New Church
Development’s program budget includes the responsibility for Sugarloaf
UMC’s debt service). With the ongoing positive financial effect of the 2012
UMC staff restructuring included, the recommended 2014 budget is
$24,077,849 or $41,511 higher than the 2013 budget. This is the first time in
five years that we have recommended an increase. Conference-specific line
items remained flat, while general apportionments went up 2.2%, resulting in
the overall increase. In aggregate, the conference-wide apportionments will
increase by 0.2%.

There is good news as we move forward. The Conference Board of
Trustees has developed a framework of agreement with Wesley Woods
regarding the resolution of the Simpsonwood deed; the CF&A Standing
Committee on Stewardship continues to diligently work with the Office of
Connectional Ministries and the Georgia United Methodist Foundation on
developing a Conference Stewardship Program based on biblical principles of
tithing and giving; and the Board of Ordained Ministry is working with CF&A
and the Cabinet on developing a methodology to better align clergy resources
with church needs for clergy.

Despite financial challenges that North Georgia United Methodists have
faced and continue to work through, our faith remains strong, our outlook
positive, our attitude joyous and our giving worthy of celebration! Together, we
will continue to work in all ways and in all places to be obedient to the mission
of the United Methodist Church: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World. Thank you for all you do for Christ through our
partnership in the UMC.

Steve Wood, Chair
## 211h. Comparative on Receipts

**Office of the Treasurer**

**Exhibit I: Comparative on Receipts**

(YTD Through December 31, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apport.</td>
<td>Payment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apport.</td>
<td>Payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Support</td>
<td>$2,694,543</td>
<td>$467,434</td>
<td>$2,442,017</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
<td>$2,524,607</td>
<td>$401,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Ministers Pension &amp; Insurance Benefits</td>
<td>$6,380,008</td>
<td>$1,114,920</td>
<td>$5,752,296</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>$6,936,629</td>
<td>$1,131,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Administration</td>
<td>$2,536,390</td>
<td>$434,183</td>
<td>$2,279,593</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>$2,272,944</td>
<td>$356,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>$1,630,015</td>
<td>$287,495</td>
<td>$1,474,874</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>$1,325,143</td>
<td>$210,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Funding</td>
<td>$526,946</td>
<td>$91,169</td>
<td>$478,328</td>
<td>90.8%</td>
<td>$392,958</td>
<td>$65,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>$1,091,761</td>
<td>$194,353</td>
<td>$984,341</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>$952,232</td>
<td>$152,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td>$2,033,999</td>
<td>$356,546</td>
<td>$1,814,491</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
<td>$1,930,992</td>
<td>$296,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
<td>$900,009</td>
<td>$158,675</td>
<td>$809,589</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>$499,996</td>
<td>$79,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Sub-Total</td>
<td>$17,793,671</td>
<td>$3,104,775</td>
<td>$16,035,530</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>$16,835,501</td>
<td>$2,694,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Church</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College Fund</td>
<td>$505,019</td>
<td>$88,351</td>
<td>$461,589</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>$470,789</td>
<td>$75,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>$1,266,102</td>
<td>$220,482</td>
<td>$1,115,838</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>$1,180,344</td>
<td>$194,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdenominational Cooperation Fund</td>
<td>$98,644</td>
<td>$16,864</td>
<td>$94,915</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>$93,425</td>
<td>$15,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service Fund</td>
<td>$3,747,773</td>
<td>$670,105</td>
<td>$3,353,111</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>$3,557,575</td>
<td>$569,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa University Fund</td>
<td>$113,028</td>
<td>$19,517</td>
<td>$128,581</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
<td>$105,376</td>
<td>$18,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>$1,051,854</td>
<td>$187,969</td>
<td>$936,324</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
<td>$1,083,651</td>
<td>$171,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration Fund</td>
<td>$408,948</td>
<td>$70,042</td>
<td>$371,574</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>$406,322</td>
<td>$64,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Sub-Total</td>
<td>$7,191,368</td>
<td>$1,273,330</td>
<td>$6,461,932</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>$6,897,482</td>
<td>$1,108,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern Jurisdiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEJ's Mission and Ministry Fund</td>
<td>$310,003</td>
<td>$52,924</td>
<td>$280,690</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>$309,993</td>
<td>$49,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Sub-Total</td>
<td>$310,003</td>
<td>$52,924</td>
<td>$280,690</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>$309,993</td>
<td>$49,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>$25,295,042</td>
<td>$4,431,029</td>
<td>$22,778,152</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>$24,042,976</td>
<td>$3,852,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Offerings</td>
<td>$615,188</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$700,535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. Advance Specials</td>
<td>$977,473</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$553,749</td>
<td>($423,724)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Advance Specials</td>
<td>$698,484</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$403,692</td>
<td>($294,792)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TOTAL FUNDS COMPARED TO PRIOR YEAR**
### Apportionment Payments by District

#### (Through December 31, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2011 Apport.</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2012 Apport.</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens Elberton</td>
<td>$1,662,152</td>
<td>$1,526,572</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>$1,615,633</td>
<td>$1,477,764</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta College Park</td>
<td>$2,267,690</td>
<td>$2,128,838</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>$2,111,899</td>
<td>$2,017,790</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Decatur Oxford</td>
<td>$1,898,099</td>
<td>$1,595,807</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
<td>$1,744,188</td>
<td>$1,477,376</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Emory</td>
<td>$3,326,808</td>
<td>$2,868,858</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>$3,094,396</td>
<td>$2,691,797</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Marietta</td>
<td>$2,904,068</td>
<td>$2,612,665</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>$2,864,032</td>
<td>$2,652,265</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Roswell</td>
<td>$3,423,510</td>
<td>$3,434,763</td>
<td>100.3%</td>
<td>$3,189,264</td>
<td>$3,128,863</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>$1,780,811</td>
<td>$1,602,986</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>$1,768,606</td>
<td>$1,565,387</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>$2,136,694</td>
<td>$1,793,281</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>$2,003,167</td>
<td>$1,913,737</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>$1,471,195</td>
<td>$1,212,628</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>$1,412,258</td>
<td>$1,300,260</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>$1,657,362</td>
<td>$1,460,418</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>$1,555,722</td>
<td>$1,418,010</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>$1,336,324</td>
<td>$1,197,389</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>$1,298,730</td>
<td>$1,231,269</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Carrollton</td>
<td>$1,430,329</td>
<td>$1,342,636</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>$1,385,081</td>
<td>$1,295,156</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,295,042</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,778,152</strong></td>
<td><strong>90.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,042,976</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,165,590</strong></td>
<td><strong>92.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Increase (Decrease) in Apport. Payments (2011 vs. 2012)**
- **($612,563)**

**Percent Increase (Decrease)**
- -2.7%
1. We recommend that each district continue to be responsible for funding of conference expenses for its at-large delegates. Funding levels will be at the discretion of the respective district superintendent.

2. We recommend that lay volunteers serving Annual Conference committees and task forces be reimbursed their mileage costs at the prevailing IRS employee rate.

3. We recommend in addition to those observances set by the General Conference (defined in 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 262), the following special days, with offerings, but without quotas, be observed in 2014: Homeless Offering (last Sunday in February), Mother’s Day Offering for Wesley Woods Senior Living (Mother’s Day, second Sunday in May), Murphy-Harpst (third Sunday in July), Golden Cross (third Sunday in August), United Methodist Children’s Home Work Day (third Sunday in September), Aldersgate Homes (fourth Sunday in October), Action Ministries (first Sunday in December).

4. We recommend that each of the following be permitted to have one direct mail appeal for funds in 2014: the United Methodist Children’s Home, Action Ministries, Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc., and Aldersgate Homes, Inc.

5. We recommend that all special day offerings be scheduled through the Director of Connectional Ministries so as to avoid calendar conflicts.

6. In light of 92.2% of apportionments collected in 2012 and current total benefits premiums balances of $2.4 million, we remind each local church of our covenant to pay our apportionments in full and our clergy benefits premiums in full, on a monthly basis.

7. We recommend the adoption of the apportionment formula approved at Annual Conference 2006 as described in the Proposed 2014 Budget Interpretation, which is attached.

8. We recommend that all churches and conference-related agencies ensure that their internal control systems are adequate to safeguard their assets as well as to
insure compliance with completing an annual audit pursuant to section
258(4)(d) of the 2012 Book of Discipline. For churches whose operating
budgets are less than $500,000, we recommend that those churches consider
utilizing the “Local Church Audit Guide” to fulfill their audit obligation.
(For those churches choosing to use an accounting firm to conduct their audits,
the Conference Treasurer can assist with referrals to such firms).

9. We recommend that all unincorporated churches explore incorporation and,
upon the decision to incorporate, to seek guidance from the Conference
Chancellor in order to do so.

10. We recommend that local churches institute or update risk management
practices and procedures to protect church assets, employees, and volunteers.
This includes expeditiously moving to comply with practices defined in the
“Safe Sanctuaries” program and to monitor compliance with that program.

11. We recommend that all clergy either living in church-owned parsonages
and/or who maintain personal belongings in a church-owned office, seek
counsel from their insurance agent about securing insurance coverage for their
personal property.

12. We recommend that all key third party providers of professional services be
reviewed by the appropriate department/ministry for efficacy every three years.
The review(s) will be forwarded to CFA for its input. (For those who have
recently been reviewed, one will not be necessary until no later than 6/30/16).

13. We recommend that a” request for proposal process” be implemented for
the provision of professional services.
## Area I  Min Support/Equitable Comp

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Bishop</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>65,193</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>14,807</td>
<td>(50,000)</td>
<td>-38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out Supts Compensation</td>
<td>1,725,000</td>
<td>1,689,770</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>1,736,510</td>
<td>1,819,689</td>
<td>83,179</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Comp Fund</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>277,232</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>22,768</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Ordained Min</td>
<td>419,600</td>
<td>386,269</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>410,600</td>
<td>485,563</td>
<td>99,314</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>83,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Min Support/Eq Comp</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,524,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,418,464</strong></td>
<td><strong>95.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,658,110</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,685,272</strong></td>
<td><strong>266,808</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>117,162</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Area II Ret Min Pension and Ins

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Health Ins Premiums</td>
<td>2,616,633</td>
<td>2,563,600</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>2,450,000</td>
<td>(133,600)</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
<td>(50,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Admin</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>240,011</td>
<td>109.1%</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>19,989</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Premiums</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>251,950</td>
<td>252.0%</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>(25,950)</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
<td>(24,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre 1982 Pension Funding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>(500,000)</td>
<td>-12.5%</td>
<td>(500,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Ret Min Pen and Ins</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,936,633</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,997,809</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,000,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,436,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>(561,809)</strong></td>
<td><strong>-8.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>(564,000)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Area III Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conf Session and Rel</td>
<td>243,000</td>
<td>215,267</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>176,000</td>
<td>176,000</td>
<td>(39,267)</td>
<td>-18.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer and Admin Services</td>
<td>509,000</td>
<td>487,363</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>570,000</td>
<td>560,000</td>
<td>72,637</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>(10,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Ministerial Services</td>
<td>260,596</td>
<td>286,223</td>
<td>109.8%</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>282,936</td>
<td>(3,942)</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>2,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex Asst to the Bishop</td>
<td>322,383</td>
<td>185,690</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(185,690)</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFA</td>
<td>158,500</td>
<td>160,280</td>
<td>101.1%</td>
<td>158,500</td>
<td>157,777</td>
<td>7,794</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>94,132</td>
<td>110,577</td>
<td>117.5%</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>9,423</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,587,611</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,445,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,304,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,313,936</strong></td>
<td><strong>(9,436)</strong></td>
<td><strong>-0.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>(9,436)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Area IV Conference Benevolences

### Connectional Ministries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POWER Teams</td>
<td>347,500</td>
<td>237,329</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>422,500</td>
<td>452,500</td>
<td>215,171</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related and Ext Agencies</td>
<td>25,850</td>
<td>23,834</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(23,834)</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership ID and Dev</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>34,243</td>
<td>114.1%</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5,777</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM Office Support</td>
<td>701,777</td>
<td>717,983</td>
<td>101.0%</td>
<td>721,777</td>
<td>729,777</td>
<td>7,994</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Office</td>
<td>192,468</td>
<td>183,576</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
<td>257,830</td>
<td>257,830</td>
<td>74,254</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Min</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,297,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,241,045</strong></td>
<td><strong>95.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,432,107</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,520,107</strong></td>
<td><strong>279,062</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>88,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Ministries</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>184,400</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>315,600</td>
<td>171.1%</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Homeless Council</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of the Laity</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>21,842</td>
<td>109.2%</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>23,158</td>
<td>106.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conf Benevolences</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,517,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,447,287</strong></td>
<td><strong>95.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,889,107</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,077,107</strong></td>
<td><strong>629,820</strong></td>
<td><strong>43.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>188,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area V Capital Funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps and Retreat Centers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Glisson</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>133,690</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>11,310</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Camps and Retreat Centers</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>133,690</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>11,310</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Acquisition</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>10,614</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>24,386</td>
<td>229.8%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meth Center - L/T Repl Reserve</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>221,950</td>
<td>225,426</td>
<td>101.6%</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>25,574</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Capital Funding</td>
<td>392,950</td>
<td>369,730</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>521,000</td>
<td>531,000</td>
<td>161,270</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area VI Higher Ed &amp; Campus Ministry</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area XII Church Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenditures</td>
<td>1,473,735</td>
<td>1,422,360</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>1,473,735</td>
<td>1,640,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Support</td>
<td>457,266</td>
<td>552,273</td>
<td>120.8%</td>
<td>447,000</td>
<td>459,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Church Development</td>
<td>1,931,001</td>
<td>1,975,233</td>
<td>102.3%</td>
<td>1,920,735</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area XIII S'wood Conf and Retreat Ctr</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undes Res and Comp Full Pmt</td>
<td>492,855</td>
<td>451,712</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>467,548</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total North Georgia Conference</td>
<td>16,835,476</td>
<td>16,448,106</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>17,190,082</td>
<td>17,192,904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area VII Black College Fund</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total General Church</td>
<td>6,897,437</td>
<td>6,332,964</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>6,588,951</td>
<td>6,741,997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area XVI Southeastern Jurisdiction</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>24,042,913</td>
<td>23,067,301</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
<td>24,036,338</td>
<td>24,077,849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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211k. Recommended 2014 Budget
211l. Interpretation of Recommended 2014 Conference Apportionment Budget

The recommended budget for 2014 is $24,077,849, an increase of $41,511 versus the 2013 budget. Conference Mission and Ministry budgets comprise 30.1% of the Conference portion of the budget versus 28% in 2013. New Church Development program budget was increased to accommodate Sugarloaf’s anticipated debt service in 2014.

This recommended budget includes the effects of the Bishop’s announcement at Annual Conference 2012 regarding functional restructuring. These effects are: administrative responsibility for benefits moved to Treasurer’s office; communications moved to Connectional Ministries; Assistant to the Bishop responsibilities moved to Office of Ministerial Services.

General apportionments are up 2.3%, after having dropped by 4.4% in 2013.

CONFERENCE FUNDS:

AREA I. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

Episcopal Residence/Office/Discretionary $ 80,000
District Superintendents’ Compensation 1,819,689
Equitable Compensation Fund 300,000
Board of Ordained Ministry 485,583
Total Area I $ 2,685,272

The Episcopal Residence and Office Fund provides the conference share of financial support for the office and residence expense for North Georgia’s Resident Bishop. ALL bishops are required to reside in conference-owned residences. In 2014, the General Church share of residence support is $10,000, while the General Church’s share of office support is $80,000.

The District Superintendents’ Compensation line item represents salaries, health insurance and pension benefits for the twelve (12) district superintendents of our conference.

The Equitable Compensation Fund enables our conference to ensure all appointed clergy will receive conference minimum compensation. This year’s budgeted amount includes $100,000 to begin addressing the issue of non-payment of benefits.

The Board of Ordained Ministry coordinates, with the BoM, deployment and credentialing of clergy. Additionally, it coordinates the provision of support for conference clergy through myriad services, continuing education activities,
seminars and Emory Clergy Care. This ministry enables our conference to meet the high standards and expectations of local church congregations.

**AREA II. RETIRED MINISTERS PENSION/INSURANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retired Minister Insurance Premiums</td>
<td>$2,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits Office Staff and Admin Exp</td>
<td>260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees’ Disability Premiums</td>
<td>226,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees’ Past Service Pension (pre-1982)</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area II</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,436,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retired Minister Pension/Insurance reflects funding for the pre-1982 pension liability, as recommended by the Conference Board of Pensions. This “past service liability” must be fully funded by the year 2021. The unfunded liability at 12/31/11 is estimated to be $23.7 million. Also included is the Extend Health “premium” for the new Medicare Supplemental Insurance program for retired clergy. The amount is based on premiums passed on to the conference by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This new Extend Health program will facilitate, over time, a significant reduction in the retiree medical insurance unfunded liability, estimated to be $33,992,000.

**AREA III. ADMINISTRATIVE FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference Session/ Journal/Handbook</td>
<td>$176,000</td>
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The following Area III office “sub totals” include director and staff salaries and benefits and office related expenses.

**Office of Treasurer/Admin/IT Services** $560,000

This office develops, maintains and administers a comprehensive plan of fiscal and administrative policies, processes and services for the Conference and oversees Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. Additionally, the office provides workshops for clergy and laity who serve as church treasurers, financial secretaries, business administrators and finance committee chairpersons. This office also administers all conference databases and computer equipment. The computer systems manager also provides support for the district offices.

**Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual Formation** $282,936

This office provides for the many needs of those who have dedicated their lives to God’s service through the church, including maintenance of clergy service records/files. This department also provides for credentialing and support of all conference clergy.
BOT/Methodist Center Operating Expenses $120,000
This represents net operating expenses for the conference offices, including utilities and housekeeping and maintenance. This line item also includes debt service for the Episcopal Residence of approximately $19,000.
Council on Finance and Administration $175,000
This includes conference and district audit fees, legal fees and meeting expenses for CFA. Cabinet Expenses of $50,000 are included here as well. This represents expenses for Cabinet members related to Cabinet meetings, including Annual Conference session and Pastor’s School.
Total Area III $1,313,936

AREA IV. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES
Connectional Ministries: $1,490,107
Administrative Support & Staff $779,777
Communications 257,830
Program/Ministry Teams 452,500
Sub Total Connect. Ministries $1,490,107
Conference Leadership Development $30,000
The Connectional Ministries functions are responsible for equipping and training local church leaders for effective ministry. Note that ALL communications-related line items requested by the current CIO have been moved to the “office” component of this area.
Action Ministries $500,000
This ministry continues the transformation of communities by counteracting social issues such as poverty, hunger and homelessness. This represents an increase of $300,000 over the 2012 budget.
Housing and Homeless Council $12,000
This line item will help fund staffing and office expenses.
Ministry of the Laity $45,000
The Conference Board of Laity fosters awareness of the role of laity both within the local congregation and through their ministries, develops and promotes stewardship, provides for training of lay members, provides support and direction for ministry of the laity and provides organization, direction and support for the development of local church leaders.
Total Area IV $2,077,107
AREA V. CAPITAL FUNDING

Total Area V $ 531,000

This line item includes a total of $145,000 for Camp Glisson. Also included is $25,000 for equipment. Debt service of $221,000 related to Simpsonwood is included in this area. There is a $100,000 line item for partially funding depreciation at the UM Center.

AREA VI. HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Total Area VI $ 1,099,589

This line item represents support to the seven (9) United Methodist colleges (7 in NGA) and eighteen (18) Wesley Foundations (12 in NGA) on college campuses in Georgia. The balance goes to support office expenses and capital funding.

AREA XII. NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT $ 2,100,000

This proposed budget includes funding for the following activities:

The Office of Church Development and Staff - The salaries, benefits and expenses for all personnel in the Office of New Church Development.

New Church Salary and Support - These funds are used to underwrite the compensation packages of our new church pastors and also to provide some start-up funding.

Research and Development - These funds are used to maintain a contract with a demographic consultant and to provide partnership opportunities with districts to develop district strategies.

New Pastor Training and Assessment - These funds are used to conduct the New Church Leadership Academy as well as to train assessment teams.

Sugarloaf 2014 anticipated debt service - This is included due to the Loan Guarantee Committee’s support of Sugarloaf’s debt restructuring through the United Methodist Development Fund

AREA XIII. SIMPSONWOOD $ 550,000

This item is a funding vehicle as recommended by the March 24, 2007 called session of Annual Conference. This line item represents an operating subsidy for Simpsonwood, and is necessary in order to fund anticipated operating shortfalls and debt service. Legal and real estate professionals, as well as representatives of the Conference Board of Trustees, are judiciously seeking
alternative uses for Simpsonwood, with the goal of reducing/eliminating this subsidy as expeditiously as possible.

Contingency Reserve  $400,000
(This represents slightly less than 2% of the budget)

SUB TOTAL 2014 RECOMMENDED CONF BUDGET  $17,192,904

GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS:

AREA VII. BLACK COLLEGE FUND
Total Area VII  $ 473,357
This line item represents our denomination’s support, via supplements, of the operations and capital funding of historically black colleges and medical schools related to the United Methodist Church, including Clark Atlanta University and Paine College.

AREA VIII. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND
Total Area VIII  $ 1,186,738
This ministry provides our churches financial support for the recruitment and education of our future pastors and bishops. Please note that our conference retains 25% of the fund balance for use in our conference. The retained fund balance as of 12/31/2012 is $622,834. Scholarship grants can total $1,000 per semester for undergraduate studies and $2,000 per semester for seminary students with a lifetime maximum per student of $16,000.

AREA IX. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND
Total Area IX  $ 92,767
This fund enables United Methodists to have a presence in the activities of ecumenical organizations, and provides our United Methodist share of the basic budgets of those organizations which relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns. Included in this fund in 2014 is support for:

National Council of Churches  $31,000
World Council of Churches  $26,000
World Methodist Council  $20,000
Pan-Methodist Commissions  $ 3,000
Ecumenical/Multilateral Conv  $10,000
Other  $ 2,767
AREA X.  WORLD SERVICE FUND

Total Area X $ 3,456,698

The World Service Fund enables our denomination to strengthen its evangelism efforts, stimulate church growth, expand Bible studies and enrich spiritual commitment. This fund allows us to share in a worldwide ministry, including support for missionaries.

AREA XI.  AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Total Area XI  $ 105,929

This fund supports the development of the first private university for young men and women from all over Africa. Courses of study include agriculture, theology, medicine and dentistry, education, technology and management.

AREA XIV.  EPISCOPAL FUND

Total Area XIV  $ 1,009,350

This fund pays the salaries (2013-$138,598) and benefits of active bishops worldwide and support for the retired bishops worldwide, funds the majority of the expenses related to episcopal offices and a portion of episcopal residence expenses. It also funds episcopal travel and moving expenses. There are 51 Jurisdictional and 18 Central Conference bishops and over 100 retired bishops who receive support from this fund.

AREA XV.  GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

Total Area XV  $ 417,158

This area funds those General Church activities that are specifically administrative in nature, such as the General Council on Finance and Administration, General Conference session, Archives and History and Judicial Council.

SUBTOTAL 2014 GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET $6,741,997

Additional information about the 2014 General Church Budget can be found on the GCFA website (gcfa.org). Under the “LINKS” tab, select “Financial Commitment Book 2013 – 2016.”

AREA XVI.  JURISDICTIONAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUND

Total Area XVI  $ 142,948

This area supports the Jurisdictional Offices in Lake Junaluska, NC.

GRAND TOTAL 2014 RECOMMENDED BUDGET $24,077,849
1. The General Church sets priorities and develops programs at the General Conference Session for a four (4) year period (the quadrennium). The new quadrennium begins in 2013 and runs through 2016.

The financial support for those worldwide ministries is apportioned to the Annual Conferences, which, in turn, apportions those amounts to the local churches. The 2014 General Church Apportionments are $6,741,997 or 28.0% of the 2014 recommended Conference Budget.

For those members who have not traditionally attended a United Methodist or other “connectional” church, supporting a world-wide structure may be a new concept. The United Methodist Church is a worldwide, connectional system and every United Methodist church supports, via apportioned giving, our worldwide ministries.
2. Conference-based and conference-subsidized programs and ministries requested funding based on their plans and priorities for the upcoming year. These plans are developed by program “conferencing” via staff as well as those serving on boards and committees, such as the Board of Church Development, the Board of Laity, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Board of Ministry, Action Ministries, et. al. Representatives from several programs/ministries and their board chairpersons, if applicable, presented their requests to CFA via email and/or in person. Those requests were then put in the draft budget.

3. On March 18, 2013 CF&A met to prayerfully review the draft budget. During this meeting, CF&A made adjustments to the draft budget based on several factors, including: budget increase compared to increases in local church expenditures; reserve balances; apportionment collection rates from prior years; feedback from the local churches, the Cabinet and other members of the Annual Conference; national and regional economic conditions, and information gleaned from the UM “Call to Action” report. The total proposed budget for 2014 is $24,077,849, an increase of $41,511 (.2%) from the approved 2013 budget.

4. Through a series of district “pre-conference briefings,” conference staff and representatives of CF&A will make themselves available to the delegates to not only present highlights of the proposed budget, but to also answer questions about it.

5. During Annual Conference Session, the recommended budget will be presented to members of annual conference, who represent all local churches. Once the budget has been voted on and approved, conference staff will begin the process of calculating the local church apportionments, which represent each church’s “share” of the Conference and world-wide ministry and mission, using the apportionment calculation methodology described the “Budget Interpretation.” The apportionments will be provided to each district superintendent, who may alter individual apportionments within his/her district, after conversations with the affected churches.
Final apportionments are distributed, by church, by the DS at his/her appointed district setup meeting in late summer/early fall.

The Conference Treasurer’s Office will NOT communicate apportionments by church until after the district set up meetings have concluded!

211n. How Are Apportionments Computed?

Step 1: Conference determines annual budget, consisting of several ministries and programs, including retired ministerial support, regional ministries, new church development, General Church and Jurisdictional apportionments to the North Georgia Conference.

Step 2: At calendar year-end, the local church completes the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference. (For the 2014 budget, the latest available reports are the 2012 year-end reports.)

Step 3: The Treasurer’s Office accumulates all local church reports and determines each local church’s operating expenses. Operating expenses consist of salaries, pension benefits, clergy housing-related expenses, expenses reimbursements, current program expenses, expenses related to commercial insurance and other current operating expenses. Operating expenses (also referred to as “decimal” expenses) do NOT include: HealthFlex insurance expenses, payments on indebtedness, or capital-related expenditures. Also, expenses related to “self-sustaining” activities and local benevolences are NOT considered operating expenses.

Step 4: The Treasurer’s Office totals the local church operating expenses for ALL 900 North Georgia United Methodist churches. For year end 12/31/2012, this total was $181,680,059 (an increase of 2.0% over 2011).

Step 5: We determine “the decimal.” This is the conference budget divided by total church operating expenses (from step 4). The decimal for 2014 is .132, or 13.2%. This is down 0.3 percentage points from 2013. This means that conference apportionments, as a percentage of local church expenditures, in aggregate, continue to decline.
Step 6: We multiply an individual church’s operating expenses by the decimal, arriving at the total gross apportionment. We then prorate the gross apportionment to sixteen individual apportionment line items.

Step 7: Churches above 1000 members will have a “reasonableness test” applied to their apportionments (see formula below), and the Cabinet might adjust the computed apportionments for certain churches within that size range. This methodology was approved at AC 2006.

Step 8: We sum the apportionment for each individual district and send this information to the district offices. District superintendents review the apportionments as calculated, and may make adjustments to the calculated amounts. Such adjustments are made after discussion with the church’s senior pastor.

Step 9: District superintendents notify local churches of their apportionment amounts. This information is provided to the pastors via “Local Church Apportionment Reports” at the summer/fall district set-up meetings.

Please note that churches that are considered “newly constituted” have five years to transition into their full computed apportionment. In effect, the difference between their computed apportionment and what they are actually apportioned is subsidized by the other churches in the conference for a five year period.

Detailed explanation of Step 7 as approved at 2006 Annual Conference Session

In order to assure that our apportionment computation and allocation system is as equitable as possible, we recommend that a “reasonableness test” be implemented, which will work as follows:

a. Existing apportionment formula and rules for year-end report completion remain unchanged.

b. After the apportionments have been computed for all churches, three (3) comparative groups will be established - churches with membership from 1000-1999; 2000-2999; 3000+

c. The aggregate apportionments for each group will be divided by the aggregate membership of each group in order to calculate an average apportionment/member for each group.
d. Any church whose apportionment/member falls below the average for its group will be referred to the Cabinet for discussion about possibly being moved up to the group average over a three (3) year period. Group average calculations will occur each year based on the latest reported membership statistics.

e. The Cabinet will review the apportionments for the churches in all three groups and will, as a body, discuss and might make adjustments to each church whose apportionment is below the average for its size range.

f. Apportionments added to the affected churches will not be offset by reductions in other churches, and will be applied to conference-specific apportionment line items ONLY and will NOT be added to General or Jurisdictional line items.
This has been a year of transition for the Office of New Church Development but we have continued our efforts to create new places for new people. We have assessed the work of church development and learned from our past in order to advance with greater strides in the future. A 20-year survey of all pastors who started new churches and district superintendents who supervised a new church start has provided much valuable data to inform recommendations for the future.

A high priority for the Office of New Church Development is clear communication and coordination with district superintendents, other conference departments and programs, local church and district leaders. We will be more effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ and healthy local churches will be built and sustained when we work collegially.

Projects in 11 districts of the North Georgia Conference are currently supported by the Office of New Church Development. These include six new churches, 18 missions to eight different ethnic minority populations, and four associates appointed to assist existing churches to expand their ministry to other sites. The most recent of the associates is at Quest UMC in Augusta where we will provide salary support for a part-time minister to assist in establishing a satellite campus.

The Fountain United Methodist Church in Johns Creek celebrated its first anniversary on March 4, 2013 and is developing a solid base for a strong congregation serving God and the community. Connexion UMC began weekly worship services in January and is gathering a large launch team that is establishing a presence in the Rockdale-Newton County area.

Partnerships with Skyland UMC and West Rome UMC have resulted in two new Hispanic missions since the first of 2013 and plans are progressing to work with Hillside UMC to start another Hispanic mission within the next few months. Plans are also being implemented to expand the ministry to Hispanics in the Athens-Elberton District and to the Portugese speaking community in the Atlanta area.

At the request of the Atlanta-Emory District Strategic Growth Team and with the affirmation of the Cabinet, New Church Development is assisting the Sugarloaf UMC to stabilize and return to healthy growth after a crippling calamity occurred last summer. Salary support has been allocated for 3 ½ years as needed to allow the cabinet to maintain appropriate and effective pastoral leadership during this time of recovery. Additionally, $300,000 of the recommended 2014 budget is designated for debt service for Sugarloaf’s re-
structured loan. While this utilization of New Church Development funds is unusual, if we did not have a church in their location, we would want to plant one there. Thus it makes sense to partner with them as they devote themselves to achieve a state of well-being and healthy growth.

With the help of a grant from the General Board of Global Ministries we have added a part-time Hispanic Youth Coordinator. Josue Quintanilla began November 1 and is working diligently with the existing Hispanic congregations to develop meaningful programs for their youth. He will also help to identify, recruit and train youth leadership and adult workers with Hispanic youth.

Although district superintendents, district strategic growth teams and local churches have been reluctant to propose new projects until there is clarity about the future of the Office of New Church Development, the NCD staff and board continue to be proactive. We are currently exploring ways to establish a congregation that is primarily engaged in ministry with the poor and conversations are taking place about starting a new African-American church in south Gwinnett within the next year.

Other plans for the coming year include development of a Coaching Network to mentor persons who are appointed to start new faith communities and the creation of a Manual for New Church Pastors. Training opportunities are planned to equip laity and clergy for the work of carrying the Gospel to all people.

A task force will be established to work with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to raise funds, in addition to conference apportionments, for New Church Development. It is also recommended that one of the primary tasks of the NCD director will be to lead in identifying and cultivating donors to an endowment fund for new churches. The goal would be to provide sufficient funds for land and initial facilities for new church plants when deemed appropriate.

Currently we provide support for new churches for 3 ½ years on a decreasing scale, and we no longer purchase land or facilities for new churches. It seems that we would benefit from re-examining that process to discover if this provides optimal opportunity for new churches to be successful.

Finally, I am honored to have been a part of a dedicated and capable team of people who have a passion for the Gospel and for the Church. I have supported these efforts in the past and will continue to pray for their success in the future.

Jamie Jenkins, Executive Director
212a. New Black Church Development

The Committee on New Black Church Development has continued to work in tandem with the North Georgia Conference Office of New Church Development to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The greatest joy is celebrating with all of our churches when individuals accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We feel that church development begins with disciple making, and then creating spaces for these disciples to reach more disciples. In other words, we are creating new places for new people.

These economic times have presented us with great opportunity to refocus our efforts and attention in order to accomplish goals and objectives to ensure that we carry out our mission. Despite strained financial resources and continued reporting of declining membership numbers, our faith in Jesus and our intentional and unwavering commitment to excellence keeps us working in the kingdom. We have positioned ourselves to: work with the district strategic growth teams; identify emerging young and gifted clergy leadership; support conference and district training events; and support opportunities for new black church development.

We will focus our efforts on creating a resource repository in an effort to assist in expediting the development of new churches. Those persons starting new churches will not have to use valuable time, effort and resources searching for the assistance they need relative to financing, stewardship campaigns, architects, general contractors or any other resources. We want to ensure that those persons who have been called to start new churches can devote themselves more fully to the development of disciples.

The opportunities in front of us are unlimited, and the challenges that we face are not bigger than the God we serve. We must continue to serve faithfully and remain committed to serving with excellence. To God be the glory for the things that God has done.

Marvin A. Moss, Chair

212b. New Hispanic / Latino Church Development

Restructure of the Committee: The committee has been restructured to comprise of 12 people and has agreed to focus on five areas: (1) to continue the education for pastors; (2) to develop new lay leaders; (3) to mentor local pastors in the
ordination process; (4) to advocate for immigrant communities; and finally, (5) to support the Bridge to El Salvador.

**Education and Training for Hispanic/Latino Clergy and Laity:** During 2012 we had more than 10 different workshops and conferences in order to equip and develop stronger leadership within our congregations. Some of the training given during the past year was supported by the Office of Connectional Ministries with Vital Signs and the Office of New Church Development, the Center Mi Familia, and the General Board of Higher Education. We also supported approximately 50 people, both lay and clergy, for the Walk to Emmaus and Tres Dias con Cristo.

**Annual Bilingual Celebration:** During the month of October we held our annual bilingual celebration at Norcross First UMC, where members of our churches throughout the entire Annual Conference came and worshiped together under the leadership of Saul Espino.

Our vision is to develop local leadership among the North Georgia Conference so that we can reach the fastest growing population of Hispanics. By 2050, the nation’s racial and ethnic mix will look quite different than it does now. Non–Hispanic whites who made up 72% of the population in 2012 will account for 47% in 2050. Therefore, in November of 2012, we were able to hire a part time coordinator for our Hispanic youth throughout the conference. He has been working with his committee to serve and strengthen our current youth groups and to help create and develop new youth groups within the Hispanic/Latino churches in the Annual Conference in order to prepare new young leadership who can reach the second generation Hispanic Americans.

We began a new Hispanic ministry at West Rome UMC, as well as Skyland UMC, where within a 5-mile radius of these two churches, there are 50,000 Hispanic people. Finally, in the city of Roswell with Communitas Mission we hope to reach Brazilian and Portuguese people. We are in process of looking for a church planter from the country of Brazil to come and serve here.

“The best of all God is with us” John Wesley.

Juan Quintanilla, Associate Director
Rodrigo Cruz, Chair

**212c. Korean Committee**

As a way of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the Korean Church of Atlanta has invited several Korean churches and
mission to form the Partner Church. The Partner Church adopted the vision of
50 churches/missions/faith communities, 500 mission outreaches and 5,000 new
members. The Korean Committee supports this vision through a weekly
gathering to brainstorm, plan, strategize and implement these goals. Although it
is still too early to see its fruits, the weekly gatherings have instilled this vision
in the hearts of our people.

We, in partnership with Sugar Hill UMC, relocated and restarted a
Korean mission at Sugar Hill UMC from Lanier UMC in Cumming. Through
this endeavor, the Korean mission at Sugar Hill is experiencing a slow but
steady growth in its worship attendance and membership. Meanwhile, Korean
Church of Newnan, that was started in 2006 and constituted in 2008, continues
to grow and has built a new sanctuary to continue its mission. As you read this
report, this church would have moved out of Cornerstone UMC, where it had
shared the facility, to the new sanctuary nearby to continue its mission.

We are in dialogue with the GBHEM for the possibility of offering a
Local Pastor School in the Korean language. At the same time, we are
recruiting and fostering potential lay leaders who may have the gift in starting
new faith communities as tent-makers. The Partner Church is planning to start
new churches/missions/faith communities by fostering possible and potential
church/mission/faith community planters through an internship program at
Korean Church of Atlanta or at other members of the Partner Church.

The Partner Church pastors made the commitment to meet weekly to
study together to improve sermon preparation and delivery and to learn about
new emerging ministries and churches.

Last year the Partner Church made a mission trip to Haiti and to the Hopi
Indian Reservation in Arizona and supported the orphanage in Liberia in
partnership with John Wesley UMC.

Korean mission at Sugar Hill has trained a few small group leaders as a
way to restart its mission. Other members of the Partner Church had their small
group leaders training.

Recently the Partner Church and other Korean churches in the U.S.,
GBGM mission staff members, the Bishop and a district superintendent from
Central Asia gathered at Korean Church of Atlanta to have the mission
initiative in Central Asia to support UMC mission there.

As you read this report, the Korean Church of Atlanta hosted the Peace
Conference as a way to support the reunification efforts in Korea, and the
Revival Service through joint efforts by the Partner Church to reach out to the
community with the gospel.
As the economy is slowly recovering, the population of Korean-Americans is showing a slight, but definite upward movement. Therefore, as it was the case even during the economic turmoil, the field is ripe but the workers are few. Through partnership with the local Korean churches and missions, we will strive to support the Partner Church and its vision in NGA. We ask for your prayers and support in reaching out to Korean-American communities with the gospel in order to make them the disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Hyo Shik Kim, Associate Director

212d. New Multi-Cultural Church Development

The committee of New Multi-Cultural Church Development is excited about 2013. We have many cultures and sub-cultures which include ethnic groups, economic groups, educational groups, handicapped groups and many others in our country and we need to reach all of them with the gospel of Christ!

We believe we have the people and the funding to go forward with a full agenda this year which includes but isn’t limited to, the projects which are listed below:

- Committee to research successful multicultural churches in the U.S. and the world. Asking questions such as Why be multicultural? How did they become multicultural? and What made them be successful?
- The development of a guide of best practices, including ideas for local churches on how to offer radical hospitality to their new neighbors.
- Write manuals and make available resources for those who want to be intentional about being multicultural.
- World Café; an annual multicultural event, which will include worship, workshops and fellowship to resource churches and leaders on effective strategies to reach their neighbors from all nations and walks of life.
- Offer scholarships to those multicultural new church starts.
- Have a Multicultural New Church Celebration which will bring us together and allow us to celebrate and encourage one another.

In 2012 we reached many cultures and sub-groups in North Georgia: Brazilian, Vietnamese, Kenyan, Liberian, Haitian and Chinese. This committee has provided support this past year to the Kenyan pastor at East Cobb, the Brazilian mission at Mount Pisgah, Chinese and Korean candidates for ministry, New Church BootCamp for two candidates for new church starts. We have also
helped fund Vietnamese pastors and families to attend the Vietnamese UMC conference.

We have churches that have welcomed other cultures and sub-cultures into their worship. We are developing people and materials to help us be an effective resource for the laity and clergy of our conference.

Carole Hulslander, Committee Chair
300. Connectional Ministries

The song writer wrote, “Time is filled with swift transition….Hold to God’s unchanging hand.” These lyrics are appropriate in describing the work of Connectional Ministries this year. The start of the conference year greeted us with a new alignment of our ministry teams and reorganization in the conference offices. Camp Glisson expanded to become North Georgia Camping and Retreat ministries, Conference Communications moved into the Connectional Ministries office and a new associate conference director for Youth and Young Adult ministries came on board. These swift transitions were met with expectant hearts who have met the challenge with grace.

The Connectional Café has been redesigned to provide ease of use for the “people on the pew” in our local congregations. Connectional Café exists to provide easy-to-use, turnkey training on just about any offering a church requests. You will find the new Connectional Café interface at www.ngumc.org/咖啡. This is your one stop shop to design training opportunities for your local congregations, sub-district groups, cluster groups, affinity groups, districts and beyond.

The Bridges mission ministry continues to expand and become the primary mission offering for our conference as demonstrated by the theme and crux of this Annual Conference. Bridges exists to create partnerships between the conference, mission agencies, and local congregations to transform communities by implementing sustainable mission projects and partnerships. Local congregations and individuals are invited to join bridges based on their ministry interests.

Connectional Ministries exists to build mission and ministry bridges in our conference. We do this through our staff resources and through our ministry teams. The ministry teams underwent realignment this year that positioned them to be more effective resources for local congregations. Their guiding question is now: how does this resource or provide a resource for our local churches?

The Worship Team exists to provide training opportunities and resources to local congregations in the following ministry areas: Worship, Evangelism, Stewardship and Archives and History. The Outreach and Missions Team exists to provide training opportunities and resources to local congregations in the following ministry areas: Disaster Response; Health, Welfare and Witness; Missions/Global Ministries; Resettlement; Bridges and United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM). The Leadership Team exists to provide training opportunities and resources in the following ministry areas: Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; Church and Society; Creation Care;
Disability Concerns; Ethnic and Local Church Concerns; Great Starts; Native American Concerns; Peace with Justice; Persons in Poverty; Religion and Race; and Status and Role of Women. The Discipleship Team exists to provide training opportunities and resources in the following ministry areas: Adult and Family Ministry; Camp and Retreat Ministry; Children’s Ministry; Education Training and Faith Formation; Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Older Adult Ministry; Safe Sanctuaries; Young Adult Ministry; and Youth Ministry. The Ministry Streams – Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial Ministries, Stewardship, Multi-Ethnic/Ethnic Ministries, and Small Membership Churches – work with all of the teams to ensure that these emphases are addressed in a collaborative and impactful way.

Our staff and volunteers teams continue to be our best asset. Over the last year, Connectional Ministries has provided countless church consultations, leadership training events, worship training events, one-on-one ministry consultations and more for our local congregations. It is our joy and honor to serve. Thank you for the opportunity.

300a. Connectional Ministries: Worship Team

Worship (Chuck Bell): The Worship sub-committee continues to desire and strive to identify common ground in worship and meet worship resourcing needs for all churches in our conference. Local churches find ways to join together in worship with other United Methodist churches and with other denominations. Recognizing this, the committee recommended and supported the observance of conference-wide Election Day communion services that were held at the local church level. Participating churches sought to have these acts of sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion serve as a bridging reminder of our unity in Christ without regard to our political affiliations. Success was confirmed by multiple churches that voiced their positive comments.

Evangelism (Chris Branscomb): This past year, the Evangelism subcommittee continued its work in selecting the Denman Award recipients in the categories of youth, laity, and clergy. Each year this is a very difficult task, because the committee always receives so many applications for individuals who are great models for us as to what it means to be a witness for Christ. Narrowing all the applications down to just one individual in each category is a difficult and much prayer encompassed process. As is our tradition, the 2013 award winners will be announced and presented at Annual Conference.

Stewardship (Bob Fincher): Historically, stewardship has been a stand-alone component of the Worship Team. It now is a comprehensive emphasis that is to
be a consideration in the work of all Connectional Ministries’ teams. To that end, we now have a Stewardship Stream that includes representatives of all the teams. The Worship Stewardship committee networked with and engaged in ministry planning and implementation through the Stewardship Stream in addition to its focus on worship support.

**Archives and History** (Hugh Hendrickson): The Archives and History committee has engaged in research through outreach to historians and archivists in both North and South Georgia in its efforts to identify ways to help local churches find ways to capture their stories as well as connect to historical sites within our Annual Conference. They are in the early development stages of strategies to spark interest and inspire local churches to engage in this work on an ongoing basis.

The Worship Team’s energies and focus have reset its course for ministry to emphasize more localized support for districts and local churches. First efforts of all of the Team’s committees have been devoted to reassessment of our Connectional Café training menu offerings and our online resource pages. The streamlining work done has resulted in a package of training options that we believe will better assist local churches and districts in their efforts to increase their vitality and capacity to engage in worship, evangelism, stewardship and archives and history ministries. We have updated our web presence with source links that enable local churches to connect to models and innovative practices that have demonstrated vital impact capacity and yielded success in worship and witness ministries. Work continues in each of these areas. We will expand our capacity to support local churches and districts in efforts to increase their vitality in ministry as we bring into fruition ministry initiatives under development. We invite you to share your ideas with us so we may more effectively serve our Lord Jesus and our conference.

Carol Snyge Crawford, Chairperson

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**300b. Connectional Ministries: Outreach and Missions Team**

**Disaster Response** (Thom Shores): The Disaster Response Team was instrumental in helping Bartow and Gordon counties establish long term recovery committees to direct the rebuilding process necessitated by the tornado that ripped through that area on January 30, 2013.

Many churches in the conference are being trained to be a disaster prepared church enabling them to meet the needs of their church and their
community following a disaster. In the event of a disaster church members are prepared to help survivors with love and compassion.

**Missions/Global Ministries (M/GM) (Brett DeHart):** The annual **Church of Excellence Award** ministry offers a blueprint for mission programs designed to fit the budget, resources and interests of the local church and recognizes churches that are reaching beyond the church walls to be the hands and feet of Christ.

The MG/M continues to equip churches to be mission minded and mission active by partnering with the United Methodist Women in the annual mission education event, **Mission U.**

The M/GM team also serves to coordinate and facilitate GBGM missionaries and their families when they return to the NGUMC to renew contact and report their mission work. The M/GM team helps provide housing and transportation and schedules visits to local churches that support or are interested in supporting a missionary.

**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) (Dalton Rushing):** Trained UMVIM leaders take teams to domestic and international locations where they serve Christ by serving others, bridging national and cultural divides and building relationships between God's people and those in need of Christ’s love. UMVIM teams have provided care and assistance to those impacted by Hurricane Sandy and helped in El Salvador by feeding hungry children.

Jim Sampson, Chairperson

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**300c. Connectional Ministries: Resourcing and Stream Teams**

**Resourcing (Connectional Ministries Staff Initiatives):** Our Second Annual Kindling the Fire Lectionary Reading Week at Camp Glisson doubled in attendance under the leadership of Beth Sanders and Susan M. Taylor. Participants leave the retreat with a preaching plan for August to Pentecost. Please plan to attend next year’s event during the last week of February 2014.

The Strategic Appointment Roundtable (START) welcomed its second class of participants with an opening retreat at Camp Glisson. Forty-six pastors in their first few years of ministry have begun a journey toward strengthening their leadership skills while growing as a community of pastors. Speakers this year have included Bob Farr, Lovett Weems, Tom Berlin and North Georgia pastors Bill Britt, Tom Davis, Sharma Lewis and Michael McQueen.

Participants have also visited various teaching churches across the conference. Later this year, Mike Slaughter will be back to lead our closing retreat.
The Vital Congregations initiative is in full swing. We are seeing increased participation in both annual goal setting and weekly intentionality; the combination of both is leading to increased awareness around ministry effectiveness and opportunities in local congregations. More local churches are able to answer the Vital Congregations question (Are we doing the best we can, in our context, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?) in a more intentional way that is leading to increased impactful ministry.

**Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Stream** (Elaine Crawford): The Cross Racial/Cross Cultural (CR/CC) stream held two events this year that have included emphases on multi-ethnic and small membership churches. This collaboration has been very successful and is a way for us to help our teams build ministry bridges between our program and resource areas.

The first event was held September 22, 2012 and focused on preparing lay leadership and local congregations for CR/CC ministry. A panel of lay persons discussed celebrations and challenges experienced in CR/CC appointments. The event was well attended and well received.

Religion and Race co-hosted a training on CR/CC ministry on Feb 5, 2013 at Simpsonwood. About 35 clergy and laity attended. The event consisted of two workshops. The first workshop, Moving from Monocultural mindset to Intercultural mindset, was led by Elaine Crawford. Participates indicated that the workshop was very practical and the information very useful. A packet of material was distributed to assist district superintendents, S/PPRCs, pastors and lay leaders to begin the conversation regarding CR/CC ministry and appointments. The second workshop was led by Bishop Woodie White. Bishop White has a long history of serving in CR/CC ministry and currently teaches a class on Race and the Church at the Candler School of Theology. Bishop White gave us 11 important pointers for doing CR/CC ministry. The presentation was excellent! It was an impactful event.

**Stewardship Stream** (Steve Winter): A pastor called after visiting our Connectional Café website. She represented the leaders of three small membership African American congregations, all struggling financially, to ask for help in the areas of stewardship and church finance. Her purpose was to help her people grow as disciples in those areas of Christian life. We gathered on a sunny Saturday morning to ask questions and share wisdom. The time was filled with prayer, laughter, lively conversations, information and challenges. A bridge to resources and possibilities was built by the Stewardship Stream and those congregations.
Small Membership Church Stream (Shari Rates): The NGC Small Membership Church Stream (SMCS) has enjoyed a year of getting their feet wet in ways that will continue to be expanded upon in 2013-2014. In addition to having two representatives assigned to Worship, Outreach, Leadership and Discipleship, the SMCS joined with the Cross Cultural/Cross Racial stream related with a few workshops they provided to the Conference.

In one specific workshop, Small Membership Church had two North Georgia Conference Atlanta-Emory District laity participate in a panel discussion related with how a new pastor is received in a setting that has traditionally been predominantly white. Mark Fiddie of mixed heritage and Dorothy Grizzle of Rock Springs UMC in Lawrenceville admitted that in their setting they were unprepared to receive a pastor of diversity. In a vicinity where the community has continued to grow with ethnicities that range from Hispanic, Asian, African American, the Eastern European Block and many other cultures, their church has sought to make room for new neighbors and friends. Rock Springs, however, recognizes that being willing to receive is not always as easy as the effort, and work required to do so may entail both for members and for seekers. Both Fiddie and Grizzle realize that for many small membership churches, making relevant in-roads with the surrounding community will include recognizing that churches who still look to the past will have to always work at looking forward with strategic visioning and oriented mission.

Multi-Ethnic/Ethnic Ministries Stream (Ellynda Lipsey): We become human bridges as we engage in the process of making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In 2 Corinthians 5:20 we are called to be ambassadors – to share God’s grace around the world and around the corner. As ambassadors we need to be equipped to relate to persons in different contexts, different ethnicities and different cultures.

The Multi-Ethnic/Ethnic Stream Team will find multiple ways (i.e., the Connectional Café, the conference website, mobile displays, an annotated bibliography) to equip our annual conference to do this vital work. Here is one useful tool. In George Yancey’s book, One Body, One Spirit: Principles for Successful Multi-Racial Churches, he offers the following key principles for building multi-cultural churches: Inclusive Worship, Diverse Leadership (clergy and lay), An Overarching Goal (separate from cultural issues), Intentionality, Personal Skills (mediating interpersonal-intercultural communication), Location and Adaptability (learning how to work amicably with diverse cultures, which creates a new social order).
With the realignment of the Office of Connectional Ministries’ teams, this has been a year of exciting change as we have lived into new roles and responsibilities. Under the banner of developing leaders steeped in leading The United Methodist Way, the team offered the “Great Start” series for pastors and churches who have received a new appointment. Responses to these workshops affirm that these are helpful opportunities to have healthy relationships from the beginning.

**Religion and Race (Elaine Crawford):** This conference year has also seen expansion in both offerings and participants in the Cross Racial/Cross Cultural ministry workshop offerings, including a workshop led by Bishop Woodie White where he shared not only from his vast experiences but also insight brought by teaching about Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Ministry at the Candler School of Theology. As we lean into this powerful and needed ministry, we move with grace, led by the Spirit.

**Creation Care (Jennifer Coffey):** The Creation Care Team has redesigned their website, offering excellent resources for how your congregation can enhance its involvement in environmental stewardship, both as a witness to our world and for fiscal responsibility of the congregation. You can find the redesigned webpage at [www.ngumc.org/creationcare](http://www.ngumc.org/creationcare). Additionally, the Creation Care Team is excited to launch at the 2013 session of annual conference, in collaboration with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Environmental Churches of Excellence Program where your church can go through a process of identifying your needs and build upon best practices in the faith community.

**Special Initiative:** The Leadership Team, along with North Georgia United Methodist Women, was involved at the Annual Day at the Capitol. This important day, held on February 12, 2013, invited Georgia Methodists to engage their elected officials in enhancing human trafficking/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) laws and services. 30 people were involved.

**Native American Ministries (Mike Shearon):** The Native American Ministries Sunday Offering funded four scholarships to young adults. In addition to investing in the future by lessening the need for student loans, these scholarships include a service component that involves teaching and advocating around Native American Heritage and the importance of Native American Ministries Sunday but also being involved in United Methodist Campus
Ministry or local United Methodist Church where they are in college. Money collected on Native American Ministries Sunday also helped fund a mission trip to Hamlet, North Carolina.

**Peace with Justice** (Dawn Britt): The Well received an Annual Conference Peace with Justice grant. Their successful application resulted in a grant awarded of $1,000 to move homeless children and their families towards a stable housing environment.

We are excited moving forward as we continue to take on the task of teaching and training leaders in local congregations the multifaceted, unique ways we are called to live out our lives as United Methodists.

Dave Allen Grady, Chairperson

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**300e. Connectional Ministries: Discipleship Team**

**Children’s Ministry:** From Katie Atcheson, Grayson United Methodist Church, Minister of Children and Families, katie@graysonumc.org: I have loved every minute of being with my Atlanta-Emory Children's Ministry Network Group. I made connections with new people that have now become good friends. We have shared resources, ideas, sorrows, and joys, and we are there for one another no matter what is going on. I'm thankful that we are intentional about meeting and checking in with one another. I believe having these connections while working in Children's Ministries is vital to both the spiritual health of me and my church kids!

From Nicole Keyser, Hollydale UMC, Children’s Ministries: Hollydale UMC has been blessed in so many ways the last couple of years regarding Children’s Ministries (and truthfully, so have I). The Atlanta-Marietta District Connectional Group has been a huge help for us. Through this group, VBS has basically been supplied (decorations, VBS kits, crafts, snack ideas, etc) the last couple of years and for our church that is huge. I’m currently working with another church to put a table in our nursery that really needs an updated/safer one and another church has offered to help get our nursery/children’s rooms cleaned out and up to date. All of this would not have been possible had Dede not said “get a mentor and check out Connectional Ministries.” I did! With God’s love and guidance, we have been able to make the impossible, possible.

**Christian Education:** From Kim Reindl, Program Chair, North Georgia Chapter, Christian Educators Fellowship: The North Georgia Chapter of Christian Educator’s Fellowship (CEF), as a professional organization within the United Methodist Church, has been grateful for the continual work of
Connectional Ministries in equipping church staff and lay leaders for Discipleship Ministry. This year the Connectional Café has offered several easily accessed, well structured, and expertly led workshops that have met the programming needs of our local chapter meetings. Through the Connectional Café, persons doing the work in children’s, youth, and adult discipleship ministry within the local church have been guided in how to best select curriculum and equip volunteer leaders in ways that honor our United Methodist theology, informed about proper self-care for the work of ministry, and instructed in ways to incorporate spiritual practices in their own lives, as well as encourage such practices in the lives of those within their congregation. In addition to Connectional Café offerings, teachings on Vital Congregations have been incorporated into panel discussions on best practices for planning and implementing Sunday School and Small Group ministries. Overall, discipleship ministry throughout our conference has been greatly enriched because of the excellent resourcing that has been provided through our connection.

Kim Reindl, Chairperson

300f. Connectional Ministries: Youth Ministries

The conference youth ministries have focused on enabling local church and district youth ministries so that they might better embody Jesus and the love of God to the youth in those communities, helping youth and congregations experience what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) has gathered quarterly to assess and plan ministry events, beginning with a weekend retreat in August. The coordinators met to talk about how they can be a support to the youth ministries in their areas and around discussions of leadership training events as well as some new ideas around the Youth Ministry Institute. Conference youth were directed toward The Bahamas Bridge. In September, a group of adults from local congregations travelled to Eleuthera to learn what it would be like to take a youth group there for a week-long mission trip. That trip resulted in the conference scheduling two back-to-back weeks of outreach in June of 2013, bringing 52 youth and their adult leaders into a serving relationship with Christ and with our sisters and brothers in The Bahamas.

Confirmation resourcing was offered to churches through the Conference Confirmation Retreat, held at Camp Glisson on two separate weekends in the winter. The retreat explored our vow to support the church with “prayers,
presence, gifts, service and witness,” helping youth understand the meaning and
weight of such a commitment. The retreat also focused on the unique blessing
we as United Methodists have in our connectional system.

Youth groups also found the conference Spiritual Life Retreat to be a
resource for the spiritual growth of their youth. Youth in the conference served
on the design team and on staff each of the four weekends at Camp Glisson in
late winter, helping participants understand what it means to “Dig” into the
nourishment that God provides for our faith.

We will continue to support and enable local youth ministries, helping
central and districts experience the blessings of our connectional church.

Sam Halverson, Associate Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Tonya Lawrence, Coordinator

300g. Connectional Ministries: 2013 Young Adult Task Force Report

The Young Adult Ministry network of the North Georgia Annual Conference
continues to encourage the involvement and empowerment of young adults in
the life of our Annual Conference and local church ministries. In the past few
years our conference has seen incredible strides in the number of young adults
who are finding their voice within the Conference. Young adult clergy are
leading churches and participating in the Connectional Ministry’s Strategic
Round Table Program, young adult laity are stepping into local church
leadership positions and opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship, and
several young adult clergy and laity served on the North Georgia delegation to
2012 General Conference. We celebrate the accomplishments thus far, and look
forward to even more fruits from those who labor to strengthen young adult
ministry.

In 2013 we celebrate the 5th annual Young Adult Coffee House Kick Off
held on the evening before the official start of Annual Conference. This event
continues to be an enjoyable time of socializing, networking and building
camaraderie amongst our young adult attendees. We look forward to welcoming
the many young adults visiting North Georgia from the various BRIDGES
partner conferences.

This year the Young Adult Task Force has proposed resolutions and
amendments intent on more clearly defining the definition of “Young Adult” to
those between the ages of 18-35, and encouraging the scheduling of Annual
Conference to include a weekend day. Both of these are presented in hopes of
increasing the number of young adults present for Annual Conference. Further,
in cooperation with the Childcare Task Force, a room within the Conference Center has been set up to accommodate nursing mothers. Information is available at Guest Services. We encourage all members of the Annual Conference who are parents of young children to complete the childcare survey distributed by the Childcare Task Force in hopes that your childcare needs and the needs of other potential young adult delegates may be more effectively assessed and addressed in coming years.

Following the 2013 Annual Conference, the Young Adult Committee will take up the priorities of the Young Adult Task Force: promoting collegiality amongst young adult clergy, encouraging the involvement of young adult laity in the life of the annual conference, and equipping local churches for more effective ministry to and with young adults in their surrounding communities. The Young Adult Task Force dissolves with a sense of great accomplishment during its seven years of work, and thanks the entire North Georgia Conference for the great strides it has made in supporting Young Adult ministry in our Conference.

Blair Boyd Zant, Chair, Young Adult Task Force
You’ve seen it. Perhaps you’ve even experienced it: The power of a family, a neighborhood or church to make a difference for Christ right where they live. In 2012, 64,000 clients experienced this power. For 50 years, Action Ministries has been a bridge in the North Georgia conference, linking volunteers with a heart to serve to their neighbors in need – in a united effort to overcome the challenges of poverty. Our reach expands into 45 counties – up from 19 in 2011 – and our goal is to bring **hunger relief, housing** and **education** solutions directly to the doorsteps of our partners so they can make a real difference in their own communities. We share the Church’s mission: Transforming lives through discipleship.

In Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Gainesville and Rome, and through Breakthru House, a residential addiction facility for homeless women, Action Ministries exists to mobilize communities to serve their neighbors. In 2012, 20,877 volunteers answered the call to serve through Action Ministries, giving more than 60,000 hours to our various programs.

**Hunger relief:** We distributed 1.3 million pounds of food and served 1.4 million meals through programs like our food pantries, community kitchens and our new food box initiative, a result of our merger with Feed the Hungry Foundation in January. In its inaugural year, our statewide Smart Lunch, Smart Kid program served more than 117,000 lunches to Georgia children who would have otherwise gone hungry.

**Housing:** We housed 1,344 people in North Georgia in 2012. Nearly 96 percent of the formerly homeless families who graduate from our transitional housing program move on to stable, permanent housing. We were awarded a $1 million U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs grant to provide services to homeless and at-risk veterans. We were selected by the Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs to provide housing and supportive services for 200 homeless people with disabilities at Augusta’s Maxwell House, and we were asked by Project Interconnections, Inc. to provide supportive services at Atlanta’s Welcome House, a development for 200 low income adults with histories of substance abuse and mental health disabilities. We also provide housing opportunities for people with HIV/AIDS.

**Education:** We served 625 individuals by offering educational opportunities in GED prep, financial literacy, job skills training, nutrition, ESL and computer classes and children’s after school programming.

**We believe actions speak louder than words in Georgia, and you can help.**

John R. Moeller Jr., President & CEO
The ministries of Aldersgate and Collinswood provide opportunities to fulfill our call to serve and enable persons within the disability community to be a part of the United Methodist Bridges to Mission.

Aldersgate continues to provide residential opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities in independent living settings. Independent living opportunities meet the needs of those who are able to sustain their independence with some supports. The need is great and we appreciate those who participate in and support this ministry. Our donors enable the meeting of special needs and join us as we serve God by serving His people through the residential programs of Aldersgate Homes.

At Collinswood, our retreat and recreation center on Lake Oconee, God is enabling us to serve people with special needs through camping and recreational ministries. Our cottages, dining and meeting hall, pavilion, and lake front bathhouse, gazebo, and dock are all universally accessible. The nature trail is itself a "bridge," providing both physically and spiritually enhancing opportunities for all persons, including those with developmental disabilities, to enjoy God's great outdoors. Universally accessible venues at Collinswood are expanding as we add a miniature golf course and a water activity, with both being accessible for all, including those who use a wheelchair and those with other mobility issues. Collinswood opens many opportunities for us to serve others in unique, fun, spiritually enhancing ways and for persons with disabilities to grow in areas previously less available to them. We invite you to explore the possibilities for extending recreational ministries to all your congregational families at Collinswood.

God is good. He opens our eyes, our hearts, our minds, our doors when we, by His Grace, build Bridges to Mission. We celebrate His love by sharing in ministry with His people with special needs. We invite you to join us in this journey of faith.

Becky Bocian, Executive Director
"We want to help you to go and explore the possibility of becoming a leader not only at this church or at camp, but wherever you go in life." With these words Tac Coley sent Hannah Pressey off for her first summer as a part of ELI, the Experiential Leadership Institute. Looking back after Hannah's two years practicing leadership in our conference day camp program, Tac commented on the difference he's observed. "I have been able to see her over the last few years grow in her ability to be more of a guide...She's the kind of leader you'd love to have leading you."

Bridges of transformation. Liminal space - that moment of time between the now and the not yet. The spiritual space in which God's call is heard and we are moved to respond. Creating and tending these "bridges" is the critical work Camp and Retreat Ministries does for the people of our annual conference. No wonder studies show that camping is by far the place where folks make commitments of faith.

For years raised hands at Annual Conference have testified to Glisson as the place countless clergy have heard their call to ministry or had it confirmed. Each summer children, youth and young adults leave summer camp and year-round retreats with a new understanding of our world and their role in it as disciples. Camp and Retreat Ministries creates experiences that are apart from everyday life so that participants return transformed and ready to transform the world around them.

"Her enthusiasm and skill from what she brought back from Glisson lit a fire under many adults who had grown weary and discouraged," said Hannah's mother, Ann, about her daughter's experience. "Now the children's ministry program is not short on help, funds, or children."

It is an honor for those of us who are a part of the newly-created North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries – board, staff, donors and volunteers – to build and tend spiritual bridges that transform our people, our churches and our world. We continue to plan and expand ministries in order to fulfill the vision adopted by the Annual Conference in 2010 to serve an additional 2,500 campers by 2020.

Between Glisson's Village, Sparrowwood and Outpost programs, and our multi-site programs – Grow Day Camps and the Experiential Leadership Institute – we served 2,701 summer campers in 2012. That's well over 100 campers more than have been served at any point in our conference camping history. And we're just getting started.
In 2013, volunteer work teams expanded Glisson's Outpost facilities to accommodate up to 750 campers – well on the way to our goal of having capacity for 1,000 Outpost campers by 2020. Our day camp program, newly named "Grow Day Camps," continues to expand with staffing for 16 sites in local churches across the Annual Conference. Enrollment in Glisson's Village and Sparrowwood programs, already at capacity, continues to be as in demand as it has ever been. Year-round operations at Glisson continue to be strong, hosting an increasing number of adult retreats. With another clear audit year and zero debt, Glisson continues to maintain its healthy fiscal status as well.

The Serving Generations capital campaign to replace Glisson's 62 year-old dining hall is still active. At the end of the first quarter of 2013, $3,096,454 has been pledged or given toward the $4,900,000 goal. Individual and foundation support has been strong and many local churches have given and pledged generously. With additional pledges and gifts from churches and individuals, the Board hopes to be in position to authorize the beginning of construction later this year.

We bring before the 2013 North Georgia Annual Conference a revision of the by-laws that will complete the efforts of the Board of Directors of Camp Glisson, Inc. to transform itself into the board of North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc. While legally only a name change to fulfill the responsibilities given it in 2011, the new North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries Board of Directors has embraced fully the conference vision of doubling the number of summer campers we serve to 5,000 by summer of 2020.

The new name allows Grow Day Camps and ELI to take their places as Glisson's "little sibling" ministries. New siblings are on the way soon! May God continue to bless these efforts as we seek to serve all of our conference congregations as "Bridges" of transformation, growth and renewal.

C. Russell Davis, Director
402a. Amended and Restated Bylaws
of
North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.

ARTICLE ONE
General Organization

1.1 Name. The name of the corporation is North Georgia Camp and
Retreat Ministries, Inc.

1.2 Address. The address of the registered office of the corporation in
the State of Georgia and the name of the registered agent at this address shall be
as from time to time designated or determined by the Board of Directors.

1.3 Purposes. The corporation is organized and shall be operated for
purposes which are exclusively charitable, educational and religious within the
meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the
corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law
(“Code”), and, to the extent consistent with said Code section, for purposes
which are permitted by the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, The
Discipline of The United Methodist Church, and the policies of the North
Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church (“Conference”).

1.4 Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Status. The corporation is not
organized for, and shall not be operated for, pecuniary gain or profit. No part of
the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be
distributable to, its directors, officers or other private persons, except that the
corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation
for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of
the purposes set forth in Article 1.3 hereof. No substantial part of the activities
of the corporation shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting
to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene
in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political
campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the corporation shall not
carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation
exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a
corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of
the Code.
1.5 **Dissolution.** Upon the dissolution of this corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code as the Board of Directors shall determine; provided, however, that if at that time the Conference is such an exempt organization then the assets of the corporation shall be transferred to the Conference exclusively for the purposes of the Conference. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of the county in which the registered office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ARTICLE TWO**

**Board of Directors**

2.1 **Management.** Subject to these bylaws and *The Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, as amended from time to time, the full and entire oversight and regulation of the affairs and business of the corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall have and may exercise all of the powers that may be exercised or performed by the corporation.

2.2 **Election, Term, Limitations, and Quorum.** The Board of Directors shall consist of at least twelve (12) but not more than twenty-two (22) directors who shall (except as to directors filling an unexpired term and except as to special directors provided for herein) be elected by the Board of Directors at an annual meeting of the directors following nomination at the immediately preceding annual or special meeting of the directors, and who shall serve for a term of three (3) years and until his or her successor is elected. (See also section 2.4 of these bylaws regarding confirmation of elected directors.) Any director who serves two (2) consecutive full terms shall be precluded from thereafter serving on the board for the next succeeding three (3) consecutive years. Notwithstanding said election requirements and term limitations, four of the members of the Board of Directors shall be “Special Directors” who shall serve ex-officio, as follows: (i) one such Special Director shall be the person then
serving as Director of North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries ("Executive Director") (or, if at any time hereafter no such position is then in existence or if such position is vacant, then such other person as may be carrying out the responsibilities generally associated with that position); (ii) one such Special Director shall be the person serving as Director of Connectional Ministries of the Conference (or, if at any time hereafter no such position is then in existence or if such position is vacant, then such other person as may be carrying out the responsibilities generally associated with that position); (iii) one such Special Director shall be a person then serving as a district superintendent of the Conference (as selected by the Bishop of the Conference); and (iv) one such Special Director shall be the person then serving as the Bishop of the Conference (or, if at any time hereafter no such position is then in existence or if such position is vacant, then such other person as may be carrying out the responsibilities generally associated with that position). In the event two or more persons claim to be entitled to serve as a Special Director by virtue of the same or similar position, the Board of Directors shall promptly determine which of such persons is to be recognized as such Special Director and such determination shall be binding and final in all respects and for all purposes. Each Special Director shall in all other respects be a full voting member of the Board of Directors with all the rights, responsibilities and obligations enumerated in these bylaws and in policies adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors. A simple majority of the directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is present, unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, the act of a majority of the directors in attendance shall be the act of the Board. All directors (other than Special Directors) must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and must be members of The United Methodist Church. No employee of the corporation may serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

2.3 Vacancies. The Board of Directors, at any annual or special meeting, may elect a new director to complete the term of any director whose service as a director ends for any reason prior to the end of such term.

2.4 Conference Confirmation. The names of all directors elected pursuant to section 2.2 of these bylaws who have not previously been confirmed by the Annual Conference shall be presented for election at the next succeeding meeting of the Annual Conference of the Conference (or presented for election by such council, division or other group within said Conference, and at such
meeting time or times, as may from time to time be designated by said Conference) and such directors shall assume office effective upon such election.

2.5 Removal. An elected director may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Directors then in office.

2.6 Meetings. The directors shall meet annually in or as near to the third calendar quarter as is reasonably practical on such date as may from time to time be selected by the Board of Directors (which meeting shall be designated as the “annual meeting”) and on three other dates during each calendar year (said dates to be selected from time to time by the Board of Directors). Such annual meeting and other three meetings shall be considered regular meetings and shall be scheduled as far in advance as reasonably practicable such that a regular meeting is held approximately every three calendar months. Written notice of the annual and regular meetings shall be given in writing no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of such meeting. In addition to regular meetings, special meetings of the directors may be called at any time by the chair, or by any two of the directors then holding office, upon two (2) days written notice. Notice of all meetings shall be given in writing (which may include notice by e-mail and other forms of electronic transmission). Notice of any meeting may be waived by instrument in writing. Attendance in person at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice thereof. Any meeting of the Board of Directors may be held within or without the State of Georgia at such place as may be determined by the person or persons calling the meeting. By majority vote of the directors present, any special meeting may be deemed to be the annual meeting or any other regular meeting.

2.7 Telephone and Similar Meetings. Directors may participate in and hold a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

2.8 Action by Written Consent. Any action to be taken at a meeting of the directors, or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the directors, may be taken without notice and without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all of the directors. Such consent, which
may be given by e-mail or other form of electronic transmission, shall be
retained in the records of the corporation.

2.9 Adjournment and Continuation of Meetings. A meeting of the
Board of Directors may be adjourned to be continued until another time or date
at the same or another location. Notice of the time, date and location of such
continuation meeting held pursuant to adjournment, other than by
announcement at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken, shall not be
necessary. At the continuation meeting held pursuant to adjournment at which a
quorum is present, any business may be transacted which could have been
transacted at the meeting originally called.

2.10 Minutes. Written minutes of the actions taken at each meeting of
the Board of Directors shall be maintained and shall be made available to the
Board of Directors at its next succeeding meeting.

ARTICLE THREE
Advisory, Honorary, Endowment Fund
and Similar Boards/Advisory Directors

The Board of Directors may create an Advisory Board, an Honorary
Board, an Endowment Fund Board, and any similar board and shall be
authorized to appoint (or provide for the selection of) members to such board
from time to time, which members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of
Directors (or as otherwise provided for by the Board of Directors). The Board
of Directors may also designate individual Advisory Directors (which may
include an Advisory Youth Director who may be less than twenty-one (21)
years of age). The members of any such boards and any Advisory Directors
shall not be responsible for nor authorized to participate in the management of
the corporation, but shall advise and assist the Board of Directors on such
matters and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by the
Board of Directors.

ARTICLE FOUR
Officers

4.1 General. The officers of the corporation shall consist of a chair, a
vice chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and an executive director. The officers,
except for the executive director, shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the directors and shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until their successors are elected; provided, however, if an officer ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors that person’s office shall be deemed to be vacant. The Board of Directors, at any annual or special meeting, may elect a new officer to complete the term of any officer whose service as an officer ends for any reason prior to the end of such term. Any officer may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the Board of Directors, and such vacancy may be filled by the Board of Directors.

4.2 Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform such duties as are generally incumbent upon the office and as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

4.3 Vice Chair. The vice chair shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties of the Chair during any temporary absence of the chair. The vice chair shall have such other authority as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

4.4 Secretary. The secretary shall prepare minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and have charge of the minute books and seal of the corporation (but may allow same to be located at the corporation’s principal place of business or at any other convenient place) and shall affix (or shall direct any other officer or employee of the corporation to affix) the corporation’s seal to any instrument, when directed by the Board of Directors to do so. The secretary shall have such other authority as may from time to time be granted by the Board of Directors.

4.5 Treasurer. The treasurer (who shall also serve as chair of the Board of Director’s Finance Committee, if any) shall be charged with the oversight of the financial affairs of the corporation and shall have the power to recommend action concerning the corporation’s financial affairs to the chair, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Director. The treasurer shall have such other authority as may from time to time be granted by the Board of Directors.

4.6 Executive Director. The executive director shall supervise and direct the day-to-day management and operation of the corporation. Subject to the supervision and control of the Board of Directors, the executive director shall perform all duties customary to the office of chief executive officer and
shall supervise and control all of the affairs of the corporation in accordance
with policies and directives approved by the Board of Directors. The executive
director shall perform such other duties and have such other authority and
powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

4.7 Delegation of Powers and Duties. Whenever an officer is absent or
whenever for any reason the Board of Directors may deem it desirable, the
Board may delegate the powers and duties of an officer, acting in his or her
capacity as an officer, to any other officer or officers or to any director or
directors.

4.8 Assistants. Assistant officers, agents and employees (including but
not limited to a financial manager) that the Board of Directors may from time to
time deem necessary or advisable may be appointed or employed in a manner
prescribed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE FIVE
Executive Committee and Other Committees

5.1 Members. In addition to their other duties hereunder, the chair,
vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and (except as provided herein) two at-large
directors shall constitute and serve as the Executive Committee of the Board of
Directors, with the chair serving as chair of the Executive Committee. The two
at-large members (if any) of the Executive Committee shall be members of the
Board of Directors and shall be appointed by the chair of the Board of
Directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event and from time to time
one or more other standing committees have been formed in accordance with
these bylaws and are then in existence, the chair of each such other standing
committee shall, immediately following the first annual meeting after which
such committee was formed, be a member of the Executive Committee (and the
chair of the Board of Directors shall at that time designate one of the at-large
members to discontinue service on the Executive Committee in the event one
such other standing committee has been formed and is then in existence, and the
chair of the Board of Directors shall designate both of the at-large members to
discontinue service on the Executive Committee in the event more than one
such other standing committee has been formed and is then in existence).
5.2 **Authority.** Unless expressly provided otherwise by any resolution of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of the Board of Directors, except that it shall not have such power or authority with reference to:

(a) amending the articles of incorporation or these bylaws;

(b) the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all the real property and other assets of the corporation;

(c) adopting a plan of merger or consolidation;

(d) the voluntary dissolution of the corporation or a revocation thereof; or

(e) the election or removal of officers or directors.

5.3 **Other Standing Committees.** The chair of the Board of Directors may appoint, from among the members of the Board of Directors, one or more standing committees (other than the Executive Committee) and the chairpersons of those other committees. Such committees shall advise the Board of Directors with respect to the subject for which they were appointed, but shall have no authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors or the corporation. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prevent the Board of Directors from taking any lawful action without the recommendation or consideration of such action by any such committee. Members and chairpersons of such committees (other than the members of the Executive Committee who serve by virtue of their position as officers of the corporation) shall serve in such capacities at the pleasure of the chair of the Board of Directors.

5.4 **Temporary Task Forces.** The chair of the Board of Directors may appoint, from among the members of the Board of Directors and from among persons who are not members of the Board of Directors, one or more temporary task forces and the chairpersons of those task forces. Such task forces shall advise the Board of Directors with respect to the subject for which they were appointed, but shall have no authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors or the corporation. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prevent the Board of Directors from taking any lawful action without the recommendation
or consideration of such action by any such task force. Members and
chairpersons of such task forces shall serve in such capacities at the pleasure of
the chair of the Board of Directors.

5.5 Quorum. A simple majority of the members of any committee or
task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by that
committee or task force. If a quorum is present, the act of a majority of the
committee or task force members in attendance shall be the act of all the
committee or task force.

5.6 Meetings. Special meetings of any committee or task force may be
called at any time by the chair of such committee or task force, or by any two of
the committee or task force members, upon two (2) days' written notice, which
may include notice delivered by e-mail or other form of electronic transmission.
Notice of any such meeting may be waived by instrument in writing. Any
meeting of any committee or task force may be held within or without the State
of Georgia at such place as may be determined by the person or persons calling
the meeting.

5.7 Action by Written Consent. Any action to be taken at a meeting of
any committee or task force, or that may be taken at a meeting of any
committee or task force, may be taken without notice and without a meeting if a
consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the
committee or task force members. Such consent may be given and delivered by
e-mail or other form of electronic transmission.

ARTICLE SIX
Indemnification

6.1 Actions Against Directors and Officers. The corporation shall
indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation
Code and, if applicable, Section 4941 of the Code, as amended, any individual
made a party to a proceeding because such individual is or was a director or
officer of the corporation against liability incurred in the proceeding, if such
individual conducted himself or herself in good faith, and (1) in the case of
conduct in his or her official capacity, reasonably believed his or her conduct
was in the best interests of the corporation, (2) in all other cases, reasonably
believed that his or her conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of
the corporation, and (3) in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

6.2 **Advance for Expenses of Directors and Officers.** The corporation shall pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director or officer who is a party to a proceeding because such individual is a director or officer in advance of final disposition of the proceeding, if:

(1) The director or officer furnishes the corporation a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct set forth in section 6.1 above or that the proceeding involves conduct for which liability has been eliminated by the corporation’s Articles of Incorporation; and

(2) The director or officer furnishes the corporation a written undertaking to repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer is not entitled to indemnification.

The written undertaking required by paragraph (2) above must be an unlimited general obligation of the director or officer but need not be secured and may be accepted without reference to financial ability to make repayment.

**ARTICLE SEVEN**

**Miscellaneous**

7.1 **Depositaries.** All funds of the corporation shall be deposited in the name of the corporation in such bank, banks or other financial institutions as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate and shall be drawn out on checks, drafts or other orders signed on behalf of the corporation by the chair or such person or persons as the Board of Directors may by resolution from time to time designate.

7.2 **Execution of Legal Instruments.** All contracts, deeds and other instruments shall be signed on behalf of the corporation by the chair or by such other officer, officers, agent or agents as the Board of Directors may by resolution from time to time designate.

7.3 **Seal.** The seal of the corporation shall be in such form as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. In the event it is inconvenient to
use such a seal at any time, a blank seal with the corporation's name printed therein, or the signature of the company followed by the word "SEAL" enclosed in parentheses or scroll shall be deemed the seal of the corporation. The seal shall be in the custody of the secretary (but the secretary may allow the seal to be located at the corporation's principal place of business or any other convenient place) and affixed by the secretary, or by any other officer or employee of the corporation at the secretary’s direction, on such papers as may be directed by law, by these bylaws or by the Board of Directors.

7.4 Proxies. No voting by proxy shall be permitted or recognized with respect to any action by the Board of Directors or in connection with any meeting of the Board of Directors.

7.5 Real Property Transactions. In the event the Board of Directors considers taking action to acquire or dispose of a relatively large or relatively valuable tract of real property the Board of Directors shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, shall consult with the Board of Trustees of the Conference consistent with the requirements of The Discipline and any policies of The United Methodist Church.

7.6 Establishing the Policies of the Board. The Board of Directors may establish written board policies for the effective administration and management of the corporation. If the board policies established by the Board of Directors are or become in conflict with these bylaws, the bylaws shall supersede and take precedence over any board policy. In the event the Board of Directors discovers a conflict or apparent conflict between these bylaws and a board policy document, the Board shall interpret the bylaws and shall take such action deemed appropriate to resolve the conflict in a timely manner.

ARTICLE EIGHT
Amendment of Articles and Bylaws

The articles of incorporation and these bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the directors by the affirmative vote of a majority of said directors; provided, however, that the proposed amendment must have been read at the immediately preceding meeting of the directors, and further provided that any such amendment shall not be effective until confirmed at the next succeeding meeting of the Annual Conference of the Conference (or presented for
confirmation by such council, division or other group within said Conference, and at such meeting time or times, as may from time to time be designated by said Conference).

THESE AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS WERE DULY ADOPTED THE ___ DAY OF __________, 2013.

______________________________
Chair

Attest:

______________________________
Secretary

38300-1
16261.9
Children who come to Murphy-Harpst suffer from severe abuse and neglect. In custody of the State of Georgia with many unsuccessful placements in foster care prior to admission, most have proven dangerous to themselves and others and require extensive therapy and Christian care to heal. Our goal is to return them to their communities with the strength to lead productive lives.

In 2011-12, Murphy-Harpst served a remarkable 314 children—108 in residential treatment, 56 in specialized foster care and 150 in community services. We structure our residential program to serve as a “pass through” rather than a “stopping point”—providing our children of ages 7 to 18 with the professional care that will enable them to re-assimilate to their communities. We are proud that an average of 80 percent of our children progress to adoption and less restrictive living settings such as foster care and group homes.

The Annual Conference theme, “Bridges to Mission,” is particularly apt to Murphy-Harpst as our children struggle to trust the world around them. As they receive loving, professional care by staff and become friends with volunteers from churches across the North Georgia Conference, the children begin to see the world through the healing spirit of God as it moves in their lives, and even the smallest sign of progress is a wake-up call to the promises of a new life. Our volunteers, which numbered nearly 2,000 in the past year, are particularly moved by the children. In the words of one church volunteer, “Folks who get involved with children at Murphy-Harpst want to stay involved. It has been an extraordinary blessing.”

Murphy-Harpst is honored that July 21, 2013, has been designated a day of special giving across the conference for our children. Without financial support from United Methodist churches and the work of volunteers, Murphy-Harpst could not rescue the increasing number of children who need our help.

Emily Saltino, Vice President of Development
Ayana* had only been at the Children’s Home for two days when her cottage
gathered for art therapy. Tonight they were to “paint how you’re feeling.”
Ayana picked up the black paint. She swirled the paint across the page. Dipping
her brush in red paint, she drew a stick figure within the darkness. Then she
wrote the words “Help me.” Ayana paused. She painted white clouds in a blue
sky at the top. “I feel like I’m at the bottom of a dark hole,” she explained, “I
know there’s a bright future out there, if someone will just help me.”

You are that person and that church that can help, just as you help
thousands of children and families every year. The Children’s Home has been a
safe haven for children and families since 1871. Our holistic care heals children
and unites families. We equip them with practical skills and the love of Christ
to help them out of the darkness of their past to reach the bright future waiting
for them.

2012 was a life-changing year at UMCH:
• Our Foster Care and Independent Living Programs were rated the #1
  programs in the entire state in the last quarter of 2012.
• We served over 2,200 children across 11 programs.
• We started a new residential program called Nurturing Connections
  Second Change Program for teenage mothers and their babies.
• Babies, toddlers and young children comprise a large percentage of our
  population and diapers are one of our greatest needs.
• Bev Cochran, our CEO of 43 years, retired and new CEO Bob Bruder-
  Mattson joined our UMCH family with fresh ideas and energy.

For more information about ways your church can get involved, including:
• Hands-on volunteer projects
• Greatest needs list
• Children’s Home Offering resources (coming soon!), including logos,
  slides and downloadable videos
• Mailing list sign up form
• Foster family information – we need more foster families!

Please visit our website at www.umchildrenshome.org. Our children thank
you.

Alina Crews, Assistant Director of Development

(*name changed for privacy)
A Wesley House has been defined as “a Christian home in a needy community from whence emanates love, good will, understanding and a helping hand. It is also a center where people of the neighborhood may come for religious instruction, lessons in homemaking and character building, and for wholesome recreation.” (Selection from a flyer produced in 1908 by the Dept. of Education and Promotion-Woman’s Section, Board of Missions)

Wesley Community Centers (originally known as Wesley House) has connected people and ministry services for over a century in distressed Atlanta neighborhoods. Times and people have changed. Neighborhoods and communities struggle to exist in challenging economic periods. Mission organizations fight to remain effective and provide practical programming. In 2012, Wesley Community Centers had to take a hard look at its resources and the ministries being provided. Significant conclusions forced us to close one program, reduce the staff, and consolidate locations. However, we have been blessed to see revitalization in volunteer involvement and are pleased to report – Bethlehem Senior Center is still a place where senior citizens of the neighborhood can come and enjoy a Christian home away from home.

Our current enrollment is 70 and increasing monthly. Most of them spend five hours a day, five days a week at the center on Thayer Avenue. Our youngest participant is 64 and our oldest is 94. Some of our seniors have been a part of this neighborhood mission institution for over 20 years.

In 2012 we were able to serve over 10,000 meals, provide close to 500 hours of instruction with participation in wellness programs, enjoy approximately 50 field trips to grocery and department stores, museums and seasonal attractions and help 250 eligible persons with energy assistance applications.

This year we celebrate 30 years of service on Thayer Avenue. Our mission is to help seniors experience life more abundantly, and with God’s help we will continue to connect those gracefully aging persons with services and resources that will make a daily difference in their lives. All are welcome to join in our ministry and experience the joy of helping seniors live a fuller and richer life.

Cande Taylor, Executive Director
In 2012 Wesley Woods provided communities of caring that enable residents to age with and experience grace. Residents, appreciative of their “homes” at Wesley Woods, feel blessed and want to actively share that love with others. Many residents of Wesley Woods have very low incomes and receive support through the ministry of the North Georgia Conference. Yet, our residents also are forming bridges connecting them with their surrounding local communities. This past year, residents raised funds for Imagine No Malaria, purchasing 100 nets to help prevent malaria in Africa and assembled cleaning buckets for UMCOR. Beyond these efforts, residents in their local communities, participated in Toys for Tots, walks for Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, heart disease and cancer, volunteered at local hospitals, nursing homes and senior centers and provided non-perishable food items to local food banks and sanitizing supplies and shoes for a local children’s school.

To support these bridges to their communities, residents raise funds through their association activities, such as bake sales, and personally donating items. The staff of Wesley Woods joined with the residents in many of these activities to create bridges of mission.

Through the ongoing support of members of 420 churches in the Annual Conference, this past year Wesley Woods served over 1,500 seniors with 75% receiving financial assistance through its retirement communities in Atlanta, Blairsville, Athens, Newnan and Augusta. Wesley Woods Center on the Clifton Road Campus in Atlanta served over 18,000 seniors at Budd Terrace, Wesley Woods Towers, Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital and the Outpatient Clinic.

To address two of our greatest challenges, The Foundation of Wesley Woods has begun a Communities of Caring campaign to refurbish five of our low-income retirement communities and build charitable care funds by seeking gifts from foundations, corporations and individuals.

For fifty-nine years, Wesley Woods has ministered to persons with physical, mental, spiritual and financial needs. Your support of the Mother’s Day Offering and your individual gifts will enable Wesley Woods to continue this vital ministry.

Kenneth R. Weber, President & CEO      Michael A. Watson, President
Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc.      Foundation of Wesley Woods, Inc.
The North Georgia Conference has a long history of vibrant lay leadership. Established in 1866, the North Georgia Conference is the largest United Methodist Conference in the United States. In his book, *Methodism in North Georgia: A History of the North Georgia Conference*, the Rev. Dr. Herchel H. Sheets outlines the vibrant history of lay leadership in the North Georgia Conference. Dr. Sheets describes the work of F.M. Byrd and D.W. Brooks who initiated the program that became the Ministerial Education Fund, and he chronicles the positive impact that the Board of Laity, the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, and other lay-led groups had on camping ministries, education, missions, church extension, and programs of lay training. This strong tradition continues.

The Conference Board of Laity seeks to equip laity in the North Georgia Conference for ministry. This function is advanced through three ministry programs of the Conference Board of Laity: Leadership UMC, Lay Revitalization Ministry, and Lay Speaking Ministry.

Leadership UMC is currently undergoing an active review in order to revise the budget and curriculum of the program. Leadership UMC—now in its eleventh year—has more than 300 graduates. The Executive Committee of the Board of Laity and the director of Leadership UMC determined that a program review will make possible key enhancements to this thriving lay training ministry. The curriculum review will include an expansion of the current program, including the development of an advanced lay training program in lay leadership and mission.

The Conference Lay Speaking Ministry (LSM) is also undergoing a program review. Beginning in 2013, LSM will be renamed Lay Servant Ministries to comply with the action of the 2012 General Conference. Courses to certify lay servants for pulpit supply will be offered, after which the new Lay Speaker certification will be granted.

The Lay Revitalization ministry is thriving. Teams of volunteer leaders meet regularly with congregations to reflect on topics of missional importance. Congregations that participate in the Lay Revitalization Ministry program report growth in membership and worship attendance, and a fuller understanding of the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.

The Conference Board of Laity remains committed to partnering with clergy as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mathew A. Pinson, Conference Lay Leader

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The United Methodist Men of the North Georgia Conference are Inviting and Encouraging men to be Engaged in Service and Fellowship with the purpose of Developing Disciples of Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for the dedicated service of William (Bud) Sears who unexpectedly went to be with the Lord in January 2013 while serving as conference president. Bud’s selfless servant leadership is an example we can all learn from. His compassion and drive energized the leadership team leading to the development, adoption and implementation of a strategic ministry plan to guide us for the next six years and beyond. We continue to lift up his family in prayers.

The men’s ministry of the North Georgia Conference has been very active this year, both in ministry and organizational change. It has been one year since we adopted and implemented our strategic ministry plan, which defines the following areas of ministry we will focus on: evangelism, spiritual growth, prayer advocacy, hunger advocacy, missions, disaster response, prison ministry, scouting ministry, leadership development and communication.

These are our areas of emphasis for coming years, with dedicated leadership to oversee, develop and connect the men. We are seeing many successes already. Our ministry activities included: feeding the hungry in Georgia and around the world through Society of St Andrews, Stop Hunger Now and Community Gardens; launch of Amachi mentoring program through Boys and Girls Clubs; helping to spread the Word of God in third-world countries in their native language with audio devices that can be recharged by the sun; hosting our annual men’s spiritual retreat at Rock Eagle, and hosting a spring golf outing at Rivermont Golf and Country Club and fall golf tournaments at Hard Labor Creek in conjunction with our fall retreat.

We held the first of many leadership development courses titled Understanding Men’s Ministry which helps churches develop and implement programs, events and activities that are inclusive to all men of the church, are energizing to the men, and provide a path to development of disciples. This training is available to all leadership teams interested in increasing the impact of men’s ministry in their church. Studies show that vibrant ministry to men help to grow the reach of our church into our community and world. Let us know how we can help you in this area.

Though we have come through a challenging year of loss and change, the future is very bright for men’s ministry in North Georgia! We are seeing a
renewed thirst and hunger from men who are seeking to know and grow in Christ. The leadership team of the United Methodist Men of North Georgia is ready to serve, as we continue in developing and connecting to programs that are *Uniting Ministry and Men.*

Cary C. Loesing, Conference President

502. United Methodist Women

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

Since 2012 Annual Conference the NGC UMW have been bridging between our 2012 theme, “All Things Made New,” and our 2013 theme, “Doing A New Thing.” Yes, it’s been a time for new things (new structure, new names, new officers, new ways of training) but still based on a PURPOSE that has served us well. We are still a community of women with a common PURPOSE, but we are living it out in new ways.

We still seek first and foremost “to know God.” We continue to do this through the Spiritual Growth Studies, in 2012 *Immigration and the Bible: a guide for radical welcome,* and in 2013, *The Call: Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly.* We read books from the Spiritual Growth category in our Reading Program. We use our Prayer Calendar daily. During Annual Conference we are praying for mission programs: June 12, South Trinidad Methodist Women’s Commission: Stitch in Time; June 13, Mongolia Mission Initiative; June 14, Women making decisions regarding violence, Uruguay; and we are praying for mission personnel whose birthdays are this week: June 12, Shirley Manning Knepp, a Deaconess in Salem, OR and June 14, Diane Wimberley, LaPaz Bolivia.

We “experience freedom as whole persons” as we grow in awareness of issues and are equipped to meet the needs around us. In January, 13 members of the conference team attended the SEJ Leadership Development Days at Lake Junaluska. We were introduced to the new structure and inspired by the stories from women who are making a difference: protesting human trafficking, advocating for Native American rights, supporting families through hospice.

We continue to be a “creative, supportive fellowship” that is reaching out to young women, newly retired women, and women with a passion for mission. This year the districts are planning 20-30-40-Something events and in 2014 there will be a conference-wide event appealing predominantly to younger
women. Our Korean and Hispanic Language Coordinators help us reach out to
new communities of women and welcome them into our fellowship.

We continue “to expand our concepts of mission through participation in
the global ministries of the church.” At our Social Action Event in February we
heard about elder abuse, prison ministries with women and environmental
justice. We will be joining with the UMM here at Annual Conference to
assemble Cleaning Buckets for victims of disasters. We are studying issues of
*Poverty* and the *Roma of Europe* at Mission “u,” July 19-20 here in Athens.

Yes, we’re “Doing a New Thing!” Join us!

Sue Raymond, President
In 2012, twenty-seven annual conferences invested in Africa University at the level of 100% of their general church asking for the Africa University Fund (AUF). Other annual conferences increased their support and the overall effort pushed giving to the AUF to a new record of 93.35%.

The generosity of local congregations is a tremendous blessing to Africa University. The students, faculty and staff rely on the church’s ongoing investment through the AUF to provide for the day-to-day and operational expenses of the institution. The university is profoundly grateful to the North Georgia Conference for investing 94% of its asking to the AUF, down from 113% in 2011. The conference’s shortfall in giving was $6,440, the equivalent of a year’s tuition and basic fees for two students.

Please set a goal of 100% of the asking for the Africa University Fund and encourage your local congregation to give generously in 2013. Demand for an Africa University education is growing. More than 1,200 qualified applicants sought admission in August 2012. The university had space for only about 400 freshmen. Currently, women account for 52% of the total enrollment, which stands at 1,386 students. In addition, 25 African nations are represented in the student body. Scholarships and financial aid grants are vital to access. More than 90% of the students at Africa University need assistance—scholarships, financial aid grants and work study—in order to pay their tuition and other fees. For the vast majority, a direct or endowed scholarship award made possible by your generosity is their only means of attending university.

Throughout 2012, the 20th anniversary celebrations highlighted the crucial role that Africa University is already playing in the life of our global church. Laishi Bwalya, for example, is superintendent of the Zambia Provisional Conference and a member of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church for 2013-2016. Across Africa, our graduates are helping to eradicate hunger, poverty, disease, conflict and hopelessness.

For its third decade of ministry, Africa University is focusing on accessibility and impact. Increasing the availability of scholarships for students and developing online distance learning programs are the university’s highest priorities as it seeks to equip more Africans to change lives and transform communities.

Your gifts to the AUF keep the lights on and ensure that Africa University has dedicated faculty to inspire, train and nurture a generation of new leaders. By giving, you provide scholarships for needy students, vital teaching resources and a great learning environment.
We thank every member of the North Georgia Conference for believing in, praying for and investing in Africa University. Help us to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ who are trailblazers for peace, justice, good health and wholeness. Thank you for establishing the “School of Dreams in the Valley of Hope”!


James H. Salley, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

601. Clark Atlanta University (CAU)

The Office of Religious Life guided by its affiliation with the United Methodist Church is to promote spiritual awareness within the University community that will undergird the scholastic and social interactions of its constituents. The Office of Religious Life will also empower students to become spiritually, socially and culturally engaged to positively impact the campus and the global community: Weekly Sunday Chapel Attendance - Average 450; Weekly Faith Enrichment (Bible Study) - Average 25 students; 2012-2013 Theme- "Leadership: To Be Or Not To Be, That Is The Question"; Active Joint Ministry Official Board (JMOB), leadership of CAU Worship Choir, Praise Team, Heavenly Dancers, The Mime Ministry & Hospitality & Outreach (over 100 student leaders); CAU Associates: Impact, InterVarsity, Men & Women of the Well Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC); Three Ministry in Context Students- project- The Reawakening; a weekly men's AUC mentoring ministry.

Fall 2012: Joint Leadership Training with Atlanta University Center (AUC) Student Chapel Assistants (Absalom Jones Episcopal, The Lyke House Catholic Center, Spelman College, Morehouse & CAU); CAU Chapel students organized and implemented bi-monthly Thursday night alternative worship service - "The Quencher." This is a student led worship experience with participants from the AUC and greater Atlanta community. Average of 50 students. Annual partnership with AVON & Verizon "True Call to Beauty" Domestic Awareness Week; CAU Chapel Assistant, Ebonie Gipson, serves as AVON Scholar/Peer Educator for Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. The Office of Religious Life collaborated with Donald Reed of Warren UMC and the AUC to sponsor first and annual Thanksgiving Day Meal for AUC student’s community.
Spring 2013: Co-sponsored with CAU Health Services Men's Empowerment Conference. In addition to seminars addressing the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of men, students participated in a community clean up in and around the AUC Center and community. Co-sponsored with CAU Departments of Health and Counseling Services the Annual CAU Women's Empowerment Conference – three-day event of seminars and trainings with experts addressing economic, global, spiritual, physical and emotional topics for college aged women. This year the 100 Black Women of Atlanta co-sponsored the event, in which the students collaborated to prepare care packages for The Atlanta Shelter for Homeless Women & Children.

CAU Organizational Highlights: Women of the Well - Collegiate campus ministry inclusive of chapters at University of West Georgia, the AUC (50 members), and pending a chartering at Georgia State. Its mission is to empower and impact women in SUC and surrounding area through seminars, bible studies and prayer. WOW is a partner with Enchanted Closet, which seeks to enhance self-awareness of Atlanta girls. As a non-profit, Enchanted Closet is renowned for the annual prom dress giveaways.

Men of the Well- Collegiate Campus Ministry inclusive of chapters at University of West Georgia, the AUC, and the pending chartering at Georgia State. The group has over 100 active men actively involved in monthly trainings, colloquial forums, addressing diverse concerns and humanitarian efforts.

CAU Chapel Assistant Highlights: Faith Toran accepted into Peace Corp - assignment Burkina Faso Quamisha Desroches accepted in Peace Corp - international assignment TBD Daryl Thomas serves as collegiate president of Men of the Well.

Valerie Tate Everett, University Chaplain & Director of Religious Life

602. Drew University Theological School

Drew Theological School, deeply rooted in its United Methodist heritage, is a place that empowers its students to conceive and implement dynamic ministries. Drew offers 100% tuition scholarships to all United Methodists who meet all admissions requirements and have a 3.2 undergraduate GPA or higher.
In June 2012 I was pleased to welcome to Drew’s campus, representatives from eight of the 13 United Methodist seminaries, staff members from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, one bishop, and representatives from three annual conferences. It was also a great pleasure to welcome alumni/ae back to campus for the Tipple Vosburgh lectures in the fall. This year’s topic was: “Faith, Race and Politics” which provided opportunities to hear the voices and visions of activists, scholars and church leaders responding to this unique and timely dilemma.

Building up the United Methodist Connection - This past January, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware Conference, taught a class entitled Topics in Pastoral Care: Disabilities and the Church. Bishop in Residence: Bishop Ernest Lyght - It is with great joy and excitement that I announce the appointment of Retired Bishop Ernest S. Lyght as the Bishop-in-Residence at the Theological School beginning March 1, 2013. National Shalom Ministry of the UMC - Communities of Shalom, now in its sixth year at Drew, completed its curricular redevelopment of ShalomZone Training, which is now available through a cadre of certified national and regional trainers under the leadership of national director, Michael Christensen. Center for Clergy and Congregational Health and Wholeness - In October 2012 Dean Ginny Samuel made a presentation to members of the AUMTS (deans and presidents of the 13 United Methodist Seminaries) about the state of clergy health.

We at Drew look forward to working with the good and faithful people of the UMC as we forge deeper friendships in the shared ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For more information about Drew, please contact us at www.drew.edu.

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Dean

603. LaGrange College

LaGrange College, the oldest private college in Georgia, is an extension of your congregation. Committed to the historical Methodist traditions of “uniting knowledge and vital piety” and “doing all the good you can…,” LaGrange embodies the spirit of John Wesley’s emphasis of “holiness of heart and life”: putting faith and love into action.

Throughout its 157-year relationship with the United Methodist Church and the Wesleyan and liberal arts traditions, LaGrange has transformed lives by
serving as a bridge between higher education and the churches throughout the
North Georgia Conference. As of this writing, 97 percent of LaGrange students
receive some type of financial aid. With five Spiritual Life student groups,
LaGrange encourages students to deepen their faith and become successful,
responsible citizens who aspire to lives of integrity and moral courage.

This fall the college provided several *bridges to missions*. The inaugural
class of the Servant-Scholars program began with a focus on interdisciplinary
courses and extended community service-learning projects to agencies in
LaGrange and Troup County (e.g., serving in a soup kitchen, working with a
nursing home, helping conduct research with a nonprofit agency, etc.). Twelve
more juniors have been selected, and next year, there will be 24 Servant
Scholars to participate in the program.

The college takes Wesley’s quote “the world is my parish” seriously. In
the fall 2013, we will begin a new Quality Enhancement Plan focus that will
enhance learning through global engagement. The plan will make study-away
more accessible and incorporate global awareness into classes and activities.

In 2012-2013, LaGrange students, faculty, staff and administrators
engaged in ministry to several churches in the North Georgia Conference to
help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Through
choir performances, campus lectures, preaching, internships and joint service
projects, members of the LaGrange community have engaged in ministry in the
following ways:

**Choir Outreach:** Dacula United Methodist Church; Norcross First United
Methodist Church; Peachtree City United Methodist Church

**Praise Team Outreach:** Undivided, a new group consisting of six LaGrange
College students who share the message of faith through music and drama,
performed at Andrew’s Chapel (Newnan); for the *Transform* weekend to
introduce youth to LaGrange College (which included youth from Grace-
Covington, Wesley Chapel-Villa Rica, North Fayette, Kenney Memorial-West
Point, Warren Temple-LaGrange and Manchester); Brooks UMC, Pine
Mountain UMC, Grantville UMC and Sacred Tapestry UMC.

**Preaching/Teaching Outreach:** Peachtree City UMC, Ebenezer UMC-
Fayetteville, Warren Temple UMC, Oak Grove Congregational Church, First
Baptist Church on the Square-LaGrange, Dacula UMC, Council of Independent
Colleges Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE)
Leadership Redwood at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

**Internships/Youth Ministers:** Pine Mountain UMC, Manchester UMC,
Greenville UMC.

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Service Projects Outreach: Stop Hunger Now (prepared more than 25,000 meals); Alternative Spring Break Trip to Orlando with Stop Hunger Now; three-week Immersion in El Salvador class led by Alvin Lingenfelter; David Ahearn did a scouting trip to the Philippines to create a travel trip for 2014. Both international trips are part of our involvement with the Bridges program.

Lectures/Guest Speakers: Lovett Weems, Lewis Center for Church Leadership; Jonathan Young, Director of Center for Story and Symbol; Ian Oliver, Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life and Pastor of the University Church at Yale University.

To learn more about LaGrange, please see www.lagrange.edu or contact Quincy Brown.

Quincy D. Brown, V.P. for Spiritual Life and Church Relations

604. Order of Deacons

Deacons are United Methodist ministers who are ordained for a calling to a lifetime of servant leadership in the church and in serving as a bridge connecting the church with the needs of the world. The Order of Deacons is relatively new, since it was established in 1996. Currently there are 1,199 active deacons in the United Methodist Church (3.6% of all clergy). The North Georgia Conference has more than 90 active, retired and provisional deacons.

According to The Book of Discipline, “In the congregation, the ministry of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other ordained and lay persons, connecting the needs and hurts of the people with the church.” Our deacons serve in the church in many capacities including those of Christian educators, music ministers, general associate ministers and ministers to youth, children, senior adults.

The Book of Discipline also describes the ministry of the deacon beyond the church: “In the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice and assists lay persons as they claim their own ministry.” (¶329)

Deacons in our conference fulfill their calling in ministries that serve as a bridge between the church and the world. These include pastoral counselors, chaplains, campus ministers, and staff of non-profit ministries that serve poor and disenfranchised people.

Like the elder, the deacon is appointed to a post by a bishop. However, unlike an elder, a deacon is non-itinerant. His or her appointment may be
initiated by the deacon, an agency seeking his or her service, the bishop, or the
district superintendent.

The deacons in North Georgia stay in touch with each other through a
Facebook page (North Georgia UMC Deacons), an annual Deacon Day Apart,
and a dinner on the night before Annual Conference.

Virginia Tinsley, Chair

605. Order of Elders

The Order of Elders exists to support and hold accountable its members for the
sake of the life and mission of the church. While we take this role seriously, the
Executive Committee has struggled in the past year to better understand its
purpose and the role it plays in the life of the Annual Conference.

As we have wrestled with the issues, we have come to understand that
one area that we can emphasize within the Annual Conference is in the
assimilation of elders. In partnership with the Institute for Clergy Excellence,
the Executive Committee undertook the task of developing a program for
sustaining excellence in ministry through self-selected and self-directed peer
groups. The focus of the groups are Sabbath, Study, and Service. The funding
for the groups will be a collaborative effort between the elder/deacon, the local
church, and the Order of Elders. The deadline for submitting your application is
September 1, 2013. If your group is selected to participate in the pilot program,
your peer group will be invited to a one-day retreat. Approved groups will
receive funding for each participant for two years to be used according to the
approved learning experience.

Our goal is to create an environment for six to eight self-chosen
participants who desire to spend a significant amount of time together for the
purpose of creating deep, sustaining relationships with God and one another. It
is our belief that as these groups grow in our Annual Conference, they will aid
clergy in enhancing the connectional spirit of the United Methodist Church and
developing life-long support for excellent ministry.

Andy Postell, Chair
Oxford College offers a small, liberal-arts college setting to 900 freshman and sophomore students on the historic campus where Emory College was founded by Ignatius Few and other Methodist laypersons in 1836.

There are nine religious and spiritual-life organizations that help students deepen and practice their faith. The Interfaith Council helps students explore different faith traditions and deepens the dialogue between traditions for greater understanding. Another active group, Wesley Fellowship, maintains close ties to the chaplain and is led by an intern from Candler School of Theology.

Oxford has an uncommon commitment to fostering service to others. Last year Oxford students logged more than 16,000 hours of service. Student-led Volunteer Oxford connects students who want to give of their time to local organizations who need them. Alternative Spring Break, an Oxford tradition, offered three opportunities for humanitarian mission in 2013: serving an impoverished community in Costa Rica, assisting Heifer International at its headquarters in Arkansas or performing post-Hurricane Sandy clean-up in New Jersey. The chaplain’s Office of Religious and Spiritual Life co-sponsored the orientation service project with Stop Hunger Now. Hundreds of students participated, with more than 20,000 meals packaged and over $5,000 raised. While such opportunities are beneficial for all students, they are often a bridge to mission for students of faith, helping them to be servant leaders.

Oxford students have had the opportunity to hear voices of faith beyond their own experience. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life sponsored three important opportunities. Sister Helen Prejean, advocate for abolishing the death penalty, spoke to the campus community in September 2012. Bernard Lafayette, Jr. spoke to members of the campus and local communities as part of our Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in January 2013. A photographic exhibit of Tibetan Buddhist monks painting sand mandalas was housed on the campus for two months in the spring. The photographer and curator, Myron and Juana McGhee, Candler School of Theology graduates, spoke to students.

Oxford has a strong relationship to Allen Memorial UMC, which is adjacent to the campus. A Candler School of Theology student who serves as intern to the chaplain assists in the worship and study life of the church while Oxford students, as part of a long-standing relationship, participate in the ministry and worship life of the church. For questions about or a visit to Oxford College, please contact Lyn Pace at 770.784.8392 or ppace@emory.edu.

Lyn Pace, College Chaplain
Both the National Chapter and the Georgia Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries were established in 1982 under the direction of the General Council of Finance and Administration (GCFA). The purpose of the organization is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members and to provide individual growth, professional development, continuing education and spiritual enrichment.

We build "Bridges for Mission" by connecting all administrative personnel. PAUMCS is open to all full time and part time employees and volunteers who work in United Methodist (UM) church offices, district offices, episcopal offices and UM agencies in clerical and administrative assistant positions. The Georgia Chapter (GAC), made up of members from both the North and South Georgia Annual Conferences, holds an annual conference each year. The location of the conference alternates between North and South Georgia. During the four-day conference, members participate in a variety of workshops and worship experiences. There is a balance between spiritual growth workshops and workshops designed to provide training and support for UM office personnel. Those participating earn 1 CEU credit. The 2012 conference met September 13-16 at Gainesville First UMC in Gainesville, GA. We participated in excellent workshops led by Wendy Cordova, Kathy Lamon, Jasmine Smothers, Terry Walton, Dave Schroeder, Rebecca McClain and Denise Wilson and were enriched by Sounds of Grace Trio and accompanist.

In addition to the annual meeting, the organization publishes a newsletter, emailed three times a year. We also have an email network where we share prayer concerns and other pertinent information on an as needed basis. Members are also encouraged to become certified UM secretaries by participating in the PAUMCS Institute, sponsored by GCFA and held at GCFA Headquarters in Nashville, TN in July of each year.

GAC had 61 members in 2012. We continue to publicize our organization to the churches throughout both annual conferences and invite all to visit our display in the Exhibit Hall during each Annual Conference.

The 2013 conference will convene September 19-23 at Christ UMC in Albany, GA. All persons interested in joining GAC PAUMCS should visit our website at www.ga-paumcs.org to obtain more information.

Brenda Johnson, Chapter President
As a new residence hall rises on the home campus, Wesley is building an institution that fosters vital churches for the next generation. We have developed a vision for what the church of the future should be and have become a new kind of seminary. More than a good graduate school, we have become like a research university dedicated to serving the church.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to expand its programs and the readership of the premier online resource for churches: *Leading Ideas*. Through the Center, we are administering three new programs funded by grants from the Lilly Endowment. One enables us to continue our Lewis Fellows program, an intensive post-seminary leadership training initiative for young clergy. Another will reach pastors five to ten years beyond seminary. They will engage with thought leaders in Washington, D.C. on the subjects of courage, doing good well, generosity and well-being to help expand their field of vision and lead their churches to engage more effectively in their communities. The third program takes a hard look at the economic challenges facing future ministers. We will conduct research into our graduates’ debt, analyze information about current compensation packages, and review the consequences of debt on the well-being of graduates. We will review our own economic and funding strategies and improve institutional practices while creating educational programs that better prepare future pastoral leaders as managers of personal and congregational finance.

Wesley is actively recruiting the kind of students who want to be Disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world at all levels of ordained and lay ministry. We have continued to increase financial aid while holding down the cost of tuition. We launched a new 36-hour Master of Arts degree in the fall which uses a flexible curriculum to enable students to acquire a basic theological education. Wesley has entered into two dynamic partnerships this year. The first is with the Center for Discipleship at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, and makes unique lay study courses developed by Wesley in its Wesley Ministry Network available to the public on a large scale. And, Wesley is now partnered with Pfeiffer University and Union Presbyterian Seminary to make it possible for United Methodist students to complete their Master of Divinity degrees at Union Presbyterian Seminary’s Charlotte, NC campus.

David McAllister-Wilson, President
Childcare Task Force

In line with the goals expressed by the annual conference to increase participation of young adult clergy and laity in the local church and annual conference, the availability of childcare is an area of practical concern. The childcare task force of the North Georgia Conference is tasked with the responsibility of assessing the needs of the annual conference regarding childcare, and working with the annual conference planning committee and host committee to find creative and practical means of addressing those needs.

In February of 2013, an informal survey was conducted among several clergy members of the annual conference who are parents of young children (ages 5 and under). Half of the respondents to the survey are also members of clergy couples – both parents are active clergy and therefore participants in annual conference proceedings. The respondents were asked to describe the childcare solutions they are currently utilizing during the dates of annual conference, and what childcare options would be ideal. Initial responses have suggested that parents have found a variety of solutions to the need for childcare – parents utilize family members, day camps, and/or their non-clergy spouses for offsite care. Others, particularly nursing mothers, elect to bring children with them to annual conference sessions and events.

For nursing mothers, this year we are proud to announce the provision of a lactation room: a dedicated, private space adjacent to the Grand Hall. Mothers interested in more information about the location and amenities of this space are encouraged to visit the annual conference Information Desk.

In order to provide parents with information on local childcare options, the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau has provided a list of childcare options available through the Athens/Clarke County community. These include nursery, day care and day camp options already active in the area during Annual Conference. A full list of those programs is available on the conference website (http://www.ngumc.org/pages/detail/2372).

Finally, the task force is actively exploring options for offsite childcare that would cater specifically to the children of Annual Conference participants. We are consulting with other annual conferences on best practices, and with area churches regarding resources, available space, liability considerations, etc. with the hope of introducing such an option in 2014 or 2015.

Our task force would appreciate your additional feedback and wisdom. Parents, please take a moment to voice your needs and suggestions relative to childcare by filling out the annual conference evaluation.
Whereas, the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Georgia continues to be a plague to our state and region; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Women includes human trafficking as one of its missional priorities; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Women partners with End Child Prostitution and Trafficking – USA (ECPAT-USA) to work in the hospitality industry to end CSEC; and

Whereas, ECPAT-USA works with the global hospitality and tourism industry to establish The Code to encourage the practices of: establishing an ethical policy against the sexual exploitation of children; training personnel and staff members; introducing a clause about being a member of The Code in contracts with suppliers; providing information to travelers in the form of brochures, Web pages or other materials; providing information to “key persons” at the destination; and reporting annually on the implementation of actions associated with these six criteria; and

Whereas, the North Georgia Conference has been in partnership with the Interfaith Children’s Movement since its inception in order to address the plight of minors who have been trafficked; and

Whereas, in 2012 Interfaith Children’s Movement launched its “Ask Before You Book” campaign to raise awareness within the faith community and the hospitality industry of the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in Georgia; and

Whereas, in 2013 the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation requiring the posting of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline in all hotels across the state;

Whereas, in 2013 the State of Georgia began addressing demand for CSEC through its “Georgia’s Not Buying It” pledge campaign;
Therefore, let it be resolved that the guidelines for hosting annual conference be amended so as to include a recommendation that the hotels making up the 2,500 bed requirement be signatories to The Code.

Let it further be resolved that the application for submitting a bid to host annual conference include an opportunity to record if a hotel has signed onto The Code.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Allen Grady, Chair, Leadership Ministry Team
Sue Raymond, President, North Georgia United Methodist Women
Pamela Perkins Carn, Coordinator, Interfaith Children’s Movement

701. Resolution to Amend Meeting Days of Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference continues to be strengthened by the inclusion of young people in annual conference leadership, including service as lay members to Annual Conference, and;

WHEREAS, many adult and young adult lay members to annual conference are working professionals and must take time away from work to serve, and;

WHEREAS, young adults are essential to the present and future of the ministry of the Church, and;

WHEREAS, other annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction meet during at least one weekend day;

WHEREAS, the 2008 North Georgia Annual Conference voted in favor of including at least one weekend day in the schedule, but the suggested implementation date of annual conference 2012 passed without the resolution being acted upon;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Georgia Annual Conference request that the Resident Bishop of North Georgia Episcopal Area set the dates for the annual conference session, beginning with the 2016 session, to occur over the course of a Thursday through Saturday, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches support such action by declaring the Sunday worship service(s) immediately following annual conference as Laity Sunday.

Blair Boyd Zant
Chair, Young Adult Ministry Taskforce

702. Resolution to Increase Participation of Young Adults as Voting Members of the Annual Conference

WHEREAS, General Conference has intentionally created and invested in initiatives to increase the membership and participation of younger adults in The United Methodist Church through the Shared Mission Focus on Young People, Igniting Ministries Campaigns, and the Division on Ministries with Young People, and

WHEREAS, the population of The United Methodist Church is aging at a disproportionate rate to society at large, and

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference values the importance of all realms of diversity, including age, and

WHEREAS, many local churches have one lay delegate to Annual Conference;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church increase intentionally the Annual Conference participation of adult lay delegates, 35 years of age and under with each district nominating at least five (5) adults between the ages of 18-35 years of age as at-large delegates to Annual Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local church grant consideration to nominating lay members to Annual Conference that are 35 years of age and under.

Blair Boyd Zant
Chair, Young Adult Ministry Taskforce
The North Georgia Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated and disabled clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014 by each active, retired, terminated or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

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THAT the pension, severance or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance or disability payments from plans, annuities or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated or a disabled clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated or a disabled clergyperson’s pension, severance or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.
704. Resolution in Support of
Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, we recognize that immigration is a consequence of the economic
disparities which exist between nations, as well as the result of political, social,
and environmental changes that spur families and individuals to leave their
homelands in search of relief (temporary residence) or a better life (permanent
residence). And,

WHEREAS, the immigration system in the United States has produced great
suffering with heartbreaking consequences, including:

- the tragic deaths of many who have perished attempting to cross into the
  United States;
- the separation of children from their families due to deportation;
- the creation of a climate of fear, which has resulted in the removal of
  immigrant children from public education and which has decimated
  numerous immigrant congregations. And,

WHEREAS, we rejoice that the political climate in our nation has changed,
with leaders of both of our major political parties speaking out in favor of
comprehensive reform and opening the space for a just and humane
transformation of our country’s immigration laws. And,

WHEREAS, as persons of faith we recognize this moment as a call to do
justice, to love mercy, and to take moral actions that will recognize the human
and civil rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters, allowing them to come
out of the shadows and openly pursue a life of peace and hope. And,

WHEREAS, as persons of faith we recognize this moment as a call to engage in
radical hospitality, believing in the importance of recognizing our essential
relatedness under God, and acknowledging that the faithfulness of the church
will be measured by how we treat and advocate for the most vulnerable in our
community. And,

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference sitting in session in June
2011 did resolve that we would encourage the Georgia General Assembly to
join other states in creating legislation that provides a clear and attainable path
to citizenship for all immigrants; (2011 NGUMC AC Journal, Vol I, p. 492-
493). And,
WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference sitting in session in June 2011 did resolve and call upon our United Methodist congregations to study the biblical basis of hospitality to all, as mandated throughout the Scriptures in passages such as Leviticus 19:33, which says: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien, the alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God”; (2011 NGUMC AC Journal, Vol I, p. 492-493). And,

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference sitting in session in June 2012 did resolve and call upon the Georgia Legislature to repeal the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011 and to work with all stakeholders – including farmers, the business community, representatives of Georgia’s various immigrant communities, the faith community, service organizations who serve immigrants, law enforcement, and our federal representatives – to craft a law that better balances the reasonable concerns of law enforcement with the essential virtues of hospitality and compassion and justice; (2012 NGUMC AC Journal, Vol I, p. 446-448).

THEREFORE, we call on United Methodists of the North Georgia Annual Conference to openly and compellingly advocate before the Georgia General Assembly and the U.S. Congress for changes that will reunify families, safeguard separated children, provide a clear, timely and attainable path for citizenship, protect the rights of all workers whether documented or undocumented, and recognize the gifts and contributions that immigrants are making to our nation.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that the North Georgia Annual Conference will join with the Interagency Task Force on Immigration of The United Methodist Church in calling upon all United Methodists in our nation to join together in prayer and advocacy until a just and humane reform of our system of immigration is achieved that includes the following:
1) Stopping deportations and keeping families together while Congress acts on comprehensive immigration reform (excepting cases involving convicted felons, including violent offenders and drug traffickers);
2) Asking state governments to care for and protect children who have been separated from their parents by immigration raids and deportations until such children are once again reunited with their parents;
3) Requesting that Congress adopt the D.R.E.A.M. Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) in its entirety;
4) Providing DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) children with coverage under the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act;
5) Persuading the Federal government to continue challenging the prerogative and legality of state anti-immigration laws, including Georgia’s Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011;
6) Rejecting the practice of racial profiling, as well as denouncing all actual incidents of racial profiling;
7) Protecting all men, women and children from labor and sexual exploitation, including adequately funding efforts to arrest, detain and prosecute traffickers who prey upon our brothers and sisters in desperate situations, and providing stiffer penalties for businesses that practice unfair competition as a means of exploiting immigrant labor.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Peabody, Northbrook UMC, Roswell
Dave Allen Grady, Druid Hills UMC, Atlanta
Nora Colmenares, Asst. General Secretary GBGM-UMC, New York
Juan Quintanilla, Douglas St UMC, Cartersville
Rodrigo Cruz, Northbrook UMC, Roswell
Joseph McBrayer, Emory Wesley Fellowship, Emory University
Karen M. Kagiyama, UMC Campus Minister, University of West Georgia
Kate Hurst Floyd, Grace UMC, Atlanta
705. Resolution on Working Together to End Bullying

Whereas, Many people are hurting from the effects of bullying in the forms of physical and verbal harassment, oppression and exclusion; and

Whereas, Paragraph 162 of the Book of Discipline states:

"We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights;” and

Whereas, the effects of bullying can halt the healthy development of all people socially, emotionally and spiritually. According to a study by Iowa State University, “Individuals who are bullied experience severe emotional consequences such as anxiety, passivity, academic problems, social deficits and low self-esteem.” Bullying leads young people to isolation and prevents them from creating healthy friendships with their peers. This isolation can lead to participation in high risk behaviors; and

Whereas, Jesus taught, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39).

Be it therefore resolved,
That the following resolution is adopted by the North Georgia Annual Conference

______________________________
We vow that, as churches and people of faith, we will not be silent about the value of each and every life.

To that end, we categorically oppose the practices of bullying in all its forms.

We call upon the North Georgia Commission of Church and Society to collect and provide internet and speaking resources to be used by conference children and youth ministries and by churches for anti-bullying training of staff, clergy and volunteers.

We urge our churches, committees, campus ministries and camping retreat ministries to create safe space for each and every child of God, without regard to religion, race, ethnicity, culture, citizenship, socio-economic status, gender identity, physical or mental ability, and sexual orientation.

Further, in the spirit of advocating for safe sanctuary, we call upon every United Methodist to respond to acts of bullying with acts of compassion. We will take a public stand against speeches of hate, harassment and acts of violence filled with long-held prejudices against all persons.

Moreover, we call upon the Church and society to intentionally validate, support, and empower persons being injured by bullying behavior in workplaces, in schools and in all environments.

On Behalf of the North Georgia Reconciling United Methodists

Signed:

Giselle Lawn

Thomas Gregory “Greg” Gray, Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Elizabeth Corrie, PhD, Director, Youth Theological Initiative, Candler School of Theology

Pamela Buzbee

Shaysha Kingsbury
800. 2013 Standing Rules

A. Introduction

“The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.” (¶ 604) The standing rules of the conference expand and clarify these structures and their modes of operation. (All references to the 2012 Book of Discipline hereafter shall be designated by the paragraph number.)


A. 2. Amendments - These standing rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the conference no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours following their presentation to the conference; provided, a written copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted to the conference secretary before being read to the conference. Amendments shall take effect upon passage, except the number of districts can only be changed at least one (1) year in advance.

B. Standing Committees of the Annual Conference

B. 1. There shall be a committee on standing rules composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, plus the conference chancellor. The committee on standing rules is charged with the annual task of addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the standing rules of the annual conference in the following three ways: to receive requests for amendments and to analyze them for consistency with existing standing rules and the current Book of Discipline, and to recommend editorial changes as needed. The committee is also charged with the quadrennial task of examining the rules of the annual conference for consistency with the new Book of Discipline and to recommend any editorial changes to bring about that consistency.

B. 2. There shall be a committee on registration and assistance composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The primary functions of the committee on registration & assistance are to conduct registration, along with the host committee, certify delegates and to issue badges accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee helps retired pastors receive financial assistance, and during the week of annual conference, the committee maintains a table to assist visitors with nametags and other needs.
B. 3. There shall be a committee on journal and handbook composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The committee on the handbook and the journal sets the standards for the submission of information for the handbook and journal, prepares the conference handbook and supplementary materials, and is responsible for the dispersal of those materials. The committee works with the conference secretary to ensure that the official records of the annual conference shall be kept in accordance with ¶ 606.3

B. 4. There shall be a committee on resolutions composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The charge of the resolution committee is to process all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. This committee makes sure that, with occasional exceptions, resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of the Annual Conference year are included in the handbook.

C. Annual Conference Session and Related Committees

C. 1. Annual Conference Committee on Nominations - There shall be an annual conference committee on nominations whose duty shall be to nominate all lay and clergy members of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies of the north Georgia conference. The committee shall be composed of the bishop, who shall be the chairperson, the district superintendents and extended cabinet, the conference lay leader and associate conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the chairperson of the advocacy team, the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and of United Methodist Women, the chairpersons of the conference young adult organization and the council on youth ministry, and not more than five (5) members-at-large who shall be named by the bishop for inclusiveness. The committee shall make its nominations not later than the second morning of the annual conference.

The executive committee of the annual conference committee on nominations, composed of the bishop, the conference lay leader, the director of connectional ministries and three (3) other members of the annual conference committee on nominations named by the bishop, will coordinate the comprehensive nominations process of identification, recruitment, training, selection and evaluation for the annual conference. Where vacancies in essential elected positions occur between annual conference sessions, the executive
committee may fill the positions until the next annual conference elects. Task forces may be used in keeping with the directions stated in standing rule H.2.

**C. 2. District Committee on Nominations** - There shall be a district committee on nominations, composed of five (5) clergy and six (6) lay members. One (1) clergy member shall be the district superintendent, who shall serve as the chairperson. One (1) of the six (6) lay members shall be the district lay leader. The district committee on nominations shall assist in identifying, recruiting and recommending potential leaders to the conference committee on nominations.

**C. 3. Quadrennial Boards, Teams, Councils, Commissions, Committees** - The membership of quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) persons plus ex-officio members. This rule shall not apply to standing committees nor to any board, council, team, commission, committee, or other agency whose membership is otherwise determined by the conference or by *The Book of Discipline*.

All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of the annual conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and lay unless the Book of Discipline provides otherwise.

No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same board, council, team, commission or committee or agency for more than eight (8) consecutive years and after serving eight (8) years may not be later elected to the same board, commission, team, council, committee or agency for more than eight (8) years except as allowed by *The Book of Discipline*, for a lifetime total of sixteen (16) years maximum on the same board, council, team, commission, committee or agency. No person shall be nominated to serve concurrently on more than one (1) quadrennial board, council, team, commission or committee, except as an ex-officio member. However, one (1) exemption may be allowed for those serving on the board of laity, episcopal committee, church development, nominations, and the standing committees of the annual conference session (acknowledgments, registration and assistance, journal and handbook, resolutions, and standing rules). No district superintendent may be nominated as an elective member of any program agency or team of the conference. Persons nominated shall have agreed in advance to serve if elected.

When quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees are elected, they shall be convened for training within sixty (60) days following the annual conference session, except in a year of Episcopal transition when the window will be one hundred twenty (120) days, to be informed concerning their responsibilities. Chairpersons shall be nominated by the annual conference.
committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Under the
direction of their respective chairpersons, each board, council, commission and
committee shall elect a vice-chairperson and secretary. All team officers shall
be nominated by the committee on nominations.
All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams,
commissions and committees shall include members which ensure balance,
continuity, expertise, inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of
*The Book of Discipline*, Part III Section VI, (¶ 140).

**C. 3. a. For Persons Holding Chairs:**

**C. 3. a. 1)** Chairpersons are expected to maintain a yearly calendar of
scheduled and announced meetings for planning, budgeting, and evaluation;

**C. 3. a. 2)** Chairpersons are expected to plan meetings at such times and
locations that encourage and allow for maximum attendance of the elected
membership, giving particular mind to the academic schedules of youth and
young adults.

**C. 3. a. 3)** Chairpersons are to submit proper budgets with supporting
rationale and any other requested reports in a proper and timely manner;

**C. 3. a. 4)** Chairpersons are expected to provide consistent
communication with members of their committee or board regarding agendas,
time/date/locations/ and related information that impact a member’s ability to
serve well.

**C. 3. a. 5)** Chairpersons are expected to attend all called meetings of the
committee or board for which he or she is responsible. Missing (2) two
consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or
missing (3) three consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board
with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

**C. 3. a. 6)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will
prompt a letter from the conference nominations executive committee, releasing
the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact
subsequent nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations
executive committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

**C. 3. b. For Committee and Board Members:**

**C. 3. b. 1)** Elected members are expected to attend all called meetings of
the committee or board on which they are serving. Missing (3) three
consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with no
excuse, or missing (4) four consecutive properly called meetings of his or her
committee or board with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for
attendance.
C. 3. b. 2) Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt a letter of notification from the conference nominations executive committee, releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact subsequent nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations executive committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

C. 4. Annual Conference Planning Committee - There shall be an annual conference planning committee responsible for setting the agenda for sessions of the annual conference, recommending the site of the conference annually, and overall coordination of annual conference. Applications to host the conference shall be submitted to the bishop not less than eighteen (18) months in advance and must include adequate data to satisfy the planning committee of the suitability of the proposed site, with special attention to housing, food service, seating, congregating areas, parking and all standard public services necessary to accommodate large numbers of people. All facilities must meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines. All applications to host the conference must include an itemized account of anticipated expenses. The site must provide seating for all members of the conference, both clergy and lay, and for visitors and guests. The planning committee shall submit applications approved by them to the conference council on finance and administration for approval of projected costs. The planning committee shall advise the conference concerning the desirability of each acceptable proposed site, including estimated costs. The conference may select sites into the future, but must reconfirm that selection within three (3) years of that scheduled conference. When for unforeseen circumstances related to finances, logistics or other compelling reasons the annual conference is not able to hold annual conference at the agreed upon site, the annual conference planning committee is authorized to work with the conference council on finance and administration to secure an appropriate alternate site.

The committee shall consist of the following persons: the bishop; the executive assistant to the bishop; the annual conference lay leader; the associate conference lay leader(s); the conference secretary; the dean of the cabinet; the conference presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, conference youth organization, conference young adult organization, and the conference young adult task force; the chairpersons of the conference worship team, the conference committee on registration and assistance, and the board of ordained ministry; the director of connectional ministries; the chairperson of the conference council on finance and administration; the conference treasurer; and other persons selected by the bishop to assure proper representation of persons
related to the work of the committee, such as the host district superintendent
and the host pastor. The bishop or his/her designee shall be the chairperson of
the annual conference planning committee.

C. 5. Conference Handbook & Information Packets - Material for
publication in the conference handbook shall be submitted annually to the
conference secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the opening date of
the annual conference. Other material may be distributed to the members of the
conference, at the discretion of the conference secretary, in a packet of
supplementary materials. All printed materials requiring action by the annual
conference shall be available in large print.

C. 6. Pre-Conference Briefings - Not more than twenty-five (25) days prior to
the opening session of the annual conference, each district superintendent, in
consultation with the district lay leader, shall convene, at such time and place as
the two (2) of them together shall determine, the conference members residing
in the district, both clergy and lay, for the purpose of examining the published
reports and recommendations of the boards, councils, teams, commissions,
committees and other agencies of the conference.

C. 7. Consent Agenda - In order to expedite the business of the conference, the
consent agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the
chairperson of the committee on standing rules, the director of connectional
ministries, and the conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation
with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or
resolutions, may present in the conference handbook a written list of items
which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda shall
be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are
removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of
conference. Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda to be
placed on the regular agenda by a motion to remove supported by a second
from two (2) voting members of the annual conference. When an item has been
removed from the consent agenda, it shall be placed on the regular agenda at an
appropriate time as determined by the conference secretary.

C. 8. Reports - Reports shall be in writing, and an original, signed copy of the
same shall be in the hands of the conference secretary before being read on the
floor of the conference. When twenty-five (25) percent or more of the
membership of a board, council, team, commission, committee or other agency
shall request the privilege of presenting a minority report to the annual
conference, the chairperson of said board or other agency shall appoint a
committee to draft a minority report and shall submit the said minority report
along with the majority report to the conference.
C. 9. Committee on Resolutions - There shall be a committee on resolutions, nominated and elected under the provisions of the standing rules. Any resolution coming to the floor of the annual conference which has not been before an official board, commission or agency of the annual conference, or a resolution not previously printed in the conference handbook, shall be referred to the committee on resolutions for study before the resolution is considered by the annual conference.

D. Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference

D. 1. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members - The names and email addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts and by charges, shall be published in the conference journal, and they shall be compiled and made available to members of the conference, both lay and clergy, as early as feasible following their election.

D. 2. Lay Member Equalization Plan - The lay membership of the annual conference shall be equal in number to its clergy membership. Lay members shall be elected by each charge conference as directed by the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, Division Two, Section VI, Article I (¶32). The following are designated by the Constitution, (Loc. Cit.), to be members of the annual conference: the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of the United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy membership, the following lay persons shall also be members of the annual conference: the associate conference lay leaders, the district directors of lay servant ministries, the district presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and the district presidents or equivalent officers of the district young adult organization and the district youth organization, four (4) young adult persons 18 years and under and two (2) young persons 40 years of age and under.
Additional members shall be elected from each district by the district board of laity to achieve equalization of the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference.

The conference secretary shall advise the district superintendents annually, not later than November 1, of the number of additional lay members required to achieve equalization. The district superintendents shall assist the district board of laity to elect the necessary persons, to notify them of their election, and to forward their names and addresses to the conference secretary by January 1 of each year.

D. 3. Moving Day and Expenses - Moving Day for pastors shall ordinarily be Thursday of the week following the regular session of the annual conference; provided, if unusual circumstances prevail, the cabinet may change the date to a more suitable one; provided, further, the secretary of the cabinet shall have notice of the change published in the North Georgia Advocate not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the annual conference. Departing clergy shall vacate their parsonages by one o’clock on the afternoon of Moving Day. District superintendents shall encourage the pastoral charges to pay moving expenses for newly assigned clergy moving within the bounds of the North Georgia Conference.

D. 4. Care of Parsonages - Clergy shall use care to maintain cleanliness and good housekeeping of the parsonages in which they reside. In addition to the annual inspection of the parsonage, Part V, Chapter Six, Section VI (¶ 2533.4), at a time of change in pastoral appointment, there shall be an inspection of the parsonage by the pastor and the pastor/parish relations committee to determine the condition of the parsonage. Where there has been obvious abuse, replacement and/or repair shall be at the pastor’s expense. If pets are a part of the pastor's family, the expense for professional treatment for infestation and odor shall be the pastor's responsibility prior to moving out. Any disagreement concerning liability shall be addressed by a mediation committee to determine the ratio of responsibility. The decision of the mediation committee shall be binding on all parties. The mediation committee shall be composed of the district superintendent, a person of the church’s (charge’s) choice, a person of the pastor's choice, and a neutral person selected by the district superintendent.

D. 5. Number of Districts - There shall be twelve (12) districts in the North Georgia Conference.

D. 6. Service Year - The conference service year shall be July 1 through June 30.

D. 7. Local Church Reports - Pastors shall submit their annual reports as directed by the conference statistician, not later than January 20. The
conference statistician shall reconcile the financial reports with the records of
the conference treasurer.

D. 8. Archives - The depository for archival records of the North Georgia
Conference shall be the Candler School of Theology of Emory University
through its Pitts Theology Library.

E. Finance and Property

E. 1. Budget Development - All requests for appropriations shall be submitted
to the conference council on finance and administration, in writing, not less
than ninety (90) days prior to the opening session of the annual conference.
Requests shall include a detailed financial statement. Any persons or group
presenting a proposal to the annual conference for a program or activity which
is not included in the conference budget shall at the same time, present a
financial analysis including estimated cost and plans for funding. Before final
action by the annual conference, the conference council on finance and
administration shall review the financial aspects of the proposal and make its
recommendation to the conference regarding the proposal. Budgets submitted
to the conference for approval shall include itemized comparative figures for
the previous year, except in the case of new programs.

E. 2. Fiscal Regulations - The conference fiscal year shall be January 1
through December 31. All monies for conference and district items shall be
remitted by December 31. The books of the conference treasurer and the district
treasurers shall be closed at the end of business on the fifth (5th) working day
following January 1. The conference treasurer shall make final settlement and
disburse all funds to the annual conference boards, councils, commissions or
other agencies within fifteen (15) days following the end of the fiscal year. The
conference treasurer shall report by districts and by charges all payments for
equitable salaries, mission appropriations and the temporary general aid fund.
The conference treasurer shall report monthly to the district superintendents all
conference askings paid by each local church in the district.

E. 3. District Superintendents' Financial Support - The support of the district
superintendents, including their salaries, pensions, and insurance (subject to the
same insurance rules for other clergy), shall be provided by the annual
conference, through the conference council on finance and administration.
Housing, utilities, office expenses, travel and district work funds shall be
provided by the respective districts.
E. 4. **Church Property** - Each district superintendent shall furnish the conference secretary annually, for publication in the Conference Journal, a list of the real property situated within the district, belonging to but not currently in use by The United Methodist Church.

E. 5. **Salary Supplements** - All supplementation of pastoral salaries from whatever source shall be administered by the commission on equitable compensation in accordance with guidelines developed by the commission and approved by the annual conference, except that the conference board of new church development shall be authorized to administer salary supplementation for pastors of new and redeveloping congregations, in keeping with guidelines developed by the committee and approved by the annual conference.

E. 6. **Charters** - Charters authorized by the North Georgia Conference shall be reviewed by the conference chancellor before being filed with the Secretary of State.

E. 7. **Annual Conference Registration Fee** – A registration fee of $30.00 shall be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired clergy and youth members are exempt from the assessment.

**F. Connectional Table**

F. 1. There shall be a Conference Connectional Table with responsibility to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the North Georgia Annual Conference. It shall give leadership and guidance in setting the vision of the annual conference and in conducting an on-going process of refining and revising that vision.

F. 2. The director of connectional ministries, in consultation with the resident bishop, shall chair the connectional table, which shall be composed of the following persons: resident bishop, director of connectional ministries, district superintendents, executive assistant to the bishop, director of ministerial services, director of new church development, chairperson of the board of new church development, conference treasurer, chairperson of the council on finance and administration, chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, secretary of the annual conference, conference chancellor, conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, conference president of United Methodist Women, conference president of United Methodist Men, president of the conference youth organization, president of the conference young adult organization, chairperson of conference personnel practices and policy committee, chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, chairperson of worship
program team, chairperson of outreach and mission program team, chairperson of leadership program team, chairperson of discipleship program team, chairperson of the order of deacons, chairperson of the order of elders, chairperson of the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, the heads of most recently elected lay and clergy delegations to general conference, and such at-large members as the conference committee on nominations shall nominate to provide for diversity and inclusiveness as regards race/ethnicity/national origin, age, and gender. The Table’s membership shall be limited to fifty persons. The eligibility limitations of standing rule C.3. shall not apply to the Connectional Table.

F. 3. There shall be an executive committee of the connectional table composed of the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the dean of the cabinet, the chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

F. 4. The connectional table shall meet regularly twice each year and additional times as considered appropriate or needful by the bishop and the director of connectional ministries, and shall report each year to the annual conference regarding the conference’s stewardship of its vision and its commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

G. Connectional Ministries

G. 1. There shall be a director of connectional ministries who, in partnership with the bishop and cabinet, shall have the following primary responsibilities: To serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference, including the development, clarification, interpretation, and embodiment of the conference’s vision; to serve as leader of the continuous process of transformation and renewal necessary for the annual conference to be faithful to our Christian identity in a changing world; to ensure alignment of the total resources of the conference to its vision; and to ensure the connections among the local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries for the purpose of networking, resourcing, and communicating their shared ministry.

G. 2. The director of connectional ministries shall serve as an officer of the annual conference, and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.

G. 3. The director of connectional ministries shall supervise the conference staff related to the office of connectional ministries, coordinate the recruitment
and training of conference program leaders, provide oversight and leadership in
the conference’s program and ministry, and serve as chair of the connectional
table and as executive officer of the board of connectional ministries.

**H. Program Teams of the Annual Conference**

**H. 1.** The programming of the annual conference shall be done primarily by
four (4) program teams – Worship, Outreach and Mission, Leadership, and
Discipleship. Each program team shall be responsible for several areas of
program and ministry, as indicated below, and shall have authority to form such
committees as the Discipline may require for its program areas or as deemed
appropriate for carrying out its responsibilities, while at the same time
continuing to function as a unified team. Each team may enlist additional
persons to assist in its work, and may also form time-limited task forces to
address particular issues or emphases. These four program teams shall be
accountable to the director of connectional ministries and the board of
connectional ministries for oversight and budget.

**H. 2.** Each program team shall be composed of thirty-six (36) duly elected
members. These shall include the team’s officers (chairperson, vice
chairperson, and secretary), who shall be nominated by the conference
committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. The number
limitation specified in standing rule C.3 shall not apply to the program teams.
Additional members shall include a cabinet representative, a youth named by
the conference youth organization, and any member of a corresponding general
board or agency who is a member of or related to the annual conference. To
ensure continuity of experience and leadership, members of the program teams
shall be grouped in classes so that normally no more than one-fourth of the
members of a team will rotate off in any given year.

**H. 3.** There shall be a worship team with responsibilities for the following
program areas: archives and history (¶ 641), evangelism (¶ 630.3), stewardship
(¶630.5), worship (¶630.4), cross-cultural and cross-racial ministries, ethnic and
multi-ethnic ministries, small membership churches, and stewardship (¶ 630.5).
The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2.

**H. 4.** There shall be an outreach and mission team with responsibilities for the
following program areas: global ministries (¶ 633), disaster response (¶ 633.22),
refugee resettlement, health and welfare ministries (¶ 633.27), UMVIM,
Bridges, cross-cultural and cross-racial ministries, ethnic and multi-ethnic
ministries, small membership churches, and stewardship (¶ 630.5). The
membership of this team is defined in standing rule H.2.
H. 5. There shall be a leadership team with responsibilities for the following program areas: Christian unity and interreligious concerns (¶ 642), church and society (¶ 629), creation care, disability concerns (¶ 653), ethnic local church concerns (¶ 632), great starts, Native American concerns (¶ 654), peace with justice, religion and race (¶ 643.1), status and role of women (¶ 644), cross-cultural and cross-racial ministries, ethnic and multi-ethnic ministries, small membership churches, and stewardship (¶ 630.5). The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2.

H. 6. There shall be a discipleship team with responsibilities for the following program areas: education (¶ 630.2), adult ministries [older adult (¶ 651.1) and young adult (¶ 650.1)], children’s ministries (¶ 630.1.g), youth ministries (¶ 649.1), family ministries (¶ 651.1), higher education and campus ministries (¶ 634), camp and retreat ministries (¶ 630.1.c), safe sanctuaries, faith formation, cross-cultural and cross-racial ministries, ethnic and multi-ethnic ministries, small membership churches, and stewardship (¶ 630.5). The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2, with the added stipulation that two (2) representatives from United Methodist youth (¶ 649.1) and United Methodist young adults (¶ 650.1) will be included.

H. 7. There shall be a conference youth organization as provided by ¶ 649.1. It shall relate to and be answerable to the discipleship team.

H. 8. The staff of the connectional ministries office will serve as a resourcing component working in conjunction with the four ministry teams. Time-sensitive and customized resources requested by clergy, laity, and district superintendents, in collaboration with the four program teams, will emanate from here. Areas of involvement include, but are not limited to: Vital Congregations and VitalSigns, trustees, finance, SPRC, church staff development, natural church development, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, cross-cultural and cross-racial ministries, church council, and lay leadership.

H. 9. There shall be a board of connectional ministries composed of the chairpersons of the four program teams, the area representatives within the program teams, the chairperson or other representative of the conference board of laity, a cabinet representative, and the director and associate directors of connectional ministries. The officers of the board (chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary) shall be nominated by the conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. This board shall have responsibility for presenting a unified program for mission and ministry, including budgeting, to the annual conference and for giving leadership in the
execution of that plan. The director of connectional ministries shall be the executive officer of this board.

I. Ministry of the Laity

I. 1. Conference Board of Laity - There shall be a conference board of laity which shall provide for the ministry of the laity related to the objectives of the General Board of Discipleship as set forth in ¶¶ 1101-1126. The purpose of the conference board of laity shall be as outlined in ¶ 631.2. Funding for the board shall be provided through the conference budget.

I. 2. Membership of Conference Board of Laity - The following shall comprise the membership of the board: The conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, the presidents and two representatives elected by each of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the presidents of the conference young adult organization and the conference youth organization; and in addition, the conference scouting coordinator, the lay chair or lay vice-chair of the general conference delegation and up to four at-large members elected by the board, in consultation with the annual conference committee on nominations as needed from time to time for inclusiveness and/or operations; and as ex-officio, a district superintendent designated by the cabinet, the director of connectional ministries and the presiding bishop. Task forces may be utilized in keeping with the directives stated in Standing Rule H.2.

I. 3. Election of Conference Lay Leader and Associate Conference Lay Leaders – The conference lay leader and no more than four (4) associate conference lay leaders shall be elected quadrennially by the annual conference on nomination of the conference committee on nominations after consultation with the board of laity. The conference lay leader shall serve as chair of the conference board of laity. No person may serve as the conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. No person may serve as the associate conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. The conference lay leader and the associate conference lay leaders shall be members of the board of laity by virtue of their election to the offices they hold. Years of service as an associate conference lay leader shall not be considered in determining the eligibility of a person to serve as conference lay leader.

I. 4. Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries – There shall be a conference committee on lay servant ministries, which shall relate to the conference board of laity as specifically provided for in ¶ 631.6. The committee
shall be structured by the conference board of laity and shall include as a
minimum the conference director of lay servant ministries, the district directors
of lay servant ministries, the conference lay leader and one or more associate
conference lay leaders. Up to four (4) at-large members may be elected by the
conference board of laity as needed for inclusiveness and/or operations from
time to time. The conference director of lay servant ministries shall be elected
for a four-year term by the conference board of laity after consultation with the
conference committee on nominations. No person may serve as the conference
director of lay servant ministries for more than eight (8) consecutive years.

J. Board of New Church Development

J. 1. There shall be an annual conference board of new church development.
The annual conference board of new church development shall be charged with
the responsibility of developing, implementing and continually updating a
comprehensive plan for the planting of new churches within the bounds of the
North Georgia annual conference. The responsibilities shall specifically include
establishing, nurturing, supporting and guiding new congregations from
conception through birth and until the district superintendent, the new church
and the office of church development agree that the support is no longer
necessary.

J. 2. The board of new church development shall work with the bishop, cabinet
and district boards of church development to determine locations for new
churches and potential church planters. It shall also have responsibility for the
training, assessing and recommending persons to the bishop and cabinet for
appointment as new church planters.

J. 3. The board of new church development shall encourage local churches to
partner with the annual conference board of new church development to birth
new churches.

J. 4. The board of new church development shall serve as liaison with
jurisdictional and general conference board and agencies related to the work of
new church development.

J. 5. The board of new church development shall be incorporated as the Board
of Church Development of the North Georgia Conference, Inc., for the purpose
of managing, buying, selling, and holding developmental properties owned by
the annual conference. The officers of the board of new church development
and the director of the board of new church development shall be the officers of
the corporation.
J. 6. The board shall develop an annual budget for presentation to the annual conference Council on Finance and Administration to support the work and ministry of the board of new church development.

J. 7. The director and the president of the board of new church development shall sit on the Conference Connectional Table. The director shall serve as an officer of the annual conference and shall be a member of the bishop’s extended cabinet.

J. 8. The annual conference board of new church development shall be composed of one (1) representative from each district board of church development appointed by the district superintendent; six (6) at large lay persons recommended by the director of the board of new church development and approved by the bishop and cabinet; six (6) clergy recommended by the director of the board of new church development and approved by the bishop and cabinet; chairperson of the committee on new black church development, chairperson of the committee on new Hispanic church development, chairperson of the committee on new Korean church development, chairperson of the committee on new multi-ethnic church development, cabinet representatives to the five committees of the board of new church development as appointed by the bishop; a council on finance and administration representative; director of connectional ministries; conference treasurer; director of new church development; and associate directors of new church development. This totals 39 persons and is an exception to Standing Rule C.3.

J. 9. The president, vice-president and secretary of the board of new church development shall be recommended to the bishop and cabinet by the director of new church development and submitted to the annual conference committee on nominations for inclusion in their report to the annual conference for election.

J. 10. The board of new church development shall be organized with a president, a vice-president and secretary. The term of office shall be one quadrennium, but each may be elected for one additional term, provided no one shall hold the same office for more than 8 years. The board of new church development shall meet annually and may meet more often at the request of the director of new church development or the president of the board.

J. 11. There shall be an executive committee composed of the officers of the board of new church development (who shall also be the officers of the executive committee), the council on finance and administration representative, chairpersons of the committees on new black church development, new Hispanic church development, new Korean church development and new multi-ethnic church development, 4 at large members (2 clergy and 2 lay to be elected by the board of new church development upon recommendation of the
director), the cabinet representative appointed by the bishop, and the director and associate directors of new church development. The executive committee shall have all the powers of the board of new church development except the right to change the budget or elect officers. This committee shall be responsible for training and assessing persons who will plant new churches. It will also request funds for the expenses related to the training and deployment of these persons. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church development or the president of the board of new church development.

**J. 12.** There shall be a committee on new black church development composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet representative), a cabinet representative and a new church development staff person. This committee shall make recommendations to the executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new black congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are important from a cultural perspective in planting new black churches. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the Director of the board of new church development or the chairperson.

**J. 13.** There shall be a committee on new Hispanic church development composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new Hispanic church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new Hispanic congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are important from a cultural perspective in planting new Hispanic churches. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church development or the chairperson.

**J. 14.** There shall be a committee on new Korean church development composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church
development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the
director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet
representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new Korean
church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the
executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
Korean congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are
important from a cultural perspective in planting new Korean churches. It shall
request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new
church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and
may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church
development or the chairperson.

J. 15. There shall be a committee on new multi-ethnic church development
composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church
development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the
director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet
representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new multi-
ethnic church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the
executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
churches among the various other ethnic groups living in the bounds of our
annual conference. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be
included in the board of new church development budget. This committee shall
meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of
the board of new church development or the chairperson.

K. Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference

K. 1. There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to sixty-five
(65) persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 635.1, including those
who serve by virtue of their office.

K. 2. There shall be a commission on equitable compensation as provided by ¶
624, composed of twenty (20) persons with one (1) representative from each
district. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on
nominations.

K. 3. There shall be a board of pensions and health benefits as provided by ¶
639.1 composed of thirty-six (36) persons arranged in classes and serving a
term of eight (8) years to include representatives of both lay and clergy,
nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
K. 4. There shall be a board of trustees of the annual conference, elected as
indicated in ¶¶ 640 and 2512.1, composed of twelve (12) persons, nominated by
the annual conference committee on nominations, serving in four (4) year
terms, except for the first board. It is recommended that it be composed of one-
third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, and one-third (1/3) lay men.
K. 5. There shall be a joint committee on incapacity which shall be made up of
an equal number of members from the board of pensions and health benefits
and the board of ordained ministry and shall have duties as directed by ¶ 652.
K. 6. There shall be a council on finance and administration as provided by ¶¶
611-618, composed of five to twenty-one (5-21) persons, with one (1) lay
person more than clergy included on the council. Ex-officio members are the
conference treasurer, director of connectional ministries and the cabinet
representative. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference
committee on nominations.
K. 7. There shall be a committee on episcopacy as provided by ¶ 637.1,
composed of fifteen (15) persons. It is recommended that it be composed of
one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, one-third (1/3) lay men,
provided that one (1) lay person be the conference lay leader. One-fifth (1/5) of
the membership shall be appointed by the bishop. The lay and clergy members
of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall be ex-officio members.
K. 8. There shall be an episcopal residency committee as provided by ¶ 638.1.
K. 9. There shall be a committee on investigation consisting of four (4) clergy
in full connection, three (3) professing members, and six (6) alternate members,
three of whom shall be clergy in full connection and three of whom shall be a
professing members. The committee shall be nominated by the presiding bishop
in consultation with the board of ordained ministry (for clergy members) and
the conference board of laity (for lay persons) and elected quadrennially by the
annual conference. If additional members or alternates are needed, the annual
council may elect members to serve for the remainder of the quadrennium.
Committee members shall be in good standing and should be deemed of good
character. The committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. ¶
2703
K. 10. There shall be a North Georgia Loan Guarantee Committee, comprised
of two (2) members of the cabinet, the president and the executive director of
the board of new church development, two (2) members of the council on
finance and administration, one (1) lay and one (1) clergy and two (2) members
representing areas of expertise appointed by the bishop in consultation with the
chancellor, conference lay leader, executive director of the conference board of
church development and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

K. 11. There shall be a diaconal committee on investigation as provided by ¶ 2703.3.

K. 12. There shall be an administrative review committee as provided by ¶ 636.

K. 13. There shall be a conference communications office under the office of the bishop that will plan and administer the information/communication needs of the annual conference.

K. 14. There shall be a conference information advisory group whose membership shall not exceed ten (10) persons. The group shall be nominated by the conference communications office and the conference committee on nominations and approved by the annual conference but shall not be subject to the requirements of standing rule C.3. The persons shall include skilled communicators in print, public relations, electronic and video media.

K. 15. There shall be a committee on personnel policy and practices which shall consist of a chairperson nominated by the committee on nominations, the director of connectional ministries, the conference treasurer, the director of new church development, the director of ministerial services and spiritual formation, the executive assistant to the bishop, two lay persons with specific expertise in the field of human relations, personnel, and compensation, and a member designated by each of the following: the council of finance and administration, the board of pensions and health benefits, the board of church development, the board of ordained ministry, the advocacy program team, the conference board of laity, and the cabinet. At least one of the clergy must be serving in a multi-staff appointment. Its duties shall be to establish uniform and equitable policies and practices in the employment and compensation of personnel, in consultation and cooperation with the aforementioned bodies. These policies and practices shall be in accordance with the Social Principles (¶ 162 A, E, F, G, H and I). The committee shall receive and review the rationale for any new position and be satisfied that existing funding to finance the position is available or appropriate plans to acquire the same are being followed. No member of the committee shall participate in discussions, deliberations or vote on any issue which directly affects any aspect of that member’s or that member’s immediate family’s compensated employment. (¶ 613.13 as interpreted by Judicial Council Decision 952).

K. 16. There shall be a north Georgia United Methodist housing and homeless council which shall be composed of no more than 36 persons nominated by the conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Each district shall be represented by no fewer than two members, one of which
shall be a clergy member in that district and one of whom shall be a lay person
who shall be a member of one of the churches in the district that they represent.
In addition, the following other persons shall be members: a district
superintendent designated by the cabinet; a member of the connectional
ministries staff designated by the director of connectional ministries; the
director of the council, who shall be a non-voting member; a representative of
the advocacy team, and a representative of the outreach team.

L. Districts

L. 1. District Conference Membership - The membership of the district
county shall consist of (a) all active and retired clergy and diaconal
ministers serving appointments or holding charge conference membership
within the district and (b) all local church elected, at-large, and ex-officio, lay
members of the annual conference from the district.
L. 2. District Board of Laity – There shall be in each district of the annual
conference a district board of laity composed of the district lay leader who shall
serve as chair, the associate district lay leaders, the district superintendent, the
chair of district connectional ministries or equivalent, the district presidents of
United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, one (1) youth and one
(1) young adult named by the youth and young adult groups respectively, the
district director of lay speaking and such other persons as the district lay leader
and the district superintendent together may select. The district board of laity
shall elect annual conference at-large delegates from the districts.
L. 3. Election of District Lay Leader and Lay Leadership – The district lay
leader, the district associate lay leaders and the district director of lay speaking
shall be elected annually, on nomination of the district nominating committee,
after consultation with the district board of laity, by the membership of the
district conference at the district orientation meeting before the annual
conference session. It is recommended these officers will serve quadrennially
and will be elected for their first term at the district orientation meeting
immediately preceding the start of the new quadrennium. Replacements for
these positions shall be elected at the annual district orientation meeting as
needed.
M. Conference Related Agencies

M. 1. There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc., board of trustees, nominated by the Foundation to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 2. There shall be a Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers Board of Trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 3. There shall be a Simpsonwood, Inc., board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 4. There shall be an Action Ministries, Inc., board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 5. There shall be an Aldersgate Homes board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 6. There shall be a United Methodist Children's Home board of trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 7. There shall be a Wesley Woods, Senior Living, Inc., board of trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 8. There shall be a board of Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference. Camp Glisson is the entity through which camping ministry for children and youth shall be carried out. The director/manager of Camp Glisson is accountable to the conference director of connectional ministries.

M. 9. There shall be a Wesley Community Centers, Inc. Board of Directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

N. Joint Ministries of North and South Georgia Conferences

N. 1. There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. North Georgia at-large membership shall be eleven (11) persons who shall be selected from throughout the conference. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. In addition, North Georgia
ex-officio members shall be the resident bishop of the North Georgia Episcopal Area, the executive director of the Commission, the presidents of the United Methodist colleges and universities and the dean of Oxford College, campus ministers/directors and chaplains, a connectional ministries staff person, a district superintendent, the presidents of the Conference United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the president of the Georgia Wesley Student Movement, and (if applicable) all members of the General Board of Higher Education who are members of churches of the North Georgia Conference.

N. 2. There shall be a Georgia Pastors' School committee, composed of persons by virtue of office and at-large members named by the annual conference committee on nominations.

O. United Methodist Related Institutions of Higher Education

O. 1. There shall be boards of trustees of United Methodist related schools, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

O. 2. There shall be boards of directors of Wesley Foundations, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.
801. Amendments to the Standing Committees
of the Annual Conference

The primary function of Standing Committees is to provide support that enables the session of the North Georgia Annual Conference to operate efficiently. These on-going committees do not have programmatic responsibilities throughout the year other than preparing for the annual conference session.

B. 1. There shall be a committee on standing rules composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, plus the conference chancellor. The committee on standing rules is charged with the annual task of addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the standing rules of the annual conference in the following three ways: to receive requests for amendments and to analyze them for consistency with existing standing rules and the current Book of Discipline, and to recommend editorial changes as needed. To receive requests for amendments, assure rules maintain internal consistency, make editorial changes as needed, present changes to the conference and review revised standing rules for publication in the conference journal. The committee is also charged with the quadrennial task of examining the rules of the annual conference for consistency with the new Book of Discipline and to recommend any editorial changes to bring about that consistency.

B. 2. There shall be a committee on registration and assistance composed of ten (10) persons nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The primary functions of the Committee on Registration & Assistance are to conduct registration along with the Host Committee, certify delegates and to issue badges accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee helps retired pastors receive financial assistance and, during the week of Annual Conference, the committee maintains a table to assist visitors with nametags and other needs.

The Registration and Assistance Committee is responsible for working with the host committee to organize and recruit volunteers.

B. 3. There shall be a committee on journal and handbook composed of ten
(10) persons nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The Journal and Handbook Committee is responsible for certifying daily proceedings at the annual conference session; assuring the journal meets disciplinary guidelines; organizing journal sales at the annual conference session; assisting the conference secretary and journal editor in the production of the handbook and journal as needed; assisting in proof-reading the handbook and journal as needed before publication; organizing to invite advertising for handbook and journal if/when that is used.

The committee on the handbook and the journal works with the conference secretary as needed to set the standards for the submission of information for the handbook and journal, prepares the conference handbook and supplementary materials, and is responsible for the dispersal of those materials. The committee works with the conference secretary to ensure that the official records of the annual conference shall be kept in accordance with ¶ 606.3.

B. 4. There shall be a committee on resolutions composed of ten (10) persons nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The charge of the resolution committee is to process all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. This committee makes sure that, with occasional exceptions, resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of the annual conference year are included in the handbook. The Resolutions Committee is responsible for reviewing each resolution to determine if it can properly come before the annual conference, make revisions as needed in consultation with the submitter of the resolution, ensure consistency with The Book of Discipline and North Georgia Standing Rule/Guidelines, submit to the conference secretary by the deadline for the conference handbook, and present resolutions to the conference.

Rationale: The revisions provide further clarity of purpose for the work of the standing rules committees.
802. Amendments to the Standing Rules C.4 and D.2

C.4. Annual Conference Planning Committee

…

The committee shall consist of the following persons: the bishop; the executive assistant to the bishop; the annual conference lay leader; the associate conference lay leader(s); the conference secretary, the dean of the cabinet, the conference presidents of the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, conference youth organization, conference young adult organization, and the conference young adult task force committee representative; the chairpersons of the conference witness team, the conference committee on registration and assistance, and the board of ordained ministry; the director of connectional ministries; the chairperson of the conference council on finance and administration; the conference treasurer; and other persons selected by the bishop to assure proper representation of persons related to the work of the committee, such as the host district superintendent and the host pastor. The resident bishop or his/her designee shall be the chairperson of the annual conference planning committee.

Rationale: This change retains the number of committee members who represent the Young Adult ministry and demographic of the conference while also reflecting the dissolution of the Young Adult Task Force and the transfer of their work and responsibilities to the Conference Young Adult Committee.

Submitted by the Young Adult Task Force

D. 2. Lay Member Equalization Plan - The lay membership of the annual conference shall be equal in number to its clergy membership. Lay members shall be elected by each charge conference as directed by the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, Division Two, Section VI, Article I (¶32). The following are designated by the Constitution, (Loc. Cit.), to be members of the annual conference: the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of the United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the
conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy membership, the following lay persons shall also be members of the annual conference: the associate conference lay leaders, the district directors of lay speaking ministries, the district presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and the district presidents or equivalent officers of the district young adult organization and the district youth organization, four (4) young persons 18 years and under and two (2) young adult persons 40 years of age and under.

**Rationale:** In celebration of the great strides our Conference continues to make in the inclusion and empowerment of young adults, and to better align ourselves with other annual conference and general church definitions of “Young Adult,” we wish to amend the North Georgia Annual Conference definition of a “Young Adult” as anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age.