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## 2008 Annual Conference Session Handbook

Report Numbers marked with an asterisk (*) are on the Consent Agenda unless removed on Wednesday, June 18, during Session Four. The Consent Agenda is listed on page 9.

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Theme and Logo – *The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, And Stay In Love With God*

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Drive through most rural areas of North Georgia and you’re sure to see Folk Art. In fact, pieces from this artistic genre have become so popular that you’ll see them hanging in urban and suburban galleries, too. The straightforward colors and uncomplicated style make it easily recognizable. Historically, Folk Art has reflected the traditions and social values of groups or populations of people—whether socioeconomic, religious, geographical, race or gender related. Interestingly, these pieces are generally produced by people who have little or no academic artistic training. For these, it has, and continues to be, an authentic representation of the life and times of regular ordinary people just like you and me. At further investigation into the meaning of Folk Art, one might find that its simplistic nature doesn’t really have a subjective quality to it—it truly gets straight to the point of what it is trying to communicate. The meaning is usually authentic and genuine. Some might say that it goes right to “the heart of the matter.”

John Wesley, father of the Methodist movement, wasn’t a folk artist, but he may have had the spirit of one. Wesley’s passionate beliefs on religion, the Church, and reaching the un-churched were authentic and genuine—and most certainly got right to the heart of the matter. His medium was the spoken and written word rather than canvas and paint.

In his publication simply titled General Rules, Wesley paints for his readers three faithful practices that celebrate the heart of the matter—to authentically love God and graciously love one another by doing no harm; doing good; and staying in love with God, or in his original words, attending all the ordinances of God. Wesley noted that being faithful to these rules was a true mark of a Methodist. In fact, this piece of our Wesleyan heritage continues to be found in our Book of Discipline under paragraph 103 article 16.

Not only does our Wesleyan heritage teach us the importance of the heart of the matter, but our Christian heritage does as well. Matthew 22:38 teaches us that loving God is the greatest commandment of all. Through John 13:34, Jesus reminds us of his new commandment: to love another as He has first loved us. Through Jesus Christ we find that the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.

During this annual conference session, let’s keep in mind our foundational Wesleyan and Christian heritage and celebrate our love of God and our love for one another. As we travel back to our homes and churches, let’s continue to tap into that authentic and truthful passion of Wesley and our folk artist brothers and sisters to be bold and authentic in our expression of love.
Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Welcome to the 2008 North Georgia Annual Conference. For the sixth consecutive year – and ninth out of the last ten – we are being graciously hosted by the Athens-Elberton District, the City of Athens and Clarke County.

Our theme this year is “The Heart of the Matter.” We will highlight those things that are at the very center of our faith, with particular attention to Wesley’s three basic rules for Christian living: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God by attending to the ordinances of God. Our times of study, testimony and reflection in the mornings will be led by three of our own clergy: Davis Chappell, Amy Morgan and Sharma Lewis. Our Conference Preacher will be Maxie Dunnam, former President of Asbury Theological Seminary. We will also be hosting the new bishop from the emerging church in Venezuela, the Reverend Juvenal Perez. James Cantrell, the Superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District, will be preaching at our opening Communion and Memorial Service.

This is my final Annual Conference with you as your bishop. It has been a distinct privilege and joy for me to serve this conference for the past twelve years. On Thursday evening Jennifer and I will have a chance to greet you and to express our deep love and affection for this Annual Conference and for all that you do in the name of Christ in our Area. Our special mission offering this year will go to support two mission efforts that are near and dear to our hearts. Half of the offering will be designated for Venezuela NOW, to support the training of pastors in the Methodist Church of Venezuela. The other half will be used to continue Jennifer’s work in the Agalta Valley of Honduras, a ministry to children through schools and provides for their basic health and nutritional needs. I hope you will help us celebrate these past twelve years by joining us in being generous to these two very worthy causes.

Pray for all of our conference delegates as we approach this session in June. Pray that God will bless us and bless our conversations. Come prepared to celebrate our unity in Christ and our deep affection for one and other.

In Christ,

Bishop Lindsey Davis
Welcome Letter From Athens-Elberton District Host Committee

Dear 2008 Annual Conference Delegates,

On behalf of the Annual Conference Host Committee and the Athens-Elberton District, we look forward to welcoming you to the 2008 North Georgia Annual Conference. You honor us by returning to Athens and the Classic Center again this year.

If you are a first-time delegate to Annual Conference in Athens, we would want you to know that much of what makes our community an exciting place to visit is within walking distance of the Classic Center. We believe you will enjoy the variety of restaurants as well as the warm friendliness of the downtown area. As in past years, breakfast and lunch will be available at the Classic Center.

Please remember, you are responsible for making your own lodging reservations. When you call your chosen hotel, please mention that you will be attending the North Georgia Annual Conference. This will enable you to receive the conference rate. If you are unsuccessful in securing a room, please call the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-653-0603 or email Charlotte Brothers at cbrothers@visitathensga.com.

Convenient parking for the conference will be available at the Classic Center parking deck, the Courthouse parking deck, and the University of Georgia North Campus parking deck on Jackson Street. Provisions have been made for church vans and buses to shuttle delegates to and from the University of Georgia North Campus parking deck, which is only three blocks below the Classic Center. We do encourage you to carpool when possible. Parking permits are included in your delegate handbook.

Delegates are invited to participate in the golf tourney on Monday afternoon at the Georgia Club and the 5K Run/Walk on Wednesday morning. Proceeds from these events will benefit the “Our Daily Bread” soup kitchen in Athens. Delegates also can register for the Red Cross blood drive and other activities to benefit others. As always, forms and updated information also are available on the conference website: www.ngumc.org.

Again, we look forward to seeing you in Athens in June.

Robin Lindsey    Bill Britt    Johnny Fowler
District Superintendent, Clergy Chairperson, Lay Chairperson,
Athens-Elberton District Host Committee Host Committee
Agenda
142nd Session of the North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 17 - 20, 2008
The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia
Theme: “Heart of the Matter”

Agenda revised as needed during the conference session

Monday, June 16, 2008
9 am-12 Display Set up - Foundry
1:00 pm Golf tournament to benefit “Our Daily Bread”
1-6 pm Blood Drive – Oconee
3-6 pm Laity Registration begins – Cypress
3-6 pm Clergy Registration begins – High Shoals 1
6:30 pm Golf Tournament Dinner – Georgia Club

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
7:00 am Breakfast for Tuesday’s presenters
8am-7 pm Clergy Directory – Lower Theatre Lobby
8:00 am Rehearsal for Commissioning/Ordination Service
8:00 am Display set up continues – Foundry
8:00 am Laity Registration continues – Cypress
8:00 am Clergy Registration continues – High Shoals 1
8:00 am Service Opportunities/Project Collection – Firehall
9:30 am Board of Ordained Ministry – Athena
10:00 am Lay Orientation – Grand Hall
10:00 am Clergy Executive Session – Theatre
12:00-5pm Blood Drive – Oconee

2:00 pm Session One
Opening Communion/Memorial Worship
Preacher – James C. Cantrell III, Superintendent, ADOX District
Music – Oak Grove UMC Choir, Decatur
Janet Johnson, music leader; David Buice, organist

3:45 pm Opening of Conference – Classic Ctr Grand Hall
Call to Order – 142nd Session
Prayer – Dianne Spencer, Assoc. Conf Lay Leader
Hymn “And Are We Yet Alive”
Led by St. Timothy choir, led by Barbara Sanko
Welcome – Host Committee 01
Organization of Conference 02
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  Preacher – Mark LaRocca-Pitts, Chaplain, Athens Regional Med. 32
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01 Wesleyan Christian Advocate
02 GA/FL UM Credit Union
03 Greetings – Assoc. UM Theological Schools &
04 Gammon Theological Seminary
05 Higher Education/Campus Ministry
06 Black College Fund Ambassador
07 Camping/Retreat Committee
08 Beyond These Doors Mission Event
09 Board of Ordained Ministries
10 Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
11 10:15 am Emory Healthcare – Fred Sanfilippo,
12 Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory University
13 and CEO, Health Sciences Center
14 10:30 am Recognition of Clergy who are Retiring
15 Announcements
16 12:15 pm Adjourn
17
18 12:15-5pm Blood Drive – Oconeef
19 12:15-2pm Project Assembly - Firehall
20
21 2:00 pm Session Four
22 Evangelism Worship Service
23 Preacher – Maxie Dunnam
24 Music – Hickory Flat UMC & St. James UMC, Alpharetta
25 Offering for Missions in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Davis
26 3:15 pm Prayer – John Ellis, Assoc. Conf Lay Leader
27 Greetings from Bishop Juvenal Perez, Venezuela
28 Greetings – SEJ Connectional Table
29 Equitable Compensation
30 Conference Statistician
31 Conference Treasurer
32 Council on Finance and Administration – Part I
33 Consent Agenda to vote/remove items
34 Future Sites of Annual Conference
35 Conference Staffing Task Force
36 Wesley Woods
37 Announcements
38 5:15 pm Adjourn
7:30 pm **Evening of Fellowship** – no evening program
Spend time with new and long-time friends

**Thursday, June 19, 2008**

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Thursday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Classic Center Theatre
Chester Cook, Chaplain, Hartsfield-Jackson Airport
7:30 am Concessions Open – 130 Foundry Bldg Lower Lobby
8am-7 pm Clergy Directory – Lower Theatre Lobby

**8:15 am Session Five**

- Music/Witness – Sharma Lewis/Jonesmen Quartet
- Prayer – Dianne Traynham, Assoc. Conf. Lay Leader-elect
- Joint Task Force on Conference Lines
- Church Development
- Bo, Sierra Leone – Child Rescue Centre
- Committee on Nominations – to vote
- Standing Rules to vote on amendments
- Consent Agenda to vote on items removed – if needed
- Simpsonwood Task Force
- Episcopal Residence Task Force
- Aldersgate Homes
- UM Children’s Home
- Action Ministries
- UMW
- UMM
- Connectional Ministries – Teams/Committees/Awards

12:15 pm **Adjourn**

**2:00 pm Session Six**

- **Laity Worship Service**
  Message – Ray Buckley
  Music – Zoar UMC Praise Band

**3:15 pm**

- Prayer – Ron Davis, Assoc. Conf. Lay Leader-elect
- Young Adult Task Force
- Office of Information
- Wesley Community Centers
- Camp Wesley/Camp Glisson
- Housing and Homeless Council
01  Board of Laity
02  Richardson Award
03  Recognitions
04  Resolutions
05  **5:15 pm**  Adjourn
06
07  **7:30 pm**  Session Seven
08  Service of Farewell & Celebration of Ministry for
09    Bishop & Mrs. Davis – Theatre
10  Music – Atlanta Bluegrass All Stars
11  Offering – Annual conference expense
12
13  **8:30 pm**  Reception Honoring Bishop & Mrs. Davis – Athena Ballrooms
14
15  **Friday, June 20, 2008**
16  7:00 am  Bishop’s Breakfast for Friday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
17  7:30 am  Service of Holy Communion – Classic Ctr Theatre
18    Vincent Dominique, Military Chaplain, Kuwait
19  7:30 am  Concessions Open – 130 Foundry Bldg Lower Lobby
20
21  **8:15 am**  Session Eight
22  Music/Witness – Amy Morgan/The Morales family
23  Prayer – Mathew Pinson, Assoc. Conf. Lay Leader-elect
24  Report of the Journal Committee
25  Monitoring Report
26  Council on Finance & Administration – Part II
27  Moving Day
28  60th Anniversary of the Advance
29  Other reports as needed
30
31  **10:30 am**  Pastoral Word from Bishop G. Lindsey Davis
32
33  Reading of Appointments and Sending Forth
34
35  **12:00pm**  Adjourn
The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite business during the annual conference session by adopting reports to be included in the Conference Journal that do not require action by the annual conference. Many of the following reports indicated by number, name of agency and page are offered as the 2008 Consent Agenda. These reports will be accepted by consent of the Annual Conference unless they are removed from the Consent Agenda on Wednesday, June 18, during Session Four. Please read the reports carefully prior to that session. Reports removed from the Consent Agenda will be presented for conference action on Thursday, June 19, Session Five.

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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 for both laity and clergy Monday, June 16, 3-6 p.m. and continues Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

Registration is located in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building, at the Classic Center: Laity - Cypress
Clergy - High Shoals

I. Registration
North Georgia Conference name badges are needed for participation within the Bar of the Conference. The badges list both name and voting status within the conference. Please do not place stickers on the plastic nametag holder. As good stewards we recycle the plastic holders.

A. Clergy Members
1. Ordained Members in Full Connection * - White
2. Probationary and Associate Members * - Green
3. Full-Time and Part-Time Local Pastors * - Brown
4. Student Local Pastors - Orange
5. Affiliate Members, clergy from other conferences or denominations - Purple (upon request)
6. Clergy serving in Honorable Location and Supply Pastors - Purple
* Includes persons who were so designated upon retirement

B. Lay Members
1. Lay Delegates - Blue
2. Alternate Delegates - Red
3. Diaconal Ministers * - Yellow
4. Deaconesses - Yellow

C. Guests
1. Clergy Spouses (including surviving spouses) – Light Gray
2. Candidates for Ordained Ministry (not under appointment during the 2007-2008 conference year) – Purple
3. Agency, Staff, etc. - Purple (upon request)
4. Visitors - Purple (upon request)
II. **Financial Assistance**

Persons eligible for financial assistance must complete a reimbursement form prior to the close of the Annual Conference Session. A check will be issued within 30 days. Forms received after the Session adjournment will not be processed for reimbursement.

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

1. Retired ministers not serving churches, retired ministers 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 the conference site at the rate of $.28 per mile.
2. Lodging and Meals - Maximum of four (4) nights lodging with 3 meals per day at a maximum of $50 per day TOTAL. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement.
Level Information for Conference Members and Visitors

Attendance Registration
Each lay and clergy member of the annual conference must complete an attendance registration card. Lay registration is located in the Foundry Building, Cypress. Clergy registration is located in the Foundry Building, High Shoals. Place completed cards in boxes located at registration tables or associate conference secretaries’ table in the Classic Center Grand Hall. Lay and clergy registration begins Monday, June 16, 3 - 6 p.m. and continues Tuesday, June 17, 8 a.m.

Bring Supplies for UMCOR School kits (UMW) and Medicine kits (UMM)
North Georgia United Methodist Women are gathering supplies to assemble School kits for UMCOR: blunt scissors, loose leaf ruled paper, 30-centimeter ruler, hand held pencil sharpener, unsharpened pencils with erasers, 2” eraser, construction paper, box of 24 crayons. The North Georgia United Methodist Men are gathering supplies to assemble Medicine Kits for UMCOR: sterile gauze (4 x 4 pads), adhesive tape (1” x 10 yards/roll), triple antibiotic ointment, aspirin (325 mg tablets), ferrous sulfate (325 mg tablets), children’s chewable multivitamins with iron, adult multivitamins with iron, children’s acetaminophen chewable 80 mg tablets. Bring supplies to the Firehall at the Classic Center.

Clergy Pictorial Directory
Olan Mills is taking clergy photographs for the North Georgia Clergy Pictorial Directory at the annual conference session. Photographers are available 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 17, through Thursday, June 19, in the Classic Center Theatre lower level lobby. Each clergy photographed receives a copy of the directory.

Cokesbury Book Store
The Cokesbury Book Store, located in the Foundry Building Empire Room # 1, offers a selection of books and church supplies for sale.

Communion Elements
Gluten-free communion elements are available for worship at designated serving stations as announced at the service.
2008 Conference Journals
The 2008 Conference Journal can be ordered 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 or ordered on the conference website http://www.ngumc.org/resources/journal/. Cost is $42.00 for print edition in two volumes and $20 for CD version.

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 Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). Neither COSROW 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 COSROW nor the North Georgia Conference (UMC) nor 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 2008.

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 130 Foundry Building lobby, Empire # 2 and Willow rooms.

Email Access
Live port access to check email on personal lap top computers is available in the area outside the Classic Center Ballroom restrooms.

Food Service
Concessions located in the Lower Lobby of the 130 Foundry Building open at 7 a.m. Lunch concessions are served 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the 130 Foundry Building Courtyard and Lower Lobby.
Handbook Supplemental Reports (Tote Bags)

Supplemental reports are provided in a packet of materials at registration. The conference appreciates The United Methodist Children’s Home for providing the tote bags and the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women and other volunteers for collating the materials into packets.

Housing

Delegates make housing arrangements directly with the hotels/motels in the area. Please use the information in the delegate’s packet. Additional assistance is available from the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 706-357-4410 or 800-653-0603.

Language Translation

Spanish and Korean audio translations are available in the Grand Hall. Contact Nora Martinez, 678-533-1388, for Spanish translation. Contact Hyo Kim, 678-533-1448, for Korean translation.

Medical Care

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 evening services. Contact the Message and Information Center for directions or assistance.

Message and Information Center

The message and 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. The fax number is 706-357-4514.

Mission Offering

Bishop and Mrs. Davis have requested that rather than receiving a love offering for them we will make this year’s Bishop’s offering in their honor given to two mission causes they have designated. Half of the offering will go to Venezuela NOW, to support the training of pastors in the Methodist Church of Venezuela. The other half will be used to continue Jennifer’s work in the Agalta Valley of Honduras, a ministry to children through schools that also provides for their basic health and nutritional needs.
We want to present them with a check representing the offering at the celebration on Thursday evening. You may place your gifts in the offering during the evangelism service on Wednesday afternoon or turn them into one of the Treasurer’s Office staff or one of the Associate Secretaries.

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. 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 for retirees. Please do not park there on Wednesday.
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 Monday night through Wednesday 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. We will have spaces reserved for persons with handicaps 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.

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 message 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.
Offering for Annual Conference Expense
The offerings received during worship on Tuesday and Thursday nights support the costs of the 2008 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference.

Prayer Room
The Prayer Room sponsored by the North Georgia United Methodist Men is located in Athena A. It is open 8 am – 9 pm, June 17 and 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

Request for Video Duplication

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
Direct special needs requests to the Message Center located in the Classic Center at the top of the escalators.

Telephones
Public telephones are located in upper level lobby of the Classic Center.

Web Site
Delegate Parking Permit
North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 17 - 20, 2008
Athens, Georgia

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

This permit must be displayed for
Delegate Free Parking
AND
Special Rates at the
Delegates Pay Parking Decks
See maps in Handbook
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop’s Dining Room</td>
<td>Olympia 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Drive, Red Cross</td>
<td>Foundry Oconee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Sessions</td>
<td>Grand Hall - lower level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Executive Session</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Photographs</td>
<td>Theatre Lower Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Registration</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg., High Shoals 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concessions: 7 am-4 pm</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg., Lower Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concessions: lunch-11am-2pm</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg. Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cokesbury Bookstore</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg., Empire 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Secretary/Support</td>
<td>Parthenon 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displays</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg. Lobby, Empire 2, Willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid – Daytime</td>
<td>Grand Hall- lower level escalator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid – Evening</td>
<td>Theatre Lobby – main level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Risk Assessment</td>
<td>Parthenon 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun Run registration</td>
<td>Firehall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Sales</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laity Registration</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg, Cypress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Orientation Session</td>
<td>Grand Hall - lower level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost &amp; Found</td>
<td>Message Center – top escalators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Parthenon 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message Center</td>
<td>Top of escalators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor Support</td>
<td>Parthenon 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Communion</td>
<td>Theatre Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Room</td>
<td>Athena A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProCheck Screening</td>
<td>Parthenon 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptions</td>
<td>Athena Ballrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Assistance</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket Sales</td>
<td>Foundry Bldg Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Opportunities</td>
<td>Firehall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Theatre and Grand Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Breakfasts, Luncheons, Dinners and Receptions
2008 North Georgia Annual Conference

Note: Room locations at the Classic Center and 130 Foundry are subject to change. Please check signs posted throughout the building. Contact representatives of sponsoring organizations for reservation information.

Monday, June 16, 2008

6:00 pm Order of Deacons Dinner – Latino Mission UMC

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast-Tuesday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7:30 am Breakfast-Clergy Ext Min – Athena BCEF
7am-4 pm Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
12:00 pm Bishop’s Luncheon, Ordinands – Athena D
12:00 pm Clergy Luncheon – Athena BCEF
12:15 pm District Directors of Lay Speaking – Athena D
5:15 pm Clergywomen’s Dinner – High Shoals
5:30 pm LaGrange College Dinner – Athena BCEF
9:00 pm Ordination Reception – Athena BCDEF Ballroom

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast – Wednesday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7am-4 pm Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
7:00 am UMW Breakfast – Athens BCEF Ballroom
11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
12:15 pm Retirees Luncheon – Athena BCEF Ballroom
5:30 pm Asbury Alumni Dinner – Athens First UMC
5:30 pm Clark-Gammon-Paine Fellowship Banquet – Athena BCEF
5:30 pm Young Harris College Dinner – Athena D
6:30 pm Duke Alumni Event – Harry Bisset’s New Orleans Café

Thursday, June 19, 2008

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast-Thursday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7am -4pm Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
7:00 am MFSA Breakfast – Athens First UMC
11am-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
12:00 pm Laity Luncheon – Athena – IJ
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Clergy Spouses’ Luncheon – Oconee River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Candler Club Luncheon – High Shoals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>CEF Luncheon – Trumps at Georgian Terrace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino/Multi-Ethnic Committees Luncheon – Athena D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Erskine Alumni Luncheon – Athena G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>UMM BBQ – Athena BCEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Local Pastors Dinner – Oconee River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception Honoring Bishop and Mrs. Davis – Athens BCDEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, June 20, 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Bishop’s Breakfast-Friday’s Presenters – Olympia 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry Breakfast – High Shoals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 am-12 pm</td>
<td>Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 his/her church’s Council (¶ 252.5.g), Finance Committee (¶ 259.4), and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (¶ 259.2.b). (2004 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 2007 Conference Journal.

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, 2004 Book of Discipline). Consult with his/her pastor before conference about scheduling and time limit. The Wesleyan Christian 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.
Responsibility of the Diaconal Members of the Annual Conference

Diaconal ministers by virtue of their consecration are members of the annual conference where their church membership is held. (2004 Book of Discipline, ¶ 602.4.) Each diaconal minister has the responsibility to:

1) Attend pre-conference orientation session held in his/her district.
2) Attend all sessions of the Annual Conference. “Any diaconal minister unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2004 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 2007 Conference Journal.
4) Read pre-conference handbook and become familiar with specific programs and items to be presented. Participate fully in the work of the annual conference and help in policy-making decisions.
5) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
6) Identify with and assist in any way possible the clergy and lay members from his/her local church in preparation for, participation in, and reporting on the annual conference sessions.

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 person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2004 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 2007 Journal 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. (2004 Book of Discipline ¶ 251.2).

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, which is before the conference:
   a. Write down the specific wording of the proposed amendment/change, include handbook page and line number.
   b. 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.
   c. The chair will ask for a second, state the motion and ask for discussion.
   d. Raise your hand for recognition. When recognized by the chair, state the reasons for your proposed amendment/change.
   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.
The Ministry of Monitoring

Committee on the Status and Role of Women
The purpose of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall be to challenge The United Methodist Church, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church . . . The General Commission shall function as an advocate . . . and as a monitor to ensure inclusiveness in the programmatic and administrative functioning of The United Methodist Church. (*2004 Book of Discipline* ¶ 2101)

Committee on Race and Religion
The primary purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race shall be to challenge the general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures of The United Methodist Church to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire Church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness. (*2004 Book of Discipline* ¶ 2002)

Monitoring is a practice through which the official dialogue of an annual conference, its committees and congregations can be observed and reported. The goal of monitoring is to use statistical information to foster inclusiveness in the decision-making processes of our church. This ministry offers a tool we can use to examine our own actions so that we may discern what changes may or may not be necessary.

One of our deeply held Christian beliefs is that all persons are deeply cherished by God. Our response to God’s love is to in turn love and respect one another. We realize this love by showing equal regard to all people and sharing in the concerns of others. In our decision-making processes, we must ascertain that the people who shape our choices represent the diversity that exists in our conference. The input of all people should be given equal weight. No group, gender or ethnicity should dominate.

In the ministry of monitoring at annual conference, statistical information is gathered regarding each speaker according to gender, race/ethnicity and the status as clergy or laity. This information is recorded, given to the presiding bishop and also communicated to the gathered body. The statistics gathered through monitoring can offer indications of our inclusiveness and our willingness to hear diverse perspectives.
The Committee on the Status and Role of Women and the Committee on Religion and Race, as our counterparts at the general church level (¶643, ¶642), are called to be advocates for inclusiveness. It is for this reason that we are engaging in this important ministry. We hope that monitoring can be a tool for our conference to fully honor God’s image in all people.

**Statistical Information about the North Georgia Conference**

**Lay Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Membership</th>
<th>346,430</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>196,464</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>149,966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>52,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>293,805</td>
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**Clergy Membership**

All active pastors under appointment as either elder or deacon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Clergy</th>
<th>1,438</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>223</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,215</td>
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</table>

**Clergy in Full Connection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Clergy in Full Connection</th>
<th>1,018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GREAT DAYS OF SERVICE
MONDAY – WEDNESDAY
JUNE 16 – 18TH

North Georgia Annual Conference Golf Classic
Grab your golf clubs and make plans to join Bishop Lindsey Davis at The Georgia Club, Monday, June 16, 1 p.m. for the North Georgia Annual Conference Golf Classic! Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread soup kitchen located in Athens, Georgia. More information about the golf tournament and a registration form is enclosed. Registration is also available online: www.ngumc.org -- select Great Day of Service link. Deadline to enter is June 1, 2008.

2nd Annual Great Day of Service 5K Run/Walk
Join us bright and early on Wednesday morning, June 18th at 6:30 a.m. for the 2nd Annual Great Day of Service 5K Run/Walk. The race route starts on Washington Street, a block from the Classic Center and runs through downtown and down the Oconee River Greenway, finishing behind the Classic Center. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread soup kitchen located in Athens, Georgia. Registration form is enclosed or register online at www.ngumc.org -- select Great Day of Service info link.

Red Cross Blood Drive
The Red Cross blood drive will be available at the Classic Center on the following dates and times for your convenience. Please make your appointment online: www.ngumc.org -- select Great Day of Service link or call Carol Rymer, 706-254-6990 to make an appointment.

- Monday, June 16, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 17, noon – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 18, noon – 5 p.m.

Donations needed for UMCOR Emergency Kits
Please help the UMW collect items needed for UMCOR school supply kits and the UMM collect items for Medicine Boxes. Donated supplies may be dropped off in the Firehall at the Classic Center beginning Monday, June 16. Help is needed assembling these kits on Wednesday, June 18 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. No need to register for this project – just drop-in to lend a hand! (Room/Assembly location TBA).

School kits
- blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 8” x 11” (loose leaf) ruled paper
- 30-centimeter ruler
- hand held pencil sharpener
- unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 2” eraser
- construction paper (varied colors)
- box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Medicine Kits
- Sterile gauze, 4X4 pads
- Adhesive tape, 1” X 10 yards/roll
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Aspirin, 325 mg tablets
- Ferrous Sulfate, 325 mg tablets
- Children’s chewable multivitamins with iron
- Adult multivitamins with iron
- Children’s acetaminophen chewable 80mg tablets

For more information or for sponsorship information, please contact
Carol Rymer, Mission Coordinator, 706.254.6990 or carolrymer@mac.com.
NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

fundraising events to benefit

Our Daily Bread

soup kitchen

Golf Outing @ The Georgia Club: Monday, June 16, 2008, 1 p.m.
&
5K Run/Walk, Classic Center: Wednesday, June 18, 2008, 6:30 a.m.

The Cause
Since 1989, the soup kitchen, Our Daily Bread, has provided a hot lunch, 5 days a week for the needy in the Athens community. Located at Oconee Street United Methodist Church, nearly 45 different religious, business and civic organizations support the ministry financially as well as cooking and preparing meals each day. As the ministry has grown, Our Daily Bread has added breakfast each day, sack lunches on Saturdays and a sack supper on Sundays. Please consider joining us in one of the events so that together we can help Our Daily Bread continue its ministry in the Athens community.

Golf Outing @ The Georgia Club
Monday, June 16, 2008, 1 p.m.

The Event
The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church invites all delegates and friends to two fun-filled events to help raise money for Our Daily Bread. The first is a golf outing and dinner, located at The Georgia Club on Monday, June 16 (shotgun start at 1 p.m.) with dinner and silent auction following play. The second event planned is a 5K Run/Walk beginning at the Classic Center on Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can join us in one or both of these great events. Registration information is outlined below.

5K Run/Walk
The race begins bright and early at the Classic Center, 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18th! Entry fee is $20 by June 8th, $25 thereafter. Not a fan of running but still want to support the cause? Register as a “Phantom Runner” for $20 and we’ll just pretend that you are there with us in the race! A t-shirt will also be assured for all Phantom Runners if registered by June 8th.

Dinner & Silent Auction
Monday, June 16, 6:30 p.m.

Please, be our guest! Join the players after the golf tournament for a fabulous dinner prepared by The Georgia Club. An awards ceremony for the winners is planned during dinner and a silent auction will keep all entertained! $50 per person. Reservations required by June 8th.

Delegate Event Registration Information
Please let us know how you would like to participate! Golf Classic registration form (enclosed) must be completed and returned by June 1.

Golf Tournament
A fantastic day is planned at The Georgia Club, named “Best New Course” in 2001 by Georgia Golf News. The Club is located off Highway 316, 12 miles west of Athens and 32 miles east of I-85 and Gwinnett. Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., Monday, June 16. Entry fee is $125 per player or enter your favorite golf foursome for $500. Please complete the enclosed form and return. Includes tee gift, box lunch, prizes, dinner and silent auction.

Hole #2 Black at The Georgia Club

All donations are tax deductible. EIN #58-0572421

Checks payable to: North GA Conference of the United Methodist Church
Mail to: Carol Rymer, Event Coordinator, 1450 Spartan Lane, Athens, GA 30606

Questions? Call Carol Rymer: 706-254-6990
2008 Worship Leaders

Ray Buckley is the Interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study, a think tank for Native scholars and spiritual leaders. He has served The United Methodist Church as a staff member of The United Methodist Publishing House, Director of the Native People’s Communication Office (UMCom) for nine years, and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Alaska Missionary Conference.

Ray spent his early years on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. His father was Tlingit/Lakota; his mother is a native of Scotland. Ray is a traditional woodcarver and basket maker and author/illustrator of seven books. His stories, poetry and art have appeared in numerous journals, periodicals, books and museums.

Buckley has taught in Nigeria and Ghana, served as a lecturer in Native American studies for several universities, and was keynote speaker for various denominational events and lecture series. He is one of several Native leaders profiled in As Long As the Waters Flow: Native Americans in the South and East by Frye Gillard and The Power of Eagles: Natures Way to Individual Accomplishment by Twyman L. Towery.

James C. Cantrell is an elder in the North Georgia Annual Conference, having served appointments in North Georgia since 1976. He currently serves as the Superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District. He is the secretary of the North Georgia Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Jim is married to the former Holly Fisher. They have two children: a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Claire, both of whom are college students.

Davis Chappell is completing his seventh year as senior pastor of Lawrenceville First UMC with a congregation now numbering 3200-plus.

Davis graduated from Martin College in Pulaski, TN and from Lambuth College in Jackson, TN with degrees in psychology. He received his M.Div. degree from Candler School of Theology, and he is currently completing his
D.Min degree at Perkins School of Theology at SMU in the area of evangelism and church renewal. His thesis is the impact of birthing a new congregation on the mother church as LFUMC birthed and planted a new congregation in a growing section of Gwinnett County in 2005.

Davis has served in pastoral appointments in the North Georgia Conference for 25 years and is a member of the North Georgia Board of Ordained Ministry. He is married to the former Sherre Hufman. They have two children: Andrew, 18, and Hailey, 14.

**Chester R. Cook** is the Executive Director of the Interfaith Airport Chapel, Inc. at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. An ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference, he was awarded a Doctor of Ministry from Interdenominational Theological Center and Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology. Chaplain Cook trained at Emory Center for Pastoral Services. Chester is married to Susan and has two sons; Kevin is a pilot, attending Reinhardt College, and Collin is a sophomore at Alpharetta High School. He and his family attend Mount Pisgah UMC.

**Maxie D. Dunnam** is Chancellor of Asbury Theological Seminary, after serving as President for 10 years. 1982 to 1994 he was senior minister of the 6,000-member Christ UMC in Memphis, TN – his tenure marked by a commitment to evangelism, inner-city ministries, housing for the working poor, outreach to the recovering community and innovative worship.

His wide experience includes church planting, rural churches, suburban, and regional congregations in Mississippi, Georgia, California and Tennessee. He has served as World Editor of *The Upper Room*, President of the World Methodist Council and is currently on the Executive Committee of the Council. He is a director of the Board of Global Ministries of The UMC and a member of the Executive of the Association of Theological Schools. His many awards include induction into the Foundation for Evangelism’s Hall of Fame, the Chair of Distinction by the World Methodist Council, and the Philip Award for Distinguished Service in Evangelism.

Dr. Dunnam has authored more than 40 books, including *The Workbook of Living Prayer, Alive in Christ, This is Christianity*, and two volumes in *The
Communicator’s Commentary series. His one-minute radio and television message entitled PERCEPTIONS is being replicated all over the nation.

Mark LaRocca-Pitts holds a BA and MA in Religious Studies from Indiana University and a M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School. He earned his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University in 2000. Mark is endorsed by the United Methodist Church for healthcare chaplaincy and is Board Certified (BCC) with the Association of Professional Chaplains. He is appointed as a Staff Chaplain at Athens Regional Medical Center and as the pastor of the Crawford Charge. He lives in Athens, GA with his wife, Beth, and twin children, Ellie and Joe.

Sharma D. Lewis is a native of Statesboro, Georgia. She is a 1985 graduate of Mercer University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, and a 1988 graduate of West Georgia College, where she received a Master of Science degree in Biology. Prior to her call to ministry, she was a biologist in the academic and corporate sectors for several years. After answering God’s call to ministry, she entered Gammon Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, where she graduated with a Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies. Sharma was ordained Deacon in 1999 and Elder in 2002. She is the senior pastor at Wesley Chapel, McDonough (the first female in 140 years). Previously she served as senior pastor at Powers Ferry UMC for three years, a cross-racial appointment, and as senior associate pastor of Christian Training at Ben Hill UMC.

She has served on numerous committees representing the United Methodist Church.
Robert H. McMichael III is a native of Atlanta and a graduate of Morehouse College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He is currently pursuing an MDiv in Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care and Counseling at Gammon Theological Seminary at ITC, Atlanta, while also working at Central Ministries UMC as Minister of Music, Worship and the Arts.

He has previously served Mallelieu UMC East Point (now East Point First Mallelieu UMC); Hoosier Memorial, his home church; and Cascade UMC as director of the Women’s Chorus and as Praise and Worship Leader.

Robert believes it is his calling to “Spread the Liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and song,” and this has sparked him to begin writing his first publication *With My Whole Heart: Worship as a Lifestyle*. He believes worship should be more than a once a week event; instead, it should be the lifeline upon which Christians thrive.

Hur and Lucy Morales are currently serving at McEachern UMC. Previously they served at the St. Stephen and Hollydale United Methodist churches in Marietta after moving to the United States in September 2005. Both studied at the Wesley Seminary in Venezuela before coming to the United States and served the Lord in a church in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. They have three children, Keren, Helem and Zaret.

Hur is the son of Efrain and Bethsaida Morales. Efrain was the pastor at Cabudare, Odas de Paz United Methodist Church in Venezuela, but now is serving as Hispanic pastor at Snellville UMC.

Amy Parsons Morgan is an Elder in the North Georgia Conference currently serving as associate pastor at Cannon UMC in Snellville. She attended Young Harris College, LaGrange College and the Candler School of Theology. In 1999 she earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, where she focused on Christian Education as Spiritual Formation. Amy served as associate pastor at Mt. Bethel, Marietta for five years, as the
pastor of Allen Memorial, Oxford for four years, and as the associate pastor at Ebenezer in Conyers for eight years. Amy is married to Dan Morgan, a firefighter with Rockdale County, and they have two children: Hannah, who just completed her first year at Georgia Tech, and Jarrett, who is a junior at Grayson High School. Amy enjoys music, reading and spending time with family and friends.

**The Atlanta Bluegrass All-Stars** are Sonny Houston, Buck Peacock, Tom Hicks, Todd Cliatt and Greg Earnest, a seasoned bunch of quality pickers with 45 years of professional experience between them – from all the way back to the roots of "newgrass" music forward to appearances in the Atlanta musical classic "Cotton Patch Gospel."

Recent gigs have included a four-week series at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, and two prestigious events produced by Steven Darsey, choral director at Glenn Memorial UMC: the fourteenth edition of Darsey's Southern Folk Advent service and a special Old-Time Camp Meeting at the historic Smyrna Campground in Conyers, GA.

**The United Voices of Praise** is a gifted group of dedicated servant leaders from the Bowen United Methodist Church, Atlanta. The group is under the anointed direction and leadership of Marilyn Lawal Carter and Tim Carr. This group proclaims the good news of God's love and grace through praise, song and witness.
Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness and social concerns. Our mission is to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world. Candler is one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and is one of nine schools at Emory, a top twenty research university, founded in memory of Methodist Bishop John Emory and his commitment to “mold both character and intellect.”

This year enrollment was 535, with 440 in the Master of Divinity program, 54 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 12 in the Master of Theology program and 19 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 25 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 11 percent international and 52 percent women. Nearly 50 denominations are represented with 52 percent of MDiv students being United Methodist from 37 conferences.

We will move into Phase I of our new building in early August 2008. It offers 65,000 square feet for classrooms, offices and community life. We hope construction on Phase II will begin late in 2008. It will hold the Pitts Library and the Wesley Teaching Chapel. The first year of implementation of a new MDiv curriculum is nearly complete. This program deepens faculty roles in advising and mentoring and requires a course in a religion other than Christianity. A new director of lifelong learning should be in place by fall 2008 to initiate a renewed emphasis on programs that benefit congregations and their leaders in continuing education.

At the center of our upcoming capital campaign is a program to boost financial support for students. This year 76 percent of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 71 percent of tuition. Among these awards, more than $2.4 million was provided to 198 United Methodist students. Gifts from the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more needs to be done. More than 60 percent of Candler’s MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

Jan Love, Dean
101a. Chairman's Report

Our world is constantly changing. We have witnessed major changes in the financial community over the past year, from fluctuating interest rates to a dramatic rise in gas and other consumer products. Even though you are surrounded by other transformations in your financial life, your credit union has remained an unfailing protector of your funds and financial health. Our continued focus on the well being of our members is reflected in our consistent and steady growth each year, no matter any outside influences.

A quick glance at our financials will show slight variances between this fiscal year and the one prior. On closer inspection, you’ll quickly see the sound increases and strong foundation that this credit union continues to build. Our net worth has increased, showing a correct balance of expenditures and capital. Loan interest did not make a dramatic rise, but did show an improvement. As our membership and number of share accounts grew, so did our need for dividends, which attests for the slight climb. Bottom line, your credit union continues to make the solid growth that will allow us to maintain success in the years to come.

We are only concerned with doing business one way—the way that’s right for our members. Slow and steady wins the hearts of our members. Let all your fellow church and family members know how much you enjoy doing business with your credit union—ask them to join! Your recommendation is one of our most successful methods of advertising. All the best for the coming year!

James R. Mitchell, Chair

101b. Credit Union-2007 Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets (2007)</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/07</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/06</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Prepaid Exp &amp; Defer Charges</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>All Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Dividends Payable</td>
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<td>Notes Payable</td>
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<td>Taxes Payable</td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Deferred Credits</td>
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<td>Other Liabilities</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<td>Shares of Members</td>
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<td>Reserves</td>
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<td>Undivided Earnings</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td>29</td>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Income Statement (2007)</strong></td>
<td>Summary as of</td>
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<td>12/31/07</td>
<td>12/31/06</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Interest on Loans</td>
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<td>Income on Investments</td>
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<td>Fees &amp; Charges</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Other Operating Income</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td><strong>Operating Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,244,413.77</strong></td>
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### Operating Expenses

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>$314,720.14</td>
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<td>Employee Benefits</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Conference</td>
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<td>Association Dues</td>
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<td>Office Occupancy</td>
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<td>Office Operations</td>
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<td>Education &amp; Promotion</td>
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<td>Loan Servicing</td>
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<td>Prof &amp; Outside</td>
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<td>Provision for Loan Losses</td>
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<td>Member Insurance</td>
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<td>Federal Operating Fee</td>
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<td>Interest on Borrowed</td>
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<td>Cash Short/Over</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Income From Operations</td>
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<td>Income Before Dividends</td>
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<td>Dividends</td>
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<td>Gain on Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$36,544.82</td>
<td>$25,409.25</td>
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</table>

#### 102. Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry

When a student goes off to college, we wish them well, wave good-bye and hope we did the best we could to raise them right. We have hopes and expectations of them, but most of all we want them to follow three simple rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. Mostly, we want them to just stay out of trouble.
It is a widely held assumption that college students put God on the back burner during their college years, but this is not necessarily the case. In the state of Georgia, over 38,000 students remain or become connected with the United Methodist Church through our 21 Wesley Foundations and our nine United Methodist colleges and universities.

Wesley Foundations are places where students can get to the heart of the matter and follow those three simple rules. Most importantly, Wesley Foundations provide a variety of ways for students to stay in love with God and grow in their faith. All of the current 30 Wesley Foundations/fellowships across the state of Georgia gather each week for worship, study, and fellowship. Throughout the year they also participate in some kind of charitable work. Whether it is serving meals at a local community center or building houses in Mexico, college students are doing good year-round and loving it! Supporting local Wesley Foundations can change our long-held assumptions that nothing godly goes on at college.

A celebration this year is that due to increased Wesley participation, two of our part-time Wesley directors will be going full-time. The greatest needs of our Wesley Foundations are capital improvements to the buildings. Of the 21 Wesley units in Georgia, ten are housed in aging buildings that are in great need of renovation and repair. Several others are searching for permanent locations to house the foundation on or around campuses. Renovating the older Wesley buildings and purchasing new ones helps to further Christ on campus as more students can be welcomed and served.

The state of campus ministry in Georgia is a positive one. This is largely due to the dedicated hard work of Bill Griffin. For 13 years, Bill has devoted his time and energy to college students, as well as Wesley Foundations across the state of Georgia. As Bill retires this year, The United Methodist Church in Georgia will continue to benefit from the healthy campus ministries Bill has fostered over these past 13 years.

Leigh Martin, Vice-President

103. Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table

Greetings on behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and our President, Bishop Lawrence McCleskey. I am pleased to report to the North Georgia Annual Conference on actions and accomplishments at Lake Junaluska and in the jurisdiction. We were excited to consecrate the Bethea Welcome Center at Lake Junaluska on July 9, 2007. We thank the North
Georgia Conference for your financial commitment to make this place of hospitality and symbol of reconciliation a reality. Lake Junaluska grounds and facilities are a priority. We have completed the new golf course clubhouse. As we prepare and plan for Lake Junaluska becoming a premier conference center for The United Methodist Church, we have a representative group from around the jurisdiction serving on the Lake Junaluska Campus and Stuart Center Design Group to recommend a master plan for the campus. We have Cornell University studying our operations and services to better serve the church.

Along with looking at our facilities, we have reorganized our ministry area into the Ministry Event Development Office. Roger Dowdy is giving superb leadership. An agreement has been made to establish Alban Institute at Lake Junaluska. The centerpiece of the partnership will be an Alban Institute seminar July 6-10, at the newly envisioned Ministry Summit (formerly the SEJ Minister’s Conference). There is a new relationship between Ministry and Marketing at Lake Junaluska. Ken Howle and Roger Dowdy are leading us in considering new possibilities for the future. The Ministries with Young People continues to serve the largest numbers of United Methodists at Lake Junaluska. The summer youth events and winter ski retreats are being well attended this year. An outstanding multi-cultural event, Embracing God’s Diversity, was held in December. The leadership of the jurisdiction made this one of the most exciting and diverse groups that has ever met at Lake Junaluska.

Mollie Stewart reports the Board of Gulfside Assembly thanks the SEJ. They are considering senior housing on the gulf built around a smaller ministry center and won’t be selling any more land.

Larry Ousley reports that the Intentional Growth Center has been in business for 30 years and have planned 57 events this year. They trained over 400 interim ministers in this denomination. They look forward to working with the Lay Leaders. Darlene Jacobs reports that SEJANAM became an agency in 1993 to strengthen Native American ministries. They work with churches in rural and urban areas. Programs have increased from 25 to 50% and one of the largest Native American events in The United Methodist Church is at Lake Junaluska. SEMAR is the oldest agency in the SEJ – 38 years old. We appreciate the Western North Carolina Conference and Givens Estates making the Laurels of Junaluska a reality. They have entered into a contract with Mike Dyson to run SEMAR. Nick Elliott, UMVIM, thanks all annual conferences for their support over the last 31 years. They began in the SEJ and are now national. In 2005, 26,000 people went out in service and in 2006 it was 31,000. Clay Smith reports that Hinton Rural Life Center does consulting, provides training and builds effective ministries. They have a wonderful First Parrish
Project for young clergy in small churches. Nell Thrift reports that Art Swarthout is the interim director of *Archives & History and The Heritage Center*. The main focus of The Commission is the Heritage Center, which acquires, organizes, preserves and makes available records of the SEJ and provides training for confirmation classes from throughout the jurisdiction.

We were thrilled to host the United Methodist Council of Bishops and the Extended Cabinet in November. In July it will be our honor to welcome the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to Lake Junaluska. The SEJ Connectional Table appreciates the support we receive from annual conferences.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

104. *Wesleyan Christian Advocate*

The *Wesleyan Christian Advocate* has gone through some changes this year and will continue to change in the future. In July 2007 the Rev. Dr. Jim Nelson, a member of the South Georgia Annual Conference, took over as editor. He has been looking at ways of increasing subscriptions and particularly upgrading the on-line version to make it more in line with other on-line publications today.

So far this year we have seen a slight increase in the number of subscriptions and an increase in our ad revenue. Consequently, even with major increases in postage and printing costs, we have been able to keep the annual subscription rate at $25.

Although we have had some increases in income, we still need to rely on grants from both conferences in order to provide the same award-winning publication which our readers expect. However, it is our goal to try to reduce the percentage of our revenue that comes directly from the conferences’ budgets.

We are looking for ways of marketing the *Advocate* in order to reach more people in the pews. We continue to be the one source of information about the United Methodist Church and its ministries around the world. We are a connectional church, and the *Advocate* is one way for all our members to maintain a feeling of connection to United Methodists around the world. We also celebrate the good news from United Methodist churches across the state. We highlight the various ministries that are being carried out every day in Georgia in hopes of giving other churches ideas of what might work in their communities and congregations.
We encourage everyone to subscribe; to tell their friends and family members to subscribe; and most importantly we depend on the leadership of all our churches, clergy and laity, to spread the word to make sure their members stay informed. As conference delegates we know that you believe in and support the connection, and that you will help us help others to grow to be informed leaders like you.

Jim Nelson, Editor
The Office of Church Development continues to be thankful for the United Methodists of the North Georgia Conference. Your willingness to make possible the birthing of new United Methodist churches and missions augments the efforts of our existing churches and missions in the ongoing challenge to reach our ever-growing population with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Your prayers and gifts to Church Development through our apportionment system are making a difference in thousands of lives throughout our annual conference. With your prayers and continued support we will keep working to reach our goal of 200 new churches and missions by the year 2020.

In 2007 we celebrated the chartering of three new United Methodist churches. Still Waters in the Atlanta-Emory District, Highlands in the Gainesville District and Quest in the Augusta District became official United Methodist churches. These three new churches reported 126 professions of faith in 2007. We anticipate several additional congregations will charter in 2008.

During 2007 we have started nine new ministries. The six new mission congregations are currently worshipping in existing churches throughout our annual conference. Sacred Tapestry, a new church plant in the Atlanta-Marietta District started worship February 24, 2007. UMC of the Well in the Northwest District started worship on Easter Sunday. A new facility on 38 acres is being constructed for Life Springs, a new United Methodist church in Pike County. The property and facility is the gift of Julian Danielly who grew up in the area.

Natural Church Development, a process for existing church assessment and growth toward becoming a healthier congregation, continues to be used by an increasing number of congregations in North Georgia. Information and coaches are available through the Office of Church Development. We encourage our churches to make annual use of this tool in our efforts to be as effective as possible in the making of disciples.

The future is both bright and challenging for the United Methodist churches of North Georgia. Population growth and cultural changes bring great opportunities for those who will adapt to the new realities around us. Our prayer continues to be that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up laborers and resources for the making of disciples into the unseen and unknown future.

E. Parks Davis, Executive Director
The African-American churches in North Georgia present unique challenges as well as unique opportunities for growth. Statistically, the African-American population in the North Georgia Conference has experienced phenomenal growth and represents the largest net gain of any racial or ethnic group. There are currently living within the bounds of the North Georgia Conference 1.76 million African-Americans, and by 2012 there are expected to be 2.03 million. The counties with the greatest net change in African-American residents are Gwinnett, Clayton, Cobb and Henry. The counties with the largest percentage change are Henry, Cherokee, Rockdale and Douglas.

This is a mission field that we must reach with great intentionality. A strategic plan is being developed by the follow-up committee from the Black Church Summit Committee and other constituent groups. Based on the need for congregational transformation and starting new churches in growing African-American communities in the North Georgia Conference, the Committee on Black Church Development is focusing on three areas this year:

Leadership Development - We are currently partnering with the Fund for Theological Education using their Equipping Congregations program. By the time of this printing, we will have held four modules of a seminar called Equipping Pastors, which are designed to help pastors develop congregational leaders. We are also beginning Leadership Incubators with pastors. The Leadership Incubator creates an environment where spiritual leaders and ideas are born, nurtured and developed. In this accountability process, pastors will work on their own spiritual development and a ministry action plan for their church. Another area of leadership development is the great need to identify and recruit effective and younger leadership for serving existing churches and planting new churches. Our starting point for this area is focusing on persons with less than five years in ministry.

Coaching Resources - In March five African-American churches were given the opportunity to grow to their next level of effectiveness using a coaching process. This included viewing the mission field, a written assessment of the current reality provided by interviews with the congregation, the development of a 90-day jump start plan, and follow up sessions; and,

Church Data Collection - The intention is to obtain a good picture of African American churches by strategically observing church ministries and
facilities in order to connect churches to needed resources in reaching their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Marvin Moss, Chair  Renita Thomas, Associate Director

200b. Committee on Hispanic Church Development

"The Heart of the Matter." We cannot speak about ministries with Latinos without reflecting on the issue of immigration, a phenomenon throughout the history of humankind. Bishop Davis said: “Some people talk about immigration in terms of politics and the law. But for me, immigration is about people – God’s people – it is about you and it is about me. Immigration is also about tomorrow – about what our area and our Church will look like in the future.”

(“Invite Me In,” sermon preached at the Annual Latino Celebration by Bishop G. Lindsey Davis, September 22, 2007)

When we think about today and tomorrow, studies show that the racial/ethnic diversity in the North Georgia area is extremely high and that Hispanics/Latinos are projected to be the fastest growing group, increasing by 38.1 percent between 2008 and 2013. That means that between those years, the Hispanic/Latino population is projected to increase by 230,914 persons.

In the year 2000 there were 356,413 Hispanic/Latinos in the North Georgia Conference area (6.1 percent of the population). In 2008 there are 605,499 (8.8 percent of the population), and in 2013 there will be 836,413 Hispanics/Latinos neighbors whom we are called to love as we love ourselves (11 percent of the population).

At the end of 2007 the NGC had 1,725 Hispanic/Latino members and about 1,275 Hispanics/Latinos attending 24 congregations that offer or will offer worship services in Spanish or Portuguese. The newest areas where we started to develop or plan to develop ministries with Hispanics are: Athens, Roswell, Snellville and Augusta. Training is an essential part of the ministry of the church: “to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph 4:12). This past year we offered the following training opportunities:

- May 2007, Module I for the Development of Hispanic/Latino Ministries was offered in Spanish, English and Portuguese with 25 participants.
- Thirty-six Hispanic youth participated in a weekend retreat in October 2007 at Camp Glisson.
- One bilingual (Spanish/English) church is going through the Natural Church Development process.
- Two training events in Spanish on the topics of: teaching Sunday school, pastoral care for immigrants, and youth leadership.
- One Hispanic leader went through the Leadership Academy for church planters, and one Hispanic pastor is currently going through it.
- Two prospective pastors went through an assessment process.

In September 2007 we celebrated our Annual Latino Celebration at St Paul UMC in Gainesville. Bishop Lindsey Davis preached in Spanish and English to about 350 persons in attendance.

In 2008 the conference will sponsor the first Boot Camp for Hispanic Church planters with Jim Griffin as co-leader and using an adaptation of his church planting resources. In August 2008 the NGC and Candler School of Theology will offer the License to Preach School in Spanish, which will be open to the rest of the Jurisdiction and beyond. In order to give opportunities to dual career pastors, this school will be offered over long weekends.

In addition to the pastors who are currently serving, five Hispanic church members are going through the candidacy process for ordained ministry. Reflecting on this conference year, we would like to recognize Olga Rodríguez, María Colone and Daniel Gaetán, three local pastors who have faithfully served their churches and the conference for many years. Their retirement has left a void but it has also left a legacy of ministry with love and sacrifice.

Joel Rodríguez, Chair      Nora Colmenares Martinez, Assoc. Director

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200c. Committee of Korean Church Development

As we strive to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World, our ministry has been graciously blessed in developing Korean mission churches in our conference, providing leadership training for both laity and clergy, and providing resources to existing Korean American ministries. Growth of the Korean-American population in our conference continuously challenges us to find innovative ways to provide leadership training and other resources in strengthening the Korean-American ministries in our conference.

In 2007, in partnership with the Korean Church of Atlanta UMC and Korean Church of Newnan, a new Korean mission, Korean Church of LaGrange, has been planted. LaGrange First United Methodist Church is graciously sharing their facility with this new mission. The Korean population in this area is gradually growing as the KIA plant is nearing its completion. The Korean Church of Dacula has been restarted with new pastoral leadership in reaching out to the growing Korean-American population in its community,
and it is gradually growing. The Korean Church of Newnan is growing and is looking forward to being constituted in the near future.

All of the Korean pastors and lay leaders in the North Georgia Conference are continuously provided with leadership training through the SEJ Korean-American Pastor’s School and Lay Leadership Academy. The pastors from these new missions have formed a network in sharing ministries together. Future plans are that these mission pastors will be coached through the Natural Church Development process in the Korean language.

We ask for your prayers and support for the mission of the Committee on Korean Church Development to continue its efforts in Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World among the Korean-American communities in North Georgia for 2009 and the future.

Hyo Shik Kim, Associate Director

200d. Committee on Multi-Ethnic Church Development

The mission field is coming to us. According to new projections from the Pew Research Center, 82 percent of the increase of the population in the United States will be due to immigrants arriving from 2005 to 2050 and their U.S.-born descendants. The challenges of diversity are more complex than ever. The committee on Multi-Ethnic Church Development assists new and existing congregations in meeting these needs in the North Georgia Conference.

This past year, the committee helped United Methodist congregations that aim to reach specific ethnic groups in our area. We helped Brazilian, Chinese, Kenyan and Haitian congregations in their leadership and ministry needs. Furthermore, we assisted several existing congregations experiencing changes in their communities with funds and teaching resources in order for them to be able to offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. These language ministries bridge the cultural gap between established congregations and their new international neighbors.

The committee is also the place where we facilitate the training of local church members and their pastors on new ways of sharing the Gospel to all God’s children. We offered funds to send leaders to a conference at Lake Junaluska called “Transforming Lives...Embracing God's Diversity” in December 2007. The committee also continued to offer our workshop series “Connecting Across Cultures” to help churches reach out to their neighbors from other cultures.
The good news of Jesus Christ continues to be shared through our efforts as well as to help the churches of the North Georgia Conference reach out to the mission field that is coming to our doorsteps.

Zack Martin, Chair

200e. Commission on the Small Membership Church

The Committee met to discuss various issues that are important to the Small Membership Church. Ideas came forth such as the production of a quarterly newsletter which would suggest ideas for ministry, partnering with other churches for Habitat or other ministries, and a summit with churches with less than 100 members and a summit with churches having a membership of 101-200.

The committee will continue with asking the 12 district superintendents to nominate a small membership church in their district for “Excellence in Ministry.” Churches will be recognized at the 2009 Annual Conference.

Carol N. Helton, Chair

201. Council on Finance and Administration

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) remains committed to addressing issues of critical importance to the conference’s financial health. We continued to coordinate the audit and review process with respect to conference and district accounts, thereby insuring full disclosure and accountability.

CFA worked prayerfully and diligently to construct a recommended 2009 conference budget that provides substantial funds for our critical ministries and programs, while acknowledging the expectations of our churches to exercise excellent stewardship of precious resources. The proposed 2009 budget increase is 2.8%, one of the lowest percentage increases in many years. As more churches are able to pay 100% of their apportionments, we will be able to more effectively address the needs of our various ministries and missions.

We will continue to focus on efforts to improve the efficiency of our conference-funded programs in 2008, 2009 and beyond. We would like to commend the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council, as they have now achieved their goal of fully funding their own operations via earnings from their endowment fund. As such, the H&HC no longer requires the support of apportioned giving, due to their long term planning and hard work.
We offer thanks to our churches for their excellent stewardship and support of conference, jurisdictional and denominational ministries and programs. We also would like to recognize the Conference Staffing Task Force and the Conference Cabinet Housing Allowance Task Force for their fine work on behalf of the Conference.

B. Wiley Stephens, President

201a. 2009 Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations

Administration/Personnel

1. We recommend that the conference elect Keith M. Cox as the Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services.

2. 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.

3. We recommend that laity volunteers serving annual conference committees and task forces be reimbursed their mileage costs at $.505/mile.

4. We recommend that all conference-funded ministries and programs continually review their operations to ensure that resources are being utilized as efficiently as possible. We recommend that the annual conference re-examine conference benevolences through its Vision Forum/Connectional Table to determine whether or not the essential purpose of the church is being best served with the monies expended.

5. We recommend that the conference extend special thanks to all those persons who have served faithfully and effectively during the year.

6. We recommend that the 2009 housing allowance designated by annual conference for Cabinet-level clergy personnel be based upon the average of the highest 50 housing allowances reported at December 31, 2007. That amount is $32,749. Further, we recommend that the utility allowance for 2009 for that group be set at $5,000.

7. We recommend that the annual conference positively affirm the practice and policy of designated funds collected for and earned by each of the following benefit funds for the stated purposes:

   a. Pre-1982 Pension Funds for the purpose of funding the pre-1982 pension obligations due to vested participants in that pension plan. Fund balance as of December 31, 2007 totaled $7,984,015.
b. Future Retiree Medical Insurance Reserve for the purpose of accumulating funds to satisfy the unfunded supplemental health insurance obligations accruing to current and future clergy participants in the post-retirement Medicare companion plan. Fund balance as of December 31, 2007 totaled $21,005,213.

c. The Conference Board of Pensions continues to accumulate and maintain an operating reserve equal to three months of health insurance and CRSP premiums. Fund balance as of December 31, 2007 totaled $3,750,349 or approximately 2.5 months of premiums.

**Offerings/Appeals**

8. We recommend in addition to those observances set by the General Conference, the following special days, with offerings but without quotas, be observed in 2009: Homeless Offering (last Sunday in February), Mother’s Day Offering for Wesley Homes (Mother’s Day, second Sunday in May), Golden Cross (third Sunday in August), United Methodist Children’s Home Work Day (third Sunday in September), Aldersgate Homes (fourth Sunday in October), and AIDS Awareness Sunday (first Sunday in December).

9. We recommend that each of the following be permitted to have one direct mail appeal for funds in 2009: the United Methodist Children’s Home, Wesley Homes, Action Ministries, and Aldersgate Homes, Inc.

10. We recommend that all special day offerings be scheduled through the Connectional Ministries Related Agencies Committee so as to avoid calendar conflicts.

**Apportionments**

11. We expect that clergy and each charge will pay their apportionment in full and that full-time pastors pay their benefits premiums, in full, on a monthly basis.

12. We recommend the adoption of the apportionment formula approved at Annual Conference 2006.

**Risk Management**

13. 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 259(c)(4) from the *2004 Book of Discipline*. 
14. We recommend that all unincorporated churches explore the advantages of incorporation and seek guidance from the Conference Chancellor if they move to incorporate.

15. 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.

16. We recommend that all churches investigate and be in a position to make an informed decision on coordinating insurance coverage including participating in district meetings prior to the end of 2008 led by United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust (UMPACT).

201b. **Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services**

North Georgia Conference churches continued their strong support of connectional ministries in 2007. Total apportionment payments were $22,423,831, an increase of $350,000 from 2006. Payments to Conference and General Advances and to special offerings totaled $2,325,528 compared to $1,932,639 in 2006.

For the sixth consecutive year, the North Georgia Conference was the top payer of General Church apportionments, with a total paid of $6,257,669.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Gainesville District achieved a 100% apportionment payment rate. The Northwest District again achieved the second highest percentage at 98.5%. The Atlanta-Roswell District had the highest payment total, followed by Atlanta-Marietta and Atlanta-Emory.

The Treasurer’s Office continues to emphasize 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 purpose of interpretation and clarifying policy and procedural issues. We strive to update our website with current information, and routinely communicate directly with local church treasurers. We appreciate and rely on feedback from the local churches to help us focus on issues that are important to them.

The annual conference audit and the district office reviews will be substantially concluded prior to annual conference session. The conference audit for 2006 is posted on the North Georgia Conference website, and, upon the completion of the 2007 audit, it will be posted also.
Investment Summary

Conference funds are invested in accordance with the Investment Guidelines approved by the annual conference in 2007 and published in the Annual Conference Journal. Investment maturities and rates of return vary based on projections of cash needs, both short and intermediate term investment performance.

In 2007, the conference earned 7.96% on invested funds. Total investments at December 31, 2006 were $34,533,535.

Keith Cox, Conference Treasurer
and Director of Administrative Services
### 201c. Schedule of Investments

**North Georgia Conference**

**Schedule of Investments**

**As of December 31, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>MARKET VALUE</th>
<th>INVESTMENT TYPE/COMPANY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Future Retiree Medical Insurance Fund</td>
<td>$ 16,865,878</td>
<td>HMEP Deposit Acct - Domestic Bond Fund, Domestic Stock Fund, Multiple Asset Fund &amp; Short-Term Investment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Pre 1982 Pension Fund</td>
<td>7,699,006</td>
<td>Pension Deposit Account - Multiple Asset Fund &amp; Short-Term Investment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Superannuate Fund</td>
<td>157,114</td>
<td>Multiple Asset Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Methodist Federal Credit Union</td>
<td>Central Treasury</td>
<td>95,258</td>
<td>Certificate of Deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Board of Trustees - Louise D. Park Eye Fund</td>
<td>341,776</td>
<td>Suntrust Investment Services (&quot;STI&quot;) Money Market (&quot;MM&quot;) Fund &amp; STI Short Term Bond Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Central Treasury</td>
<td>1,016,915</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, STI Short-Term Bond Fund, UM Foundation (&quot;UMF&quot;) Equity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td>204,387</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UM Foundation Fixed Income Fund, Coca-Cola Company &amp; UMF Equity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td>240,701</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Equity Fund &amp; UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td>40,418</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Conference Board of Global Ministries - Mildred F. Butler Fund</td>
<td>92,407</td>
<td>STI MM Fund &amp; STI Short-Term Bond Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Culpepper Fund</td>
<td>85,912</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Future Retiree Medical Insurance Fund</td>
<td>3,998,884</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, STI Short-Term Bond Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Milsaps Sustentation Fund</td>
<td>60,797</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Retiree Needs Fund</td>
<td>75,435</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Equity Fund, UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Housing and Homeless Council - Homeless Trust Fund</td>
<td>820,378</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, UMF Fixed Income Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Housing and Homeless Council - Homeless Trust Fund</td>
<td>405,041</td>
<td>Purchased three year note receivable, 5.00% interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Methodist Center Sinking Fund</td>
<td>155,123</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, STI Short-Term Bond Fund &amp; UMF Equity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund - Conference</td>
<td>102,793</td>
<td>STI MM Fund, STI Short-Term Bond Fund &amp; UMF Equity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia United Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Preachers Aid and Special Relief Fund</td>
<td>83,032</td>
<td>STI MM Fund and STI Short-Term Bond Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBC Centura Bank</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Milsaps Sustentation Fund</td>
<td>792,397</td>
<td>Money market investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SunTrust Robinson Humphrey</td>
<td>Conference Board of Pensions</td>
<td>1,094,867</td>
<td>Kellogg Company Commerical Paper maturing 1/30/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard Wellington Fund</td>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund - Conference</td>
<td>52,681</td>
<td>1,614,979 Shares</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wachovia Bank</td>
<td>Archives &amp; History</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>Savings Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wachovia Corporation</td>
<td>Conference Global Ministries</td>
<td>49,895</td>
<td>1,312 Shares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 34,533,535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
201d. How the 2009 Recommended Budget Was Developed

Local Church

Local Church

Local Church

Local Church

North Georgia Conference Budget

UMC General Agencies and Ministries

Conference Related and Extended Agencies

Connectional Programs and Ministries

1. The “General Church” sets priorities and develops programs at the General Session for a four (4) year period (the quadrennium). The new quadrennium begins in 2009 and runs through 2012. The financial support for those worldwide ministries is apportioned to the annual conferences, which, in turn, apportions those amounts to the local churches. For 2009, General Church Apportionments are ESTIMATED (subject to revision at General Conference) to be $7,284,077 or 27.7% of the 2009 conference budget. For those members who have not traditionally attended a United Methodist or other “connectional” church,
this 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-related and extended agencies, such as the Murphy-Harpst
Children’s Homes, hospital chaplaincy programs, Crime Victim’s
Advocacy Council, etc., present budget requests, based on their priorities,
to the Related Agencies Committee of the Conference Office of
Connectional Ministries. The Related Agencies Committee modified the
requests based on its evaluation of the information presented and
discussion with the presenters. The modified requests are included in the
Connectional Ministries’ request, which was made to the Conference
Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A). There are fourteen (14)
different programs supported in this manner.

3. Conference-based programs and ministries request 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 Outreach,
etc. Representatives from the programs/ministries and their board
chairpersons, if applicable, presented their requests to the CF&A on
February 18, 2008. Those requests were then put in the draft
budget.

4. On March 16 and 17, 2008 CF&A met to prayerfully review the draft
budget. At the March 17 meeting, CF&A made small adjustments to the
draft budget based on several factors, including: budget increase
compared to increases in local church expenditures; 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, etc. The total proposed budget for 2009 is
$26,252,000.

5. 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.

6. On the last day of Annual Conference Session, the proposed budget will
be voted on by the delegates. Amendments can be offered to the budget
at this time. Once the final budget with amendments has been voted on
and approved, conference staff will begin the process of apportioning the
budget to the local churches.
201e. 2009 Budget Executive Summary

**Overall:**
- Total proposed budget of $26,252,000, an increase of $711,000 or 2.8% over 2008 budget.
- Local church expenditures increased 4.8% for most recent period available.

**Conference:**
- Conference apportionments increase $646,000 or 3.6%.
- Forecast 5% increase in Healthflex insurance premiums.
- Total compensation increases $89,000 or 2.8%. Slight staff restructuring partially mitigates salary increases.
- Ministerial Support/Equitable Compensation Area I increases $218,000 or 9.3%.
  - Board of Ordained Ministry increases $224,000 due to inclusion of severance payments;
  - Equitable Compensation decreases $52,000, or 13.9%;
  - District superintendent compensation and benefits increases $43,000 or 2.7%.
- Retired Ministers Pension and Insurance increases $220,000 or 3.2%.
  - Current health insurance expense for retirees forecast to increase $144,000 or 5% ;
  - Pre-1982 pension funding increased $76,000 or 2.0%.
- Administrative budget, Area III increases $3,000, or 0.1%.
- Conference Benevolences, Area IV increases $108,000 or 5.3%.
  - Action Ministries increases $50,000, returning to 2007 funding levels;
  - Related and Extended Agencies funding increases $49,000.
- Capital Funding, Area V increases $45,000 or 16.8% due to increased funding for capital maintenance and replacement reserve for Methodist Center.
- Higher Education, Area VI increases $47,000 or 4.0%.
- Church Development, Area XII increases $99,000 or 4.0%.
- Funding for Simpsonwood decreases $93,000 or 12.4%.

**General Church:**
- Total estimated General Church apportionments decrease $32,000 or 0.4%. Subject to change at quadrennial General Conference in Fort Worth.
North Georgia was the top contributor towards General Church apportionments in 2007, exceeding Florida by $796,000, Virginia by $1 million and Texas by $1.1 million.

**Southeast Jurisdiction:**

- Increases $97,000 or 37.8%, of which $88,000 is attributable to the reestablishment of the dam restoration asking.

### 201f. Summary Budget Proposal

**North Georgia Annual Conference**

**Summary Budget Proposal**

For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Georgia Conference:</th>
<th>2007 Budget</th>
<th>2008 Expended</th>
<th>2007 Proposed</th>
<th>2008 Proposed</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease)</th>
<th>% Chng 08 vs 09</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease)</th>
<th>% Chng 09 Expd v 09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Ministerial Support/Equitable Compensation</td>
<td>$2,300,065</td>
<td>$2,294,722</td>
<td>$2,339,912</td>
<td>$2,557,902</td>
<td>$217,990</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>$263,180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Retired Ministers Pension and Insurance</td>
<td>6,587,000</td>
<td>6,229,588</td>
<td>6,931,000</td>
<td>7,151,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>921,412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Administrative Budget</td>
<td>1,975,287</td>
<td>1,799,223</td>
<td>1,983,576</td>
<td>1,986,517</td>
<td>2,941</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>187,294</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>2,057,707</td>
<td>1,815,308</td>
<td>2,030,710</td>
<td>2,138,792</td>
<td>108,081</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>323,484</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Capital Funding</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>170,717</td>
<td>266,365</td>
<td>311,000</td>
<td>44,635</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>140,283</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VI. Higher Education and Campus Ministry</td>
<td>1,165,853</td>
<td>1,077,675</td>
<td>1,180,030</td>
<td>1,227,231</td>
<td>47,201</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>149,556</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. Church Development</td>
<td>2,487,563</td>
<td>2,155,377</td>
<td>2,487,563</td>
<td>2,586,106</td>
<td>98,543</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>430,729</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td>(93,000)</td>
<td>-12.4%</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total North Georgia Conference</td>
<td>16,848,475</td>
<td>15,542,610</td>
<td>17,969,156</td>
<td>18,615,548</td>
<td>646,392</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3,072,938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Church**

| VII. Black College Fund | 523,223 | 476,440 | 509,545 | 522,176 | 12,631 | 2.5% | 45,736 |
| VIII. Ministerial Education | 1,313,985 | 1,187,848 | 1,279,635 | 1,308,910 | 29,275 | 2.3% | 121,062 |
| IX. Interdenominational Cooperation | 101,734 | 99,999 | 101,067 | 102,010 | 943 | 0.9% | 12,011 |
| X. World Service Fund | 3,818,507 | 3,503,361 | 3,937,299 | 3,784,454 | (152,845) | -3.9% | 281,093 |
| XI. Africa University | 115,543 | 105,896 | 112,523 | 116,867 | 4,344 | 3.9% | 10,971 |
| XIV. Episcopal Fund | 981,815 | 890,682 | 1,029,685 | 1,027,967 | (1,718) | -0.2% | 137,285 |
| XV. General Church Administration | 336,240 | 300,064 | 346,602 | 421,693 | 75,091 | 21.7% | 121,629 |
| Total General Church | 7,185,047 | 6,554,290 | 7,316,356 | 7,284,077 | (32,279) | -0.4% | 729,787 |

**Southeastern Jurisdiction**

| XVI. Southeastern Jurisdiction | 306,478 | 275,460 | 255,627 | 352,375 | 96,748 | 37.8% | 76,915 |
| Grand Total | $24,340,000 | $22,372,360 | $25,541,139 | $26,252,000 | $710,861 | 2.8% | $3,879,640 |
## North Georgia Conference
### Summary Budget Proposal
#### For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

### Area I Ministerial Support/Equitable Compensation
- **Resident Bishop Residence and Office**: $64,500
- **District Superintendents Compensation**: $1,563,665
- **Equitable Compensation Fund**: $385,000
- **Board of Ordained Ministry**: 286,900

### Total Ministerial Support
- **2008 Proposed**: 2,300,065
- **2009 Proposed**: 2,339,912
- **Increase (Decrease)** $27,907

### Area II Retired Minister Pension and Insurance
- **Current benefit provision**: $2,850,000
- **Future Retiree Medical Insurance Reserve**: $150,000
- **Pre 1982 Pension Fund**: 3,587,000

### Total Ministered Ministers Pension and Insurance
- **2008 Expd**: 6,587,000
- **2009 Expd**: 6,229,588

### Area III Administration
- **Annual Conference Session and related**: 270,000
- **Treasurer and Administrative Services**: 575,401
- **Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual Support**: 237,516
- **Office of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Conference Information Office**: 572,236
- **CFA, Board of Trustees, Contingency**: 320,133

### Total Annual Conference Administration
- **2008 Expd**: 6,197,255
- **2009 Expd**: 6,062,736

### Area IV Conference Benevolences
#### Connectional Ministries:
- **Outreach Team**: 37,900
- **Nurture Team**: 287,680
- **Witness Team**: 17,000
- **Advocacy Team**: 63,100
- **Related and Extended Agencies**: 259,000
- **Leadership ID & Development**: 18,225
- **CM Office Support**: 518,134

#### Total Connectional Ministries
- **2008 Expd**: 1,201,639
- **2009 Expd**: 1,199,310

### Area V Capital Funding
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 275,000
- **2009 Proposed**: 266,365

### Total Conference Benevolences
- **2008 Expd**: 2,017,707
- **2009 Expd**: 2,030,710

### Area VI Higher Education and Campus Ministry
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 1,165,853
- **2009 Proposed**: 1,180,030

### Area VII Black College Fund
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 523,223
- **2009 Proposed**: 476,440

### Area VIII Ministerial Education Fund
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 1,563,665
- **2009 Proposed**: 1,614,657

### Area IX Interdenominational Cooperation
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 315,433
- **2009 Proposed**: 346,602

### Area X World Service Fund
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 981,815
- **2009 Proposed**: 890,682

### Area XI Africa University
- **2008 Approved Budget**: 115,543
- **2009 Proposed**: 112,523

### Total Budget
- **2008 Approved**: $21,327,360
- **2009 Proposed**: $21,541,139

### Summary Budget Proposal

#### For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2007 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2007 Expended</th>
<th>2008 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2009 Proposed</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) 08 vs 09</th>
<th>% Chng 08 vs 09</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) 07 Expd vs 09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area I Ministerial Support/Equitable Compensation</td>
<td>$1,563,665</td>
<td>$1,563,726</td>
<td>$1,614,657</td>
<td>$1,658,093</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43,436</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation Fund</td>
<td>$385,000</td>
<td>$409,647</td>
<td>$373,155</td>
<td>$321,409</td>
<td>(51,746)</td>
<td>-13.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area I Ministerial Support</td>
<td>$2,300,065</td>
<td>$2,274,722</td>
<td>$2,339,912</td>
<td>$2,357,902</td>
<td>217,990</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area II Retired Minister Pension and Insurance</td>
<td>$2,339,912</td>
<td>$2,341,400</td>
<td>$2,341,400</td>
<td>$2,401,400</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area III Administration</td>
<td>$2,850,000</td>
<td>$2,874,000</td>
<td>$3,018,000</td>
<td>$3,144,000</td>
<td>126,000</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area IV Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>$2,679,400</td>
<td>$2,688,100</td>
<td>$2,800,000</td>
<td>$2,830,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area V Capital Funding</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>$266,365</td>
<td>$311,000</td>
<td>$344,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VI Higher Education and Campus Ministry</td>
<td>$1,165,853</td>
<td>$1,180,030</td>
<td>$1,227,231</td>
<td>$1,279,231</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VII Black College Fund</td>
<td>$523,223</td>
<td>$476,440</td>
<td>$522,176</td>
<td>$522,176</td>
<td>12,104</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VIII Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>$1,563,665</td>
<td>$1,614,657</td>
<td>$1,658,093</td>
<td>$1,702,093</td>
<td>44,400</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area IX Interdenominational Cooperation</td>
<td>$101,734</td>
<td>$89,999</td>
<td>$101,067</td>
<td>$102,010</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area X World Service Fund</td>
<td>$3,818,507</td>
<td>$3,937,299</td>
<td>$3,784,454</td>
<td>$3,852,454</td>
<td>67,999</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area XI Africa University</td>
<td>$115,543</td>
<td>$105,896</td>
<td>$112,523</td>
<td>$116,867</td>
<td>4,344</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area XII Church Development</td>
<td>$2,487,563</td>
<td>$2,546,106</td>
<td>$2,586,106</td>
<td>$2,636,106</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area XIII Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
<td>$523,223</td>
<td>$476,440</td>
<td>$522,176</td>
<td>$522,176</td>
<td>12,104</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area XIV Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>$115,543</td>
<td>$105,896</td>
<td>$112,523</td>
<td>$116,867</td>
<td>4,344</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area XV General Church Administration Fund</td>
<td>$330,240</td>
<td>$304,000</td>
<td>$346,602</td>
<td>$342,602</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Church</td>
<td>$7,185,047</td>
<td>$6,554,290</td>
<td>$7,316,356</td>
<td>$7,484,356</td>
<td>128,000</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>$24,340,000</td>
<td>$22,372,360</td>
<td>$24,541,139</td>
<td>$26,252,000</td>
<td>$708,640</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>263,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### North Georgia Conference Budgeted and Actual Apportionment Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>16,199,425</td>
<td>15,364,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>17,453,365</td>
<td>16,617,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>19,114,390</td>
<td>17,776,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>21,178,125</td>
<td>19,535,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>22,315,000</td>
<td>20,669,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>23,051,600</td>
<td>20,650,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>24,038,000</td>
<td>22,079,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>24,340,000</td>
<td>22,423,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25,541,139</td>
<td>26,252,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 201g. Graphs

![Graph showing budgeted and actual apportionment receipts from 2000 to 2009](image-url)
North Georgia Conference Budget Percentage Increase

Comparison of Local Church Spending Increases vs. Conference Apportionment Increases
General/Jurisdictional Apportionments as a Percentage of Conference Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Conference Apportionments Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
201h. Interpretation of Recommended 2009 Budget

The proposed budget for 2009 is $26,252,000, an increase of 2.8% over the 2008 budget.

AREA-BY-AREA REVIEW

CONFERENCE FUNDS:

AREA I. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

Episcopal Residence/Office/Discretionary $ 89,000
District Superintendents’ Compensation 1,658,093
Equitable Compensation Fund 321,409
Board of Ordained Ministry 489,400

Total Area I $ 2,557,902

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 2009, the General Church share of residence support is $10,000, while the General Church’s share of office support is $66,500.

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 have just compensation.

The Board of Ordained Ministry provides support for conference clergy through myriad services, continuing education activities, seminars and Emory Clergy Care. It screens and evaluates candidates for ordained ministry. This ministry enables our conference to meet the high standards and expectations of local church congregations.

AREA II. RETIRED MINISTERS PENSION/INSURANCE

Retired Minister Insurance/Future Retiree Ins. $3,318,000
Retirees’ Past Service Pension (pre-1982) 3,833,000

Total Area II $7,151,000

Retired Minister Pension/Insurance reflects increased 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. Also included is the current year premium (“pay-as-you-go”) for the Medicare Supplemental Insurance for retired clergy. The amount is based on premiums passed on to the conference by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Additionally,
funding to address the Unfunded Future Retiree Medical Liability is included here ($300,000).

**AREA III. ADMINISTRATIVE FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference Session/ Journal/Handbook</td>
<td>$251,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following Area III office “sub totals” include director and staff salaries and benefits and office related expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Treasurer/Admin/Computer Services</td>
<td>$589,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This office develops, maintains and administers a comprehensive plan of fiscal and administrative policies, processes and services for the conference and Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. Additionally, the office provides workshops for clergy and laity who serve as church treasurers and/or financial secretaries 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>$255,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Exec Asst to the Bishop &amp; Conf Info</td>
<td>$555,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This office provides assistance to the Bishop and is responsible for overseeing the Pension and Insurance offices. Also, this office disseminates internal and external communications via brochures, audio-visuals and the conference website and distributes public domain information releases.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOT/Methodist Center Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$67,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This represents net operating expenses for the conference offices, including utilities and housekeeping and maintenance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Finance and Administration</td>
<td>$96,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This includes conference audit fees, legal fees and meeting expenses for CFA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet Expenses</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This represents expenses for Cabinet members related to Cabinet meetings, including Annual Conference session, Minister’s Week and Pastor’s School.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency Reserve and other</td>
<td>$100,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area III</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,986,517</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AREA IV. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES

Connectional Ministries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Related Expenses</td>
<td>$557,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program/Ministry Teams</td>
<td>$267,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended/Related Agencies</td>
<td>$310,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping Ministries</td>
<td>$198,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Leadership Development</td>
<td>$24,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Total Connect. Ministries $1,358,292

The Connectional Ministries functions are responsible for equipping and training local church leaders for effective ministry.

Action Ministries $750,000

This ministry continues the transformation of communities by counteracting social issues such as poverty. This line item includes salary support and an underpayment factor.

Ministry of the Laity $29,900

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.

Committee on Small Membership Churches $600

This line item will help fund efforts to strengthen the ministry of those churches whose membership is less than 200.

Total Area IV $2,138,79

AREA V. CAPITAL FUNDING

Total Area V $311,000

This line item includes a total of $145,000 for Camp Glisson and $20,000 for Camp Wesley. Also included is $56,000 for equipment and a modest “replacement reserve” of $140,000 that partially addresses depreciation on the United Methodist Center.

AREA VI. HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Total Area VI $1,227,231

This line item represents support to the seven (7) United Methodist Colleges (5 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. CHURCH DEVELOPMENT $2,586,106

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 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 our New Church Leadership Academy as well as to train our assessment teams.

Natural Church Development - Funds in this area are used to facilitate a process by which existing churches discover the areas of ministry that will provide the most improvement in the overall health of the church. This activity includes training lay and clergy “coaches” to work with churches and pastors. The liquid fund balance committed to previously started projects as of 12/31/2007 is $419,518; commitments total $835,850. The fund balance represented by real estate (illiquid) at 12/31/2007 is $2,140,642.

AREA XIII. SIMPSONWOOD $657,000

This item is funding 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.

SUB TOTAL 2009 CONFERENCE PROPOSED BUDGET $18,615,548

GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS:

AREA VII. BLACK COLLEGE FUND Total Area VII $522,176

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 $1,308,910

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 12/31/2007 is $110,625. 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 $ 102,010

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 2009 is support for:

- National Council of Churches $33,000
- World Council of Churches $28,000
- World Methodist Council $24,000
- Pan-Methodist Commissions $3,000
- Ecumenical/Multilateral Conv $13,000
- Other $ 67

AREA X. WORLD SERVICE FUND

Total Area X $ 3,784,454

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. In the current quadrennium, $22,000,000 was
included for the Igniting Ministries program. This program was funded from
reserve funds (off-budget) in the previous quadrennium.

AREA XI. AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Total Area XI $ 116,867

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 $ 1,027,967

This fund pays the salaries 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. The salary for active bishops for 2009 will be $125,658.

AREA XV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

Total Area XV $ 421,693

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 2009 GENERAL FUNDS PROPOSED BUDGET $ 7,284,077

JURISDICTIONAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUNDS:

AREA XVI. JURISDICTIONAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUND

Total Area XVI $ 352,375

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

GRAND TOTAL 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET $26,252,000

201i. 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 2009 budget, the latest available reports are the 2007 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 920+ North Georgia United Methodist churches. For 2007, this total was $180,347,326.
Step 5: We determine “the decimal”. This is the conference budget divided by total church operating expenses (from step four). The decimal for 2009 is .146, or 14.6%. This compares to 14.8% in 2008.

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 fifteen individual apportionment line items.

Step 7: Churches above 1000 members will have a “reasonableness test” applied to their apportionments, and the Cabinet will 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.

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.

201j. Conference Restructuring

If the Annual Conference approves the recommendations of the Committee on Conference Staffing and Number of Districts, the 2009 budget will appear as follows, with prior periods restated for consistency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Georgia Conference:</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% Chng</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Ministerial Support/Equitable Compensation</td>
<td>$2,300,065</td>
<td>$2,294,722</td>
<td>$2,339,912</td>
<td>$2,557,902</td>
<td>$217,990</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>$263,180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Retired Ministers Pension and Insurance</td>
<td>6,587,000</td>
<td>6,229,588</td>
<td>6,931,000</td>
<td>7,151,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>921,412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Administrative Budget</td>
<td>1,975,287</td>
<td>1,799,223</td>
<td>1,983,576</td>
<td>1,986,517</td>
<td>2,941</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>143,283</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>2,245,736</td>
<td>2,069,456</td>
<td>2,312,959</td>
<td>2,372,957</td>
<td>59,998</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>303,501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Capital Funding</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>178,717</td>
<td>266,365</td>
<td>265,540</td>
<td>18,175</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>143,283</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Higher Education and Campus Ministry</td>
<td>1,165,853</td>
<td>1,077,675</td>
<td>1,180,030</td>
<td>1,227,231</td>
<td>47,201</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>149,556</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. New Church Development</td>
<td>2,299,534</td>
<td>1,901,229</td>
<td>2,205,314</td>
<td>2,351,940</td>
<td>146,626</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>450,711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td>(93,000)</td>
<td>-12.4%</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total North Georgia Conference</td>
<td>16,848,475</td>
<td>15,542,610</td>
<td>17,969,156</td>
<td>18,615,548</td>
<td>646,392</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3,072,938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Church</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% Chng</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VII. Black College Fund</td>
<td>523,223</td>
<td>476,440</td>
<td>509,545</td>
<td>522,176</td>
<td>12,631</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>45,736</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Ministerial Education</td>
<td>1,313,985</td>
<td>1,187,848</td>
<td>1,279,635</td>
<td>1,308,910</td>
<td>29,275</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>121,062</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Interdenominational Cooperation</td>
<td>101,734</td>
<td>89,999</td>
<td>101,067</td>
<td>102,010</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>12,011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. World Service Fund</td>
<td>3,818,507</td>
<td>3,503,361</td>
<td>3,937,299</td>
<td>3,784,454</td>
<td>(152,845)</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
<td>281,093</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Africa University</td>
<td>115,543</td>
<td>105,896</td>
<td>112,523</td>
<td>116,867</td>
<td>4,344</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>10,971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV. Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>981,815</td>
<td>890,682</td>
<td>1,029,685</td>
<td>1,027,967</td>
<td>(1,718)</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>137,285</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV. General Church Administration</td>
<td>330,240</td>
<td>300,064</td>
<td>346,602</td>
<td>421,693</td>
<td>75,091</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>121,629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total General Church</td>
<td>7,185,847</td>
<td>6,554,290</td>
<td>7,316,356</td>
<td>7,284,077</td>
<td>(32,279)</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>729,787</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southeastern Jurisdiction</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% Chng</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$24,340,000</td>
<td>$22,372,360</td>
<td>$25,541,139</td>
<td>$26,252,000</td>
<td>$710,861</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>$3,879,640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the Annual Conference approves the recommendations of the Committee on Conference Staffing and Number of Districts, the 2009 budget will appear as follows, with prior periods restated for consistency:
201k. Council on Finance and Administration Investment Policy

General Provision Investment Policies

A. Purpose: As defined in the 2004 Book of Discipline (¶612.12) 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 (except for pension funds as provided in (¶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 (¶716) 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 (¶618(5)(2)(d). A listing of securities held shall be printed annually in the Conference Journal (¶618(5)(2)(d).

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 character 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 (¶716) of the 2004 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 Depositary Receipts, except the common stocks, and the American Depositary 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, as well as any structured investment vehicles such as collateralized debt obligations, collateralized mortgage obligations, etc.

11. Acceptable investments will include funds managed by the North Georgia United Methodist Foundation, the United Methodist Development Fund or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

F. Supervision:

1. The Council will maintain and review:
   a. the investment policies and objectives of the Council;
   b. procedures for a periodic analysis, at least annually, of the application of these investment policies and objectives and the performance resulting therefrom; and
   c. procedures for handling the receipts, deliveries, transfers, and safekeeping of securities and the safeguarding of assets.

202. Commission of Equitable Compensation Guidelines

In The Book of Discipline 2004, ¶624.3 states, “The commission on equitable compensation shall carefully study the needs for additional support within the conference and the sources of income and shall recommend annually to the conference for its action a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and those clergy members of the annual conference appointed less than full-time to a local church, subject to such rules and regulations as the conference may adopt.” In the North Georgia Conference minimum base compensation is referred to as “total compensation subject to minimum salary guidelines.”

Definitions

The following terms and definitions may be helpful to the understanding of what is meant by “Equitable Compensation” for both what is required to be included and those pastoral support items which may be included at the discretion of the annual conference:
The term “Clergy Salaries” term has been discontinued as of 1992 Book of Discipline. Clergy Compensation refers to the total package of compensation budgeted by the local church or paying entity. The following terms are reflective of information included on the “Clergy Compensation and Expenses Worksheet” available on conference website.

“Total Compensation subject to minimum salary guidelines” (Sections I & II) refers to gross base salary paid directly to pastor, including allowances that are negotiated between the pastor and church to reduce taxable income. (Section II items ONLY) It also includes other cash compensation [(example listed in I.(2) ).]

The total of sections I and II on the Clergy Compensation and Expenses Worksheet must total at least the amount approved as the “minimum salary.”

“Base Compensation” – includes cash, non-GBOP mandated pension plans, payments to cover or assist personal SS taxes and other cash benefits such as bonuses. Section I (3) includes ONLY funds received from the Annual Conference that supply Base Compensation.

“Not Base Compensation” – base compensation would not include other items included in total compensation, such as utilities and other housing-related allowances, accountable reimbursements for professional expenses and cost of benefits such as General Church-mandated pension plan contributions, and life and health insurance which are borne by the paying entity.

Equitable compensation programs, at the discretion of the annual conference, may broaden the scope of a conference’s requirements to include elements of pastoral support beyond what has historically been called “salary.” The Book of Discipline is prescriptive rather than restrictive. The programs may also provide grants for pastors to levels above the established minimums based on prescribed guidelines.

The schedule of minimum base compensation may vary the base compensation for pastors according to any number of criteria, such as years of service, size of parish or educational credentials. Although not required by The Book of Discipline, in the interest of equity it may include all aspects of clergy support.

202a. Conference Standards for Pastoral Support

The Commission recommends the following items be included in the definition of Pastoral Support for 2009:

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 non-taxable reimbursement when establishing compensation.

202b. Minimum Cash Compensation

The Commission recommends the following minimum cash compensation for the Annual Conference in the year 2009. (This represents the sum of items I and II):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Connection</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Member</td>
<td>$30,300</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationary member</td>
<td>$30,300</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Local Pastor</td>
<td>$27,300</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Committee on Pastor-Parish (Staff) Relations [The Book of Discipline 2004 ¶259.2g(8)], which shall be no less than $800 annually.

The Commission recommends that all churches provide at least a 3 percent increase in base compensation for the coming year.

The Commission recommends that churches follow the annual conference practice of paying pastoral salaries in advance.
202c. 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 years 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+ 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. The Commission also recommends a Transitional Sunday for churches receiving a new pastor. The last Sunday for a departing pastor could be the Sunday prior to annual conference with the new pastor assuming duties two Sundays after conference.

202d. 2009 Equitable Compensation

The Commission recommends the following items be included in the Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan for 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item of Compensation</th>
<th>2008 Estimated Cost</th>
<th>2009 Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Compensation (1)</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing allowance (2)</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>17,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$66,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) may be broken out between cash, utility allowance and parsonage-related allowances
(2) where parsonage is not provided

202e. 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 Compensations.

The Commission administers the Equitable Compensation Fund to assure each pastor receives a minimum compensation package approved by the Annual Conference (¶624.3 The Book of Discipline 2004). 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. Following the first full year and each succeeding year, the grant shall be reduced by twenty-five percent (25%) of the original grant and the church shall be expected to underwrite any additional increase in the total equitable compensation costs. A church shall demonstrate its ability to maintain a full-time ministry by completing the application provided by the Commission on Equitable Compensation. [The Commission recommends the elimination of this provision in 2009.]

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 2004 ¶331.14, ¶342 and ¶623. 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 be supplements for the period January 1- June 30.

The Commission in keeping with the intent of The Book of Discipline 2004 ¶362 may disburse funds to a supply pastor or a suspended pastor as determined by the Bishop and Cabinet. In those situations where the provisions of The Book of Discipline 2004 ¶624.5 are not met, funds may be disbursed for or loaned to charges in accordance with ¶625.

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.

202f. Guidelines for Housing Allowance and Parsonage

Housing Allowance and Parsonage Pastoral Housing

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.

Minimum Parsonage Standards

1. The parsonage shall have at least four bedrooms of at least 120 square feet each with ample closets. The master bedroom shall have its own bath. At least one bedroom and bath shall be on the main level. There shall be at least two full baths in the house. A two-car garage or carport shall be provided and a minimum of 120 square feet of storage space shall be provided in addition to closet space. The main floor of the parsonage shall be handicap accessible.

2. Central heat and air are required, and insulation of R30 rating or higher.

3. A study shall be provided either at the parsonage or at the church.

4. There shall be a family room/dining room and/or a living room and separate dining room.

5. A parsonage must be furnished with window treatments, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, dryer, smoke alarms and mower or lawn service. Parsonage furniture will not be required (except for the above mentioned items) effective January 1, 2003.

6. Cable television or satellite service should be provided where available. The telephone line must be private with a minimum of two jacks. A fenced play area is recommended.

7. Pastors are encouraged to purchase renters insurance on their personal property in the parsonage.
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 2004 ¶2542).

2. The minimum housing allowance for 2009 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.

202g. Churches Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Yrs Received</th>
<th>Eq Comp</th>
<th>Total Compensation</th>
<th>Apportionment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Spirit</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25,810</td>
<td>65,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Chapel</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35,138</td>
<td>65,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laster Chapel</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36,422</td>
<td>66,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Head</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>45,422</td>
<td>66,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35,462</td>
<td>65,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Chapel ADOX</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45,750</td>
<td>65,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>AMRY</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46,074</td>
<td>66,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory Flat</td>
<td>GNSV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>(End Jan 08)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>GNSV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>(End Jan 08)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unionville/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Mount</td>
<td>GRFN</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12,240</td>
<td>(End July 07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill ChapelLAGR</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45,138</td>
<td>65,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns/</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>(End July 07)</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCA Hispanic</td>
<td>ROCA</td>
<td>34,964*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26,394</td>
<td>61,358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Carrollton First/Cedartown/ROCA
202h. Clergy Receiving Equitable Compensation – 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clergy Receiving Grant</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Eq Comp Received</th>
<th>Pastor Classification</th>
<th>Continuous Yrs Eq Comp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Brown</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>25,810</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Crawford</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>35,138</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Randall</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>36,422</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Jones</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>45,422</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Best</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>35,462</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Flanigan</td>
<td>ADOX</td>
<td>45,750</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Dabney</td>
<td>AMRY</td>
<td>46,074</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Cameron</td>
<td>GNSV</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikki McVay</td>
<td>GNSV</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Miller</td>
<td>GFRN</td>
<td>12,240</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Williams</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Maddox-Turman</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>45,138</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olga Rodriguez</td>
<td>ROCA</td>
<td>26,394</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

202i. Cabinet Level Housing Allowance
Task Force Report to CF&A

The North Georgia Conference Cabinet Level Housing Allowance Task Force met at Simpsonwood on Feb. 18, 2008 with Hank Huckaby, Jim Cantrell, Joe Tucker, Sondra Jones, Keith Cox, and Steve Wood in attendance. After prayer and introductions the Chair Steve Wood called for the election of a Secretary and a Vice-Chair of the Task Force, and Joe L. Tucker was elected Secretary and Sondra Jones elected Vice-Chair. The Task Force reviewed their charge:

**The Task Force was formed because of a recommendation from CFA that was approved at Annual Conference. On page 57 of your 2007 Conference Handbook, recommendation #8 reads: "We recommend that the Bishop appoint a task force to study the setting of Cabinet-level clergy housing allowances, including the possible adjustment of the base amounts based upon district-specific circumstances, and that the findings be reported at Annual Conference 2008."**

Much productive and informative conversation took place concerning the charge and it was determined that the wording of “district-specific circumstances” led us to focus on district and cabinet level issues like parity and
reporting rather than focusing on issues of comparison and contrast of district
issues in relation to local church issues.

The Task Force also reviewed the current policy as stated in the 2007
standing rules point #7 from the CF&A report:

7. We recommend that the 2008 housing allowance designated by
Annual Conference for Cabinet-level clergy personnel be based upon
the average of the highest 50 housing allowance reported at
December 31, 2006. That amount is $31,255. Further we recommend
that the utility allowance for 2008 for that group be set at $5,000.

Several thoughts emerged from the group including issues of parity,
reporting process, housing allowance minimums, formulas to calculate Cabinet-
level housing allowances, and several others. After a thorough and wisdom
filled interaction, the task force proposes these recommendations to CF&A:

1) That the formula currently used to calculate Cabinet-level clergy housing
allowance is effective and no change should be made.

2) That the reporting process (i.e. the Clergy Compensation and Expense
Worksheet) be standardized and consistent in order that all clergy
including Cabinet-level clergy use the same reporting components in the
conference database.

3) That the practice of at least one of our district superintendents to choose
to return to the district any unused amount be a simple but effective
model of reconciling varying housing costs and actual expenses.

4) That districts be reminded that the option to choose to utilize a district
parsonage is within their purview in accordance with the UM Book of
Discipline ¶2517.1.

5) That all district finance committees or their equivalents and Cabinet
members, for whom a housing allowance is applicable, agree to honor the
amounts set by the formula currently approved by the Annual
Conference.

Steve Wood, Chair


The purpose of the Conference Statistician Team is to help the churches
of the North Georgia Conference complete your End-of-Year (EOY) Reports as
easily, efficiently and accurately as possible. We are here to help you.
Highlights:

- **Net gain from other denominations: 2.5:1 ratio.** We had 4,859 persons transfer in from other denominations while we lost only 1,978 members.

- **More persons reached through church school.** We had more people attending church school but on a less frequent basis than the previous year. The number of members increased 1 percent while average attendance decreased 4.6 percent.

- **More people’s lives enriched by short-term groups: up almost 10 percent.** There was a significant increase in the number of persons learning the Bible and growing spiritually in short term groups, up by 9.8 percent.

- **Average worship attendance: down 2.2 percent.** Our average worship attendance was down slightly for the first time in a few years.

- **Membership: increase 1.1 percent.** The total membership of all the churches in our conference was up for the 31st year in a row.

Groups – Top 20 churches with the largest increase in number of persons in all groups: Trinity-Cartersville, The Korean Church Atlanta, Peachtree Road, Gainesville First, Mt Bethel-Marietta, Wesley-Evans, Norcross, Toccoa First, Smyrna First, Dunwoody, Due West, Athens First, Hamilton Mill, McEachern Memorial, Creekside, Duluth First, LaGrange First, Quest, Dacula First and Calhoun First.

Worship – Top 20 churches with the largest increase in average worship attendance: Carrollton First, Sugarloaf, Alpharetta First, Ben Hill, Mt. Bethel-Marietta, The Korean Church Atlanta, Creekside, Impact, Cedartown First, Fellowship Church, Providence-Fayetteville, Redemption Community, Smyrna First, Boynton, St James-Alpharetta, Canton First, Johns Creek, Dahlonega, Bethlehem First and Dunwoody.

John Dallas, Conference Statistician

204. **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. Terry DeLand serves as chair of the Council, and Virginia Tinsley serves as Director.

February 11 was designated as Homeless Offering Sunday for 2007. Churches contributed $217,490.01 to the 2007 Homeless Offering. 100 percent of funds received from the Homeless Offering are distributed as grants to ministries serving poor and homeless persons. Total receipts including foundation contributions and pin sales brought the year total to $234,970.44.

The Homeless Trust Fund is an endowment administered by the North Georgia United Methodist Foundation. This fund ended the year with a market value of $1,225,418.96. In 2008, the Housing and Homeless Council will be covering most of its administrative expenses from endowment earnings, and in 2009 the Council will pay its entire administrative budget from endowment earnings.

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 2007, the Housing and Homeless Council has awarded grants totaling $2,994,028. Priority is given to programs with a high level of United Methodist involvement and to those programs that provide transitional housing and permanent housing. 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 do site visits to the applicants and carefully consider the merits of each application.

During 2007 the Housing and Homeless Council awarded capital grants totaling $143,500 and operational grants totaling $80,000, for a grand total of $223,500. These grants were awarded in all 12 districts.

**CAPITAL GRANTS GIVEN IN 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action Ministries dba Atlanta Urban Ministry</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Ministries, Inc. d.b.a. Augusta Urban</td>
<td>$2,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHMEN Housing, Roswell</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Refuge, Inc., Forest Park</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon UMC/</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Drake House, Roswell</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfilling God's Assignments Ministries, Winder</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God's Marketplace, Inc., Washington</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin Area Habitat for Humanity/Griffin First UMC</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.O.P.E. Through Divine Intervention, Inc., Atlanta</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Habitat Barrow County/Winder First UMC</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Habitat N. Central Georgia/Hillside UMC, Canton</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Habitat N. Central Georgia/Johns Creek UMC, Forsyth Co.</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity Gwinnett/Cannon UMC</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Habitat Meriwether County/Greenville UMC, Luthersville</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Habitat N. Central Georgia/Roswell UMC, Milton</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Habitat Towns/Union County/Hiawassee UMC, Young Harris</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Habitat Pickens County/Jasper UMC</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Housing Initiative of North Fulton (Homestretch), Roswell</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta, Inc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mosaic UMC, Evans</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MUST Ministries, Canton</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Peace Place, Inc., Winder</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Rainbow Community Center, Inc., Porterdale</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Trinity Community Ministries, Atlanta</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Trinity UMC, Atlanta</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>United Way of the Central Savannah River Area, Inc., Augusta</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wesley UMC L.O.T.S. Ministry, Augusta</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Woodbury UMC</td>
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**OPERATIONAL GRANTS GIVEN IN 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Action Ministries dba Transitional Ministries, Atlanta, Carrollton, Cartersville, Dalton, Ellijay, Gainesville, Greensboro, Griffin,</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Harlem, Jasper, LaGrange, Lincolnton, Rome, Thomson, Washington Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>All Faiths' Christian Ministries, Inc., Griffin</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>CaringWorks, Inc., Augusta</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Clarkston UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Community Action Center (CAC), Sandy Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Community Welcome House, Inc., Newnan</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc., Augusta</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Faith UMC Manna Pantry, Cartersville</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Harris Chapel UMC, Palmetto</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Heard County Food Pantry, Franklin</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Hope Health Clinic, Inc., Griffin</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Living Room, Inc., Atlanta</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Midtown Assistance Center, Atlanta</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Never Alone, Inc., Cherokee County</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Norcross Cooperative Ministry $2,500 01
Ousley UMC, Lithonia $2,500 02
Redemption Community Church, East Point $2,300 03
Safe Homes of Augusta, Inc. $2,500 04
Sweetwater Valley Community Action Ministries, Austell $2,500 05
Toco Hills Community Alliance, Atlanta $2,300 06
Union Point UMC $2,500 07

Terry DeLand, Chair Virginia Tinsley, Director 08
09
10

205. Conference Communication Office

I am pleased to join the Conference Information Office in its seventh year of existence. My predecessor, Ed Tomlinson, has given outstanding leadership since its inception. We will continue every effort to maintain the high standards that has caused the North Georgia Conference to be a model for many conferences and for the general church.

A well informed clergy and laity is high priority in all that we do. Through our website (www.ngumc.org) we will strive to keep pastors and members of local churches aware of opportunities, resources, and other information that will enrich their ministries. Mid-week Updates and the monthly Snapshot are among the efforts to help us gain from the connection we share as United Methodists in North Georgia. Press releases, promotional material, and instructional videos are additional ways the Communications Office seek to aid in the ministry of the conference.

Inspiration and motivation is the goal of Monday Morning in North Georgia. Daily emailed Prayers and Celebration keep us connected to and supportive of one another. The monthly Prayer Calendar continues to be a valuable resource. It is not only used throughout the conference but the General Board of Discipleship and the denominational website, www.umc.org, utilize it. It is available for downloading at www.ngumc.org and we encourage its use in church bulletins and newsletters.

An extensive effort was made to provide complete and balanced coverage of General Conference this year. The communications staff worked very hard to provide the news before and during General Conference that was important to all United Methodists but especially to the people of North Georgia. Follow up details of significance after conference ended was also provided.

Working cooperatively with the Office of Information Technology we now have the capability of providing every clergy person in the conference with
a permanent conference email address. Two districts have already become fully functional with this new system. A staffed kiosk at the Annual Conference will allow others to secure their address and password during our week of meeting. This project will be completed by August 1 enabling more effective communication with great cost saving capability.

Many people have heard the United Methodist message of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” through radio and television. The radio spots written and produced by the Communications Office have been heard across the conference. These radio spots and television ads have been placed as a means of outreach and invitation to all, but especially the un-churched.

At the annual gathering of the United Methodist Association of Communicators, the Conference Communications Office won Best of Division awards for Monday Morning in North Georgia and the “On the Move by Faith” health brochure distributed at Annual Conference in 2007. The office won Certificates of Merit for the “UMTV News” videos shown at Annual Conference 2007 and for the 2007 Annual Conference logo.

I am privileged to work with Tim McDaniel and Sybil Davidson who are exceptionally gifted and deeply committed to using their talents to spread the Word. I am grateful to them for their outstanding work and to the conference for allowing us the opportunity. We solicit your prayers that we might continue to expand our knowledge and understanding of how to use electronic media and all means of communications in the ministry of Christ and the Church.

Information from local churches, pastors, and others in leadership is always welcome. We are happy to receive the information. We encourage everyone to continue to send the news of your events, projects, and celebrations to us and we will help to share it with others.

Jamie Jenkins, Conference Information Officer

206. Board of Ordained Ministry - Clergy Sexual Abuse Hotline

The Clergy Sexual Abuse Hotline is a service of the North Georgia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The Hotline will receive calls from individuals who perceive they have been victims of clergy sexual abuse. Skilled volunteers will listen and give information on how to report incidents and to whom such incidents are to be reported. All calls will be confidential and anonymous. FURTHER NOTES:
1. The Hotline team was created at the request of the Bishop and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

2. The Hotline will be staffed by six or more skilled UMC clergy who are also licensed professional counselors or have equivalent credentials. The phone will be located in one office and the calls forwarded to one of the members. We have seven volunteers at present: Tom Camp, Mari Lane Brooks, Dennis Jarvis, Skip Johnson, Woody Spackman, Cynthia Vaughan and Boyd Whaley. The Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee and Cabinet will be asked about additional clergy who would qualify to participate.

3. Members of The Hotline team are not advocates for the victim or the clergy.

4. The Hotline team will listen and help the person express facts and feelings. Team members will communicate that the church/conference is willing to listen to them. The Hotline team will refer persons to their district superintendent who will work with the person after that. Team members may suggest a person seek counseling, but will not take any cases themselves, and they will not give referrals.

5. The Hotline Team members have agreed to these guidelines. Any changes in these guidelines will be approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee and the Bishop.

6. The Bishop, Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee may at some future time develop and deploy a response team to promote healing in a situation resulting from clergy sexual misconduct.

7. This Clergy Sexual Abuse Hotline statement will be submitted into the 2008 Conference Handbook as a part of the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry for consideration by the Clergy Executive Session and, if approved, for the information of the Annual Conference and insertion into the 2008 Conference Journal.

207. Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

207a. Pension Section

Clergy Retirement Security Program
In May 2004, the General Conference adopted a new pension plan: the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). The program became effective
January 1, 2007. The program has two components: a \textit{defined benefit} component and a \textit{defined contribution} component.

The \textit{defined benefit} component provides pension benefits, payable for life, based on a formula that incorporates years of service and the denominational average compensation (DAC). This benefit increases automatically 2 percent each year after retirement. There is a surviving spouse benefit of 70 percent of the deceased clergyperson’s benefit.

The \textit{defined contribution} component provides a cash distribution upon retirement (either partial distribution, single-sum distribution, or cash installments) from an account balance in each clergyperson’s name. The account balance, accumulated at an annual contribution rate of 3 percent, is invested at the direction of the clergyperson.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) contributions by local churches (11 percent of the Compensation Base of their clergyperson(s)) ceased December 31, 2006. Instead, the local church sends contributions to the annual conference, which in turn forwards them to the General Board for the funding of the \textit{defined benefit} and \textit{defined contribution} components of the CRSP. Each clergyperson’s MPP account balance as of December 31, 2006 plus the continuing accumulation of earnings will remain on account until distributed at retirement.

Many of the clergypersons in the North Georgia Conference, some of them retired and some still active, have rendered service before January 1, 1982. The method of computing their pensions for such service remains unchanged. That is, the annual pension is the product of the Past Service Rate (the PSR) adopted by the annual conference multiplied by the years of pre-1982 service.

The conference is required to complete the funding of the pre-1982 pension obligations by December 31, 2021. There will likely be a continuing need for the local church to pay apportionments for use in this funding.

Many clergypersons who are now active will receive pension benefits from all three plans: the \textit{defined benefits} and the \textit{defined contributions} plus accumulated earnings of the CRSP, the \textit{defined contributions} plus accumulated earnings of the MPP, and the \textit{defined benefits} of the pre-1982 service plan.

Other Benefit Plans

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) and the Basic Protection Plan (BPP) are administered through the General Board.

The CPP provides disability benefits to active clergypersons. It also includes spouse annuity benefits, surviving children benefits, and death
benefits. The 2008 CPP contribution rate is 3 percent of plan compensation up to two times the DAC. The local church sends contributions to the annual conference, which in turn forwards them to the General Board.

The BPP covers clergypersons who die prior to retirement with an additional $10,000 death benefit. These benefits are funded by conference apportionments.

207b. Funding Plan for Retirement of the Pre-1982 Pension Liability as of January 1, 2008 for Approval by the Annual Conference

The Book of Discipline in ¶1506.8 requires that the annual conference develop, adopt, and implement a formal funding plan for retirement of the pre-1982 pension plan obligations of the conference on or before December 31, 2021 and that the plan be approved annually by the annual conference.

The accompanying Funding Plan for Retirement of the Pre-1982 Pension Liability as of January 1, 2008 (the Funding Plan), developed by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) and approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), is an update of the plan approved by the annual conference in 2007. The plan is accompanied by the compliance opinion of the General Board.

For the purposes of the plan the Board has prepared a long-range projection that includes assumptions as to future Past Service Rates, investment returns, apportionments, etc. See the Funding Plan for a description of those assumptions.

Each year the General Board conducts an actuarial valuation of the pre-1982 pension liability of the conference. The Funding Plan shows that, given the assumptions described in the plan, the unfunded liability is estimated to be approximately $40,526,000 as of January 1, 2008.

The Board recommends that the annual conference adopt the Funding Plan, believing that it will aid the conference as it fulfills its obligations to our ministers who have rendered pre-1982 service.

Past Service Rates and Apportionments

In June 2007 the Conference Board recommended and the annual conference adopted a $644 Past Service Rate (PSR) for 2008.

The Board is recommending that the annual conference in June 2008 increase the PSR 3.0 percent, to $663, for 2009. The PSR will be reviewed each year, at which time the rate of increase may be adjusted upward or downward.
The Board is recommending that the annual conference in June 2008 set apportionments for pre-1982 pensions and related benefits administered by the Board at $3,833,000 for 2009.

In arriving at the PSR and apportionments recommendations for 2009 and the long-range plan assumptions, the Board has considered several factors – not only the effect upon the financial wellbeing of retirees and their families – but also the general economic and investment outlook, future inflation rates, the conference PSR compared to that of other conferences, the requirement that the pre-1982 pensions be completely funded by December 31, 2021, and the effect of all factors on local church apportionments.

A factor not mentioned in the Funding Plan is the rate of apportionments collections. During 2007, 92.5 percent of the apportionments for pension benefits were collected. The collection rate was 91.8 percent in 2006, 89.6 percent in 2005, 92.4 percent in 2004, 92.8 percent in 2003, 93.5 percent in 2002, and 95.2 percent in 2001.

Financial Highlights


<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension rate for each year of ministers’ service before 1982</td>
<td>$625</td>
<td>$644</td>
<td>$663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionments</td>
<td>$3,587,000</td>
<td>$3,757,000</td>
<td>$3,833,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionment collections</td>
<td>3,317,000</td>
<td>3,456,000</td>
<td>3,526,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment returns</td>
<td>805,000</td>
<td>91,000</td>
<td>455,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers</td>
<td>282,000</td>
<td>272,000</td>
<td>267,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions toward the funding of the pre-1982 pension liability</td>
<td>3,959,000</td>
<td>3,959,000</td>
<td>3,546,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets of the Conference Pension Fund</td>
<td>430,000</td>
<td>(155,000)</td>
<td>686,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets of the Conference Pension Fund at year-end</td>
<td>7,984,000</td>
<td>7,829,000</td>
<td>8,514,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Substantially all of the assets of the Conference Pension Fund are on deposit with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and invested in the Multiple Asset Fund and the Short-Term Investment Fund administered by the General Board.
207c. 2009 Recommendations

The Board submits to the 2008 annual conference the recommendations listed below.

John P. Adams, Jr., Chairperson

Recommendations of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the 2008 Annual Conference

1. That the annual conference approve the 2008 Funding Plan recommended by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

2. That the 2009 annuity rate for each year of service rendered by our clergypersons prior to 1982 (the PSR) be set at $663.

3. That the Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits remain in effect for 2009.

4. That the Basic Protection Plan agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits remain in effect for 2009.

5. That the 2009 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 $3,833,000.

6. 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 2009 pension and disability payments as a rental/housing allowance for income tax purposes, within the limits of the Internal Revenue Code (see Resolution).

Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the North Georgia Conference

Funding Plan for Retirement of The Pre-1982 Pension Liability – as of January 1, 2008

The 2004 Book of Discipline, ¶ 1506.8 requires that the annual conference each year adopt a plan for retirement of the pre-1982 pension plan obligations of the conference on or before December 31, 2021. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has developed the following funding plan.
Mandatory Funding Requirements

The unfunded liability for pre-1982 pensions (the present value of future pension benefits not yet funded) is estimated to be approximately $40,526,000 as of January 1, 2008, given the assumptions described below.

The pre-1982 plan requires amortization of the conference liability over the period ending December 31, 2021 by annual payments to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits toward funding of the plan. Each required payment includes a portion toward reduction of the unfunded past service liability and a portion toward interest on the liability.

Long-Range Projection

The conference Board has developed a long-range projection that includes the following assumptions. These assumptions are subject to review and adjustment in future years.

Past Service Rate

$663 for 2009, 3.0 percent more than the 2008 PSR, $644, and a 4.5 percent increase each year after 2009 for several years.

Investment Returns

1.0 percent for the year 2008; 5.0 percent for each of the years 2009 and 2010; 7.0 percent for each year after 2010.

For several years the conference has maintained a reserve fund (the Conference Pension Fund) that is designated for use when other funding sources may not be sufficient to make the required plan contributions.

Substantially all of the assets of the fund are on deposit with the General Board and invested in the Multiple Asset Fund and the Short-Term Investment Fund administered by the General Board. The Conference Pension Fund balance was $7,984,000 as of December 31, 2007.

Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of the North Georgia Conference

The Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of the North Georgia Conference contributed $272,000 to the Conference Pension Fund in 2007. It is assumed that the Foundation will continue to make contributions.

Plan Contributions

$3,695,307 for the year 2008 and an increasing amount each year thereafter through 2021.

Apportionments

2.0 percent increase for 2009 and a 2 percent increase each year thereafter for several years.

Summary

The actuarial services department of the General Board has used its most recent valuation of the pre-1982 plan, as of January 1, 2007, in estimating the
unfunded past service liability as of January 1, 2008. The unfunded past service liability as of January 1, 2008, $40,526,000, is the sum of the estimated unfunded liability as of January 1, 2007, $41,575,000 (shown in the table below), and interest thereon at 7.0 percent for the year 2007 less the portion of the past service liability that the Conference funded by a plan contribution on December 31, 2007.

The unfunded past service liability and the funding sources as of January 1, 2008 based on the above assumptions are summarized as follows:

Total past service liability, January 1, 2007 $66,962,000 Note 1
Pension funds held by the General Board,
  January 1, 2007 25,387,000 Note 2
Remainder – Unfunded past service liability,
  January 1, 2007 41,575,000
Interest at 7.0 percent for 2007 2,910,000
Plan contribution, December 31, 2007 (3,959,000)
Unfunded past service liability, January 1, 2008 $40,526,000
Funding sources, January 1, 2008:
The North Georgia Conference Pension Fund $ 7,984,000 Note 3
Present value of future funding sources (from apportionments, investment returns, contributions from the Methodist Foundation of Retired Ministers, etc., net of expenses) 32,542,000 Note 4
Total funding sources, January 1, 2008 $40,526,000

Note 1. The total past service liability as of January 1, 2007 is the present value of future benefits payable as of that date, that is, the estimated amount that if currently invested at 7.0 percent a year would be sufficient to pay all future benefits to the ministers and their surviving spouses.

Note 2. The pension funds held by the General Board represent the portion of the past service liability that has been funded by the North Georgia Conference as of January 1, 2007.

Note 3. Substantially all of the assets of the Conference Pension Fund are invested in the Multiple Asset Fund and the Short-Term Investment Fund administered by the General Board.

Note 4. The present value of future funding sources is the amount of such sources that, if they were currently available and if they were currently invested, would be sufficient, along with the pension funds held by the General Board and the assets of the
Conference health insurance is provided by HealthFlex, a cooperative
effort of several annual conferences and other agencies administered by the
General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Besides seeking the best
insurance for most favorable rates, our recent efforts have included an emphasis
on health and wellness.

The Insurance Committee encourages everyone to give attention to
caring for their physical well-being. By being proactive we can be healthier and
save money. In an effort to assist, a kiosk will be set up and staffed during
Annual Conference to assist HealthFlex participants (lay and clergy) to
complete the Health Risk Assessment (HRA).

Provision has also been made for persons to have a comprehensive
profile of medical tests that will screen for several health conditions. There will
be no cost for this screening, provided by Health Ministries Association, for
HealthFlex participants. The cost will be $115 for all others. Appointments can
be made for June 18-20, 7:00-10:00 a.m., at the Classic Center, site of the
Annual Conference session. This screening will count as the annual wellness
exam for HealthFlex.

As an incentive, all HealthFlex participants who complete the HRA and
annual wellness exam will receive a $50 rebate. These may be completed
during Annual Conference or anytime during calendar year 2008. Quarterly
checks will be issued from the Benefits Office. If the rebate is not received
within six months of completing both HRA and wellness exam, the refund will
be issued by the Benefits Office upon receipt of documentation.

If 40 percent of the active participants of HealthFlex complete the HRA
this year, the Annual Conference will receive a 1 percent rebate on annual
premiums paid. If 50 percent of active participants complete a wellness exam
this year, there will be an additional 1 percent rebate. These two rebates total
approximately $200,000.

After eight years as chair of the Insurance Committee I want to thank the
members of the Annual Conference for their support as changes have been
made, some rates increases endured, and the program strengthened. I’m
especially grateful for the care and efficiency of our pensions and insurance
staff of Karen Fullerton, Valerie Henry, and Val Bligh as well as the oversight of Jamie Jenkins.

William A McKoy, Chair

207e. Health Risk Quotient – Parthenon 2
ProCheck Health Screening – Parthenon 3
Wednesday, June 18 – Friday, June 20, 2008

The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God

Your Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits invites all HealthFlex members to take advantage of two opportunities during annual conference to positively impact your health.
1. Visit our computer kiosk station in Parthenon 2 of the Classic Center to take your Health Risk Quotient. Get help logging on, spend a few minutes privately reviewing your health risks.
2. Visit Keith Mullen of ProCheck from 7 to 10 AM on Wednesday through Friday in Parthenon 2 of the Classic Center for a FREE health screening. (Non-HealthFlex members eligible for $115.) You will be evaluated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid disorders, anemia or excess iron, and prostate cancer. Blood drawn by phlebotomists from Athens area hospitals. Test evaluations by Oklahoma University Hospital laboratory with results provided directly to you. No appointment needed, but 12 hour fasting requested.

Your ProCheck screening can count as your annual wellness examination. Please bring your HealthFlex insurance ID card.

Be proactive in caring for your health and encourage your family members to respect their wellness. Stay in love with God by staying healthy. Attending to our health reflects our love for God and makes us better stewards of God’s gift of life to us.

You can qualify for a $50 rebate with completion of the Health Quotient and a wellness exam in 2008. Every HealthFlex primary participant and covered spouse is eligible. Take advantage of these opportunities and be one of the first to receive your check!!
208. Committee on Episcopacy and Episcopal Residence

A major concern for our committees this year has been the implementation of the decision made at our last Annual Conference to purchase a new episcopal residence. This involves not only the selection of a new home but the sale of the present residence. A new residence means, too, that care must be taken to furnish it in a way that will be a credit to our conference. At the writing of this report a residence has been decided upon and a full report will be given at Annual Conference.

A task force of the Episcopacy Committee has been working on a Service of Farewell and Celebration for Bishop and Mrs. Davis. The service will be at the 7:30 p.m. Thursday night of Annual Conference. It will be marked with expressions of appreciation, recognitions and best wishes from the laity and clergy.

The annual mission offering will be given as a love offering in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Davis who have designated that it go half to Venezuela NOW, to support the training of pastors in the Methodist Church of Venezuela, and the other half will be used to continue Mrs. Davis’ work in the Agalta Valley of Honduras, a ministry to children through schools that also provides for their basic health and nutritional needs.

Following the service on Thursday evening there will be a reception in the Classic Center Ballroom to which everyone is invited. During the week in the Prayer Room, Athens A, there will be a book where you can write notes to Bishop and Mrs. Davis.

In conclusion, speaking as committee members and on behalf of the Annual Conference, we wish to thank Bishop and Mrs. Davis for their years of outstanding service with us in North Georgia. They have been faithful in their leadership and their efforts have borne fruits for the Kingdom. The North Georgia Episcopal Area is stronger today and has a more effective witness because they have been among us.

It has been our privilege to work with them, to share in their high moments as well as some low ones and to have them be a part of our personal lives. We are grateful for all they have done and to them and their families we wish all our prayerful best.

Buddy Darden, Chair, Episcopacy  Charles Hoover, Chair, Episcopal Residence
209. Conference Trustees

In consultation with the conference chancellor, the trustees continually discuss and take appropriate steps to deal with legal matters related to property with implications for the annual conference. Careful oversight is given to funds for which the trustees are responsible. Work continues with district trustees on previously discontinued and abandoned churches.

Reports from Simpsonwood are encouraging, and significant progress is being made currently and for the long term future. The Episcopal Committee has signed a contract on a new episcopal residence and it will be ready for our new bishop to move into upon arrival. A complete report will be made to the annual conference by that committee.

The Park Eye Fund is available but continues to be under utilized. The board encourages pastors of low income persons, retired pastors, and pastors who might need help with eye care costs. Applications may be made by contacting the Office of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

Deborah Marlowe, President  Jamie Jenkins, Secretary
300. Connectional Ministries

The year 2007-08 was notable for many reasons. One significant change was seeing new leadership at the helm of Camp Glisson. After nine years, Gary Greenwald moved out of the role as director/manager, and we welcomed Russell Davis back home to Georgia to fill that vacancy. Russell began on May 1 and assumed the duties of guiding Camp Glisson to the next level for another generation. His leadership has continued to advance the profile and effectiveness of Camp Glisson. Russell has been seeking ways to bring camp to the church instead of always looking for the church to come to camp. Every facet of camp life continues to grow and expand under Russell’s leadership.

Another significant happening was the development of a program that teaches churches how to get back to the basics of straightforward evangelism by simplifying the structures and the programs of a congregation. In 1996 the Book of Discipline was amended to allow churches to create any structure they needed to live out the vision of the Church. Over the past 20 years, many congregations have become excessively hectic with various ministries held over from any number of attempts to find the best structure for their situation. Now with sometimes competing ministries, congregational leaders are tired and frustrated and are seeking ways to re-center and get back to a clear path of practical disciple making. The working title of this idea is 1.4.4.8., and after its debut at annual conference in June, has been taught over 80 times in North Georgia UM churches. The program has helped many see a basic approach to the fundamental mission of the United Methodist Church, “Making Disciples for Jesus Christ.” Currently there is a writing team developing a study book outlining the process and illustrating how to simplify their leadership and organization for effective ministry.

In the past year the needs of local churches have changed and expectations of the Connectional Ministries office have changed with it. This office is an extension of every local church in our conference, and they are seeking more and more technical guidance for specific challenges and opportunities from this office. In 2007 Shari Rates and I taught almost 100 workshops in 60 conference churches. We also participated in over a dozen conference and district training events. We continue getting more and more requests for advanced leadership enhancement, conflict prevention and resolution, church structure design, re-visioning, and creative problem solving. These types of requests call out the best in the staff and press us to coordinate existing conference leadership for service to those seeking guidance, technical...
As we move through 2008, we welcome the growing energy for the work of this office and the emerging opportunities to share in the work of Kingdom building for Jesus Christ of which all of us are a part.

Micheal Selleck, Director

301. Advocacy Team

301a. Advocacy Team – Disability Concerns

Since the 2007 Annual Conference was held in June, the Disability Concerns Advocacy Team has been busy meeting to discuss how our Team can make contact with churches and clergy in North Georgia who presently have an active ministry with people with disabilities both physical and developmental. We feel that in putting together a complete data base we would be able to expand the scope of this committee and what it can do to be in ministry to more individuals.

During the past year we received seven requests for Accessibility Grants. This was an increase over previous years and I only see this continuing to grow in numbers as the years go by. Of the seven requests we received, three were awarded. In making these grant awards we looked at the completeness of the accessibility audit of buildings, what individual churches had already accomplished and an overall view of their total plan for renovation. Those receiving grants were Oak Grove in the Dalton District, Fair Oaks in the Atlanta-Marietta District and Big Springs in the LaGrange District. I received an invitation to attend the Fair Oaks UMC in the Atlanta-Marietta District on the Sunday they consecrated the new additions but was unable to attend due to commitments at my own church. This church has put together a collage that will be on display during annual conference on the Disability Concerns Advocacy Team Display table.

Those members who participated in this decision felt we had looked at each and every request and knew each and every church had kept in their minds that God is present for all, and building facilities should be accessible to each and every person.

In looking at this year’s conference theme, it is our belief that by opening your doors to all of God’s children a church “Will Do No Harm, Do Good, and
Stay in Love with God.” Only good can come when the doors of our churches are open and accessible to all.

When I look back over this past year I see many changes that have taken place, and I have no doubt that with God’s help and hard work by a great and giving committee, this will happen.

Dodie Risse, Chairperson

301b. Advocacy Team – Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC)

The ELCC is our voice that speaks for our ethnic diversity to all the many member parts of our conference. “The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God” calls us to dialogue and embrace our diversity.

The Hispanic/Latino ministry continues to grow in our conference. The challenge is to address the issues that are affecting these communities through local churches, districts and conference. Where as Hispanic/Latino churches are not numerous in our conference, their ministries can and should be active in most of our churches. The ELCC supported the youth camp this year which helped to reach out to this youth population. North Georgia Hispanic pastors joined with Tertulia to give voice to current issues important to their community. Tertulia, the Association for Theological Education of Hispanics, met to discuss theological issues around national immigration issues and the church’s response from Hispanics and non-Hispanics pastors and lay leaders.

Our Kenyan ministry at the East Cobb church has experienced much tragedy this year within the Cobb county area and in the African nation of Kenya. Many Kenyans were victims of violence this past year and there was much fear in their community. The nation of Kenya has been the scene of political and civil unrest which has affected many of our Kenyan brothers and sisters. Churches looking for mission goals to support, seek out leaders of our Kenyan ministry at East Cobb.

The ELCC – in collaboration with the Black Church Development Office, Black Church Development Committee and Ministers Fellowship of the North Georgia Conference – initiated the call for a strategic plan for the Black Church of the North Georgia Conference. Meetings were held with our Bishop and the Extended Cabinet to establish a plan for the coming quadrennium.

Pastors from the conference were given support to attend the 2007 multicultural event of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, Transforming Lives by Embracing God’s Diversity: Listening-Learning-Celebrating-Empowering.
To achieve the theme of the conference for the coming year, “The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God”, the ELCC has realized it is most important that the membership of churches of the North Georgia Conference engage in Christian dialogue concerning its richness of ethnicity, membership of racial diversity, and richness of all cultures.

George P. Lanier, Chair

301c. Advocacy Team – Native American Concerns

Vision and Mission Statement

Vision Statement: Determine the distribution of the Native American Ministries Sunday offering and coordinate the promotion of Native American Ministries within the annual conference (¶ 650). We seek to do good to our Native American members and friends, encouraging us all to stay in love with God.

Mission Statement: Congregational Development - Develop and support existing and new UM Native American congregations, ministries, and fellowships in North Georgia and the Southeastern Jurisdiction; Denominational Presence - Encourage new and existing Native American ministries to pursue connection to the UMC; Leadership Development - Develop Native American leadership for service in the UMC.

Role and Responsibility: The ministry of the committee fulfills its vision and mission to the Conference by meeting at least four times a year to decide what programs to fund, to report to the Advocacy team and Connectional Ministries through meeting minutes; to maintain accountability of all funds expended through the Conference Treasurer’s office; to promote Native American Awareness and Special Sunday offerings.

Scholarships and Mission Trips: The Native American Ministries Committee provides scholarships to Native American students enrolled in college or vocational schools. Students must meet guidelines outlined in our application form. Contact the chair for applications or information. Local UM churches may receive grants for Native American ministries within their church, and/or for mission trips to Native American reservations, churches, or ministries. Previous grants have benefited churches on mission trips to Blackfeet Reservation, Cherokee Reservation, Impoverished UM church in NC, and the Cherokee Family Advocacy Center, higher education scholarships to Native American students, Native American AA programs, and attendance at SEJANAM training events.

Ed Swehla, Chair
301d. Advocacy Team – Religion and Race

Purpose: The purpose of the North Georgia Advocacy Team-Religion and Race is to challenge the general agencies, institutions and connectional structures of the United Methodist Church to work toward a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through advocacy, training, reviewing and monitoring. 2004 The Book of Discipline, Section XIV, ¶ 2002.

1. NGCORR facilitated a March dialogue session with Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), providing leadership. The session was open to team members of COSROW and ELCC. Also attending were the associate director of Connectional Ministries, two associate directors in the Office of Church Development, Advocacy Team Shepherd and 2008-2012 team chair nominees. Follow-up planning sessions with current and incoming chairs were held in April and May to develop strategic goals and plans and to facilitate smooth quadrennial transition.

2. NGCORR reached out to our 12 district superintendents in October requesting they nominate one church or program in their district that “stood out for their emphasis on inclusiveness.” The Award of Recognition lifts up those ministries that are intentional about growing an inclusive church in the North Georgia Conference. Our heartfelt congratulations go to those nominated and to the district superintendents for recognizing and nominating them.

The Stone Mountain First, Elijay First, and Still Waters churches and the Mary Peaks Cancer Foundation at Forest Park UMC each will receive an award plaque and an award check of $100. They will be honored in their local district and be honored at Annual Conference. The other nominees will receive a Certificate of Nomination. The NGCORR handout will honor all nominees.

3. CORR partnered with COSROW to monitor the Annual Conference Nomination Committee proceedings for selecting committee chairpersons and members for the 2008-2012 quadrennium. CORR was invited to attend/monitor the meetings of the North Georgia delegation to General Conference.

4. Four CORR team members were among the North Georgia clergy and laity attending the Transforming Lives by Embracing God’s Diversity Conference at Lake Junaluska December 13-15, 2007. Two spouses and two visiting parents from China rounded out the CORR “delegation”.

5. We continue to participate with the SEJ Commission for Religion and Race networking meetings and events. (Lake Junaluska and Norfolk, VA).

A. Louise Adams, Chairperson
The mission of the Committee on the Status and Role of Women is to challenge the United Methodist Church to work for the full and equal participation of women in the total life of the church. We hope not only to challenge but empower individuals and churches to fully recognize the contributions that women make to the work of the body of Christ.

As in years past, we wish to honor the work of our laity and clergy women and to highlight the contributions they have made. This year we have done that in a new way. At Annual Conference, participants are invited to stop by our display table and to test their knowledge regarding the work of the women of the United Methodist church in North Georgia.

Because the well-being of our families is a high priority to both the women and men of our conference, we have worked with members of the annual conference committee to address the issue of childcare. As a result we plan to offer support for our clergy and lay delegates who have children by continuing to offer information about possibilities for childcare in the Athens area.

For the fourth year COSROW is partnering with the Committee on Religion and Race in the ministry of monitoring. This year we are excited to also be working with our Youth and Young Adult ministries who will help us gather a broader range of information. The process of monitoring is to examine and quantify the participation of delegates based on gender, status as clergy or laity, race/ethnicity and age. This ministry allows us to gauge our ability to appreciate the contributions of all individuals and it helps us to fully reflect the diversity and inclusiveness of God’s church.

We continue to offer support for our clergywomen who are in the beginning stages of their ministry. For those women being commissioned and ordained this year, COSROW is again offering the gifts of Books of Worship and stoles appropriate for the ordination ceremony. We are also working to build support systems for new and young clergywomen through small groups and mentoring.

COSROW will continue to work for inclusiveness in the business and worship life of the North Georgia Conference. We will offer resources for education and advocacy and seek new ways to address the issues that matter to our women and families. Our goal will remain the recognition, appreciation and full participation of all God’s people in the life of the United Methodist Church.

Nancy A. Johnson, Chair
302. Nurture Team

It has been our privilege to provide, training, fellowship and networking opportunities for people who volunteer in their church’s Sunday School, Bible studies, youth ministry, young adult groups, older adult ministries, pre-school directors groups and connecting with our conference’s Camping and Retreat Ministries.

Under the leadership of Elizabeth Nall, our Children’s Ministries Team meets with directors of children’s ministries once a quarter for lunch trainings where dynamic ideas and best practices are shared. They are planning children’s workers workshops, VBS trainings and providing networking among their community.

Our Youth Team has worked on activities such as our Spiritual Life Advances “Living a part of God’s Greater Story!” This spring, youth from our conference participated in the Washington DS/UN Seminar to consider the role of the church in social issues on a global level. Confirmation retreats at Camp Glisson were also a major focus for our youth team this year.

Chris Schutz led our Adult Nurture Team in hosting a major event called “True North” where declining membership churches were offered training on revitalizing and setting the course for increasing discipleship. This team is also putting together a North Georgia Methodist Resource network. In addition they are working on teaming up with local counselors and speakers who would be willing to lead seminars in local churches.

Older Adult Ministries sponsored another successful training event called Golden Opportunities which focused on caring for, involving and keeping Baby Boomers in ministry and mission.

And Sunday School and Beyond is pleased to invite you to attend our event on August 16 at LaGrange College as we “Journey Into the Bible” and tour Jim Fleming’s Antiquities Center and participate in one workshop.

Betsy Haas, Chair
302a. Nurture Team – Adult Ministries

The Adult Nurture team seeks to help the local church make mature adult disciples of Jesus Christ in all areas of life. We want all North Georgia Methodists to follow Jesus and live out God’s call to “Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God” in their communities, churches, jobs, marriages, and the parenting of their children.

In the last year we have worked toward this mission by empowering a spirit of renewal into our local churches through the True North Conference in February. The dynamic teaching of Warren Lathem and Walter Kimbrough inspired us to strengthen the local church’s ability to reach our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ and make stronger disciples. Even if you or your church did not attend True North, our team is making this wonderful conference available in a DVD format that can be used as a leadership retreat in your local church. Contact Chris Shurtz for more details on this offer.

We are also working with our North Georgia conference web office to offer the North Georgia Methodist Resource Network. This conference database will allow North Georgia churches to share discipleship resources with one another. It will be located at the ngumc.org website in data services and will allow churches to share video, DVD and bible study curriculum with other neighboring churches. This will be a great resource especially for small and medium churches that do not have the ability to purchase expensive education and discipleship curriculum. We are working to have NGMRN up and running by Annual Conference 2009 and hope your church will join this connectional approach to making disciples for Christ.

If you have an idea how we can help your local church make stronger adult disciples, please feel free to call or e-mail and let us know.

Chris Shurtz, Chair

302b. Nurture Team – Children’s Ministry

“Give us a little time we will save you a lot of time!”
Vision – we want to be a support and educational development group for all who are in children’s ministry making disciples of Christ with our children.

Programming and Ministry

February 28, 2008 – The conference network team had a spectacular event at Roswell UMC. Family therapist Catherine McCall spoke about how to minister to children in crisis, and Diane Morgan provided us with information
regarding curriculum that assist children in need of divorce care. You can find an exceptional bibliography of resources for those working with grieving children beyond those that Mrs. McCall provided at the workshop. For more information go to: [www.bringingbabyhometogeorgia.com](http://www.bringingbabyhometogeorgia.com). Click the My Practice section in the left side margin and there is an underlined title of the talk, “Helping Children Deal with Loss.”

September 18, 2008 – Advent/Easter workshop at Duluth UMC. Bring your best Advent and Easter programs that you have implemented into your ministry program at your church to share with everyone. You can prepare your Advent and Easter programs at your church by simply checking out everyone’s ideas they are sharing. It is a one-stop shop for the Christian Calendar year.

November 13, 2008 – Northside UMC will host a special needs ministry with children program. Northside has strategically placed a minister to children with special needs. We will learn how Northside implements their special needs ministry and hear from well trained speakers on the topic of how to create a welcoming and hospitable environment to children with special needs.

Progress for this Year

Leslie Yokely, the children’s minister from Duluth UMC, is setting up a mentoring program for children’s ministers. Stop by the booth at annual conference or look online for the sign ups to request a mentor.

Elizabeth Nall, Chair

302c. Nurture Team – Young Adult Ministry Task Force

The North Georgia conference created the Young Adult Task Force two years ago to identify ways of attracting the missing generation of 18-35 year-olds to the United Methodist churches of North Georgia. We made great progress but much work is needed to continue addressing this important issue. **We respectfully ask that you vote to continue our work in the coming year.**

The Young Adult Task Force accomplished two main goals this year:

- A conference-wide survey
- Two proposals for increasing young adult participation at Annual Conference

First, we surveyed local churches about their desire to reach out to young adults. We are still receiving results and processing the findings. The preliminary results are encouraging. Many of the respondents are willing to try unconventional ministries aimed at attracting Young Adults. The churches, with some help, seem open to ideas such as social gatherings outside the church.
walls, hands on service projects, and topical studies that are relevant to Young Adults issues and lifestyles.

Secondly, we are hoping to continue to increase the number of Young Adult attendees at Annual Conference by hosting special events focused to draw them to the conference. And in turn, we hope to increase the number of young adults present at Annual Conference through the opportunity for districts to choose young people between the ages of 18 and 40 as their at-large lay delegates.

This coming year, we are excited about our task of encouraging new life, excitement, energy and representation of Young Adults in the church.

Young Adult Task Force

302d. Nurture Team – Ministries with Youth

There is much to celebrate throughout Conference Youth Ministries. It has been a year of growth and continued focus on resourcing churches to better minister to the needs of the youth within their church walls and within the surrounding community. I’d like to point out three specific things to share.

As the volunteer staff for our Spiritual Life Retreats (SLR) continues to develop, we continue to experience lives being changed and purposes defined. High school and college kids alike are offered an opportunity to explore their gifts in a safe, encouraging environment and asked tough questions which leads to the exploration of God’s call on their lives. Just this year, a student declared his desire to enter the candidacy process and yet another shared how this opportunity gave her the community she needed to explore a life devoted to missions. Two additional students were able to use their gifts in videography and technology to create videos used in our worship gatherings to bring life, connection, and focus to the theme. I believe SLR staff is a strong conduit for growing leaders for active service in Christ’s church both today and the future.

This year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries took on a heavy project. At the fall gathering, they had profound goals and ideas about the change they hope to see in the church. Those conversations birthed a set of devotions written by young people focusing on issues of diversity that we face every day. Small groups, Sunday School classes, and individuals were challenged to dig deep into their past, prejudices, and assumptions to find healing truth.

And finally, I’m pleased to announce that the North Georgia Conference Community of youthworkers has been formed in conjunction with the national Youthworker Movement. The community encourages and supports each other
in our ministry with youth while strengthening the professional field of full time youth ministry. Realizing that we are each other’s best resource, the networking piece is a huge draw.

It has been a spectacular year! I’m confident that beautiful things are happening throughout the young people and youthworkers in our conference at the lead of the Holy Spirit. It’s an honor to be a part of it!

Shari Hickom, Conference Youth/Young Adult Coordinator

303. Outreach Team

Since 1992 I have been privileged to serve in one aspect or another the missions endeavors of this annual conference. Sixteen years is a long time, and I have seen many changes – some good and some not so good.

The best change is the passionate commitment of local churches to doing hands on missions. We are no longer satisfied to see others do missions while we simply write the checks. From large membership churches to small membership churches, we are involved. On the negative side, there has been an increasing questioning of the motives of those who disagree with “us.” Committed Christians can disagree without impugning the faith of the “other.” Missionaries can come with different world views and still serve our Risen Lord. My prayer for our conference and our new conference leadership is that we serve Jesus Christ and his people throughout the world.

I want to thank the people who have worked so faithfully for missions on the Conference Council on Ministries and Connectional Ministries: Joe Crawford, Jonathan Holston, Bridgette Young, Derrick Rhodes, and Shari Rates. Each of these persons made an incredible impact on missions. I am almost afraid to begin to name the laity who made missions their life because I will leave someone out. Mission teams to Redbird, Henderson Settlement, and Sager-Brown, you will each be in my memory.

Lastly, I want to thank the current members of the Outreach Team for their zeal and service: Sue Raymond, our secretary, who kept us on task and served as our collective memory; Steve Winter, our vice chair, who reminded us why we were there and presided when needed; Mike Yoder, chair of the Disaster Response Committee, who served so ably when disasters struck locally or regionally; Shan Yohan, Chair of the Resettlement Committee, who lifted up the plight of the stranger among us and then made a difference; Renita Hall-Thompson, Chair of Health and Wellness, who developed new ways of seeing the health needs of our conference and local churches.
In summation, each part of the Outreach Team has been able to do its missions because of the faithfulness of the churches of North Georgia in paying their apportionments and then going out to the highways and the byways to spread scriptural holiness in the land. Thank you, North Georgia United Methodists.

D. Alan Smith, Chairperson

303a. Outreach Team – Conference Secretaries for Global Ministries

The co-conference secretaries for Global Ministries serving the North Georgia Conference for calendar year 2007 are Shan Yohan and Terry Raymond.

During the 2007 calendar year a Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) was established. The members of the committee are Warren Harbert (chair), Jo Harbert, Joe Crawford, Ellynda Lipsey, Joy Magnus, Shan Yohan and Terry Raymond. The committee interviewed three missionary candidates and one deaconess candidate. It was with pleasure that Jo (Elna) Sheetz was highly recommended and accepted as a deaconess candidate. Her commissioning service was March 11, 2008.

The appointment by the GBGM of a Southeastern Jurisdiction Missionary Interpreter in Residence was made in May 2007. Welcomed by the annual conference are Chris Stockwell-Goering and his wife Martha. The Stockwell-Goerings are missionaries whose purpose is to interpret and support the work of the CSGMs and further the work of the GBGM for our annual conference and the SEJ.

The Co-operative Christian Mission Education Event was held at Simpsonwood on July 12-14, 2007. This co-operative event is sponsored by the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Women and GBGM. Each year studies are presented under the topics of spiritual growth, current issues and geographically related issues. For 2007 these studies were "Music and Mission," "Globalization," and "Israel/Palestine."

The co-secretaries attended a training conference for CSGMs of the Southeast Jurisdiction which was held in New York City on October 24-28. Shan Yohan attended the UMVIM sponsored "Connect" conference at Lake Junaluska on June 27-30. This conference also serves as a venue where SEJ CSGMs can break out to meet, plan, and organize future GBGM events. Some CSGMs are also presenters at the UMVIM conference.

The goals of your co-CSGMs for 2008 are to Promote the NGC Church of Excellence program and the GBGM Covenant Relationship program by
participating in annual district training events and district set-up meetings and
to establish a District Secretary of Global Ministries (DSGM) position that will
be the mission point of contact for each district.

The annual SEJ CSGM conference will be held at St. Simons Island on
October 30-November 1, 2008. The CSGMS and DSGMs will attend a training
conference to be held in Jacksonville, FL on Jan 29-Feb 1, 2009.

Terry Raymond and Shan Yohan, Co-secretaries for GBGM

303b. Outreach Team – Resettlement Task Force

We continue in the endeavor to “do good” as we welcome our neighbors
who are refugees, documented and undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers
and those who are homeless because of poverty or disaster. Our task force will
address needs of any person who needs “resettlement.” Atlanta ranks number
four among US cities in the number of refugee placements. 144 languages are
spoken in Atlanta. There is much need for resettlement assistance in Georgia.

We collaborate with ecumenical and interfaith agencies. Our main liaison
is Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA). In
Georgia, Church World Service and Episcopal Migration Ministries affiliate
with RRISA. We also collaborate with other agencies in the metro Atlanta area,
such as Refugee Family Services which serves the large refugee population in
Clarkston and Stone Mountain.

We have established a connection with services of the State of Georgia
by contact with the State Refugee Coordinator, Georgia Department of Human
Resources, Division of Family and Children’s Services. We are honored that
Shan Yohan, outgoing chairperson, was selected to serve on the State of
Georgia Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement. She will continue to serve
on this council. Ann Guckert is the incoming chairperson of the Task Force for
the quadrennium 2008-2012. Ann is a member of Marietta First United
Methodist Church.

We will continue to aid congregations of the North Georgia Conference
in “welcoming strangers” with financial contributions, transportation, housing,
food and clothing and above all by developing personal/family friendships of
love, care and prayer.

Shan Yohan, Chair
It is again with great joy and enthusiasm that I write this annual report as the chairperson of the Witness Team of the Connectional Ministries. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following persons for their faithfulness and leadership to the specific area of ministry: Carol Cook (Secretary), Martha Aenchbacher (Worship), Bernice Kirkland (Stewardship), Susan Taylor (Career & Vocation), Nancy Watkins (Archives & History), Dick Williamson (Evangelism) and Gerald Thurman (Cabinet Representative).

Likewise, I am grateful to the clergy and laity who served on the various committees and Dr. Winston Worrell (World Evangelism Institute) for his assistance and involvement. Furthermore, thanks to Michael Selleck and Shari Rates, who provided direction and visionary leadership to the team. Moreover, I would like to further express my appreciation to Martha Aenchbacher, Nancy Watkins and Dick Williamson for their exemplary leadership over the past quadrennium.

It is the goals and objectives of the witness stream to train, equip and enable churches, church servant leaders and others to share the good news of Christ through the various means of servanthood. The specific areas provide individuals the ways and means to express and exercise their faith in meaningful ways. The Witness Team through the Office of Connectional Ministries’ website provide links to key information, resources and training opportunities for churches to reach their potential in bringing persons to Jesus Christ and develop a faith-driven life of discipleship and servanthood.

The theme for the 2008 Annual Conference, “The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love With God,” is a reminder of the familiar words from the author Stephen R. Covey, “The Main Thing Is To Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing.” God is the main focus of the Witness Team because God is the center of all that we proclaim and our actions. Consequently, God’s spirit propels us to do what is right and care for one another unconditionally!

Therefore, as we move into a new quadrennium, we challenge the members of the North Georgia Annual Conference to “keep the main thing, the main thing” and utilize the resources and schedule events sponsored by the Witness Team. The individual area witness reports will highlight and emphasize the scheduled opportunities for awareness and growth.

Leon Matthews, Chairperson
304a. Witness Team – Archives and History Committee

Our Mission - Our mission is to assist with the collection and preservation of historically significant records of all North Georgia Conference offices, agencies and local churches. We stress the conference theme “The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God” by encouraging churches to properly care for the documents and other materials that serve to bear witness to our history as United Methodist Christians and further our ministry of memory.

Activities and Resources - During the 2007-2008 conference year, the committee began plans to present a conference-wide workshop with the theme “Church History: the Next Generation.” The planning process will be continued under new leadership during the 2008-2009 conference year.

The committee provided resource materials for writing local church histories and setting up a local church archive at the Gainesville District leadership training event in January 2008. Nancy Watkins, Committee Chair, presented a workshop at this event and also presented a workshop on records management for the local church at the Southeastern Jurisdiction Heritage Preservation Workshop in October 2007.

What can we do for you? If your office or local church needs assistance with any matters relating to maintaining your historical records, the committee can provide the training and resources you need to carry out your ministry of memory.

Nancy Watkins, Chair

304b. Witness Team – Evangelism Committee

One of the responsibilities of the Evangelism Committee is to choose a clergy and a lay person who will receive the annual Harry Denman Award for Evangelism. The recipients of the Award for 2006-2007 were Bishop Lindsey Davis (clergy) and George Pennebaker (laity).

Another responsibility is “to plan, promote and provide the training of clergy and laypersons in leadership in ministries of evangelism.” On October 20, 2007, the evangelism committee planned for a day of training in “Faith-Sharing.” This was led by Dr. Eddie Fox and Dr. George Morris. We had approximately 250 persons attend, and the event was very well received.

Thought is being given for two or three districts going together in the future for such an event.

Dick Williamson, Chair
Members of the Vocations and Career-Life Planning met for the first time on January 24, 2008. Mission, role and responsibility of the committee are:

Educate the church on the importance of Career and Vocational Planning to the witness of Jesus Christ. Our witness is connected to Jesus Christ, and we are called to reach the world with the good news of the gospel. Therefore, the world is our parish, and we are called to be witnesses for Christ. That call is lived out in the many areas in our culture and society.

The role and responsibility of the Vocational/Career-Life Planning Committee is to:

- Train, equip and enable conference leaders, church servant leaders and others on the importance of other recognized Christian service beyond the ordained ministry.
- Provide awareness initiatives for persons to explore opportunities beyond the local church to witness to the good news of Christ. This can be achieved through the following opportunities:
  - District workshops and training events
  - Conference workshops and training events
  - Provide consultation services for local church leaders

The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God – the theme of this year’s Annual Conference – is fulfilled in each Christian’s life when, as a disciple of Christ, every Christian realizes that serving God is their vocation. Various jobs and careers provide opportunities for every disciple to fulfill their vocation of serving God.

During the coming year the committee will be working to contact church lay leaders to gather information to use to create a web page, as part of the North Georgia Conference web site, to direct lay leaders and local church leaders to resources that will assist disciples in hearing and acting out their vocation to serve God.

Susan Martin Taylor, Chairperson

The mission of the Worship Committee is to encourage worship education in the local church by providing opportunities to encounter innovative and effective worship tools or practices as they glorify God and proclaim Christ.
“God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

In 2007 and 2008 the committee continued to share dreams about helping local churches in the area of worship. With the success of the 2006 Worship Conference, we elected to co-sponsor another worship conference with Hickory Flat UMC in the Fall of 2007. Low registration prompted us to reschedule the event for Saturday, April 19, 2008. The conference was entitled “ReGenesis; Heart Changing Worship.”

Our hope was to again stress the importance of excellence in worship and to “share the wealth” of resources with one another. The conference was designed for pastors, worship leaders, musicians, and technical artists. Teaching the benefits of having a worship team is a key component of this effort. We want leaders to learn about grace-filled worship that challenges, frees the spirit and provides new ways of responding to the scriptures.

We strongly recommend the use of the internet for finding online resources. There are links to the North Georgia website to encourage persons who are searching for quality worship materials. The website of the General Board of Discipleship offers a variety of information and ideas for UM worship www.gbod.org. For more in depth lectionary connections, www.textweek.com is a helpful resource. We encourage churches to share their experiences and knowledge by submitting entries for the “Best Ideas, Best Practices” portion of the North Georgia website. It would be exciting to know what others are doing in worship.

Martha Aenchbacher, chair
The Board and staff of Action Ministries, the Conference’s ministry for poor persons, wishes to express our sincere appreciation to every church in the North Georgia Conference, to the Conference Leadership, and especially to Bishop Davis for partnering with us in being at “The Heart of the Matter.”

On a cold winter night in North Georgia, no harm is done to a homeless family because you have supported our transitional housing program through your time, money, and gifts. A family (347 persons over the year) has a warm place to sleep. The children will be ready for school the next day. The mother is receiving training so that she will be able to live self-sufficiently. Good is done.

A woman, who is finding her breakfast in the dumpster next to the bar where she is waiting for her next drink, hears the voice of a friend who says “Rachel” come home with me and take a bath; eat some food; God is going to make you well! God does no harm but does good. One such place is the Breakthru House where last year 58 women received hope when there was none.

A father, who has worked for years at the mill, now finds himself unemployed and unemployable. The rent is coming due and the younger child needs medicine for her asthma. All of the family’s savings are gone and the darkness of depression and despair is surrounding him. The Action Ministries volunteer carefully asks him the questions on the in-take form, reassuring him that there is hope. Because of the volunteer’s deep love for God, her compassion for him is shared through her voice and he feels God’s love surrounding him. He knows that tomorrow is going to be a better day. Last year 2,212 persons received emergency assistance of aid with food, rent, utilities, and medical and auto expenses. The volunteer who was in Love with God helped the father regain his trust in God.

For 43 years the love I felt from God and my love for Him have found expressions in Action Ministries: Seeking to Do No Harm, to Do Good, and to Stay in Love with Him. Thank you for giving me that gift.

Action needed:
1. Confirmation of the Board of Directors
2. Approval of Advance Mission Specials through Action Ministries
3. Support of local Action Ministries’ programs
4. Support of our Annual Campaign and Endowment

Frank Windom, President
400a. Advance Mission Specials through Action Ministries 2008-2009

Operated Ministries

- Action Ministries Undesignated/Greatest Needs Ministry (Code 3300)
- Athens Urban Ministry (Code 3590)
  - Our Daily Bread Community Kitchen (Code 3590-Community Kitchen)
- Atlanta Urban Ministry (Code 3360)
  - Atlanta Emergency Aid Program (Code 3340)
  - Atlanta Children's Ministry (Code 3000)
  - Atlanta Women's Community Kitchen (Code 3360-WCK)
- Augusta Urban Ministries (Code 3430)
  - Community Clothing Center (Code 3430-Community Clothing Center)
- Breakthru House, Inc. (Code 3350)
- Gainesville Action Ministries (Code 3420)
- Rome Urban Ministries (Code 3500)
  - Community Kitchen (Code 3500-Community Kitchen)
  - Food Pantry (Code 3530)
- Family Transitional Ministries (Code 2330)
  - Atlanta Family Housing Program (Code 3360-AFH)

Related (United Methodist)

- Atlanta's Trinity Community Ministries (Code 3380)
- Atlanta's Northside Shepherd's Center (Code 3310)
- Atlanta's St. Mark Emergency Shelter (Code 3250)
- Atlanta's Trinity UMC (Code 3630)
- Ministries United for Service and Training, Inc. (MUST)
  - Marietta (Code 3370)
  - Smyrna (Code 3610)
  - Cherokee (Code 3570)
  - Elizabeth Inn (Code 3370-Elizabeth Inn)
- Rome's Metropolitan UMC Bus & Breakfast Ministry (Code 3560)

Endorsed (Ecumenical or Non-denominational)

- Crime Victims Advocacy Council (Code 2930)
- Atlanta's Community Food Bank (Code 3850)
- Atlanta's Day Shelter for Women & Children, Inc. (Code 3270)
- Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, Inc. (Code 2810)
- Metro Atlanta Recovery Residences (MARR) (Code 3860)
- Augusta's Golden Harvest Food Bank (Code 3430-)
- Augusta's Meals on Wheels (Code 3450)
• Augusta's Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries  (Code 3430-Cooperative Ministries) 01
• Gainesville's Gateway House  (Code 3600) 02
• Rome's Star House  (Code 3540) 03
• Rome's Hospitality House, Inc.  (Code 3550) 04
• New Horizons Ministry (Mtn. Top)  (Code 3320) 05
• The Partnership Against Domestic Violence (Code 2920) 06

400b. Action Ministries - Service Statistics for 2007 07

The Basics 08
• 87,547 meals were served. 09
• 63,627 bags of groceries were distributed. 10
• 6,830 persons received coats, clothing, and shoes. 1485 (of the total) 11
  adults and children received coats and blankets from the COAT program. 12
• 14,000 half-pints of milk were distributed through the Fresh Milk Project 13
  in Rome.

Beyond the Basics 14
• 2,212 persons received emergency assistance (food, rent, utilities, 15
  medical, and auto.) 16
• 1,885 persons received health related assistance. 17
• 6,774 persons received information and referral. 18
• 72 bikes were provided for children and adults for transportation. 19
• 324 bikes were distributed during White Christmas. 20
• 794 people received furniture, appliances, and household items. 21
• 1,625 persons received Christmas gifts and toys. 22
• 337 persons and 300 families received food boxes or dinner at the 23
  holidays.
• 997 Marta and bus tickets were distributed. 24

Investing in the Future 25
• 227 children were served in preschool, after school, weekend and 26
  summer programs.
• 58 women with addictive diseases were provided residential therapeutic 27
  treatment through Breakthru House, Inc.
• 164 were provided adult education and supportive services. 28
• 347 homeless persons including children received transitional housing 29
  and supportive services.

Making a Difference 30
Over 4700 volunteers provided 47,493 hours of volunteer service through:
Providing meals to the hungry.
Serving homeless and poor children.
Serving on Boards, Advisory Council and committees.
Hosts for fundraising events.
Providing clean up, repairs, painting and landscaping.
Repairing bikes.
Collecting and sorting furniture and clothing.
Preparing baskets and toys.
Supporting homeless families in their efforts to become self-sufficient.
Providing computer, secretarial and mailing support.

401. Aldersgate Homes, Inc.

Aldersgate Homes, a related agency of the North Georgia Conference, seeks to get to “The Heart of the Matter”, doing good and loving God by loving His people with special needs. We serve God through ministry with and to persons with developmental disabilities and by offering congregations opportunities to participate in the ministry. Aldersgate Homes provides facilities for group home living, facilitates independent living possibilities, offers a universally accessible retreat and recreation facility and encourages inclusion of all persons in local church ministries of worship and service.

During the past year, Aldersgate Homes served residents in districts across the conference. Local congregations and small groups partner with Aldersgate to fund residences. We especially thank our Partners: Decatur First, Douglasville First, Dunwoody, and Marietta First. We also appreciate our partnerships with the Friendship Circle, the UMW, the New Beginnings Class, and the Fellowship Class at Decatur First; the Joyful Class, UMM, and Craftsmen at Embry Hills; the Marvin Foster Class at Morrow First; the UMW at Tucker First and Gainesville First; and the Trinity Class at St. James.

Our homes provide safe, accessible, comfortable living at appropriate levels of independence for our residents.

Collinswood of Aldersgate, located on Lake Oconee, is a special place. Collinswood’s cottages, the nature trail that leads to the waterfront, the gazebo, picnic area, and fishing dock are all wheelchair accessible. Garnett Wilder Hall, our new food preparation, dining, and meeting facility to seat 60, has just been completed under the guidance of volunteer building supervisor Ken Lowery. We appreciate the many volunteers from conference churches who have assisted with the building process. Collinswood is available to all, with a special
focus on use by the developmentally disabled and their families. It is a wonderful day or overnight retreat location and offers an opportunity to raise awareness of special needs to all who visit.

The ministries of Aldersgate Homes go to “The Heart of the Matter”, doing good for His people. We thank all the churches that support this ministry, and those who give to our annual Special Offering. We invite you to partner with us in ministry through worship, service, education, monetary gifts, and advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities.

Becky Bocian, Director

402. Camp Glisson

A return to the simplicity of living is only one of a variety of growth experiences offered by Camping and Retreat Ministry. For 83 years the heart of our ministry at Camp Glisson has been the Heart of the Matter for our church – doing no harm, doing good and providing experiences for people of all ages to stay in love with God. These experiences of simplicity are more vital for today’s church in our frenetic society than at any time in Glisson’s history.

Almost 2400 summer campers participated in programs offered by Camp Glisson in the past year. The focus of our summer program is to provide experiential Christian education that contributes to campers’ cognitive development, social skills and understanding, and growth through stages of faith. These experiences are the foundation for our ministry in the development of Christian leaders. Over 100 college-age staff received intense leader training and experience last summer. There were 36 summer participants in our Leader-in-Training and CREW leadership programs for high school students. Glisson continues to take seriously its role in developing leaders for our church.

Three Confirmation Retreats sponsored by Glisson and five Spiritual Life Retreats wonderfully designed by Shari Hickom, Conference Director of Youth and Young Adults, served over 1750 children and youth during eight weekends this winter. In 2007, Glisson hosted 83 retreat groups with 4,576 participants.

Glisson Day, a one day celebration of Camp Glisson’s ministry, was held on April 12 and featured three former camp directors – Bob Lanford, Jimmy Moor and Gary Greenwald – presiding at the day’s chapel service. Charter members of the Cane Creek Falls Fellowship were honored.

With its completion in April, a new swimming pool replaced its 38-year old predecessor. Glisson is indebted to the generous donations of individuals and churches across our conference who made meeting this urgent need
Volunteers continue to play a large and vital role in Glisson’s ongoing ministry, contributing to the construction of the pool bathhouse, two new summer camping areas and three new shelters at our Adventure/Outpost site, among other projects. A new high-ropes course was installed in March.

Camp Glisson continues to be the beneficiary of a talented and strongly committed year-round staff and Board of Directors. As I celebrate my first year of service as Director/Manager, I cannot be more grateful for the people with whom I serve and for my predecessors in this position on whose shoulders I stand. May all of us continue to be faithful to the love, passion, gifts and prayers of the people of the North Georgia Annual Conference.

C. Russell Davis, Director

403. Report of the Task Force on Capital and Fundraising Needs for Camp Wesley

The 2007 Annual Conference asked the Bishop to “form a task force to study capital needs and fundraising needs for Camp Wesley.” Bishop Davis appointed the following as members of this committee: Sharma Lewis, chair, Yvette Massey, Howard Wright, Med Roach, Robin Lindsey, Jimmy Moor, Dianne Spencer, Derrick Rhodes, Steve Rea and Winston Carhee.

Camp Wesley is a youth summer camp enrichment program of Wesley Community Centers, Incorporated, a related agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. It has provided a safe, caring and fun-filled camp experience to many youth from economically challenged backgrounds in the Atlanta area for approximately 60 years.

In the 1960s the Camp was located in Lithia Springs and relocated to Fairburn. In 2006, the Fairburn property was sold and the new property which consists of 334 acres in Meriwether County was purchased. Historically, Camp Wesley, Incorporated has managed the property and Wesley Community Centers provided the outreach programs for the campers.

As members of the NGA Task Force discussed our strategy we sought to maintain the historic mission of Camp Wesley by: (1) continuing to outreach to disadvantaged youth; (2) expanding the outreach ministry to disadvantaged youth from LaGrange and potentially areas of the South Georgia Conference; and (3) by expanding the existing operation into a year round camping and retreat center.

While we were doing our work, two other efforts were underway. The Board of Directors of Wesley Community Centers issued an RFP for a detailed
property survey. The Board approved that Kaleidoscope Incorporated would
calculate the survey under contract by Camp Wesley, Incorporated.
Subsequently, Coxe Curry and Associates, fundraising consultants have been
hired to conduct a joint capital needs campaign for Camp Wesley and
Simpsonwood.

Simultaneously, further questions were raised by the NGA Task Force
about the success of this project. Therefore, NGA Task Force representatives
along with representatives of Camp Wesley Incorporated, Wesley Community
Center, Capital Campaign Planning Team, and the Conference Connectional
Ministries and Camping met to dialogue about the long term vision of Camp
Wesley. As a result of these meetings, it was recommended that dialogue
among these groups continue.

It was also recommended that in 2008 a resolution be brought forth to the
Annual Conference to establish a clear vision for camping and retreat ministry
for the North Georgia Annual Conference.

Sharma Lewis, Chairperson

404. Interfaith Airport Chaplaincy, Inc.

The support of the North Georgia Conference through Connectional
Ministries, local churches and faithful individuals is enabling the ongoing
ministry of the Airport Chaplaincy at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport, the world’s largest airport, serving over 95 million
patrons this year.

The Rev. Dr. Chester R. Cook, full elder in the North Georgia
Conference, is appointed full time to the position of Executive Director/Senior
Chaplain. Ordained IAC chaplains and lay volunteers assist with the airport
ministry.

Chaplaincy services are provided to the traveling public, military
personnel and the airport community. The chaplaincy program provides: two
chapel locations, one in the Atrium and the second on the E-International
concourse; Christian worship services on Sunday and special services on
holidays; camouflaged New Testaments for the soldiers; H.O.P.E. for the
homeless, hungry, mentally ill and unemployed; travel aid for the stranded; and
consolation, comfort and prayer for the sojourner.

We are grateful for the investment of North Georgia United Methodists
into this valuable marketplace ministry. “The world is our parish.”

Chester Cook, Executive Director/Senior Chaplain
For the Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers, the Heart of the Matter is to continue to provide as much as possible to enable clergy of this conference to live comfortably in retirement. To do this, the Board of Trustees endeavors to Do No Harm, Do Good by managing the assets of the Foundation in accord with its investment policy and with the advice of investment counsel from Trustco Capital Management.

The Foundation continues to have four ongoing commitments:

1. Based on a three-year rolling average of the market value of the Foundation’s assets, three percent goes to the pre-1982 unfunded pension liability of the North Georgia Conference ($272,000 for 2008).

2. Also based on the rolling average two percent goes toward funding of the unfunded liability of the Retiree Medical Supplemental Insurance ($181,000 for 2008).

3. The Foundation made an ongoing pledge of $1,000,000 to the Wesley Woods Foundation Aging with Grace Campaign. This pledge is paid in the amount of $100,000 annually through 2009.

4. Starting in 2005 a commitment was made to provide $25,000 annually to help retirees who need assistance with payment of their portion of the Medicare Supplemental Insurance.

The Board of Trustees is made up of three classes with the terms of one class expiring annually. The nominations for four new trustees are a part of the report of the Nominating Committee and will be presented for action when that report is made.

The Trustees of the Foundation pledge to the North Georgia Annual Conference that we will continue to believe that the Heart of the Matter is To Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God as we attempt to follow in the footsteps of the retired clergy who have made doing these things their purpose in life.

Sally Curtis AsKew Jamie Earl Jenkins

405a. Statement of Activities for the Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>$242,703</td>
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<td>Change in Market Value of Investments</td>
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<td>Administrative expense</td>
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<td>(55,124)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
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<td>$901,587</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers to Board of Pensions</td>
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<td>$285,600</td>
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<td>Transfers for Retirees Medicare Suppl Insur</td>
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<td>Transfers for Med Supplemental Assistance</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$609,023</td>
<td>$608,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(85,308)</td>
<td>293,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, January 1</td>
<td>$8,885,588</td>
<td>$8,592,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, December 31</td>
<td>$8,800,280</td>
<td>$8,885,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2007 and 2006 (Unaudited)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets:</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$8,942,780</td>
<td>$9,029,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities and Net Assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$142,500</td>
<td>$144,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>6,821,068</td>
<td>6,898,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James S Dozier and Martha S Dozier Fund</td>
<td>1,979,212</td>
<td>1,987,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$8,800,280</td>
<td>$8,885,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>$8,942,780</td>
<td>$9,029,988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Beneficiaries of Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of North Georgia Conference Payments**

- Unfunded Pension Liability: 48%
- Wesley Homes Aging with Grace Campaign: 17%
- Medicare Supplemental Assistance: 4%
- Retirees Medicare Supplemental Insurance: 31%

**Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of North Georgia Conference historical asset values for past 20 years**

- Millions
- Years: 1988 to 2007
- Graph shows asset values increasing over time.
406. Murphy-Harpst Children’s Home

The array of Murphy-Harpst’s services to children, youth, and families ranges from in-home services to the community, outpatient mental health clinics, early education and independent living to more intensive services such as residential treatment and specialized foster care. As early as 1914, founders Ethel Harpst and Sarah Murphy answered God’s call to take care of the health and education of needy children and their families.

In 1924 Ethel Harpst opened the “Harpst Home” in Cedartown for children who had lost their parents or whose parents could not care for them due to illness, death and poverty. Now a nationally accredited residential treatment facility, the Harpst Center of Murphy-Harpst cares for 50 children in residence at any one time, supervises 23 therapeutic foster care homes and provides the administrative and financial support team needed to insure the delivery of the highest quality of services within the resources of the facility. Services are provided to children from throughout the state of Georgia.

In nearby Rockmart, schoolteacher Sarah Murphy began providing a home to orphaned and needy African-American children in 1931. Now the Murphy campus houses an independent living group home, a community mental health center and Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start classes for 150 at-risk children.

The interventions and assistance provided by the Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers are crucial to the long-term success of children and youth whose early years were traumatically impacted by severe emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Multiple therapeutic programs – including individual, group and family therapy; equine therapy; art, music and drama; specialty groups; field trips; spiritual enrichment services; and special times provided by a variety of dedicated volunteers – all work together to heal the hurt and provide the hope needed for a new life.

Joanne Simmons, President/CEO

407. North Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

The North Georgia United Methodist Foundation was founded in 1984 to help churches, agencies and individuals within the North Georgia Conference multiply their financial resources for mission and ministry.

Our ministry goals include partnering with United Methodists to grow God’s kingdom for the transformation of the world; maintaining high Christian
and professional standards; and providing expert counsel, superior value and a comprehensive range of stewardship services.

The Foundation’s **Investment Services** are designed to meet a variety of financial objectives. We serve as a trustee and offer competitive rates of returns to clients who invest in money market, short-term bond, fixed income and equity funds. In 2007 investments managed exceeded $59.8 million. New receipts comprised of funds from trusts, individuals, permanent endowments and managed assets for local churches totaled over $4.5 million. The Equity Fund delivered net returns of 6.15%, outperforming the domestic Standard & Poor’s 500 Index, which yielded returns of 5.49%. The Fixed Income Fund earned net returns of 6.91%. Churches with a balanced portfolio consisting of 60% Equity and 40% Fixed Income netted good returns of 6.45%.

Investors who purchase Investment Certificates from the **Development Fund** earn above-average interest rates, prudently grow their investments and experience the joy of Christian stewardship by providing a source of funding for the Foundation to offer low-interest loans to United Methodist churches and agencies. The **Loan Fund** enables churches to construct new buildings, renovate existing facilities, purchase property and refinance debt to meet the needs of growing ministries.

**Planned Giving Services** help churches and agencies establish endowment funds, which provide a future source of income for the upkeep of buildings, missions and many other ministries. The Foundation also consults with individuals on donor advised funds, charitable remainder unitrusts and gift annuities that make lifetime payments while offering tax benefits.

**Capital Campaign Services** assist churches and agencies in raising funds for property acquisition, building construction and renovation, debt reduction and endowment growth. These custom-designed services include feasibility analysis, planning, training and campaign consultation.

Please contact us at (770) 449-6726 or visit [www.ngumf.org](http://www.ngumf.org) for assistance with any of your stewardship needs.

Bob Fletcher, President  
Chuck Savage, Chair
WHO BENEFITS FROM FOUNDATION FUNDS?

- SCHOLARSHIPS 1.9%
- MISSIONS 8.5%
- CONFERENCE PROGRAMS 12.0%
- RETIRED MINISTERS 18.4%
- UMC INSTITUTIONS 11.8%
- PLANNED GIVING BENEFICIARIES 7.2%
- LOCAL CHURCHES 40.2%

407a. Graphs

NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION GROWTH IN ASSETS 1987-2007

(MILLIONS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>1989</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>59.8</td>
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</table>
2007 was a year of mission and challenge for the Children’s Home. From the November 1 destruction of our Leigh Cottage by fire to our year-long struggles with finances the Home met the challenges and maintained its mission to serve children and families in crisis. Churches around the North Georgia Conference responded to support the ministry of the Home with gifts totaling $802,612.65, up 12% from the previous year.

2007 saw a rapid growth in the Independent Living and Transitional Living Programs for older teenagers. These older youth – ages 17 to 21 – are not easily placed in foster homes but they are in great need of mentors/teachers to help them with the skills of living and working on their own. The Independent Living Program is housed in a boys building and a girls building on our campus and receives youth who are willing to work at a job (and perhaps go to school as well) while they are learning skills such as how to be good employees, how to keep their living space clean and healthy, and how to keep a checkbook and manage their money responsibly. The Transitional Living Program places somewhat more advanced boys and girls in apartments around the area and maintains close supervision on them in order to help them continue to mature and take the last steps toward independence.

After some delays our new intake center housed in Whitehead Hall opened in January 2008. The newly renovated building, which was the old school building and more recently the auxiliary building, will receive youth 24 hours a day/seven days a week with boys housed in one wing of the building and girls in another. After entering the agency through this center the young person may go on to a cottage on campus, to the ILP or TLP program or to another agency if they have more specific, severe problems that need specialized care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided in 2007</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Financial Aid</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Counseling</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting Skills</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term Family Housing</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Family Care</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Care</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Living</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beverly O. Cochran, Administrator          Richard A. Puckett, Director of PR&D
The Wesley Community Centers, Inc. was founded by the Women’s Mission Board of six Methodist churches in 1902 as a settlement house for newly arriving immigrants seeking a better life in Atlanta. Today, the three primary ministries of Wesley Community Centers are the Bethlehem Senior Center, Project Extend and the Camp Wesley program.

The Board of Directors of Wesley Community Centers is happy to announce that our Interim Executive Director, Joy Magnus, has accepted the position on a permanent basis. The Board, staff and clients look forward to Joy’s leading us into a future that expands the mission and ministry of this historic organization.

The Bethlehem Senior Center, owned by the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, provides an environment of love, care and support for senior citizens. Due to the new senior citizen residential communities being built in the area, the number of seniors served at Bethlehem continues to increase, serving 30 percent new clients in the past year.

Project Extend serves seniors and disabled adults by providing no-cost home repairs for low income homeowners in metropolitan Atlanta. In 2007, Project Extend staff, contractors and volunteers completed 287 minor and major home repairs. Goodwill/New Choices has partnered with us providing their students hands-on experience. United Methodist church groups, Macy’s, college students/youth groups and individuals served as volunteer teams.

Camp Wesley provides a residential summer camping experience for at-risk children and youth. In 2007, Camp Wesley served 8-12 year-old children at the Shiloh Campground in Carrollton in two five-day sessions. This year, we will have three five-day sessions at the Shiloh Campground.

The 25th Annual Wesley Walk for Others took place in October at Stone Mountain. The Walk is our major fundraiser of the year and we were pleased to see familiar walkers and new faces. There were satellite walks around the conference and we are currently expanding our walk sites. We thank Stone Mountain First UMC for hosting us again, all the walk coordinators, churches and district superintendents that supported us at this milestone event.

Because of you, we can continue to be the Heart of the Matter in Atlanta as we serve seniors and children in the community. On behalf of the seniors, disabled adults and children we thank you for helping us “give feet to the faith of the church.”

Sue Raymond, Board of Directors              M. Joy Magnus, Executive Director
Our forefathers and mothers, under the guidance of the North Georgia Conference and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, established a premier ministry to and for older adults. Today we are privileged to continue to serve this significant population in our society. Our residential communities in Athens (2), Atlanta (3), Augusta, Blairsville (2), and Newnan-Peachtree City are comfortable, safe, secure homes for the more than 1,500 who live there. Our facilities on Clifton Road in Atlanta, with the partnership of Emory University, provide medical care for over 3,000 inpatient residents and over 45,000 outpatient visits each year. With gratitude to God, we can say as the United Methodists of North Georgia, that we have been able to serve thousands upon thousands of senior citizens. Now it is the present generation’s time to carry forward the ministry begun by those who have gone before to “do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.” These are some of the highlights of the year.

Under the leadership of Kenneth Weber, President of Wesley Woods Senior Living, the ministry to the housing needs of low and moderate income senior adults has continued by providing over $5 million in governmental and Wesley Woods related financial assistance to over 75 percent of the 1500 persons served. A current major focus is the refinancing possibilities of the retirement communities due to the lower interest rates with two having been refinanced this past year. The local advisory boards related to each retirement community continue to provide invaluable guidance to our ongoing ministry.

Under the leadership of Albert K. Blackwelder, Chief Operations Officer of Wesley Woods Center of Emory University, the Wesley Woods Center continues to provide inpatient services in the rehabilitation, psychiatry, neuropsychiatry medical areas, and nursing care, and a wide array of outpatient services in primary care, wound therapy, dental care, late-life depression, and neurological and psychiatric evaluations and others.

Under the leadership of Lillian Darden, President, the Foundation of Wesley Woods continues to concentrate on its primary purpose, the raising of funds for charitable care and the care of the facilities. The generosity of the churches of North Georgia through the Mother’s Day Offering is greatly appreciated and is the lifeline for so many older adults. Again this year, the Foundation sponsored clergy appreciation luncheons in the Athens-Elberton, Atlanta-Emory and LaGrange districts. We will do this yearly on a rotating basis to show our gratitude for our churches’ support of Wesley Woods.

        Charles Hoover, Director of Church Relations
At our August meeting we welcomed two new district lay leaders, Celesta Sargent from Augusta and Paul Norris from Atlanta-Emory. We also welcomed Jasmine Smothers, President Conference Youth and Ashley Eady, Co-President Conference Youth. The CBOL affirmed the presentations of Bishop Larry Goodpaster at the Laity Luncheon and Charles Whittemore at the Laity Worship Service. In October the CBOL provided assistance at the Faith Sharing seminar at Mt Bethel. At our November meeting Bernie Brown presented each of us his latest book “Lessons Learned on the Way Down.” Every person on the Bishop’s Cabinet has a prayer partner on CBOL; these prayer partners held a joint meeting and dinner on January 7. At our March meeting we enjoyed the hospitality of Zoar UMC in the ADOX district, joining them for Sunday School, worship and lunch, followed by our meeting. The four task forces of CBOL have been working hard this year. Their area reports follow:

**Leadership UMC (LUMC)** - Sam Kilburn, Chairperson. In 2007/2008 the sixth class successfully completed the LUMC academy. LUMC helps prepare persons for church leadership at the local, district and annual conference level. 226 people have graduated from the LUMC program in the past six years. Most graduates of the program are now active leaders in their local churches, in their districts and in the conference. The graduates have represented over 170 churches in the North Georgia Conference since the program began in 2002. This year-long program features four workshops to help participants discover their ministry: church polity, spiritual gifts, shared leadership between clergy and laity, and leadership skills. Small groups study societal and church issues and make recommendations for resolutions. Presentations from the small group research projects can be viewed on the ngumc.org web site under the Conference Board of Laity. Our long range goal is to have at least one LUMC graduate from each church in the North Georgia Conference. Applications for the 2008/2009 class can be received by each district office as late as 8/1/2008.

**Conference Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries (CCLSM)** - Verdery Cunningham, Director. Lay Speaking Ministries emphasizes Leading, Communicating and Caring ministries. The twelve district directors continue to increase the number of lay speakers through their districts’ offerings of the Basic and Advance courses twice a year. Most districts also held a celebratory Dedication/Consecration service in 2007/2008. In January we hosted the National Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries (ACDLSM) at Simpsonwood. For this event we published
a cook book titled Peaches, Pecans and Prayers, for those not familiar with our "southern specialities." The persons who attended this meeting appreciated our warm welcome and were impressed with the hospitality of Simpsonwood. In July 2008 we will host the Southeastern Jurisdiction Lay Speaking Ministries workshops. This will be the first time to have the annual SEJ training event away from Lake Junaluska. For more information go to layspeakingministries.org/SEJpage.htm or contact your district director. The courses offered at this gathering will be new for North Georgia. Last year the General Board of Discipleship began offering the 20 lay speaking courses in a generic form to local churches whose members want to become better equipped in leading, communicating and caring ministries but who are not interested in becoming credentialed lay speakers. The Conference committee hopes the local churches will begin to use this excellent resource material.

**Lay Missionary Training (LMT)** - Lenny Peterson, Interim Chairperson. Lay Missionary Training (LMT) provides training to equip lay persons for mission ministry locally or internationally. For laity who hear a call to deeper mission service, LMT helps clarify and focus the call and to develop a plan to implement the mission. In conference year 2007-2008 LMT trained and certified 14 Lay Missionaries. Most are planning local missions, although some plan to become full-time international missionaries. Local mission ministries dealing with handicapped children, substance abuse are planned. This is the eighth session of LMT. To date 81 lay missionaries have been certified. The ninth session of Lay Missionary Training will be held in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009.

**Lay Revitalization Ministry (LRM)** - Leon Jourolmon, Chairperson. This ministry joins laity and clergy for the purpose of inspiring and training members of local churches. The program centers around a weekend consultation event conducted at the local church, during which experienced team members encourage and train church members in ministry areas, including evangelism, prayer, music, finance, and church image. LRM consulted with Philadelphia UMC (Griffin District) and Tunnel Hull UMC (Northwest District) this year. We have four more consulting visits in various planning stages. LRM team members are passionate about their ministry, because matching churches that have a particular area of interest with laity/clergy trained in that area has great potential for the Kingdom!

Lyn Powell, Conference Lay Leader
501. United Methodist Men

A year of transition is the best way to describe 2007 for the United Methodist Men, there were multiple changes in leadership, several due to men going on to be with Jesus. UMMen ministries continued throughout the year.

In EVANGELISM, our prayer advocate has vitalized prayer ministry promoting training for Upper Room Prayer Line, National Day of Prayer, Prayer partners across the conference, and a prayer wall at events. Scouting and youth ministries continue to grow and UMMen are a source of manpower and volunteer leadership.

In MISSION, the men have been active in our local communities, in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and around the world. Locally UMMen responded to numerous needs. Several Potato Drops and gleaning opportunities were arranged around Georgia. In Pass Christian, MS, we maintain and support a Volunteer Center, where teams stay while serving in the community. Additionally, men participated in mission trips to Brazil, Costa Rico, Ghana, Honduras, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, and Venezuela, to name a few.

SPIRITUAL LIFE undergirds the ministry, mission and events of the UMMen. Study material, books and guides to aid in spiritual growth are shared around the conference. The 45th Annual Men’s Spiritual Retreat at Rock Eagle was attended by over 800 men, and the 6th Annual Super Mission Saturday had over 80 mission minded people in attendance.

Leadership Training is a continuous focus for local and district presidents and covers broad range of information. Annually Presidents Handbooks and Program Manuals are updated and distributed.

For the coming year, effective and improved communication will be used to enlarge the UMMen vision of Evangelism, Mission and Spiritual Life. Our goal is to reach, offer and engage every man in the North Georgia Conference in UMMen ministries.

Jasper J. Russell Sr., President

502. United Methodist Women

The Heart of the Matter in UMW is our Purpose. We remain a community of women who want to know God, by participating in global ministries, developing creative, supportive fellowship, and by studying scripture and related resources. In 2007, the UMW theme was Rise, Shine, Glorify God (Matt. 5:14-16.) UMW sought ways to do no harm as we took part in the “Truth
is Coming to Light” Conference in June 2007. Attendees were enlightened as to
the need for further study on the connections between mercury and an increase
in autism and other medical difficulties. See video excerpts at youtube.com and
search for UMW and Mercury conference.

UMW did good in several ways as servant leaders during Annual
Conference 2007. To name a few areas of service: UMW stuffed packets for all
conference delegates, were involved in the Great Day of Service projects, and
hosted the annual UMW breakfast. Former and current UMW officers were
elected as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

UMW ambassadors from all over the United States visited North GA
during the US Social Forum held in Atlanta. The young college UMW explored
major social issues and sought to find the good and share the biblical
perspective on the issues.

The Cooperative Mission Education Event in July was sponsored by
Global Ministries and UMW. This was an opportunity to receive new insight to
mission involvement for women, children, and youth. Worship, fellowship and
study for the Event focused on Israel and Palestine, God's Mission, God's Song,
and Globalization. Participants had the opportunity to study in English, Spanish
and Korean languages, “Singing Across the Walls” and finding Jesus there.

Annual meeting 2007 was a fantastic time of fellowship, celebrating how
North GA UMW had embraced the theme “Rise, Shine, Glorify God.” Dr. Jan
Love blessed us with her message on “Glorifying God.” Each district was
recognized for their effort to be in mission. A recognition luncheon was added
to show our love for individuals who have gone beyond expectations to
continue mission efforts.

Officer Update was a time to revisit policies and introduce new ones to
the local and district officers. Information was shared from the National
Seminar where the theme was “For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside
Down.” The events of 2007 have inspired UMW to…Stay in Love with God.

Tonya Murphy, President
Drew Theological School is grateful that the annual conferences continue to send us men and women for the various programs of the school. We are proud of our United Methodist Scholarship that gives full tuition to any United Methodist who has been a member of a UM church for at least two years, has a 3.5 from their undergraduate program and meets our other requirements.

**Enrollment**
Our 560 students come from over 20 countries and across the United States. They are half men and half women, from 23 to 74 in age, and in addition to the 70 percent who are from Methodist traditions, they represent many other denominations. We offer the PhD, the DMin, STM, MDiv, MTS degrees and ongoing offerings for the larger community. Kevin Miller continues to serve as director of admissions and can be reached via email at kmiller@drew.edu.

**Shalom Initiative**
As of January 1, 2008, Drew Theological is the new partner for the United Methodist initiative called “Communities of Shalom.” Often referred to as “shalom zones,” Communities of Shalom is a grass-roots, faith-based network of shalom sites that engage congregations and communities in working together for community development, peace and wholeness. Michael Christensen, who has been Drew’s director of the doctor of ministry program, is now serving as the director of this important community-based initiative.

**Clergy Health and Wholeness Center**
Associate Dean Virginia Samuel is working on the creation of an initiative to address the crises in the health of our clergy. The proposed Center for Clergy Health and Wholeness will respond to the precipitous decline in the overall mental, emotional, and especially physical health of active clergy members over the past 25 years. Through programming for clergy, denominational officials and seminary students, ongoing research in the area of clergy health, programs for laity to increase their awareness of the issues, and the facilitation of partnerships between and among judicatories, health professionals and health care systems, the Center will seek to educate and help clergy to adopt better self-care practices.

Maxine Clarke Beach, Dean
601. Study Committee on
Conference Staffing and Number of Districts

At its 2006 session the conference approved a resolution from the Council on
Finance and Administration asking the bishop to “name a study committee to
review the staffing, clergy and lay, at the Methodist Center and to review the
number of districts with an eye to current responsibilities, efficiency and cost
savings.”

Bishop Davis appointed the following as members of this committee:
Chuck Hodges, chair, James Cantrell, James Ellison, Jane Finley, Nancy
Folsom-Lane, Bob Forrest, Jonathan Holston, Tom Jackson, Bill Lester,
Sharma Lewis, Lyn Powell, Charles Savage, Herchel Sheets, Dianne Spencer,
Wiley Stephens and Edward Tomlinson. (Jamie Jenkins served in the latter’s
place in 2007-2008).

The committee gave its report regarding the number of districts at the
2007 conference session. Our recommendation to retain twelve districts was
approved by the conference. The committee is now reporting its
recommendations regarding conference staffing.

As the committee went about its task, we sought to keep in mind the
charge to conduct the study “with an eye to current responsibilities, efficiency
and cost savings.” At times we found ourselves inclined to think only in terms
of “cost savings,” but then some member of the committee would remind us
that we were to think also in terms of “current responsibilities and efficiency.”

The process used by the committee was an extensive one. Data and
feedback were sought first from the staff persons themselves, both by written
response to a questionnaire and by interview. The five persons in executive or
director positions were interviewed both individually and as a group. In
addition, the study committee requested written input from chairpersons of
conference committees about staff relationships with their committees and also
interviewed many of the chairpersons.

We studied certain demographics of our conference to see what light
these shed upon staff needs and services. We discovered, for instance, that
between 1984 and 2006 the number of clergy in our conference increased from
918 to 1422, a 55 percent increase; the number of pastoral charges grew from
653 to 794, a 22 percent increase; and church membership rose from 252,356 to
342,045, a 36 percent increase.

In light of these facts, we found ourselves asking if it was logical to
assume that the conference could function more effectively with fewer staff
persons now than when the conference was considerably smaller. We
discovered, in fact, that though staff relationships, assignments and functions have changed somewhat through the years, the conference staff is almost exactly the same in number now as in 1984.

We also made certain comparisons of the North Georgia Conference with other annual conferences, particularly those in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Of those from whom we received data, we found our conference to compare favorably as far as the number of staff is concerned and also in regard to the percentage of the conference budget designated for staff costs. That percentage in our conference is 6.74 percent. Only two conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction for which we have data show lower percentages, and that only slightly lower. While our conference’s decisions about such matters are to be made in the light of our own goals and needs, still it is helpful to know how other conferences are dealing with the matter of staff services.

A primary interest, if cost savings is our concern, would be with the number of executive or director positions: Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Ministerial Services, and Director of Church Development. Since each of these is a cabinet level position, elimination of one of these positions would result in the most cost savings. Yet with our 2008 budget of $24,340,000, the cost savings by the church with either the largest or the smallest apportionment would be minimal. That is not to say that a position should not be eliminated because it would not have much effect on the conference budget, but it is to say that cost savings is not sufficient reason to eliminate a position when it is critically important to the annual conference, which we believe is the case with each of our director positions. Therefore we recommend that the five Director positions be retained.

The Council of Bishops has recently recommended that the planting of new churches be one of the priorities of our denomination. That has long been a priority of North Georgia Methodism, and that has been a major factor in our membership growth. Church attendance has increased in our conference by 21,468 since 1990, and 70 percent of this increase is due to our new churches. The study committee believes we need to continue this attention to the planting of new churches, and we recommend that the title and the focus of the Director of Church Development be changed to Director of New Church Development.

Across the years the scope of responsibility of the Office of Church Development has broadened to include important areas of church development, but these concerns may detract from the director’s attention to the planting and developing of new congregations. While North Georgia’s success rate in church
starts (about 80 percent) is above the national average, having a director who
focuses only on new churches could increase our effectiveness in establishing
growing new congregations. **Therefore we recommend that a new program**
team called “Congregational Development Program Team” be formed, and
that several program tasks now being carried out by the Board of Church
Development be reassigned to this Program Team. These tasks include:
existing church development, natural church development, small
membership churches, and church grants. As this program team goes about
its work, it may appropriately add other concerns involving congregational
development—such as urban church development, for instance.

With the transfer of these program areas, we **recommend that one**
associate director presently assigned to the Board of Church Development
be transferred to the Office of Connectional Ministries, to work under the
supervision of the Director of Connectional Ministries. We **recommend**
that after this change is made, the Director of New Church Development
re-evaluate the support staff needs of the Office of New Church
Development to determine whether or not a decrease in support staff might
be feasible.

The study committee has a number of concerns about the conference’s
program teams, which are supposed to promote the program needs of the annual
conference and help to equip local churches in their mission of making disciples
of Jesus Christ. These concerns include the following: (1) The conference
nominating committee nominates numerous program committees which have
their separate existence, but then are supposed to function in unity under one of
four Program Teams (Advocacy, Nurture, Outreach, and Witness). This has
sometimes proved to be complicated and confusing. (2) In addition to the
twenty-three (23) committees having their separate existence, the four Program
Teams are somewhat disconnected, which has been an obstacle to unified
programming for the annual conference. (3) When restructuring of the
conference’s programming was done in 2002, the Office of Connectional
Ministries replaced the Conference Council on Ministries. We believe the role
of that office in the conference’s programming now needs greater clarity. (4)
**The number of staff has decreased from ten (10) assigned to the Council on
Ministries in 1984 to six (6) assigned to the Office of Connectional Ministries in
2007. These six include the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Manager of
Camp Glisson, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Work, and one
Associate Director, plus one full time and one part-time administrative
assistant. With this decrease in staff, the Program Teams and their committees
often need more staff leadership/support than is available.**
We recommend the following restructuring of the five Program Teams (including a new Congregational Development Program Team):

Each Team shall be composed of thirty-six (36) elected members, including the team officers (chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary), grouped in classes so that normally no more than one-fourth of the members of a Team will rotate off in any given year. Each Program Team will form the committees it needs to carry out its responsibilities for the program areas assigned to it, and those committees will function as a part of the Team and not as independent units. These five Program Teams shall be accountable to the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Board of Connectional Ministries for oversight and budget.

We recommend that there be a Board of Connectional Ministries composed of the chairpersons of the five Program Teams, the chairpersons of committees formed 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 the Office of Connectional Ministries (including the staff person transferred from the Board of Church Development). 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, including budgeting, to the annual conference and for giving leadership in the implementation of that program. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be the executive officer of the Board.

The Vision Forum has been charged with the responsibility to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the North Georgia Annual Conference. This body, at least in recent years, has had difficulty carrying out that responsibility, in no small part because of its huge size (almost 100 persons). This responsibility still needs to be fulfilled. Therefore we recommend that there be a Conference Connectional Table charged with the responsibility for stewardship of the conference’s vision and its commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church. The Connectional Table shall be composed of approximately forty (40) designated officers of the conference (to be listed in the conference’s Standing Rules), plus such additional persons as the Conference Nominating Committee may nominate and the conference elect, with the total membership not to exceed fifty (50) persons. The Director of Connectional Ministries, in consultation with the Resident Bishop, shall chair the Connectional Table.

In all good faith the study committee cannot recommend any decrease in conference staff at this time. We do recommend that when the above changes
are implemented, the Directors of the several departments give careful study to how the changes affect support staff needs, and make such changes as may be advisable.

We also recommend the sharing of staff in the several departments when this is needed and feasible. We are aware that this already takes place to some extent, and we encourage this practice to continue as often as possible. All of the staff in the United Methodist Center are the staff of the North Georgia Conference and should function as one staff.

Since this annual conference session is the time for election of quadrennial boards, committees, and commissions, we recommend that the above changes be implemented at the 2008 annual conference session.

We would not complete this report without a word of appreciation for and commendation of our staff. As we went about our study, they were fully cooperative and helpful in every way possible. On every hand we saw evidence of their faithfulness to their responsibilities and of their commitment to the United Methodist Church and the North Georgia Conference. We thank them for their service to our Conference.

The committee’s recommendation of changes to the conference’s Standing Rules is a part of the study committee’s report.

Chuck Hodges, Chairperson

602. Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of 13 accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historically African-American graduate theological school related to the United Methodist Church. Gammon will celebrate its 125th year of founding this year during the annual Founders’ Day and Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series, October 6-9, 2008.

“Remembering Who We Are: Seeking New Pathways” is our theme for our 125th celebration. Bishop Violet Fisher will serve as our Founders’ Day Worship Service speaker and Bishop Gregory Palmer will serve as our guest lecturer for the Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series. A Founders’ Day Banquet and Gala will be held during this event to honor the alumni who have matriculated at Gammon and served The United Methodist Church for the last 125 years.

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

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. We offer a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and also offer a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service. Students prepare for administration and leadership, counseling, teaching and preaching and a range of other spiritual and secular roles, with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry, merging theory with practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community. Degree programs offered are Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Christian Education; Master of Arts in Church Music; Dual Degrees and Doctor of Theology and Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty In Pastoral Counseling;

Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, President

603. Georgia Christian Council

During a radio interview, a coach praised an outstanding high school running-back. “Without him we don’t have a team. He is the essential spark without which we do not function.” The player interrupted, “You have it wrong, Coach. I am just one person, but it is a team effort. I am not the key to the team’s success. The team is the key to my success!”

Sometimes we forget that being church is a team effort. When Jesus called us to become part of his one body, he called us to fulfill a particular role that is important to the ministry of the church, but none of us is indispensable. It is easy to develop an attitude of superiority toward other groups and/or individuals. Sometimes a pastor will think himself more important than others, a church congregation will crown itself as the “premier” church, or denominations will hold such an attitude toward others. It is sad when Christians are more interested in shouting, “We’re number one!” than in proclaiming “He is The One and Only.”
The Georgia Christian Council exists to be a constant reminder to the entire church that we are One Body, and share One Calling, but each of us may have different functions in the Body. Jesus prayed for us (John 17) that we “may all be one in Him So That the World May Believe.” The world often ignores the church because it sees a fractured fellowship of competing parts. However, the world listens when we speak and act together. The unity of the Spirit of Christ is an essential ingredient in our success as we strive to “Make Disciples,” emphasizing evangelism, church growth, increasing stewardship, and missions, serving the poor and addressing the social ills of our nation.

We have tried to help shape an environment in churches that recognizes the value of the contributions of Christians of different races, denominations, genders, cultural heritages and theological perspectives. We provided a ministry of presence at judicatory denominational meetings; sponsored educational events addressing church conflict resolution, discipleship/sharing the faith, consultation on ecumenical ministry, renewing the church, developing missional attitudes/actions, the church/law and 21st century stewardship; served as consultants to those wishing to resolve church conflict, develop ministries to ex-prisoners; and advocated for children/youth at risk in Georgia.

Thank you, North Georgia Conference, for your prayers and support given to The Georgia Christian Council since you helped birth it in 1952, and special thanks to those churches and individuals who supported the council through the Conference Mission Special Program.

Leland C. Collins, Executive Director

604. Joint Conference Lines Task Force

Motions were approved at the North and South Georgia annual conference sessions in 2007 asking the respective bishops to name a task force to study the conference boundaries. The task force was asked to explore whether it would advance the mission of making disciples by making some changes to the conference boundaries, thus placing specific territories and existing churches in the other annual conference.

Bishops Lindsey Davis and Mike Watson appointed representatives to the task force. Members from North Georgia are Jamie Jenkins, Gary Dean, Clay Jacobs, and Jane Finley (lay). South Georgia representatives are Jimmy Cason, Ricky Varnell, Mark Shelnutt (lay) and Brad Brady.

The task force sought input from the existing congregations residing along the conference boundaries. The respective district superintendent of each
congregation conducted listening sessions. Feedback from these sessions was compiled and shared with other task force members.

We are grateful for the openness of congregational leaders as they shared their thoughts and feelings about whether being in the other annual conference would coincide with the flow of their other natural relationships (shopping, medical, relational). With few exceptions, existing congregations thought it would not advance their missional ability to change annual conferences.

The task force was drawn to the question as to which annual conference might be better situated to serve a growing population area that borders or is within the bounds of the other conference. Several growth areas were discussed with input from the North and South Georgia conference directors of New Congregational/New Church Development.

In light of these discussions, we recommend the following to our two annual conferences meeting in June 2008:

1. That there be no changes in conference boundaries for existing congregations unless the congregation specifically requests permission to be moved to the other conference. If such a congregation makes a request, the two district superintendents involved will meet with congregational leaders to discuss their request and will then make a final recommendation to the respective bishops.

2. That flexibility and missional sensitivity be demonstrated regarding the conference who can best serve an emerging population growth area. In these situations, we propose that the two directors of Congregational/New Church Development and the two district superintendents collaborate and determine which of the two annual conferences would lead in the development of a new congregation or redevelopment of an existing congregation to meet the missional needs of that territory. The recommendation of these four persons would be forwarded to the two presiding bishops for final approval.

3. That any agreements made involving existing congregations or areas of new church development be formalized in a “Memorandum of Understanding” signed by the two presiding bishops and recorded in the conference Journals for the historical record.

We believe the most pressing missional reason to consider the redrawing of conference boundaries relates to the areas of population growth and new church development. We understand and appreciate the high value that existing congregations place on maintaining their present conference membership. Such feelings demonstrate that our relationships are one of the strengths of the United Methodist connection. We believe that these recommendations address the key
concern of how we can strategically address areas of great potential for evangelistic growth without creating the negative energy caused by relocation of boundaries.

The Joint Conference Lines Task Force

605. Journal/Handbook Committee

The Conference Journal and the Handbook continue to be a challenge to produce with economy, appearance and readability as primary goals for our committee. During the last quadrennium we feel we have continued to improve the organization and accuracy of both publications to provide the information about conference sessions for you through the Handbook and to preserve the historical moments of the sessions through the Journal.

We are mindful of the increase in the cost of the Journal and continue to explore the possibility of selling some ads to help defray costs.

Our committee meetings are true work sessions as we pore over the many pages of reports and other business of the annual conference. I am grateful for the dedication of committee members to their work during conference sessions, as well as the proofing of the publications before they are sent to the printer.

It is our hope that you will continue to know the importance of these pieces of history and will want to extend your library each year. Please place your order today.

Katha Morgan, Chair

606. Sierra Leone - The Child Rescue Centre – From Fear to Hope through the Faith of Many

[Editor’s note: The Bishop’s Mission Offering for the 2000 Annual Conference supported “Hope for the Children of Africa” initiative. The North Georgia Conference was assigned Bo, Sierra Leone and our goal was to raise enough funds to building a children’s center. The following report provides an update on the generous gift of over $577,000 from the people of the North Georgia churches.]

Nearly eight years ago, 140 very frightened children were rescued from the streets of Bo, Sierra Leone. A brutal war was raging. Their families were gone or had no way to care for them. They had only the clothes on their backs.
They were hungry, traumatized and desperately in need of love and care and protection. It was hard to find smiling faces.

Through the faith and action of many, The Child Rescue Centre (CRC) has grown and has cared for more children and reached into the community in ways that could never have been foreseen when it opened July 4, 2000. The complex of buildings built through the donation of the North Georgia Conference was a catalyst for taking more children into its care. Because of the enlarged capacity provided by these buildings, the residential population of the CRC has grown from 40 to 70 children. The Child Support Program which supports the education and healthcare of children living in the community will grow this year from 100 to 150. In 2007 the CRC was able to establish a foster care program which will house 30 additional children that are in the most desperate of situations. CRC staff will work with families from the local United Methodist churches who are willing to open their homes to provide a family for a child. Support for these children will be provided by the CRC. In all, 250 children will be cared for by the CRC in 2008.

The connectionalism of the United Methodist Church has helped sustain and grow the work of the Child Rescue Centre. A growing partnership of churches, seven in Virginia and one in Texas, support the CRC. The CRC complex was made possible by the generous giving spirit of the North Georgia Conference. A GBGM Advance (14377A) provides a mechanism for many churches to support the CRC. Lives are being changed in the U.S. and Sierra Leone because of the CRC.

When the children moved into the new complex in August, 2006, the building that had housed the children became available and Mercy Hospital was opened in October 2007. Because of the work that had been done with the CRC, it became clear that healthcare for the poor is almost non-existent in Sierra Leone. It is a country with the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the world. Mercy Hospital is a 25-bed primary care facility that addresses these issues, along with malnutrition, malaria, HIV/AIDS and healthcare regardless of ability to pay. The Mercy Hospital Advance is 15173A.

Also as a result of the new CRC complex and available land, a Mission Training Center was built. This facility provides living space for mission teams and individuals who are visiting and working at the CRC and Mercy Hospital. The MTC will hold teams of up to 20 people, in addition to the availability of three small apartments, a kitchen, dining space and gathering space. This facility enables better housing for more people who want to be in mission to children and the sick in the poorest country in the world.
01  Smiling faces are no longer hard to find at the CRC. Happy children who
02  love to play, work hard at their studies, and participate in church activities, form
03  the family that nurtures each child. To God be the Glory, great things are being
04  done!

05  Tom Berlin, pastor, Floris United Methodist Church, Herndon, VA

607. United Methodist Association

07  The United Methodist Church has a nearly 250-year history of service in
08  hospitals and ministries to older adults, children, youth and families. This
09  service is rooted historically in the concern Christ demonstrated throughout his
10  ministry for healing of body, mind and soul, as well as John Wesley’s repeated
11  concern demonstrated for health and social ministry.

12  In the context of this history, the United Methodist Church now fosters a
13  network of nearly 400 health and welfare ministries in the United States. These
14  organizations provide care in children and family services, senior living
15  communities, hospital and health systems, community service ministries and
16  ministries serving persons with mental and physical disabilities. For nearly 70
17  years, these organizations have joined together in The United Methodist
18  Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA) and predecessor
19  organizations.

20  UMA supports the organizations through a range of services, networking
21  and sharing of best practices. UMA is a key link between faith-based health
22  and welfare organizations and the church on the local, regional and
23  denominational level. It promotes and expands all-important connections
24  between these institutions and the church.

25  The association promotes excellence through its EAGLE accreditation,
26  the only program of its type for faith-related organizations in the United States.
27  UMA research data estimates that institutions affiliated with the United
28  Methodist Church serve 32.2 million persons annually and provide more than
29  $2 billion annually in benevolent and charity services in the US. United
30  Methodist-related health and welfare ministries have 1,555 locations in 44
31  states and employ 354,507 persons.

32  Four North Georgians continue to provide invaluable leadership to the
33  United Methodist Association Board of Directors: Dodie Risse, Richard
34  Puckett, Woody Spackman and Ken Weber. UMA recognized Ken Weber at
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the Annual Meeting on March 29 with the Distinguished Service Award for his
dedication and leadership to the UMA organization for over 39 years.

Mearle L. Griffith, President/CEO
United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries
700. Resolutions

701. Resolution by the Delegation of the North Georgia Annual Conference Regarding the Selection of an Episcopal Nominee by Future Delegations Submitted for the consideration of the North Georgia Annual Conference

WHEREAS the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church has a wealth of leadership in its clergy and laity and has displayed a strong commitment to our denominational mission statement of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ; and,

WHEREAS the North Georgia Conference has recommended strong nominees for the episcopal office to the Jurisdictional Conference from among its gifted clergy; and,

WHEREAS the precedent has been for the first elected clergy delegate to General Conference to be consulted and offered opportunity to be the North Georgia episcopal nominee at the organizational meeting of the new delegation; and,

WHEREAS the election as the first elected delegate to General Conference is a high honor and privilege and indicates exceptional leadership and a lifetime of service to our conference by the individual; and,

WHEREAS the complexity of the Office of the Episcopacy requires unique gifts and graces and prayerful discernment of the best of the best leadership in North Georgia takes a season of prayer and consideration; and,

WHEREAS the actions of one delegation are not binding on any future delegation; and,

WHEREAS delaying the consideration of an episcopal nominee from the time of election until at least the next January would give time for prayer, discernment and conversation; and,

WHEREAS delaying the consideration by a future delegation would also enable the delegation laity to have a stronger voice and vote in the selection of the episcopal nominee; and,
WHEREAS the selection of Ed Tomlinson as the first elected General Conference delegate and Ed’s determination not to be an episcopal nominee allows for a season of thoughtful reflection by the 2008 delegation to have conversations about planting seeds now, should a clergy or lay delegate of the 2012 delegation desire to make a recommendation about delaying the possible selection of an episcopal nominee until at least January 2012; and,

WHEREAS the intent of this resolution is to encourage conversation about prayerful discernment and conversations over time to determine who might be the best episcopal nominee among the clergy of the North Georgia Conference, as an offering from North Georgia to the General Church;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2008 delegation affirms the intent of this resolution to allow for the possibility of separating the order of clergy election to General and Jurisdictional Conferences from the selection of the best nominee for the episcopal office in the 2012 and subsequent delegations, understanding that the actions of the 2008 delegation are not binding on any future delegations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Georgia delegation petitions the 2008 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference through the Conference Secretary to propose the following change in “Guidelines for North Georgia Annual Conference Delegation” under section III. Selection of Episcopal Nominee: “At the first full meeting of the delegation after the organizational meeting or at such time as the delegation may determine, the delegation shall may select from its membership its episcopal nominee to be put forward at the next annual conference for election as the North Georgia annual conference nominee for the episcopacy.” The explanation for the changes is to allow the delegation time for prayerful discernment and conversation as outlined in this resolution.

Passed by the North Georgia delegation on January 5, 2008

702. Resolution from Disaster Response

WHEREAS, disasters are going to happen, come when least expected, and have lasting effects on physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of those involved; and
WHEREAS, North Georgia has experienced devastating floods, hurricanes, tornados, fires and human-made disasters in recent history; and

WHEREAS, every responsible person regardless of age can offer themselves to respond to a disaster through physical work, emotional support, and/or spiritual prayer; and

WHEREAS, Scripture calls us to be ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, treating all people with fairness and equality; and

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference has a Disaster Response Committee in place; and

WHEREAS, the conference Disaster Response Committee has developed training in coordination with UMCOR and UMVIM to prepare men and women to respond to a disaster; and

WHEREAS, training is offered by the conference Disaster Response Committee on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, not every church is aware of the existence and work of the conference Disaster Response Committee; and

WHEREAS, when disaster strikes in North Georgia and other neighboring conferences we need to be ready to respond; and

WHEREAS, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ in the world, it is the responsibility of every United Methodist congregation in the North Georgia Annual Conference to take the initiative to respond to disasters in our local community and to offer assistance regardless the age, race, creed, denomination, economic or social status of those affected by disaster;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that every church in the conference be intentional about preparing for a disaster by appointing a disaster response liaison to keep the lines of communication open between the conference Disaster Response Committee and the local church; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that every district in the North Georgia Annual Conference elect an active Disaster Response Coordination committee
to work in the local district and to keep the lines of communication open between the districts and the Conference Disaster Response Committee; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that by Annual Conference 2009, a minimum of 2,500 laity and clergy in the North Georgia Annual Conference be trained and registered with the Conference Disaster Response Committee so we as a conference are more prepared when disaster strikes.

703. Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the North Georgia Annual Conference

The North Georgia Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

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

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, and disabled clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for 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 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 years 2008 and 2009 by each active, retired
or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the conference, or its
predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for
each such clergyperson; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the pension or disability payments to
which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability
payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline,
including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity
company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a
GBOPHB plan, annuity or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result
from any service a clergyperson rendered to this conference or that an active, a
retired, 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 active, retired or disabled clergyperson’s pension or disability 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 income tax purposes is
limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder
to the least of: (1) 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; (2) the amount actually
expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the
fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as
a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

704. 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 delegates to Annual Conference, and;
WHEREAS many lay delegates to annual conference (especially young people) do not have an abundance of vacation time and;

WHEREAS young people are essential to the present and future of the ministry of the Church, and;

WHEREAS there are other Southeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conferences who begin their annual conference sessions on Wednesday and end on Saturday,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Georgia Annual Conference request that the resident bishop of North Georgia set the dates for the Annual Conference session, beginning with the 2010 session, to occur over the course of a Wednesday through Saturday and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference secretary invite a Young Adult Taskforce member to be part of the annual conference planning committee, in addition to the already included representative from the Young Adult Nurture Team.

Young Adult Ministry Taskforce

705. 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 Young People's Ministries, and

WHEREAS the population of 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 intentionally increase the Annual Conference participation of adult lay delegates, 40 years of age and under with each district nominating at least 2 adults between the ages of 18-40 years of age as at-large delegates to Annual Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each local church grant consideration to nominating delegates to Annual Conference that are 40 years of age and under.

Young Adult Ministry Taskforce
800. Standing Rules’ Amendments

800a. Vision and Planning Connectional Table

30. There shall be a Conference Vision Forum 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 which shall set the overall vision of the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 607. It is responsible for an on-going process of refining and revising the vision. It shall take into consideration both the immediate and long range goals of the conference as they relate to the local, district and general church ministries.

The forum will be chaired by the director of connectional ministries, in consultation with the resident bishop, shall chair the connectional table, which shall . It will be composed of not more than 100 the following persons, including the resident bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the district superintendents, the executive assistant to the bishop, the director of ministerial services, the director of new church development, chairperson of the board of new church development, the conference treasurer, the chairperson of the council on finance and administration, the chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, the secretary of the annual conference, the conference chancellor, the conference lay leader, the 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 advocacy program team, chairperson of parish life program team, chairperson of nurture program team, chairperson of outreach program team, chairperson of witness 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. Laity and clergy members of the General Conference delegation and
the Jurisdictional Conference delegation, the chairpersons of advocacy, witness, outreach and nurture teams, and other at-large members nominated by the conference committee on nominations. The eligibility limitations of standing rule 10 shall not apply to the forum Connectional Table. Staff of the Conference Information Office (not otherwise included) will be ex-officio with voice only.

The conference committee on nominations will nominate the additional at-large members to serve on the forum to provide for diversity and inclusiveness in regard to race, age, gender and national origin and to ensure that there will be a 50 percent clergy/50 percent laity ratio on the forum.

Persons who are elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference will begin to serve on the forum after annual conference the year of their election. At-large members will be elected for the quadrennium, begin service at the time of election and be limited to eight consecutive years.

There will be an executive committee of the conference vision forum composed of the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the dean of the cabinet and five other persons from the forum who are nominated by the nominating committee.

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.

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.

**Connectional Ministries**

31. There shall be an office of connectional ministries which is responsible for serving as the steward of the vision of the annual conference and for coordinating the mission and ministry of the conference with that vision. It shall create and nurture relationships and connections among the local, district, conference and general church ministries. Other functions shall be in concert with ¶ 607.
There shall be a director of connectional ministries whose, 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. Duties and responsibilities shall reflect the recommendations of ¶ 607. The director shall serve as chair of the vision forum, supervise the conference staff related to the office of connectional ministries and coordinate the recruitment, training and leadership of annual conference leaders.

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.

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.

Program Teams of the Annual Conference

32. The programming of the annual conference shall be done primarily by four (4) five (5) program teams: – nurture, outreach, advocacy, parish life development and witness. There shall be a cabinet representative with vote on each program team of the annual conference. 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 five Program Teams shall be accountable to the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Board of Connectional Ministries for oversight and budget.

33. The membership of the teams shall be composed of the officers (president, vice president and secretary) of the various committees which report to the team, appropriate conference staff, a cabinet representative and the officers of the team. The team officers (president, vice president and secretary) will be nominated by the conference committee on nominations and serve for the quadrennium. Task forces may be created and resource persons used to address major program emphases. When task forces are used, they shall be answerable to the team that created them, have a definite life span determined before they are constituted, and can address only the program for which they were created.

—There shall be the following committees which relate to an assigned team (i.e., witness, outreach, advocacy or nurture): archives and history, evangelism, stewardship, worship, global ministries, disaster response, conference related agencies, health and welfare, persons living in poverty, religion and race, status and role of women, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, church and society, disability concerns, native American concerns, ethnic local church concerns, education, adult ministries, children’s ministries, youth ministries, young adult ministries, older adult ministries, family ministries, higher education and campus ministries, camping and retreat ministries, and vocations and career/life planning. The aforementioned committees shall be limited to twelve (12) duly elected persons plus any ex officio members unless otherwise determined by the conference or the Book of Discipline. The members and the chairperson shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. Serving ex officio shall be the members of corresponding general boards and agencies, a representative from the conference board of laity, one (1) youth named by the conference youth organization, a conference staff person, and a cabinet representative. Ex officio members shall have voice and vote on their appointed committees and teams.

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 9 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 insure 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.

34. There shall be a witness team with responsibilities for the following program areas: archives and history (¶ 640), evangelism (¶ 629), stewardship (¶ 629), worship (¶ 629) and vocations and career/life planning. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33.

35. There shall be an outreach team with responsibilities for the following program areas: global ministries (¶ 632), disaster response (¶ 632.22), refugee resettlement, conference related agencies, and health and welfare ministries (¶ 632.27). The membership of this team is defined in standing rule 33.

36. There shall be an advocacy team with responsibilities for the following program areas: religion and race (¶ 642.1), status and role of women (¶ 643), Christian unity and interreligious concerns (¶ 641), church and society (¶ 628), disability concerns (¶ 652), native American concerns (¶ 653), ethnic local church concerns (¶ 661) and persons living in poverty. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33.

37. There shall be a nurture team with responsibilities for the following program areas: education (¶ 629.2), adult ministries [older adult (¶ 650.1) and young adult (¶ 649.1)], children’s ministries (¶ 629.1.g), youth ministries (¶ 648.1), family ministries, higher education and campus ministries (¶ 633) and camping and retreat ministries (¶ 629.1.c). The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33, with the added stipulation that two (2) representatives from United Methodist Youth (¶ 648.1) and United Methodist Young Adults (¶ 649.1) will be included.

38 There shall be a conference youth organization as provided by ¶ 648.1. It shall relate to and be answerable to the nurture team.

NEW The parish life program team shall have responsibility for the following program areas: existing church development, natural church development, small membership churches, church grants, and other areas or concerns involving congregational development.

NEW There shall be a board of connectional ministries composed of the chairpersons of the five program teams, the chairpersons of committees formed 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.

RATIONALE: These amendments to the standing rules 30-37 support the recommendations in the Conference Staffing Task Force report.

800b. Amendment to Standing Rule Number Ten

We, the Young Adult Task Force, request the amendment of standing rule number ten (10) in the second paragraph to include a representative from the young adult task force.

It shall read:

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 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.

800c. Amendment to Standing Rule Number 17

We, the Young Adult Task Force, request the amendment of standing rule number seventeen (17) in the second paragraph. It shall read:

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 conference director 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 persons 40 years of age and under.**

Rationale: Each district Board of Laity is currently involved in the practice of electing four (4) delegates 18 years of age and under in the Youth Delegate Program. This amendment acknowledges that practice for youth and expands it to intentionally include young persons 40 years of age and under.

### 801. Standing Rules – As printed in 2007 Journal

**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, *2004 Book of Discipline.*) The standing rules of the conference expand and clarify these structures and their modes of operation. (All references to The *2004 Book of Discipline* hereafter shall be designated by the paragraph number.)


2. **Amendments** - These standing rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the conference not less 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.

**Standing Committees of the Annual Conference**

3. 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.

4. There shall be a committee on registration and assistance, composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

5. There shall be a committee on journal and handbook, composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
6. There shall be a committee on resolutions, composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

Annual Conference Session and Related Committees

7. 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 33.

8. 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.

9. 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 may not be re-elected to the same board, commission, team, council, committee or agency for more than one quadrennium except as provided in the *Book of Discipline*. 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, 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, (¶ 138).  

10. **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, and conference young adult organization; 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 01
reports and recommendations of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, 02
committees and other agencies of the conference.

13. Consent Agenda - In order to expedite the business of the conference, the 04
consent agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the 05
chairperson of the committee on standing rules, the director of connectional 06
ministries, and the conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation 07
with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or 08
resolutions, may present in the conference handbook a written list of items 09
which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda shall 10
be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are 11
removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of 12
conference. Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda to be 13
placed on the regular agenda by a motion to remove supported by a second 14
from two (2) voting members of the annual conference. When an item has been 15
removed from the consent agenda, it shall be placed on the regular agenda at an 16
appropriate time as determined by the conference secretary.

14. Reports - Reports shall be in writing, and an original, signed copy of the 18
same shall be in the hands of the conference secretary before being read on the 19
floor of the conference. When twenty-five (25) percent or more of the 20
membership of a board, council, team, commission, committee or other agency 21
shall request the privilege of presenting a minority report to the annual 22
conference, the chairperson of said board or other agency shall appoint a 23
committee to draft a minority report and shall submit the said minority report 24
along with the majority report to the conference.

15. Committee on Resolutions - There shall be a committee on resolutions, 26
nominated and elected under the provisions of the standing rules. Any 27
resolution coming to the floor of the annual conference which has not been 28
before an official board, commission or agency of the annual conference, or a 29
resolution not previously printed in the conference handbook, shall be referred 30
to the committee on resolutions for study before the resolution is considered by 31
the annual conference.

Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference

16. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members - The names and 36
addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts and by 37
charges, shall be published in the Conference Journal, and they shall be 38
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compiled and made available to members of the conference, both lay and
clergy, as early as is feasible following their election.

17. 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 conference presidents of United
Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, the
district lay leaders, 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 two (2) young
persons under twenty-five (25) years of age from each district selected by the
district board of laity.

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 conference director 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.

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.

18. 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 Wesleyan Christian 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.
19. 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 (¶ 2532.4),
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.

20. Number of Districts - There shall be twelve (12) districts in the North
Georgia Conference.

21. Service Year - The conference service year shall be July 1 through June
30.

22. 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.

23. 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.

Finance and Property

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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 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.

29. Charters - Charters authorized by the North Georgia Conference shall be
reviewed by the conference chancellor before being filed with the Secretary of
State.

Vision and Planning

30. There shall be a Conference Vision Forum which shall set the overall
vision of the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 607. It is responsible for
an on-going process of refining and revising the vision. It shall take into
consideration both the immediate and long range goals of the conference as they relate to the local, district and general church ministries.

The forum will be chaired by the director of connectional ministries in consultation with the resident bishop. It will be composed of not more than 100 persons, including the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the district superintendents, the executive assistant to the bishop, the director of ministerial services, the director of church development, the conference treasurer, the chairperson of the council on finance and administration, the chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, the secretary of the annual conference, the conference chancellor, the conference lay leader, the associate conference lay leaders, laity and clergy members of the General Conference delegation and the Jurisdictional Conference delegation, the chairpersons of advocacy, witness, outreach and nurture teams, and other at-large members nominated by the conference committee on nominations. The eligibility limitations of standing rule 10 shall not apply to the forum. Staff of the Conference Information Office (not otherwise included) will be ex-officio with voice only.

The conference committee on nominations will nominate the additional at-large members to serve on the forum to provide for diversity and inclusiveness in regard to race, age, gender and national origin and to ensure that there will be a 50 percent clergy/50 percent laity ratio on the forum.

Persons who are elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference will begin to serve on the forum after annual conference the year of their election. At-large members will be elected for the quadrennium, begin service at the time of election and be limited to eight consecutive years.

There will be an executive committee of the conference vision forum composed of the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the dean of the cabinet and five other persons from the forum who are nominated by the nominating committee.

**Connectional Ministries**

31. There shall be an office of connectional ministries which is responsible for serving as the steward of the vision of the annual conference and for coordinating the mission and ministry of the conference with that vision. It shall create and nurture relationships and connections among the local, district, conference and general church ministries. Other functions shall be in concert with ¶ 607.
There shall be a director of connectional ministries whose duties and responsibilities shall reflect the recommendations of ¶ 607. The director shall serve as chair of the vision forum, supervise the conference staff related to the office of connectional ministries and coordinate the recruitment, training and leadership of annual conference leaders.

**Program Teams of the Annual Conference**

32. The programming of the annual conference shall be done primarily by four (4) program teams – nurture, outreach, advocacy and witness. There shall be a cabinet representative with vote on each program team of the annual conference.

33. The membership of the teams shall be composed of the officers (president, vice president and secretary) of the various committees which report to the team, appropriate conference staff, a cabinet representative and the officers of the team. The team officers (president, vice president and secretary) will be nominated by the conference committee on nominations and serve for the quadrennium. Task forces may be created and resource persons used to address major program emphases. When task forces are used, they shall be answerable to the team that created them, have a definite life span determined before they are constituted, and can address only the program for which they were created.

There shall be the following committees which relate to an assigned team (i.e., witness, outreach, advocacy or nurture): archives and history, evangelism, stewardship, worship, global ministries, disaster response, conference related agencies, health and welfare, persons living in poverty, religion and race, status and role of women, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, church and society, disability concerns, native American concerns, ethnic local church concerns, education, adult ministries, children’s ministries, youth ministries, young adult ministries, older adult ministries, family ministries, higher education and campus ministries, camping and retreat ministries, and vocations and career/life planning. The aforementioned committees shall be limited to twelve (12) duly elected persons plus any ex-officio members unless otherwise determined by the conference or the *Book of Discipline*. The members and the chairperson shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. Serving ex-officio shall be the members of corresponding general boards and agencies, a representative from the conference board of laity, one (1) youth named by the conference youth organization, a conference staff person, and a cabinet representative. Ex-officio members shall have voice and vote on their appointed committees and teams.
34. There shall be a witness team with responsibilities for the following committees: archives and history (¶ 640), evangelism (¶ 629), stewardship (¶ 629), worship (¶ 629) and vocations and career/life planning. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33.

35. There shall be an outreach team with responsibilities for the following committees: global ministries (¶ 632), disaster response (¶ 632.22), conference related agencies and health and welfare (¶ 632.27). The membership of this team is defined in standing rule 33.

36. There shall be an advocacy team with responsibilities for the following committees: religion and race (¶ 642.1), status and role of women (¶ 643), Christian unity and interreligious concerns (¶ 641), church and society (¶ 628), disability concerns (¶ 652), native American concerns (¶ 653), ethnic local church concerns (¶ 661) and persons living in poverty. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33.

37. There shall be a nurture team with responsibilities for the following committees: education (¶ 629.2), adult ministries [older adult (¶ 650.1) and young adult (¶ 649.1)], children’s ministries (¶ 629.1.g), youth ministries (¶ 648.1), family ministries, higher education and campus ministries (¶ 633) and camping and retreat ministries (¶ 629.1.c). The membership of the team is defined in standing rule 33, with the added stipulation that two (2) representatives from United Methodist Youth (¶ 648.1) and United Methodist Young Adults (¶ 649.1) will be included.

38. There shall be a conference youth organization as provided by ¶ 648.1. It shall relate to and be answerable to the nurture team.

Ministry of the Laity

39. 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 ¶¶ 1101-1127. The purpose of the conference board of laity shall be as outlined in ¶ 630.2. Funding for the board shall be provided through the conference budget.

40. 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 speaking, 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 33.

41. 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.

42. Conference Committee on Lay Speaking – There shall be a conference committee on lay speaking ministries, which shall relate to the conference board of laity as specifically provided for in ¶ 630.6. The committee shall be structured by the conference board of laity and shall include as a minimum the conference director of lay speaking, the district directors of lay speaking, 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 speaking 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 speaking for more than eight (8) consecutive years.

Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference

43. There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to sixty-two (62) persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 634.

44. 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.

45. There shall be a board of pensions and health benefits as provided by ¶ 638
and ¶ 651 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.

46. There shall be a board of trustees of the annual conference, elected as
indicated in ¶ 2512, 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.

47. 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 ¶ 651.

48. There shall be a council on finance and administration as provided by ¶
610-617, 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.

49. There shall be a committee on episcopacy as provided by ¶ 636, 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.

50. There shall be an episcopal residency committee as provided by ¶ 637.

51. There shall be a clergy committee on investigation as provided by ¶ 2703.1,
composed of seven (7) clergy in full connection, two (2) laypersons and six (6)
alternate members, five of whom shall be clergy in full connection and one of
whom shall be a lay person, nominated by the bishop in consultation with the
board of ordained ministry.

52. There shall be a conference Board of Church Development composed of
such membership and assigned such responsibilities as the conference may
from time to time determine.

53. 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 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.

54. There shall be a diaconal committee on investigation as provided by ¶
2703.3.

55. There shall be an administrative review committee as provided by ¶ 635.

56. There shall be a conference information office under the office of the
bishop that will plan and administer the information/communication needs of
the annual conference.

57. There shall be a conference information advisory group whose membership
shall not exceed ten (10) persons. The group shall be nominated by the
conference information office and the conference committee on nominations
and approved by the annual conference. The persons shall include skilled
communicators in print, public relations, electronic and video media.

58. 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 Executive
Director of the Board of Church Development, the Director of Ministerial
Services and Spiritual Formation, the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, 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. 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 (Par. 162 A, E, F, and G). 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. (Par. 612.12 as interpreted by Judicial

59. 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 Church and Society Committee of the Advocacy Team, and a representative
of the Outreach Team.

Districts

60. **District Conference Membership** - The membership of the district
conference 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.

61. **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.

62. **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.

Conference Related Agencies

63. There shall be a North Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc. board of
trustees, nominated by the Foundation to be confirmed or denied confirmation
by the annual conference.
01 64. 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.
02 65. 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.
03 66. 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.
04 67. 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.
05 68. 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.
06 69. There shall be a Wesley Woods, Inc. board of trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.
07 70. There shall be a Camp Glisson board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference. This is the facility through which camping ministry for children and youth shall be carried out. The director is accountable to the conference director of connectional ministries.

Joint Ministries of North and South Georgia Conferences

71. There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. North Georgia membership shall be limited to fifteen (15) persons and shall include one (1) person from each district and not more than three (3) at-large members. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
72. 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.
73. There shall be a Wesleyan Christian Advocate board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws.
United Methodist Related Institutions of Higher Education

74. 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.

75. 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.
NOTES
Come be a part of a member-owned financial institution! Becoming a member of Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU is easy. Just complete the Membership Application below and come by our booth at the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church to open your account. Interested in a loan? Fill out a Pre-Approval Loan application and apply instantly.

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<tr>
<th>TERMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>24 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Months</td>
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*Annual Percentage Rate. **Rates may be as low as the rate listed, but may vary based on your credit history. Rates listed are effective as of April 1, 2008. Other rates and terms are available. All loan approvals subject to underwriting guidelines. No other discounts apply.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To open your credit union account, mail this Member Application, along with a minimum deposit of $25 (and a copy of your Driver’s License), to Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 9448, Marietta, GA 30065-9448.

Name:
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City/State/Zip:
Social Security Number:
Church/Agency:
Home Phone: ( ) Work Phone: ( )

L’he undersigned, do hereby make application for membership in the Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union, and agree to conform to its laws and amendments hereof.

Usual Signature:
Date:

PRE-APPROVED LOAN APPLICATION

Employer Name:______________________________
Employer Phone:______________________________
Annual Gross Income: $__________________________
Mortgage/Rent Payment: $__________________________
Loan Amount $__________________________ Purpose:__________________________

Please read before signing. This application is submitted to obtain credit and I certify that all information herein is true and complete. I also authorize the credit union to conduct further investigation and obtain additional information concerning my credit reputation from all available sources from time to time. I agree that photocopies and/or faxed copies of the documents I have signed are as enforceable as the original.

Usual Signature:______________________________
Date:______________________________________

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