2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
North Georgia United Methodist Conference

FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

WAKE UP AND SEE WHERE GOD IS MOVING

June 16-18 :: The Classic Center :: Athens, Georgia
Bishop B. Michael Watson, presiding
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2010 Annual Conference Session Handbook

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

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Theme of 2010 Annual Conference
From Ordinary to Extraordinary:
Wake Up and See Where God is Moving

The biblical story of Jacob’s dream (Genesis 28:10-19) is filled with family betrayal, fearful isolation, teeth clenching anxiety, and a life-changing dream. According to the standards of Hollywood, it seems as if Jacob’s endeavor has all the right elements of a prime time hit or silver screen blockbuster. There seems to be, however, one tender but powerful element that holds more vigor than Hollywood could portray—Jacob’s transformation caused by his vivid dream.

This transformation creates a new reality for Jacob. What was once a lonely nomadic life of suffering is now a life filled with promise. Jacob’s dream reminds him that heaven has come to earth to make all things extraordinary. He now sees where he is as a place of possibility and hope. It seems as if Jacob went to sleep in an ordinary place and woke up in an extraordinary place. He woke up and saw where God was moving.

What would it look like if we were to open our eyes and allow this type of transformation? What if we were to trust the God that loves us and goes before us as we dream of new ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? What if we were bold enough to transform programs and ministries that have become routine and make them even more extraordinary? When we wake up to the possibilities of transformed ministry, we will find that God is already there waiting to cooperate with us. He promised that to Jacob, and that promise still stands for us today.

The celebration of Jacob’s transformation from ordinary to extraordinary is the string that threads through our 2010 Annual Conference Session. This week, let us celebrate with one another the current ministries in the life of our conference. Let us also wake up to our dreams of uncharted ministries that will reach new people with the love of Christ. Let us move from ordinary into extraordinary and wake up to find where God is moving!
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Welcome to the 2010 North Georgia Annual Conference. I am excited about my second annual conference with you. Margaret and I have enjoyed living into this wonderful community of United Methodists. Your hospitality and kindness have been exceptional since we met last June. We are extremely grateful.

Once again the Athens-Elberton Host Committee and the Classic Center staff have worked very hard preparing for our return to Athens and Clarke County. Their outstanding efforts have been invaluable as we have planned our time together for the 144th Annual Conference.

Our theme this year is “Ordinary to Extraordinary: Wake Up to Where God is Moving!” We will have a shortened annual conference again this year and the Wednesday to Friday schedule is also different from previous years. Nevertheless there will be many opportunities to celebrate how God works among us and leads us as we create new places for new people.

Last year we made a very significant contribution to the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). United Methodists from across the Connection have generously responded to provide pension support for the retired clergy and surviving spouses outside the United States. The North Georgia Conference has given $1.2 million of the more than $19 million that has been pledged or given through this appeal. This year’s Mission Offering for CCPI will allow us to celebrate what has been done, to say thanks for those who have given, and to provide opportunities for additional gifts. Our offerings and pledges will make a tremendous difference in the lives of these faithful servants.

There will be other opportunities for concrete expressions of love and concern for others. The 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk will benefit the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council. Health Kits will be assembled for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, and the Red Cross Blood Drive will be part of our mission ministry here.

There will not be a worship service on Thursday evening but this will allow time for hands-on involvement by the members of the annual conference as we pack 200,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.

In these difficult times we will gather together to celebrate the goodness of God and the wonderful privilege of being a part of the Body of Christ and the United Methodist Church. I invite you to join me in prayer for the clergy and lay members of the annual conference as we come together to do God’s will.

Grace and peace,

B. Michael Watson
Welcome Letter from the District Host Committee

Dear Members of the 2010 Annual Conference:

On behalf of the Athens-Elberton District and the host committee, welcome. We regard it an honor to host you for the eleventh time since 1999!

Annual Conference will begin with the Laity Orientation and Clergy Executive Session at 10 a.m. on **Wednesday, June 16, ending on Friday, the 18th** at 5:15 p.m. All forms and information about the conference will be available on the conference website: www.ngumc.org. They will also be in the District-Preconference Briefing handbook.

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

- A list of area hotels is on our website (see above), provided by the Athens Housing Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- To receive annual conference rates, indicate that you will be attending the North Georgia United Methodist Annual Conference.
- If you made reservations last year, confirm and verify the nights of stay.
- PLEASE cancel any reservations you do not plan on using.
- NOTE: No late check outs will be available on Friday as hotels have guests arriving for weekend weddings and events.
- If you need assistance, direct questions to the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 706-357-4410 or 1-800-653-0603.

Plenty of parking is available, with shuttles to and from the ones more distant from the Classic Center. An information page on available parking will also appear on our website.

Members of the Annual Conference will find a variety of restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the Classic Center. As in past years, breakfast and lunch will be available at the Classic Center. Tickets for the Laity Luncheon will be sold at the Conference, with other meal tickets being sold prior to the conference by the sponsoring group.

The Mission Opportunity for Annual Conference is packaging meals through Stop Hunger Now. All members of the Conference are encouraged to be part of this project. See information on the website for details on how to participate.

Welcome. May you feel blessed by having been here in the Classic City.

Gary L. Whetstone, District Superintendent, Athens-Elberton District
Chuck Hodges, Clergy Chairman, Host Committee
Leon Jourolmon, District Lay Leader, Athens-Elberton District
Dianne Morrison & Johnny Fowler, Lay Co-chairs, District Host Committee
144th Session of the North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 16 - 18, 2010
The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia
“Ordinary to Extraordinary: Wake Up and See Where God is Moving”

Location of reports within the agenda are subject to change.

Monday, June 14, 2010
Tba AV load in
3:30 – 6 pm Tote bag assembly

Tuesday, June 15, 2010
8:00am Cokesbury set up – Empire 1
8am-12 pm Connectional Table – tba
8am-12pm Tote bag assembly – High Shoals Room
9am-12 Display Set up - Empire 2 and Willow
3 – 6 pm On-Site Registration begins
   Laity – Cypress Room
   Clergy – High Shoals 1

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
6:30 – 10am ProCheck Health Screening – Parthenon 3
7:00 am Breakfast for Wednesday’s presenters– Olympia 2
7:30 am Concessions open – 130 Foundry Bldg. Lower Lobby
8:00 am Rehearsal for Commissioning/Ordination Service
   & Group Photographs – Theatre
8:00 am Display set up continues – Foundry Building
8:00 am On-Site Registration continues –
   Laity – Cypress Room
   Clergy – High Shoals 1
9:45 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall
10:00 am Lay Orientation – Grand Hall
10:00 am Clergy Executive Session – Theatre

2:00 pm Session One
Opening Communion Worship
Preacher – Bishop B. Michael Watson, preacher
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:25 pm</td>
<td><strong>Opening of Conference-Classic Ctr Grand Hall</strong></td>
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<td>Call to Order – 144th Session</td>
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<td>Prayer</td>
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<td>Hymn “And Are We Yet Alive”</td>
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<td>Welcome – Host Committee</td>
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<td>Organization of Conference</td>
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<td>Introduction 2010 Theme and Logo</td>
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<td>Standing Rules Committee-to present</td>
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<td>Nominations Committee-to present</td>
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<td>Connectional Table</td>
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<td>Central Conference Pension Initiative</td>
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<td>Stop Hunger Now Orientation</td>
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<td>United Methodist Publishing House</td>
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<td>Georgia/Florida UM Credit Union</td>
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<td>Monitoring</td>
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<td>Announcements</td>
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<td>Closing Prayer</td>
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<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Adjourn</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session Two</strong></td>
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<td>Service of Ordination/Commissioning</td>
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<td>Preacher – Bishop B. Michael Watson</td>
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<td>Offering – Annual Conference expense</td>
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**Thursday, June 17, 2010**

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<tr>
<td>5:30 am</td>
<td>5-K Registration - Firehall</td>
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<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>5-K Run</td>
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<td>6:30 – 10 am</td>
<td>ProCheck Health Screening – Parthenon 3</td>
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<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Bishop’s Breakfast for Thursday’s Presenters – Olympia 2</td>
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<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Concessions open – 130 Foundry Bldg. Lower Lobby</td>
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<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Service of Holy Communion- Athena AB</td>
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<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Gathering Music – Grand Hall</td>
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8:15 am  **Session Three**

Morning Devotion
Speaker: Elizabeth Corrie, Dir., Youth Theological Initiative
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Music: Mary Edith Kirkland, pianist, Harlem UMC, AGST
Mariah Wall, Thomson First UMC, AGST

Prayer
Stewardship Summit Event
Conference Treasurer
Annual Conference Task Force
Equitable Compensation
Council on Finance & Administration, Part I
Lay Speaking Ministries
Celebration of Small Membership Church
Georgia United Methodist Foundation

11:00 am **Recognition of Clergy who are Retiring**
Conference Greetings to Guests
Announcements
Closing Prayer

12:15 pm **Adjourn**

12:00 – 2pm Stop Hunger Now Project Assembly – Athena G – J

2:00 pm  **Session Four**

Memorial Worship Service
Preacher – DeDe Leetch
Mission Offering – Central Conference Pension Initiative

3:15 pm **Prayer**
Committee on Episcopacy/Episcopal Residence
Upper Room 75th Anniversary
Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Council on Finance & Administration, Part II
Leadership UMC
Consent Agenda to vote/remove items
Conference Greetings to Guests
Announcements
Closing Prayer

5:15 pm **Adjourn**
Session Five

An Evening of Service

5 – 7:00 pm Stop Hunger Now Meal Assembly
7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Stop Hunger Now Meal Assembly

Friday, June 18, 2010

6:30-10 am ProCheck Health Screening – Parthenon 3
7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Friday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7:30 am Service of Holy Communion- Athena AB
7:30 am Concessions Open-130 Foundry Bldg Lower Lobby
7:45 am Gathering Music

8:15 am Session Six

Morning Devotion
Speaker: Mikal T. Abdul-Saboor,
Youth, St. James, UMC, AROS
Music: Mary Edith Kirkland, pianist, Harlem UMC, AGST
2010 Leadership UMC Chorus

Prayer
Standing Rules-to vote
Nominations-to vote
Commission on Higher Education & Campus Ministry
Black College Fund Lina H. McCord Summer Intern
The Advance
Camp Glisson
Bishop’s Task Force on Camp & Retreat Ministries
Connectional Café
Communications Office
United Methodist Women
Action Ministries
Exploited Children of Atlanta
Aldersgate Homes
Children’s Home
Wesley Woods
Lay Revitalization Ministries
United Methodist Men
New Church Development
Churches of Excellence
Denman Awards
Conference Greetings to Guests
Announcements
Prayer

12:15 pm Adjourn

2:00 pm Session Seven
Prayer
Conference Board of Laity Report
Youth
Young Adult Task Force
Resolutions
Property Resolutions
Moving Day
Journal/Handbook Committee
Recognitions
Vote on Items removed from Consent Agenda if needed
Future Sites of Annual Conference
2011 June 14 – 17, 2011 [Tuesday – Friday]
2012 – Athens
2013 – Athens
Monitoring
Other reports as needed
Announcements
Prayer
Service of Sending Forth

5:15 pm Adjourn
**2010 Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite business during the annual conference session by adopting reports to be included in the Conference Journal 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 2010 Consent Agenda. These reports will be accepted by consent of the Annual Conference unless they are **removed from the Consent Agenda on Thursday, June 17, 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 Friday, June 18, Session Seven.

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REVISED - The 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 Tuesday, June 15, 3-6 p.m. and continues Wednesday, June 16, 8:00 a.m. Registration is located in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building at the Classic Center: Laity – Cypress Room
Clergy – High Shoals Room

Registration

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

1. Top bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.
   Clergy: Ordained members in full connection – ¶602.a.*

2. Bottom bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.
   Laity: Local Church Lay Members – ¶251.1
   District At-Large Lay Members – ¶32
   Diaconal Ministers – ¶32*
   Deaconesses – ¶32
   Members by virtue of current conference or district position ¶32

3. Cross and Flame only – eligible to vote on all matters except general and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots, constitutional amendments, character/conference relations of clergy:
   Provisional elders – ¶602.b.*
   Provisional deacons – ¶602.b.*
   Associate members – ¶321.1.*
   Full-time local pastors under appt. – ¶602.d.
   Part-time local pastors under appt. – ¶602.d.

* Designated upon retirement
4. Vertical Bars – non-voting participants

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

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

3. Guests
   - Clergy Spouses (including surviving spouses)
   - Candidates for ordained ministry (not under appointment in North Georgia during the 2009-2010 conference year)
   - Agency, Staff, etc.
   - Other guests

Financial Assistance

Persons eligible for financial assistance must complete and submit a reimbursement form to Val Bligh prior to the close of the 2010 annual conference session. A check will be mailed within 30 days. Reimbursement forms received after June 18 cannot be processed.

A. Eligibility. Financial assistance is offered for the following:
   1. Retired clergy not serving churches, retired clergy serving churches whose compensation does not exceed $6,000 per year.
   2. Widows or widowers of clergy persons who are not married to persons designated in #1 above.

B. Assistance Guidelines.
   1. Travel. One round trip to conference site at rate of $.28 per mile.
   2. Lodging and Meals. Maximum of three (3) nights lodging and three (3) meals per day at a maximum TOTAL of $50 per day.
   3. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement.
2010 Information for Conference Members and Visitors

Annual Conference Registration
A new online process helps conference members register for annual conference, sign up for the Stop Hunger NOW mission project, connect with 5K Fun Run, schedule appointments for the Red Cross Blood Drive and Pro-Check Screening, make reservations for meals, order the 2010 North Georgia Conference Journal and pay the $30 A/C registration fee.

Online registration is available at www.ngumc.org/ac2010register.

OnSite Registration begins Tuesday, June 15, 3 - 6 p.m. and continues Wednesday, June 16, 8 a.m.
Lower Level of Foundry Building of Classic Center
Lay – Cypress Room; Clergy – High Shoals Room.
Registration cards are no longer necessary. Pick up name badges at either Lay or Clergy registration sites listed above. Payment stations for cash, check or credit card are available in both registration areas.

Annual Conference Web Site
Information on the 2010 annual conference session is available on the North Georgia web site: www.ngumc.org/ac2010. Daily audio and video streaming is available from 2:00 p.m. on June 16 to 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2010.

Blood Drive
The Red Cross blood drive is scheduled in the Firehall, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, June 16 and Thursday, June 17. Make your appointment at: www.redcrossblood.org and enter zip 30601, or call Athens Red Cross office, 706-546-0681, ext 229.

Camp Glisson Day Camp
Glisson Day Camp @ Young Harris Memorial UMC, Athens, GA, June 14-18. Glisson's Day Camp program is a partnership between the camp and local congregations in ministry with children. Day camps are distinctive from other church programs as they bring the flavor of summer camp to the local church. A variety of activities are a part of the day camp experience that contribute to learning new skills, appreciating God's creation, building Christian community, and experiencing worship in new ways—all to support local congregations in nurturing Christian discipleship. Contact Camp Glisson www.glisson.org.
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.

2010 Conference Journals
The 2010 Conference Journal can be ordered during annual conference in the Classic Center Foundry Building Lower 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 www.ngumc.org/journal. Cost: $40 print version; $20 digital 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 Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB). Neither ACVB nor the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church evaluates, advocates, recommends, guarantees, or warrants any of the childcare providers as listed, and neither ACVB nor the North Georgia Conference (UMC) 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 2010.

Displays
Display tables are an extension of reports presented at the annual conference session. The displays interpret and celebrate the program ministries of the annual conference. Various conference boards, committees, commissions, councils, teams and related agency displays are located in the Foundry Building lobby, Empire 2 and Willow rooms.

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.

Gluten-free Communion Elements
Gluten-free communion elements are available for worship at designated serving stations as announced at the service.
Housing
Members make and confirm housing arrangements directly with hotels in the area. Information is on the North Georgia Conference website www.ngumc.org/ac2010 or call the Athens Convention/Visitors Bureau, 706-357-4410 or 800-653-0603.

Language Translation
Audio interpretation for Spanish and Korean is available in the Grand Hall. Please contact the appropriate person by Wednesday June 9.
Spanis(h): Nora Martinez, 678-533-1388, nmartinez@ngumc.org
Korean: Hyo Kim, 678-533-1448, hkim@ngumc.org

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.

2010 Mission Offering
The greatest growth of the United Methodist Church is in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Philippines, yet pension funds for our pastors in those areas are minimal or nonexistent. There are presently about 1,100 retired clergy and about 1,300 surviving spouses in the central conferences outside the United States. After a lifetime of service to the church, many of these faithful servants must now live well below the poverty level. A relatively small amount of pension support makes a tremendous difference in these persons' lives.

The Central Conference Pension Initiative is a denominational campaign to raise $25 million to fully fund pensions for retired clergy and surviving spouses who have served in conferences outside the United States. With support from the North Georgia Annual Conference, over $19 million has already been raised, and this year's mission offering at Annual Conference will help to provide those much needed resources.

Bring 2010 mission offering to the Service of Remembrance at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 17.

Mission Outreach Project – Stop Hunger Now
Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief ministry sponsored by the World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men, an affiliate of the World Methodist Council. Because 25,000 persons die daily of starvation and
malnutrition (one death every three seconds), the North Georgia Conference is committed to this packaging project that provides basic meals to the world's nutritionally deprived poor.

Members of the annual conference, partnering with community volunteers, are invited to join in packaging 200,000 dehydrated, nutrient-enriched meals with Stop Hunger Now on Thursday, June 17 at the Classic Center Ballrooms G-J. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, $50,000 has been used to purchase the ingredients. Conference members register online for the following sessions at www.ngumc.org/ac2010register:

12 noon – 2:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Members of local churches, friends, family, reserve members of annual conference, and members of the community are also invited to participate. Registration is available online at http://www.ngumc.org/ac2010register for the following sessions:

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The packaging process provides opportunities for all skill levels, but volunteers must be 12 years or older. Bring your own hat or cap or use hairnets and sanitary gloves provided for everyone. Wear comfortable shoes.

**Parking and Transportation**

Parking:

1. Complimentary parking for conference members is available at the Classic Center, Court House and the UGA parking decks.

2. Only members with state handicap parking permits are allowed on the bridge leading to the Classic Center parking deck.

3. Parking permits must be prominently displayed for free parking. The UGA parking deck accepts either a parking permit or a name badge.

4. The upper deck at the Classic Center is reserved on Thursday, June 17 for retirees. The Thomas Street entrance will be closed.

5. Level one of the Classic Center parking deck is used for non-conference parking all week during the conference.

6. The bridge to the parking deck is closed Tuesday night through Thursday night during the conference.

7. Parking at the Classic Center is during the hours of the event. No overnight parking is allowed; your vehicle could be towed.

8. We will have spaces reserved for persons with handicaps during registration on the flat lot behind the 130 Foundry Street building.
9. Spaces in front of the Theatre are reserved for church vans and emergency vehicles.

Transportation:

1. Church vans are used to transport members to and from the UGA parking deck and the Classic Center as needed from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. They 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 is closed all week with a police officer on duty all day Wednesday until the conference ends on Friday.

Offering for Annual Conference Expense
The offering received during worship on Wednesday night, June 16, supports the cost of the 2010 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference.

Prayer Room
The Conference Prayer Room, located in Athena A, is open 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

Prayer Walk
During the Thursday lunch break June 17 walk around downtown Athens or utilize the indoor track at Athens First UMC. Walk for your own health and to pray for the community. Start and finish at your leisure.

Registration Fee
To partially offset the costs of conducting the annual conference and thereby reduce the amount of apportioned funds used to pay for the annual conference session, the 2009 Annual Conference members approved a recommendation from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to initiate a $30 annual conference registration fee beginning with the 2010 annual conference session. Retired clergy are exempt. Members may pay the registration fee online at www.ngumc.org/ac2010register or onsite at lay and clergy registration in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building.

Run/Walk – 4th Annual North Georgia Conference 5K Run/Walk
Join us early Thursday morning, June 17, at 6:30 a.m. The race route starts on Washington Street and runs through downtown and the Oconee River Greenway, finishing behind the Classic Center. Proceeds benefit the North
Georgia Housing and Homeless Council. Download the race registration form at www.nghhc.org/5K and follow the link to register online at active.com. Pre-registration is $20, and race day registration at the Classic Center is $25. Or register as a Phantom Runner and receive a shirt. For more information, please contact Virginia Tinsley, 678-533-1370 or director@nghhc.org.

**Request for Video Duplication**
Duplicated DVDs will not be made available for the 2010 Annual Conference Session. Please log on to www.ngumc.org/2010ACVIDEO for viewable and downloadable segments and celebrations of the 2010 annual conference.

**Safety**
Please be aware that Athens is an urban city. Use caution after dark, do not walk alone or leave valuables visible in parked/locked cars.

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

**Tote Bags - Handbook Supplemental Reports**
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 all the volunteers for collating the materials into packets.

**Wireless Internet Access**
Unsupported wireless internet service is available throughout the Classic Center except in the Grand Hall.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Business Sessions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Concessions: lunch-11am-2pm</td>
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<td>Health Risk Assessment</td>
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<td>Fun Run registration</td>
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<td>Media</td>
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<td>Message Center</td>
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<td>Athena G - J</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Theatre and Grand Hall</td>
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# Meals and Gatherings  
## 2010 North Georgia Annual Conference

Please check signs posted throughout the building as room locations at the Classic Center are subject to change.

### Tuesday, June 15, 2010
- 6:30 pm Order of Deacons – Winterville United Methodist Church
- 8:00 pm Young Adult gathering – Two Story Coffee House

### Wednesday, June 16, 2010
- 7:00 am Breakfast for Wednesday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
- 7:00 am Extension Ministry Breakfast – Oconee 1
- 7am-4 pm Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
- 11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
- 12 noon Clergy Luncheon – Athena CDEF
- 12 noon Young Adults meet to go to lunch – Outside Theatre
- 5:15 pm Clergywomen’s Dinner – Oconee 1
- 5:15 pm Clark Atlanta University/Gammon/Paine Banquet – Athena CDE
- 5:30 pm LaGrange College Dinner – Athena F
- 5:30 pm Asbury Theological Seminary Alumni and Friends – Olympia 2
- Following Ordination Service – Ordination Gathering – Athena CDEF

### Thursday, June 17, 2010
- 7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast – Thursday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
- 7am-4 pm Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
- 7:00 am UMW Breakfast – Athena CDEF Ballroom
- 11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
- 12:15 pm Latino/Multi-cultural Pastors/Delegates Luncheon – High Shoals 1
- 12:15 pm North Georgia Candler Club Luncheon – Olympia 2
- 12:15 pm Local Pastors Luncheon – Oconee 1
- 12:15 pm Educational Opportunities Luncheon – Hilton Garden Inn
- 12:15 pm Retirees Luncheon – Athena CDEF Ballroom
- 12:15 pm Lay Speaking District Director Luncheon – Cypress 2
- 12:15 pm Christian Educator’s Fellowship Luncheon – Georgian
- 12:15 pm Young Adults meet to go to lunch – Outside Theatre
- 12:15 pm Educational Opportunities Luncheon – Hilton Garden Inn
- 5:30 pm Young Harris College Dinner – Olympia 2
- 6:00 pm Duke Divinity School Alumni Dinner – DePalmas Italian Café
Friday, June 18, 2009
7:00 am    Bishop’s Breakfast – Friday’s Presenters – Olympia 2
7am -4pm    Concessions – Foundry Lower Lobby
11am-2 pm    Lunch Concessions – Foundry Plaza/Lower Lobby
12:15 pm    Laity Luncheon – Athena IJ
12:15 pm    Clergy Spouses’ Luncheon – Oconee 1 and 2
12:15 pm    Young Adults meet to go to lunch – Outside Theatre
Responsibility of the Lay Members of the Annual Conference

It is an honor to be elected as a lay member to the North Georgia Conference. This is an assignment of great responsibility. By virtue of this office, he/she is also a member of her/her church’s council (¶ 252.5.g), finance committee (¶ 259.4), and the pastor parish relations committee (¶ 258.2.a). (2008 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 2009 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, 2008 Book of Discipline). Consult with his/her pastor before conference about scheduling and time limit. The North Georgia Advocate, conference handbook, the NGC web page www.ngumc.org, handouts received at annual conference, and personal notes on the sessions can be used as a basis for the report. Mention major issues raised and any action and how they might affect the local church. Refer to conference preachers and share highlights from worship services. Do talk about the positive aspects of the conference. Try not to dwell on the trivia.
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. (2008 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.” (2008 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 2009 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 such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2008 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 2009 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. *(2008 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. Raise your hand for recognition. When recognized by the chair, state the reasons for your proposed amendment/change.
   c. After recognition by the chair, say, “I move to amend Line______, on page ___ by: (deleting or inserting) the following words:. . .” Read only the exact wording proposed. Have a written copy of the amendment ready for the conference secretary.
   d. The chair will ask for a second, state the motion and ask for discussion.
   e. Other persons may be recognized to discuss/debate the motion. The motion’s presenter is allowed a final chance to speak for the motion.
   f. After “the question is called” and discussion is closed, the motion is voted on by the conference.
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Parking Permit
for Members of the
North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 16 - 18, 2010
Athens, Georgia
-----------------------------------
To display: Fold in half and place on dashboard of vehicle

This permit must be displayed
for
Annual Conference Free Parking
AND
Special Rates at the
Annual Conference Pay Parking Decks
See maps in Handbook
[This page intentionally left blank]
100. Candler School of Theology

Guided by our mission to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world, Candler School of Theology continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Candler is one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top 20-ranked research university. Our distinctive develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives and received several grants related to international engagement. The March 2010 visit of Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

Candler’s student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. Fifty-seven percent of our students are under thirty.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students’ pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler’s ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government’s Presidential Award for General Community Service.

Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was $4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than $2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund, which has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.
Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

Jan Love, Dean

101. Credit Union Treasurer’s Report

Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union, despite continued economic challenges, ended 2009 with a strong financial bottom line as can be seen with the accompanying balance sheet and income statement.

1. 2009 Highlights:
2. Assets increased by over $3.6 million or an increase of 18.49% over 2008.
3. Total dividends paid to members in 2009 were $292,970.
4. Loans to members increased by $896,774 to $16,382,719 and loan participations decreased slightly from by $267,373 to $263,196.
5. Delinquency remained at an acceptable level of 1.06%.
6. Gross operating income increased by $9,864 to a total of $1,335,798 while operating expenses increased by $58,353 over 2008 figures.
7. Net income decreased to $5,996.63 and our capital remained strong at 9.26%.
8. As you can see, we remain strong and steady during these difficult economic times and remain a safe haven for all of your financial needs. In 2010, we will continue the course we have set throughout the last 50 years ensuring the continued financial soundness and success of your credit union.

Michael McQueen

101a. Credit Union Supervisory Committee

Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union’s Supervisory Committee independently evaluates the soundness of the credit union’s operations and activities. This committee is responsible for a series of internal and external audits that are performed to insure that the Credit Union complies with generally accepted accounting principles. This committee also makes certain that Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU’s audited financial statements provide a fair and accurate representation of the financial condition of the credit union and is compliant with state and federal regulations.
As a result of the audits held and in conjunction with the annual examination of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), it is the opinion of the Supervisory Committee that the financial condition of Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union continues to remain strong and well managed, with sound policies and programs. The Credit Union is also compliant with the Credit Union’s by-laws, Georgia and Florida state laws relating to credit unions, and applicable federal laws and The Supervisory Committee would like to commend the staff, management and volunteers of the Credit Union for their efforts in maintaining the soundness and safety of the credit union.

Kelly Brisendine, Chairman
Charles Houston, Maryanne McCurdy, Clarence Thrower

101b. Credit Union Financial Reports

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/08</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/09</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$441,997.74</td>
<td>$289,973.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans To Members</td>
<td>$15,485,944.53</td>
<td>$16,382,719.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan Participation</td>
<td>$267,372.99</td>
<td>$263,196.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allowance for Loan</td>
<td>-$106,738.76</td>
<td>-$109,272.86</td>
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<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>$3,266,873.25</td>
<td>$6,136,845.93</td>
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<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td>$82,500.60</td>
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<td>Prepaid Exp &amp; Defer</td>
<td>$12,719.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$238,554.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$23,330,060.96</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/08</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>$2,806.77</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>
<td>$358.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$23,382.86</td>
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<td>Deferred Credits</td>
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<td>Other Liabilities</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<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><strong>Total Liabilities &amp;</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Income Statement</strong></th>
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<td>Summary as of 12/31/08</td>
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<td>Fees &amp; Charges</td>
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<td>Other Operating Income</td>
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<td><strong>Operating Income</strong></td>
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<td>Office Operations</td>
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<td>Provision for Loan</td>
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<td>Cash Short/Over</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td><strong>Total Operating</strong></td>
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<td>Income From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Income Before</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dividends $349,971.47 $292,969.97
Gain/(Loss) on Assets $0.00 -$57,927.22
Net Income $55,412.45 $5,996.63

102. Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry

During the past academic year, approximately 5,000 students attended United Methodist-related colleges in Georgia, and another 16,000 were enrolled in two universities. In addition, our Wesley Foundations on the campuses of state and other private schools connected with over 4,000 students. Through the influence of these institutions and ministries, young adult lives and the life of the church and the world have been shaped by the movement of God’s Spirit.

In overseeing apportionment funds in 2009, the Commission disbursed monthly financial support of almost $40,000 over the amount disbursed in 2008. Even so, two of our Wesley Foundations scaled back to part-time ministries because of financial restrictions. We celebrated as Young Harris College officially became a four year institution. We welcomed a new president at LaGrange College, Dr. Dan McAlexander, and congratulated several colleges that received regional and national recognitions.

Throughout our schools and Wesley ministries, we witnessed the movement of God’s Spirit in transforming the lives of students. One student wrote: “My heart, mind, and life have been completely transformed since I first became a part of the Wesley Foundation…” Another testified: “After our Spring Retreat I asked to be baptized.” Another student shared that he “strongly believed that without attending” one of our United Methodist related colleges, his faith “would not be where it is today…I have realized my call into full time ministry.” Through programs such as Servant Leadership, Global Connections, Cycle of Hope, our students have found ways to interact with the people of a global community, to develop their leadership skills, and to live out lives of discipleship that are making a difference for Christ in the needs of the hearts and lives of the world.

Every school and Wesley ministry can give accounts of numerous students whose lives are being transformed by the movement of God’s Spirit on them. These young adults are growing as disciples of Jesus Christ and developing skills for leadership in the church and the world. The United Methodist Church can be confident that God is using our commitment to higher education and campus ministry as a means to do an extraordinary work!

Cynthia H. Autry, Executive Director
03. Lake Junaluska Assembly

This past year has been great for Lake Junaluska. Even in recessionary
times, we were able to finish 2009 with a significant surplus. This was due to
diligent planning on the part of the Board of Directors and hard work on behalf
of our staff by keeping expenses under revenue. We know this past year was
difficult for all annual conferences and we express appreciation of the financial
support we received from your conference for Lake Junaluska ministries.

In September 2009, the Supreme Court of North Carolina ruled in Lake
Junaluska’s favor stating we had the legal right to charge property owners a
service charge. The decision puts Lake Junaluska’s Residential Services
practices on firm legal ground. The court stated: “In light of the unique
character of the Assembly and its long-standing history of covenant-imposed
regulations, we uphold the covenants as enforceable and reverse the Court of
Appeals.”

We have instituted three giving societies for persons to commit annually
for a five-year period in order to enhance donations for the future. This will
solidify our budget projections for the annual fund. The three societies are
named after great Methodist leaders: Gilbert-Lambuth Society, Francis Asbury
Society, and Susanna Wesley Society.

The Conference and Retreat Center had positive feedback from guests
with its Junaluska “E” (experience) Program. The emphasis is on providing a
quality hospitality experience to all persons who enjoy our ministries and
campus. We are in the process of renovating Sunnyside and Mountain View
Lodges by Shackford Hall. They are being air conditioned with upgraded
furnishings. This will greatly enhance the youth and children’s ministry.

The Ministry Event Development office at Lake Junaluska led in celebrating the
55 years of ministry of Dr. Glenn Draper as the Director of the Junaluska
Singers. He retired at the end of 2009. We are pleased that Dr. Melodie
Galloway, a professor at UNC-Asheville has been hired to be the new director
of the Singers.

Exciting plans for 2010 include (1) The Jazz of Preaching – learning to
preach with great freedom and joy! August 1-4, 2010. A major preaching event
for United Methodist clergy featuring three outstanding leaders along with jazz
musicians from across the southeast: Heather Murray Elkins, Drew Theological
Seminary; Kirk Byron Jones, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary; and Tom
Long, Candler Theological Seminary; (2) Caring for Creation April 8-11, 2010;
(3) Lake Junaluska Peace Conference – Children at the Table of Peace,
September 19-21 plus 17-19. The 2010 focus will be on issues of young people,
with Marian Wright Edelman, founder and director of the Children’s Defense Fund.

SEJANAM is a wonderful platform to tell the story of Native Americans in the southeast through advocacy, education, cultural awareness, initiatives and programming. In 2009 SEJANAM hosted over 500 Native Americans representing numerous tribes from 10 of the 15 annual conferences who attended programs and events; sponsored the first highly successful Native American Women’s Gathering; supported the 15th mission ministry to Montero, Bolivia; and hosted all the national Native American leadership within The United Methodist Church at the annual summer conference. We look forward to 2010 with noteworthy programs which will include the first Native American Youth Gathering, the first Native American Men’s Conference, and a Roundtable Dialogue with National Leaders on Social Justice Issues.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve United Methodists around the Southeastern Jurisdiction at your conference and retreat center. Come see us in 2010!

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director
200. Board of Ordained Ministry

The Board of Ordained Ministry is composed of clergy and laity and is responsible for the enlistment and recruitment of candidates who respond to God’s call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

The Board continues its efforts to assist persons seeking to discern their call to ministry by sponsoring several events throughout the year. With support from the Office of Ministerial Services, the Board has initiated the following programs to support candidates for ministry:

- two weekend retreats for persons interested in ordained ministry;
- the Residency Program for Provisional Members of the Annual Conference includes 92 participants in eight groups with 16 leaders and three preaching coaches;
- 37 Candidates were interviewed for Provisional Membership in March;
- 37 Provisional members who had completed their three year Residency Program were interviewed for Full Connection in April;
- The second year Provisional members will participate for the third year in a program with Candler and Gammon integrating theology and practice.

One of the most exciting recent developments in our Residency Program is the out of state *Hands on Missions* experience by second year Provisional members and their leaders. This week-long mission experience, while not a new experience for most of the Provisional participants, has allowed the groups to deepen relationships and form bonds of connection.

The Board of Ordained Ministry works closely with the Cabinet to establish standards for effectiveness for our clergy and then approves the evaluation forms used by the Cabinet for all our clergy appointed to churches. The Board strives to become the best that it can be in the assessment of clergy “fitness,” “readiness” and “effectiveness” for ministry in the Conference.

Quincy D. Brown, Chair

201. Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Clergy Retirement Security Program

All active clergy (part-time or full-time) appointed to local churches are eligible for the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), the current UM pension plan. This program has a defined benefit component and a defined contribution component.
The 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, and provides for a surviving spouse benefit of 70 percent of the deceased clergyperson’s benefit.

The defined contribution component provides cash distributions upon retirement (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. Both components of CRSP are paid by the church.

The North Georgia Conference sends a monthly billing statement to each local church for pension and health benefits of covered clergy and lay staff (where applicable.) The conference must pay the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits (GBOPHB) for all benefits every month.

Many active clergy have accounts from the previous pension plans of the UMC. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) contributions ceased December 31, 2006. Each clergyperson’s MPP account balance plus the continuing accumulation of earnings will remain on account until distributed at retirement. Pension coverage for service prior to January 1, 1982 is determined by the number of years of service prior to 1982 multiplied by the Past Service Rate (PSR) passed by annual conference each year.

The conference is required to complete the funding of the pre-1982 pension obligations by December 31, 2021. This annual payment is paid from apportionments.

Other Benefit Plans

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), long term disability and death benefits, is a plan mandated for all full-time clergy serving local churches. Administered by the GBOPHB, it is billed to churches (at church cost) by the conference on the monthly benefits billing statement and paid in full each month to the GBOPHB. For most participants the premium rate is 3% of plan compensation up to two times the DAC.

The Optional Life Benefit (formerly Basic Protection Plan BPP) covers full-time pastors who die prior to retirement with an additional $10,000 death benefit. These benefits are funded by conference apportionments.
201a. Background Information on Retirement of the Pre-1982 Pension Liability as of January 1, 2010

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, 2010 (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 2009. 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 $33,789,000 as of January 1, 2010.

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

The Board recommends the Annual Conference approve a Past Service Rate (PSR) of $687 for 2011. That is a 1% increase over 2010 PSR of $677. The PSR is reviewed and approved each year.

At the request of the Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) the Board recommends that the 2010 Annual Conference set apportionment for pre-1982 pension and related benefits administered by the Board at $3,330,000 for 2011.

In arriving at the PSR and apportionment recommendations for 2011 and the long-range plan assumptions, the Board has considered several factors, including the effect upon the financial wellbeing of retirees and their families, the general economic and investment outlook, future inflation rates, the requirement that the pre-1982 pensions be completely funded by December 31,
2021, conference budgetary pressures, and the effect of all factors on local church apportionments.

Financial Highlights

Following are financial highlights of the Conference Pension Fund: unaudited for 2009, projected for 2010, and proposed for budget purposes for 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension rate for each year of ministers’ service before 1982</td>
<td>$663</td>
<td>$677</td>
<td>$684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionments</td>
<td>$3,833,000</td>
<td>$3,910,000</td>
<td>$3,330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionment collections</td>
<td>3,303,279</td>
<td>3,441,000</td>
<td>2,997,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment returns</td>
<td>979,425</td>
<td>309,000</td>
<td>526,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers</td>
<td>267,000</td>
<td>243,000</td>
<td>248,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions toward the funding of the pre-1982 pension liability</td>
<td>3,910,000</td>
<td>3,411,146</td>
<td>4,601,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Grants</td>
<td>15,868</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets of the Conference Pension Fund</td>
<td>623,836</td>
<td>465,854</td>
<td>(846,200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets of the Conference Pension Fund at year-end</td>
<td>6,187,407</td>
<td>6,653,261</td>
<td>5,807,061</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.

201b. North Georgia Conference Funding Plan for Retirement of The Pre-1982 Pension Liability as of January 1, 2010

The 2008 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 $33,789,000 as of January 1, 2010, 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 of Pension & Health Benefits (the 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

The Board recommends PSR of $684 for 2011 (.92% of CAC), a 1% increase over the 2010 PSR of $677; with 1% increases each year after 2011 for the next several years, assuming CAC increases remain low. By Disciplinary definition the PSR can not be less than .80% of Conference Average Compensation (CAC). CAC is expected to increase at 3% on average for the next several years, a somewhat slower rate than in the past.

Investment Returns & Current Assets

The plan assumes investment returns of 5.0 percent for 2010; 7.0 percent for each year after 2010 on average.

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 $6,187,407 as of December 31, 2009.

Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of the North Georgia Conference

The Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers of the North Georgia Conference contributed $267,000 to the Conference Pension Fund in 2009. It is assumed that the Foundation will continue to make contributions. The next 2 years contributions will be somewhat lower as a reflection of the 2009 market returns.

Plan Contributions

In 2011 an estimated contribution of $4,601,000 will be due to the GBOPHB. Annual payments of $4 million plus are required each year.
thereafter through 2021. After 2021 very small contributions may need to be apportioned to maintain other programs supported by this apportionment as well as increases in Pre-82 PSR.

### Apportionments

At the request of CFA the 2010 apportionment is a 14.8% decrease from 2010 to 2011 ($3,330,000). The Board supports that decrease but it will be necessary for the 2012 apportionment to replace the lost revenues for 2011 as well as expected cost increases. Future apportionments must continue to provide the bulk of necessary annual contributions.

### Summary

The actuarial services department of the General Board has used its most recent valuation of the pre-1982 plan, as of January 1, 2009, in estimating the unfunded past service liability as of January 1, 2010. The unfunded past service liability as of January 1, 2010, $33,789,000 is the sum of the estimated unfunded liability as of January 1, 2009, $35,233,000 (shown in the table below), and interest thereon at 7.0 percent for the year 2009 less the portion of the past service liability that the Conference funded by a plan contribution on December 31, 2009.

The unfunded past service liability and the funding sources as of January 1, 2009 based on the above assumptions are summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total past service liability, January 1, 2009</td>
<td>$54,026,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension funds held by the General Board, January 1, 2009</td>
<td>$18,793,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder – Unfunded past service liability, January 1, 2009</td>
<td>$35,233,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest at 7.0 percent for 2009</td>
<td>$2,466,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan contribution, December 31, 2009</td>
<td>($3,910,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfunded past service liability, January 1, 2010</td>
<td>$33,789,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding sources, January 1, 2010:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North Georgia Conference Pension Fund</td>
<td>$6,187,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present value of future funding sources (from apportionments, investment returns, contributions from the Methodist Foundation of Retired Ministers, etc., net of expenses)</td>
<td>$27,602,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funding sources, January 1, 2009</td>
<td>$33,789,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1. The total past service liability as of January 1, 2009 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, 2009.

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 Pension Fund, to meet the obligations for the pre-1982 pensions.

201c. 2010 Recommendations of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits

1. That the annual conference approve the 2010 Funding Plan recommended by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

2. That the 2011 annuity rate for each year of service rendered by our clergypersons prior to 1982 (the PSR) be set at $684.

3. That the Comprehensive Protection Plan Adoption Agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits remain in effect for 2011.

4. That the Optional Life Benefits (formerly BPP) agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits remain in effect for 2011.

5. That the 2011 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 $3,330,000.

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 2011 pension and disability payments as a rental/housing allowance for income tax purposes, within the limits of the Internal Revenue Code (see Resolution).

Jamie Jenkins, Executive Director      Morris Henderson, Chair
201d. Health Benefits Committee

The Health Benefits Committee works in partnership with clergy and laity to promote healthy lifestyles. Health insurance is an important part of this task. The conference health insurance is provided by HealthFlex, a cooperative venture of participating annual conferences and other agencies that is administered by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). In addition to seeking the best insurance coverage for the most favorable rates, the program also encourages wellness practices.

The GBOPHB and our annual conference are continuing to explore the ramifications of national and state healthcare reform for our participants. The Health Benefits Committee will be exploring the possibility of offering a Consumer-Driven Health Plan (CDHP) in 2011 in addition to our existing PPO plan. Details are still being determined.

The Health Benefits Committee encourages all members to be wise stewards of their physical well-being. Through proactive choices, we can enjoy healthy lifestyles AND save money. “Consumerism” is the new buzzword in healthcare. Participants are called to be proactive partners in their healthcare.

All HealthFlex participants are urged to take the HealthQuotient (HQ). The online assessment is a vital first step in self-care. The GBOPHB believes this is a critical component to wellness. For the first time in 2010, there will be a financial penalty for those who do not complete the HQ. If participants (AND spouses, if a spouse is covered) do not take the HealthQuotient by August 31, 2010, their deductibles will INCREASE an additional $250 for individuals and $500 for family in 2011 ABOVE whatever plan the conference offers.

In order to take the HQ, go to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits web site at http://www.gbophb.org. Then click on “HealthFlex/WebMD” on the right side. Log in or register as a new user. Again, please note that both the participant and spouse (if a spouse is covered) must sign in separately and take the HQ. Then complete the HealthQuotient. It takes less than 30 minutes to complete.

Even if you completed the HQ in 2009, it must be done again this calendar year by August 31, 2010. This is a significant change from the past, and we want to make sure all of the North Georgia HealthFlex participants are informed of the new policy. A kiosk will be set up and staffed during Annual Conference to assist HealthFlex participants to complete the online HealthQuotient.

The Virgin HealthMiles walking program is an effort to motivate persons to be more physically active. Pedometers are provided free of charge,
and participants are encouraged to walk at least 7,000 steps each day. Individuals can earn up to $300 in rewards annually for physical activity. To enroll, log in to the HealthFlex/WebMD Web site (go to www.gbophb.org and select “HealthFlex/WebMD”) Log in or register as a new user. Then click the “Join Now” link at the top of the page. Once you fill in your contact information, Virgin HealthMiles will send you a FREE pedometer. Remember, you can earn up to $300 a year for getting active. **Join Today!**

Participants can also take the **ProCheck** health screening—a comprehensive profile of medical tests that screens for several health conditions. ProCheck is free for HealthFlex participants. The cost is $115 for all others. It is available June 16-18, 6:30-10:00 a.m., at the Classic Center.

The financial planning services of Ernest and Young will again be offered this year free of charge to all clergy. We encourage members to take advantage of this service.

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

William R. Burch, Chair

**2010 HealthQuotient - Parthenon 2**

**ProCheck Health Screening - Parthenon 3**

**Wednesday, June 16 – Friday, June 18, 2010**

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.

Visit our computer kiosk station in Parthenon 2 of the Classic Center to complete your 2010 **HealthQuotient**. There will be persons to help you log on, and we hope you will spend a few minutes privately reviewing your health assessment.

**ProCheck** will be in Parthenon 3 of the Classic Center for a FREE health screening (non-HealthFlex members $115). The **ProCheck** health screenings are from 6:30 to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday-Friday. You will be evaluated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid disorders, anemia or excess iron, and prostate cancer. Blood will be drawn by phlebotomists from Athens area hospitals. Test evaluations will be done by Oklahoma University Hospital laboratory with results provided directly to you. No appointment is necessary, but 12 hour fasting is requested. Your **ProCheck** screening can count as your annual wellness examination. You also can take the results to
your primary care physician during your annual wellness exam. Please bring
your HealthFlex insurance ID card.

Be proactive in caring for your health and encourage your family
members to be wise stewards of their physical health.

201f. Retiree Medical Liability Task Force Report

Present Situation and Future Forecast
The Accumulated Post-Retirement Benefits Obligation (APBO) represents the
present value of retirement medical care for all current participants (active,
retired, surviving spouses, and dependents) in today’s dollars. Based upon
actuarial projections, the APBO is $69,846,593. The North Georgia Conference
presently has between 18,000,000 and 19,000,000 (depending upon investment
fluctuation) in reserve. This leaves a 20 year projected net unfunded liability of
approximately $51,000,000.

- $69,846,593 APBO
- $18,000,000 – 19,000,000 Reserve
- $51,000,000 (Approximate) Difference

Guiding Principles
The Task Force reviewed the present plan approved by the 2004 Annual
Conference. We adopted these Guiding Principles in addressing the unfunded
liability:

- Attempt to reduce Annual Conference premium growth rate
- Continue to encourage participation in wellness programs
- Maintain the vested right to alter funding and benefits, considering prior
  commitments
- Reduce the Retiree Unfunded Medical Insurance Liability
- Monitor the current funding plan to insure viability, while continuing to
  exclude those whose service was all prior to 1982
- Maintain a reasonable benefits’ program

The Task Force also discussed the amount of unfunded liability that we would
be “comfortable” with over a 20 year projection. The group tentatively decided
a reasonable goal would be to reduce the liability to $20,000,000 - $30,000,000.
Present Medicare Supplement Program
The Medicare Supplement Program presently costs $4,500 per participant in 2009. The North Georgia Annual Conference provides up to $3,600 of the annual cost per participant. Working with actuaries, the Task Force explored how “capping” the conference’s participation at various levels would affect the APBO. Three scenarios were generated.

Task Force Recommendations
The Task Force presented the following recommendations to the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits that were approved at the Fall 2009 meeting for presentation to the 2010 Annual Conference:

1) The Task Force recommends adopting Scenario 2 of the Watson Wyatt Worldwide report. The North Georgia Conference's financial support of retiree health insurance premiums will be "capped" at $5,000 for an individual participant and $10,000 for a participant and dependent(s) annually. The new policy will take effect on January 1, 2011. According to present projections, this would reduce the APBO by $20,000,000 over the next 20 years for a remaining APBO of approximately $30,000,000.

2) Apply the new policy equally to all retirees, including those who take early retirement. However, those with service years entirely prior to 1982 would not be required to pay for retiree health insurance premiums.

Final Thoughts
Finding a solution to the APBO is a complex equation. There are many variables that must be updated regularly. In 2004, for example, the annual conference thought an annual apportionment of $300,000 would “fix” the problem. It is now evident that this amount is woefully inadequate. Other variables include rising health costs, investment returns, new income sources, a possible national health care plan, etc.

The Task Force is aware that its recommendations do not address the entire challenge. If the board and conference adopt the recommendations, we are still left with a $30,000,000 unfunded liability. The present recommendations are simply another step in addressing the issue.

It is our sober opinion that the Retiree Medical Plan in its current form is not financially sustainable based upon present projections. More drastic measures will most likely be needed in the future.

Task Force Members: Bill Burch (Chair), Sally AsKew, Keith Cox, Morris Henderson, Karen Fullerton, Jamie Jenkins, and Ed Wadsworth
202. Commission of Equitable Compensation Guidelines

In *The Book of Discipline 2008*, ¶625.3 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.” It is the charge of this commission to insure adequate compensation for all pastors engaging in effective ministry.

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:

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.”

“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 the 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 of 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 2011:

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 2011. (This represents the sum of items I and II):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Connection</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Member</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional member</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Local Pastor</td>
<td>$28,200</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 (Staff)-Parish Relations [(The Book of Discipline 2008 ¶258.2g(8))], which shall be no less than $800 annually.

In practice, the student local pastor’s salary has been negotiated by the district superintendent and the local church. Thus, this category of compensation has been eliminated.

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

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 year of service indicated in the Chronological Roll published annually in the Conference Journal:

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

### 202d. 2011 Equitable Compensation

The commission recommends the following items be included in the Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan for 2011:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item of Compensation</th>
<th>2010 Full-Time Elder</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>2011 Full-Time Elder</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Compensation (1)</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>Housing allowance (2)</td>
<td>17,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension (3)</td>
<td>8,940</td>
<td>8,940</td>
<td>Health Insurance (4)</td>
<td>9,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Cost</td>
<td>$68,690</td>
<td>$68,690</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) may be broken out between cash, utility allowance and parsonage-related allowances
(2) where parsonage is not provided
(3) actual cost may vary based on variable factors between $8,772 and $9,996
(4) subject to setting of rates for 2011

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 Compensation.

The commission administers the Equitable Compensation Fund to assure each pastor receives a minimum compensation package approved by the Annual Conference (¶625.3 The Book of Discipline 2008). A local church that demonstrates the ability to maintain a full-time ministry may apply to the Commission of Equitable Compensation for a grant. We recommend that the North Georgia Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan provide for grants not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total equitable compensation costs (as outlined above) for the original grant.

The Bishop, Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation must approve any exception to the above Equitable Compensation guidelines on an annual basis and must request any additional funds over the original Equitable Compensation Budget from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration before an exception is made. The commission shall report to the Annual Conference the charges and the clergy members receiving or who have received disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund during the past calendar year including the number of years such funds have been disbursed to the charge and the clergy member.
The commission will make disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund in accordance with The Book of Discipline 2008 ¶¶331.14, 342 and 624. By May 31 of each year the district superintendent must file with the commission a list of standard supplement requests to be provided churches/charges in his/her district effective July 1-June 30. By November 30 of each year the district superintendent must file with the commission any changes to the supplements for the period January 1-June 30.

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

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, along with storm windows 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 connection should be provided where available or outside television antenna. 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.

8. The commission is currently reviewing and revising the standards for parsonages in North Georgia and will report on this revision at Annual Conference 2011.

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 2008 ¶2542).

2. The minimum housing allowance for 2011 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. Pastors Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Eq. Comp. Received</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Years on E. C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Brown</td>
<td>29,374</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crawford</td>
<td>37,106</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Jones</td>
<td>31,270</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Flanigan</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Maddox-Thurman</td>
<td>45,470</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Hoard</td>
<td>44,470</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emile Ennis</td>
<td>50,470</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Alexander</td>
<td>49,466</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Johnson</td>
<td>31,435</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

202h. Churches Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Eq. Comp. Received</th>
<th>Continuous Years on E. C.</th>
<th>Appt. Paid (08)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Spirit</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>29,374</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Chapel</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>37,106</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Head</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td>31,270</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivertown</td>
<td>ACPK</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Chapel</td>
<td>ADOX</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Shoals</td>
<td>ADOX</td>
<td>44,470</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Memorial</td>
<td>AMRY</td>
<td>50,470</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Mount Unionville</td>
<td>GRFN</td>
<td>31,435</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill Chapel</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>45,470</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Chapel</td>
<td>LAGR</td>
<td>49,466</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

203. Episcopacy Committee

The Conference Committee on Episcopacy is grateful to Bishop and Mrs. Watson for their gracious support as we work together on behalf of the North Georgia Annual Conference. The Conference Committee on Episcopacy seeks to live out its responsibilities in significant ways; namely, meeting quarterly for
accountability, dialogue and support; being available to the bishop for counsel; and keeping our Episcopal leader advised of concerns that affect relationships between the bishop and the people. In providing honest feedback, we are able to develop a unity of spirit important to the effective ministry of our conference.

In terms of a more personal ministry, Bishop Watson has given leadership in the areas of health, spiritual formation and conference responsibilities. This year our Episcopal leader has promoted healthy living as a form of Christian Stewardship. By participating in the health fit program, the bishop gives quarterly updates on his health and wholeness plan. This includes wearing a pedometer from Virgin Health miles and participating in a walking program. Secondly, Bishop Watson seeks to give proactive leadership in the area of spiritual formation. At our December meeting, the bishop shared several resources including “When You Pray” by Bishop Rueben Job and the “Read through the Bible in a Year” schedule. Also, Bishop Watson has given leadership across the church as President of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Central Conference Pension Initiative, and the World Methodist Council to name a few of his connectional responsibilities. This year, Bishop and Mrs. Watson led groups to the Holy Land as well as a fact-finding group to Uganda. Indeed, our Episcopal team is giving leadership in exciting ways.

As part of this report, I would like to thank the Episcopal Residence Committee led by Dr. Wiley Stephens. They have addressed the needs of the Episcopal residence in providing a comfortable living space for our Episcopal family.

In conclusion, we give thanks to God for the opportunities of mission and ministry given to our conference and for the leadership we have in Bishop and Mrs. Watson.

L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson

204. Conference Communications Office

The Communications Office seeks to maintain the high standards that have made the North Georgia Conference a model for many conferences and the general church. A well informed clergy and laity is high priority in all that we do.

The first edition of the North Georgia Advocate was published July 5, 2009. This was the result of the discontinuance of the Wesleyan Christian Advocate that had served Georgia Methodism for 172 years. Glenn Hannigan joined our staff as the editor after almost 30 years of journalism experience,
including many years as senior editor of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He has enabled the North Georgia Conference to have an outstanding subscription-based print publication providing comprehensive news from the North Georgia Conference and broad coverage of national and world church news.

Extensive efforts have been made this year to make people aware of this resource and two intensive subscription campaigns have been implemented in our plan to make the newspaper self supporting by the end of this year.

The conference website (www.ngumc.org) offers users a well-organized and easy-to-navigate site based on an excellent interactive platform. We continue to present useful news, vital resources, and pertinent information related to North Georgians. The search function provides an easy way to discover everything on the website. Our goal is to continue to keep our website fresh, timely, and always user-friendly. Web visitors will also notice two new tool options in the bottom left-hand corner of each webpage—the "share" and "Google translate" options. By clicking the "share" feature, visitors to our site will be able to share information on a specific webpage with their friends and family. This option also enables people to post information relating to the North Georgia Conference on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. The "Google translate" option enables visitors from around the world to view our site in their native language. From Spanish to Russian to French to Chinese, this option truly makes our website viable from pole to pole.

We will continue to strive to keep pastors and members of local churches aware of opportunities, resources, and other information that will enrich their ministries. The subscription-based e-newsletters include *Weekly Update* which provides current information on activities and other items of interest throughout the conference. *Monday Morning in North Georgia* offers inspiration and motivation to start each week. Daily emailed Prayers & Celebrations keep us connected to and supportive of one another. Disaster response emergency alerts inform interested persons and call them to action when needs arise. These and other e-newsletters help us gain from the connections we share as United Methodists.

The churches of the North Georgia Conference have an opportunity for outreach and evangelism throughout the area through radio, television, and newspapers. We have had a presence on some of the major sports broadcasts such as ACC basketball, SEC football, and the Winter Olympics with the potential of reaching hundreds of thousands of mostly un-churched persons. An invitational message has been sounded on the radio in several regions of the state during Lent and Advent during traffic updates at peak drive time. Because of restraints on conference budget funds, most of the cost of presenting the
message of the Gospel and the Church this past year was made possible through
grants from United Methodist Communications and The Foundation for
Evangelism.

We are trying new and less expensive ways to reach a web-based
younger audience through internet advertising via banner ads and pre-news roll
ads. The conference also has a growing presence on Facebook. We will
continue to seek new ways to reach new people and to be good stewards of
apportioned giving.

A series of communications workshops was conducted this year
throughout the conference to assist local church communicators in being more
effective in sharing the news of their congregations. These were well attended
and many have requested follow up opportunities. Efforts such as these will
continue to be offered regularly.

Press releases, promotional material, and instructional videos are
additional ways the Communications Office seeks to aid in the ministry of the
conference. The staff also serves you by producing visuals, daily updates and a
summary of the business sessions of Annual Conference as well as live
streaming of the entire event over the internet.

Information from local churches, pastors, and others in leadership is
always welcome. 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.

I am privileged to work with Beth Barnwell, Glenn Hannigan, and Tim
McDaniel. Sybil Davidson moved from the Communications Office in January
but continues to assist with the Advocate layout. These persons are
exceptionally gifted and deeply committed to using their talents to spread the
Word. I am grateful 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 all means of
communication in the ministry of Christ and the Church.

Jamie Jenkins, Conference Information Officer

205. North Georgia Conference Housing and Homeless Council

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

The Housing and Homeless Council received no funds from the Conference budget in 2009. The year began with the Housing Trust Fund, our endowment held with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, at $959,202.70, and it fell to $918,700.38 at the end of the first quarter. The loss would have been greater if the Housing and Homeless Council had not placed $470,000 of that in a fixed rate note at 4% interest. By the end of the year the market had recovered enough so that the endowment reached back over the million dollar mark to $1,103,778.85.

During the period when the Trust Fund fell below $1 million, 25% of income went into the Trust Fund for part of the year until it rose to $1 million again. The Housing and Homeless Council has proposed new policies which are contained with the report from CF&A. If approved, these new policies will assure that 100% of the Homeless Offering funds will be given in grants even if the Housing Trust Fund falls below $1 million.

February 22 was designated as Homeless Offering Sunday for 2009. Churches contributed $225,323.36 to the 2009 Homeless Offering.

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 2009, the Housing and Homeless Council has awarded grants totaling $3,395,189. 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 2009, the Housing and Homeless Council awarded capital grants totaling $131,342.00 and operational grants totaling $56,000.00, for a grand total of $187,342.00. These grants were awarded in all 12 districts.

**Capital Grants Awarded in 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Refuge Center, Inc.</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Emergency Relief Foundation (CERF)</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drake House, The</td>
<td>5,179.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essence of Hope, Inc.</td>
<td>6,521.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Memorial UMC</td>
<td>4,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Coalition of Smyrna-Cobb - Smyrna First UMC</td>
<td>4,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity – N. Central GA (Cherokee)-Hillside UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity – N. Central GA (Forsyth Co.)-Cumming FUMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Greene County - Greensboro First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Meriwether County - Greenville UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of N. Central GA (Fulton County) - Roswell UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union County - Coosa UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MUST Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rainbow Community Center, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rainbow Village, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Salvation Army of Gainesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>South West Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tapestry Youth Ministries, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trinity Community Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Victory Home - Helping Hand, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wesley Community Centers, Inc. Bethlehem Senior Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Winder First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>Operational Grants Awarded in 2009</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Action Ministries dba Athens Urban Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Action Ministries dba Atlanta Urban Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Action Ministries, Inc. dba Rome Action Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Action Ministries, Inc. Transitional Housing Program, Atlanta, Jasper, Greensboro, Thomson, Harlem, Rome, Peachtree city, Griffin, Lilburn,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Norcross, Cartersville, Calhoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Allen Memorial UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Atlanta Enterprise Center, Inc, The (AEC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Atlanta Union Mission's The Potter's House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Bigger Vision of Athens, The</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Bowdon Area United Christian Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Breakthru House, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Brookhaven UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Catoosa County Children's Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Chatsworth First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Community Resource Center of Newton County dba FaithWorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>F.A.I.T.H. in Rabun County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Faith UMC Manna Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Family Promise of Gwinnett, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Promise of Whitfield County, Inc. 1,750.00 1
Flat Shoals UMC 1,000.00 2
Gateway House, Inc. 1,750.00 3
God's Bread Basket - Hogansville First UMC 1,750.00 4
Hall Family Initiative Residences, Inc. (Hope House) 1,000.00 5
Harris Chapel UMC 1,000.00 6
Housing Initiative of North Fulton (Homestretch) 1,750.00 7
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta, Inc. 1,750.00 8
Interfaith Outreach Home, Inc. 1,000.00 9
Jerusalem House, Inc. 1,000.00 10
Jodeco UMC/ Jodeco on the Road Food Pantry 1,000.00 11
Lithonia First UMC 1,000.00 12
Midtown Assistance Center 1,000.00 13
North Bartow Community Services 1,750.00 14
Ringgold UMC 1,000.00 15
Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry 1,000.00 16
Toco Hills Community Alliance 1,750.00 17
United Way of the Central Savannah River Area, Inc. 1,050.00 18

Matt Murphy, Chair 19
Virginia Tinsley, Director 20

206. Conference Statistician Team 21

Thank you. On behalf of the CST, I would like to thank each church for 22
your work in entering the End of Year report data. Thank for your patience in 23
dealing with the changes. We hope you found the reports easier to complete and 24
the data check helpful in improving the accuracy of your information. 25

The following are lists for the top 50 churches in 3 categories: 26
Professions of Faith (broken down in two ways), Worship Attendance and 27
Church School Attendance. The lists are in order. The church with the highest 28
number or percentage is listed first. 29

206a. Total Number of Professions of Faith 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt Bethel UMC Marietta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta First UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumming First UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillside UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Pisgah UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due West UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St James UMC Alpharetta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Memorial UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody UMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Sugarloaf UMC
2 Snellville UMC
3 Peachtree Road UMC
4 Roswell UMC
5 Peachtree City UMC
6 Wesley UMC Evans
7 McEachern Memorial UMC
8 Sugar Hill UMC
9 Wesley Chapel UMC McDonough
10 Stockbridge First UMC
11 Cannon UMC
12 Birmingham UMC
13 Johns Creek UMC
14 Athens Latino Mission
15 Gainesville First UMC
16 Simpsonwood UMC
17 Providence UMC Fayetteville
18 McKendree UMC
19 Newnan First UMC
20 Hamilton Mill UMC

22 206b. Professions of Faith as Percentage of Membership
23 Athens Latino Mission
24 Sacred Tapestry UMC
25 Korean Church of LaGrange
26 City On A Hill UMC
27 Chinese UMC
28 Crossroads UMC
29 Impact UMC
30 Lighthouse UMC
31 Covenant UMC
32 New Wardell UMC
33 The UMC at the Well
34 Navo UMC
35 Maysville UMC
36 Hollydale UMC
37 Barton Chapel UMC
38 Arbor Pointe UMC
39 Fountain of Love UMC

Northbrook UMC
Kelley Chapel UMC
Maysville UMC
Covenant UMC
Sacred Tapestry UMC
Sam Jones Memorial UMC
Norcross First UMC
Marietta First UMC
Duluth First UMC
Haygood Memorial UMC
Conyers First UMC
Lighthouse UMC
Trinity-On-The-Hill UMC Augusta
Acworth UMC
Mt Zion UMC, Marietta
Kennesaw UMC
Mosaic UMC (tie)
Trinity UMC Cartersville (tie)
Harlem UMC (tie)
New Spirit UMC
Hoschton UMC
Poplar Springs UMC Sand Hill
Anvil Block UMC
Cristo La Roca Mission - Mt.
Pisgah UMC Hispanic
Korean Church of Newnan UMC
Templo Cristo Vive UMC
New Liberty UMC Hollywood
Golden Memorial UMC
Mt Zion UMC, Dacula
New Prospect UMC Buford
Wesley Chapel UMC Hoschton
Ellenwood UMC
Rivertown UMC
Mosaic UMC
Whitesville UMC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location/State</th>
<th>Attendance Increase by Percentage over Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vinings UMC</td>
<td>Midway UMC Gillsville</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Zion UMC, Duluth</td>
<td>The Springs UMC</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redemption Community UMC</td>
<td>The Highlands UMC</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarang Korean UMC</td>
<td>Union City UMC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewell UMC</td>
<td>Oak Grove UMC, Euharlee</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culverton UMC</td>
<td>Laster's Chapel UMC</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Grove UMC Dahlonega</td>
<td>Harris Chapel UMC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak UMC Newton Co.</td>
<td>McKee's Chapel UMC</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiloh UMC Ballground</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>206c. Worship Attendance Increase by Percentage over Previous Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Chapel UMC Fairmount</td>
<td>Pine Chapel UMC</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce's Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Fairview UMC Forsyth</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center UMC Crawford</td>
<td>Woodbury UMC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chubb Chapel UMC</td>
<td>New Hope UMC Locust Grove</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Zion UMC, Duluth</td>
<td>Atlanta First UMC</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope UMC Moreland Ave</td>
<td>Mansfield UMC</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection UMC</td>
<td>Freeman Memorial UMC</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Pennington Chapel UMC</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eton UMC</td>
<td>Hollonville UMC</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenth Street UMC</td>
<td>Atlanta Bethany UMC</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon UMC Taliaferro Co.</td>
<td>Raytown UMC</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hope UMC Summerville</td>
<td>Sunshine UMC</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Tabor UMC Dallas</td>
<td>Redemption Community UMC</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Of Faith UMC</td>
<td>Antioch UMC Fairburn</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant UMC</td>
<td>Pleasant Hill UMC Griffin</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navo UMC</td>
<td>New Wardell UMC</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean Church of LaGrange</td>
<td>Ararat UMC</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Quest UMC</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laster's Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Wesley Chapel UMC Dahlonega</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Korean UMC Of Atlanta</td>
<td>Clem UMC</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Liberty UMC</td>
<td>Shady Grove UMC Aragon</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The UMC at the Well</td>
<td>Oak Grove UMC, Euharlee</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Springs UMC</td>
<td>Midway UMC Lincolnton</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel UMC Troup</td>
<td>Gay UMC</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifftondale UMC</td>
<td>Hartford UMC</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
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</table>
206d. Church School Attendance Increase by Percentage over Previous Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Church Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hope UMC Moreland Ave</td>
<td>Rust Chapel UMC Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese UMC</td>
<td>Korean Church of LaGrange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clem UMC</td>
<td>Sacred Tapestry UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flovilla UMC</td>
<td>Lawrence Chapel UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devereux UMC</td>
<td>Ariel Bowen UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Point First Mallalieu UMC</td>
<td>Calvary UMC Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel UMC Atlanta</td>
<td>Plainville UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antioch UMC Fairburn</td>
<td>Wesley Chapel UMC Fairmount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon UMC Taliaferro County</td>
<td>Crossroads UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope UMC Marietta</td>
<td>Mt Pleasant UMC Calhoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrow Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Impact UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopewell UMC Whitesville</td>
<td>Covenant UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel UMC Wilkes County</td>
<td>Lighthouse UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kynette UMC</td>
<td>Bethel UMC Stockbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliette UMC</td>
<td>New Oakland City UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope UMC Lawrenceville</td>
<td>City On A Hill UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem UMC, Pine Mountain</td>
<td>St Luke UMC Mableton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statham UMC</td>
<td>St Paul UMC Lumpkin County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Springs UMC</td>
<td>Laster's Chapel UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Paul UMC Eatonton</td>
<td>Bethel UMC Troup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Place UMC</td>
<td>Maysville UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadley Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Hartford UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosanna UMC</td>
<td>Andrews Chapel UMC Newnan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce's Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Ebenezer UMC Roswell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Chapel UMC Covington</td>
<td>Fellowship UMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

207. Annual Conference Board of Trustees

In consultation with the conference chancellor, the trustees regularly discuss and take appropriate steps to deal with legal matters related to property which have 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.

The current loans for Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center expired on April 30 and May 31. The Simpsonwood Board of Directors approved the application for a new loan in the amount of $5.1 million.

Currently, the Annual Conference guarantees the debt and this new loan would
not change the total amount of the debt. Under the terms of the new loan, the Annual Conference will be responsible for the debt. Therefore, the Conference Trustees authorized Keith Cox, Conference Treasurer, to execute the loan.

The Trustees will seek to clarify their responsibility and authority related to all agencies or entities related to the Annual Conference, including Simpsonwood and the Office of New Church Development. Efforts will be made this year to better understand and clarify the corporate structure of the Annual Conference, including the Annual Conference, Inc., the Board of Trustees, Inc., and the Board of Missions.

The Louise D. Park Eye Fund is available, but continues to be under utilized. Pastors are encouraged to inform low income persons, retired pastors, and others who might need help with eye care costs of this available assistance. Guidelines have been developed to govern usage of the fund. Applications may be made by contacting the Office of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

Chuck Bachman, President
Jamie Jenkins, Secretary

208. Council on Finance and Administration

208a. Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

North Georgia Conference apportionment payment percentage in 2009 continued a recent downward trend, reflecting challenging economic circumstances. Despite the economy, however, total apportionment payments were $22,612,733, an increase of $72,613 from 2008. This equates to a 2.2 percentage point decrease to budget. Payments to Conference and General Advances, and to special offerings, totaled $2,156,198 compared to $2,063,560 in 2008.

For the eighth consecutive year, the North Georgia Conference was the top payer of General Church apportionments, with a total paid of $6,261,585. Despite this achievement, our goal is to ultimately support General Church apportionments at 100% payment rate.

The Athens-Elberton District achieved the highest percentage of apportionments paid, 93.4%. The Augusta District was second at 92.9%. Atlanta-Roswell District had the highest payment total, followed by Atlanta-Emory and Atlanta-Marietta.

72.4% of our churches paid 100% of their apportionments in 2009, which represents a decline of 6 percentage points versus 2008. This marks the third straight year of a decline in the number of churches paying 100%. As the
conference budget has declined, we had hoped to see an increase in the number of churches paying 100% and an increase in the overall payment percentage. The conference’s financial stability cannot be adequately provided for if our budgets continue to be reduced while, at the same time, payment percentages on those budgets decline.

The Treasurer’s Office continues to emphasize financial administration training for local church treasurers and finance committees. We continue to utilize both district training events as well as meetings with individual churches for the purpose of interpretation and clarifying policy and procedural issues. This office strives to update our website with current information, and routinely communicates directly with local church treasurers. We appreciate and rely on feedback from the local churches to help us focus on issues that are critical to them.

The annual conference audit and the district office reviews will be substantially concluded prior to annual conference session. The conference audit for 2008 is posted on the North Georgia Conference website, and the 2009 audit will be posted upon completion.

Investment Summary

Conference funds are invested strictly in accordance with the Investment Guidelines approved by the annual conference in 2008 and published in the Annual Conference Journal. Investment maturities and rates of return vary based on projections of cash needs, as well as both short and intermediate term investment performance.

The investment environment was much improved over 2008. In 2009, the conference experienced an unrealized gain of $4,763,000, or 15.8% on invested funds, compared to a negative 17.1% return in 2008. Total investments at December 31, 2009 were $31,875,402, with approximately $27,851,000 of the total representing reserves for benefits programs.

Keith M. Cox, CTP
Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services
## 208b. Comparative on Receipts

**Office of the Treasurer**

**Exhibit I: Comparative on Receipts**  
(YTD Through 12/31/09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2008 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2009 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia Conference</td>
<td>$2,339,912</td>
<td>$361,972</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>$2,557,902</td>
<td>$412,936</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministries Support</td>
<td>$6,931,000</td>
<td>$1,098,657</td>
<td>$6,135,533</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>$7,151,000</td>
<td>$1,119,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Administration</td>
<td>$1,983,576</td>
<td>$309,940</td>
<td>$1,754,848</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>$1,986,518</td>
<td>$312,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>$2,030,710</td>
<td>$243,260</td>
<td>$1,807,809</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>$2,301,357</td>
<td>$380,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Funding</td>
<td>$268,365</td>
<td>$42,992</td>
<td>$240,181</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>$311,000</td>
<td>$49,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>$2,150,030</td>
<td>$182,132</td>
<td>$1,043,551</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>$1,227,231</td>
<td>$190,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Development</td>
<td>$2,487,563</td>
<td>$336,979</td>
<td>$2,102,685</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>$2,423,540</td>
<td>$355,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$124,405</td>
<td>$661,911</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$112,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group Sub-Total**  
$17,969,156 | $2,821,338 | $15,910,437 | 88.5% | $18,615,540 | $2,973,450 | $16,049,895 | 86.2% | -2.3%

**General Church**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2008 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2009 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black College Fund</td>
<td>$509,545</td>
<td>$81,470</td>
<td>$450,020</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>$622,176</td>
<td>$83,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>$1,279,635</td>
<td>$194,278</td>
<td>$1,117,721</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>$1,306,910</td>
<td>$207,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdenominational Cooperation Fund</td>
<td>$101,087</td>
<td>$15,955</td>
<td>$87,941</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
<td>$102,010</td>
<td>$17,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service Fund</td>
<td>$3,937,299</td>
<td>$850,925</td>
<td>$3,445,117</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>$3,784,456</td>
<td>$834,752</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa University Fund</td>
<td>$112,523</td>
<td>$18,103</td>
<td>$100,028</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>$116,808</td>
<td>$22,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>$1,029,685</td>
<td>$165,154</td>
<td>$809,503</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>$1,027,967</td>
<td>$169,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration Fund</td>
<td>$240,002</td>
<td>$23,050</td>
<td>$204,135</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
<td>$421,090</td>
<td>$72,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>$7,318,356</td>
<td>$1,179,748</td>
<td>$6,404,485</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>$7,284,080</td>
<td>$1,207,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Southeastern Jurisdiction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2008 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>2009 Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEU's Mission and Ministry Fund</td>
<td>$255,627</td>
<td>$41,081</td>
<td>$225,197</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>$352,375</td>
<td>$58,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>$255,627</td>
<td>$41,081</td>
<td>$225,197</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>$352,375</td>
<td>$58,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>$25,541,139</td>
<td>$4,042,167</td>
<td>$22,540,120</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>$26,252,003</td>
<td>$4,239,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Offerings</td>
<td>$875,764</td>
<td>$183,641</td>
<td>$317,876</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conf. Advance Specials</td>
<td>$711,212</td>
<td>$784,508</td>
<td>$535,286</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Advance Specials</td>
<td>$670,504</td>
<td>$360,049</td>
<td>($270,555)</td>
<td>-41.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                             | $24,603,980 | $24,768,930 | $165,250 | 0.7% |
## Office of the Treasurer
### Exhibit II

**Apportionment Payments by District**

*(Through 12/31/09)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Apport.</th>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens Elberton</td>
<td>$1,701,329</td>
<td>$1,517,763</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>$1,610,762</td>
<td>$1,505,212</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta College Park</td>
<td>$2,167,186</td>
<td>$1,985,742</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>$2,206,377</td>
<td>$1,890,998</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Decatur Oxford</td>
<td>$1,983,030</td>
<td>$1,588,253</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>$2,006,414</td>
<td>$1,627,817</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Emory</td>
<td>$3,323,180</td>
<td>$2,765,591</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
<td>$3,463,976</td>
<td>$2,919,803</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Marietta</td>
<td>$3,043,870</td>
<td>$2,507,777</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>$3,215,701</td>
<td>$2,547,378</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Roswell</td>
<td>$3,548,461</td>
<td>$3,008,537</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>$3,625,466</td>
<td>$3,146,482</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>$1,784,691</td>
<td>$1,622,180</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>$1,809,619</td>
<td>$1,681,376</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>($2,672)</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>($54)</td>
<td>$2,188</td>
<td>-4051.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>$2,024,425</td>
<td>$2,024,425</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>$2,160,934</td>
<td>$1,768,894</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>$1,449,560</td>
<td>$1,285,080</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>$1,469,985</td>
<td>$1,307,358</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>$1,658,474</td>
<td>$1,524,335</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>$1,742,368</td>
<td>$1,583,506</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>$1,315,727</td>
<td>$1,230,781</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>$1,416,723</td>
<td>$1,240,591</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Carrollton</td>
<td>$1,543,878</td>
<td>$1,439,611</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>$1,523,732</td>
<td>$1,391,130</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Totals</td>
<td>$25,541,139</td>
<td>$22,540,120</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>$26,252,003</td>
<td>$22,612,733</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Increase (Decrease) in Apport. Payments (2008 vs. 2009)**

- **Increase ($72,613)**
- **Percent Increase (Decrease)**
  - **0.3%**
208d. Simpsonwood Report

In 2009, Simpsonwood’s apportioned subsidy decreased from 2008 by $93,000 and actual subsidy paid decreased by $94,000.

Hotel Equities generated a net income from operations of $14,674 in 2009 versus a loss of $190,000 in 2008. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors including the overall economy and a lack of capital, revenue was not enough to fund depreciation or to make the debt payments. The conference subsidy, in essence, is used to fund the debt.

Cash flow remained tight throughout 2009, and is still tight. Hence, the Council on Finance and Administration is recommending a debt restructuring plan and an increase in apportionments for Simpsonwood in 2011.

“Shuttering” or simply discontinuing operations is not an economically viable option as long as Hotel Equities can continue to generate anything close to a breakeven point from operations.

In order to be a viable option, Simpsonwood needs to have a clear mission, which it lacks, along with $2-3 million in cash for capital improvements, and to be free of debt. Barring those conditions, the goal is to operate it as efficiently as possible until there is a plan approved by the conference to find an alternative use.
## 208f. Simpsonwood Balance Sheet

2/1/2010 at 5:50:29 PM

**Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center**  
The Lodge at Simpsonwood  
Period from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009  
Year from 1/1/2009 to 12/31/2009  
Prior Month from 1/1/2009 to 11/30/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Prior Month</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCOUNT NAME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>656.07</td>
<td>656.07</td>
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<td>Money Market Account</td>
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<td>Cash - Payroll Account</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash - Operating</td>
<td>10,394.21</td>
<td>5,266.43</td>
<td>5,127.78</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable - Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable - Guest Ledger</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>13,590.66</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable - City Ledger</td>
<td>37,650.55</td>
<td>56,407.22</td>
<td>-18,756.67</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable - Misc.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Line From Current L/Bl</td>
<td>-30,000.00</td>
<td>-30,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Credit Card Accts. Rec.</td>
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<td>13,704.24</td>
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<td>Inventory - Linen</td>
<td>73,836.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory - Food &amp; Rev.</td>
<td>9,776.04</td>
<td>14,400.58</td>
<td>-4,624.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>12,119.98</td>
<td>11,291.54</td>
<td>828.44</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>145,574.15</td>
<td>191,933.88</td>
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<td><strong>Fixed Assets (At Cost)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>2,500,243.82</td>
<td>2,500,243.82</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Improvements</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>12,202,515.32</td>
<td>12,202,515.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture And Equipment</td>
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<td>2,486,099.56</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accum. Deprec. - Land Improv.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accum. Deprec. - Buildings</td>
<td>-2,207,709.17</td>
<td>-2,207,709.17</td>
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<td>Accum. Deprec. - Fix</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
<td>-7,008,796.86</td>
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<td><strong>Fixed Assets, Net</strong></td>
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<td>10,338,160.67</td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction In Progress</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Opening Expenses</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franchise Fees</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Costs</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization Costs</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Amortization</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>342,933.80</td>
<td>342,933.80</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>50,079.71</td>
<td>50,079.71</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Reserve Account</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>393,768.51</td>
<td>392,953.51</td>
<td>815.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>10,839,504.50</td>
<td>10,923,048.06</td>
<td>-83,543.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Balance Sheet

**Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center**  
The Lodge at Simpsonwood  
Period from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009  
Year from 1/1/2009 to 12/31/2009  
Prior Month from 1/1/2009 to 11/30/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Prior Month</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCOUNT NAME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - TRADE</td>
<td>211,597.55</td>
<td>249,033.62</td>
<td>-38,436.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - HSC</td>
<td>4,385.50</td>
<td>4,043.09</td>
<td>342.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVANCE DEPOSITS</td>
<td>267,056.60</td>
<td>188,910.84</td>
<td>78,145.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCRUED PATROLL</td>
<td>4,229.82</td>
<td>13,729.37</td>
<td>-9,499.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCRUED INSURANCE</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCRUED PROPERTY TAXES</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE SALES TAX - ROOM</td>
<td>12,035.17</td>
<td>11,372.60</td>
<td>662.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE SALES TAX - FOOD</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL OCCUPANCY TAX - ROOM</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3,588.64</td>
<td>-3,588.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFERRED REVENUE</td>
<td>217,413.00</td>
<td>317,413.00</td>
<td>-100,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUE TO OWNER</td>
<td>414,644.41</td>
<td>414,644.41</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONSTRUCTION RETAINAGE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION</td>
<td>22,459.56</td>
<td>22,459.56</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES PAYABLE - LINE OF CREDIT</td>
<td>699,900.00</td>
<td>699,900.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,539,212.46</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,517,313.58</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,898.88</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Debt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES PAYABLE</td>
<td>4,973,195.35</td>
<td>5,005,926.71</td>
<td>-32,731.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS: CURRENT PORTION OF LTD</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Long Term Debt</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,973,195.35</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,005,926.71</strong></td>
<td><strong>-32,731.36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,508,407.81</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,523,240.29</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETAINED EARNINGS</td>
<td>-1,591,136.91</td>
<td>-1,591,136.91</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE</td>
<td>2,950,433.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWNER CONTRIBUTIONS/DISTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>1,231,120.71</td>
<td>1,146,120.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAID IN CAPITAL</td>
<td>1,020,389.49</td>
<td>1,020,389.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRENT NET EARNINGS</td>
<td>878,709.60</td>
<td>-725,998.52</td>
<td>1,604,708.12</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,331,096.69</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,399,807.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>-68,711.08</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,839,504.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,923,048.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>-83,543.56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
208g. Simpsonwood Debt Restructure Plan

SIMPSONWOOD DEBT RESTRUCTURE PLAN
MARCH 1, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENDER</th>
<th>BORROWER</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>PRESENT DEBT</th>
<th>RE-STRUCTURED DEBT</th>
<th>PAYMENT TERMS</th>
<th>Yearly Conference Funding Needed</th>
<th>Simpsonwood Cash Flow Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNTRUST</td>
<td>Simpsonwood</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>$5,470,000</td>
<td>Interest only</td>
<td></td>
<td>$108,000</td>
<td>(108,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present Note due 4/30/10</td>
<td>Simpsonwood</td>
<td>5.50%</td>
<td>$999,000</td>
<td>Line of Credit - Interest only</td>
<td>$ 1,059,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New LT Permanent Loan</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>6.95%</td>
<td>$339,000</td>
<td>$339,000</td>
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<td>GLUM FOUNDATION</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Present Permanent Loan</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>5.90%</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>20 year amortized</td>
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<td>New LT Permanent Loan</td>
<td>Simpsonwood</td>
<td>5.95%</td>
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<td>UM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION</td>
<td>Simpsonwood</td>
<td>6.75%</td>
<td>$3,600,000</td>
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<td>20 year amortized</td>
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<td>TOTAL DEBT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,598,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SIMPSONWOOD SUBSIDY NEEDED: $700,000
Uncollectible Factor for New Note Funding: 28,960

TOTAL CONFERENCE FUNDING NEEDED: $1,121,950

Less: Non-collection of apportionments assuming 65% collection rate: $185,293
Excess to be used for reduction of accounts payable and deferred maintenance: $311,402

Note:
Conference funding for Simpsonwood Apportionment Subsidy including debt service has been as follows:
2007: $390,000 Advance Special
2008: $750,000 Conference Budget
2009: $657,000 Conference Budget
2010: $780,000 Conference Budget

208h. Council on Finance and Administration Report

The work of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) to develop a fiscally sound and responsive budget for the North Georgia Conference is always a challenge. At all times the legitimate and deserving requests for funding exceed the conference’s revenue expectations. The work of the Council on Finance and Administration this year was again challenging as we prayerfully began preparing a 2011 budget proposal. The context of our work was: only 86.2 percent of apportionments were paid; the overall state and national economies continued to be in a deep recessionary mode; the Simpsonwood Conference Center’s dependency on a substantial subsidy from the Conference budget increased; and the reality of substantial unfunded liabilities in the health and retirement obligations of the conference alone provide a sobering context for all of our financial plans, both immediately and well into the future.
These factual circumstances require that financial prudence and spiritual balance combine to produce a responsible recommended budget. The members of the Council feel that we were able to achieve that goal. However, we do not contend that the proposed budget is perfect. Many areas of program and ministry are not funded at desired levels. For example, Church Development will not be able to fund all elements of its plans (however, over $2 million is being recommended); higher education continues to be funded at a marginal level. As a result the proposed 2011 budget is $25,295,067 or 2.4 percent lower than the 2010 budget. As a rule, the conference-wide apportionment will decrease.

However, there is some good news as we move forward. The Conference Task Force approved at the 2009 Annual Conference session is working diligently and thoughtfully on possible options for Simpsonwood; the Conference Committee on Pensions and Benefits is proposing changes in health benefits that, if approved, will reduce conference's overall unfunded liabilities by more than 20 percent; the Office of Connectional Ministries was granted greater budget implementation flexibility; and CF&A established a Standing Committee on Stewardship to work cooperatively with the Office of Connectional Ministries and the Georgia United Methodist Foundation on developing a conference stewardship program based on biblical principles of tithing and giving.

Despite all of the financial challenges facing North Georgia United Methodists, their churches, and their communities, our faith remains strong, our outlook positive and our attitude joyous. Together we will continue to work in all ways and in all places to be obedient to the Mission of the UMC – To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Hank Huckaby, Chair

208i. 2010 Recommendations

Recurring

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 the prevailing IRS employee rate.
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 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 2011 housing allowance designated by annual conference for Cabinet-level clergy personnel be held at the same level as 2010. This amount was 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 2011 for that group be set at $5,000, which is the same amount used in 2009 and 2010.

6. We recommend in addition to those observances set by the General Conference, the following special days, with offerings, but without quotas, be observed in 2011: Homeless Offering (last Sunday in February), Mother’s Day Offering for Wesley Homes (Mother’s Day, second Sunday in May), Murphy-Harpst (third Sunday in July), Golden Cross (third Sunday in August), United Methodist Children’s Home Work Day (third Sunday in September), Aldersgate Homes (fourth Sunday in October), Action Ministries (second Sunday in November), AIDS Awareness Sunday (first Sunday in December).

7. We recommend that each of the following be permitted to have one direct mail appeal for funds in 2011: the United Methodist Children’s Home, Wesley Homes, Action Ministries, and Aldersgate Homes, Inc.

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

9. In light of 86.1% of apportionments collected in 2009 and current total benefits premiums balances of $2.2 million, we remind each local church of our covenant to pay our apportionments in full and our clergy benefits premiums in full, on a monthly basis.

10. We recommend the adoption of the apportionment formula approved at Annual Conference 2006 as described in the Proposed 2010 Budget Interpretation, which is attached.

11. We recommend that all churches and conference-related agencies ensure that their internal control systems are adequate to safeguard their assets as well as to insure compliance with completing an annual audit pursuant to section 258(4)(d) of the 2008 Book of Discipline. For churches whose operating budgets are less than $500,000, we recommend that those...
churches consider utilizing the “Local Church Audit Guide” to fulfill their audit obligation.

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

13. 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.

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

15. We recommend the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be directed to consider a resolution to be presented to the 2012 General Conference for the purpose of extending the deadline for achieving full funding of the current unfunded liability of its Pre-1982 Benefits from 2021 to 2025.

16. Pursuant to a recommendation from the Committee on Related Agencies, we recommend that the funding of the Extended and Related Agencies be phased out of the annual conference budget by the end of 2012. (Connectional Ministries will recommend to CF&A the ecumenical agencies in which the annual conference should maintain relationship). The rationale is to invite churches to have direct relationships with the various agencies.

New Recommendations

1. We recommend that all matters related to Cabinet compensation, including housing-related allowances be permanently referred to the Conference Personnel Policies and Practices Committee for its review and recommendations.

2. We recommend, pursuant to a request from the CFA Audit and Review Committee, that each district’s trustees identify and report all properties legally held by each district.

3. We recommend that the conference adopt the Housing and Homeless Council’s revised Trust Fund policies as follows:

   Proposed New Conference Housing Trust Fund Policies

   a. 100% of the money raised through the Homeless Offering from churches will be made available for grants and loans to non-profit
organizations which serve the needs of the homeless and low-income people within the boundaries of the North Georgia Conference.

b. Not less than seventy percent (70%) of the funds received shall be used for capital expenses, defined as construction and property acquisition and/or renovations and furnishing of shelters (and other places of ministry with poor or homeless persons), transitional housing, single-room occupancy housing, rental units, owner-occupied homes, special financing programs, emergency and seed grants for such projects, all of which directly provide temporary or permanent housing or other ministry to homeless or poor persons.

c. Up to thirty percent (30%) of the funds received shall be available for operating expenses, defined as programs and other operating services that meet the needs of low-income or homeless persons. If approved requests for item 2 above total less than 70% of the funds available, more than 30% will be available for item 3.

d. The Housing Trust Fund Endowment

(1.) Funds from the Housing Trust Fund Endowment as held by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation are available for use by the Housing and Homeless Council. Up to 5% of the average of the endowment total on December 31 of the previous three years may be withdrawn in any one year.

(2.) The Council may use endowment funds to offset Council operating expenses. When available funds from the endowment, as specified in 4a, exceed operating needs, the Council may use these to support the mission of serving the needs of homeless and low income people following the same policies as for homeless offering receipts.

4. We recommend that the Board of Church Development develop specific time frames for the chartering of new churches and/or their discontinuation.

5. We recommend that the Conference Personnel Policy and Practices Committee be reconstituted to include laity human resource and compensation professionals, and that the CPPPC report to AC 2011 regarding the recommended reconstituted membership.

6. We recommend that each district of the annual conference create stewardship teams to provide stewardship education and training for clergy and lay leadership. We recommend that the teams coordinate their work with the Conference Office of Connectional Ministries and the Georgia United Methodist Foundation for resourcing, planning and conducting stewardship education events within the annual conference.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Georgia Conference</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Min Support &amp; Eq Comp</td>
<td>2,557,902</td>
<td>2,386,523</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>2,574,423</td>
<td>2,694,554</td>
<td>308,031</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>120,131</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Ret Min Pension &amp; Ins</td>
<td>7,151,000</td>
<td>6,847,887</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>7,455,000</td>
<td>6,380,000</td>
<td>(467,897)</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
<td>(1,075,000)</td>
<td>-14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Administrative Budget</td>
<td>1,866,095</td>
<td>1,642,915</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>1,761,944</td>
<td>1,786,366</td>
<td>143,471</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>24,442</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Conference Benevolences</td>
<td>2,301,357</td>
<td>1,719,553</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>1,869,526</td>
<td>1,829,596</td>
<td>(89,957)</td>
<td>-5.2%</td>
<td>(239,550)</td>
<td>-12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Capital Funding</td>
<td>311,000</td>
<td>274,083</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>333,868</td>
<td>526,550</td>
<td>252,687</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>193,082</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Higher Ed &amp; Campus Ministry</td>
<td>1,227,231</td>
<td>1,059,040</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>1,227,231</td>
<td>1,091,776</td>
<td>32,738</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>(135,455)</td>
<td>-11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. New Church Development</td>
<td>2,423,540</td>
<td>1,963,590</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>2,290,196</td>
<td>2,034,000</td>
<td>70,410</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>(256,196)</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. S’wood Conf &amp; Retreat Center</td>
<td>657,000</td>
<td>567,192</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>332,808</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated Reserve</td>
<td>100,422</td>
<td>86,324</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>100,200</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>663,765</td>
<td>768.8%</td>
<td>648,800</td>
<td>648.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total North Georgia Conference</strong></td>
<td>18,615,547</td>
<td>16,547,117</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
<td>18,312,388</td>
<td>17,793,662</td>
<td>1,246,545</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>(518,726)</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Church</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Black College Fund</td>
<td>522,176</td>
<td>448,439</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>518,555</td>
<td>505,023</td>
<td>55,584</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>(13,523)</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Ministerial Education</td>
<td>1,308,910</td>
<td>1,114,507</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>1,299,835</td>
<td>1,266,093</td>
<td>151,582</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>(33,742)</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Interdenominational Coop</td>
<td>102,010</td>
<td>86,856</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>101,165</td>
<td>98,659</td>
<td>11,503</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>(2,506)</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. World Service Fund</td>
<td>3,784,454</td>
<td>3,262,193</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>3,797,052</td>
<td>3,747,787</td>
<td>465,924</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>(49,265)</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Africa University</td>
<td>116,868</td>
<td>106,846</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>116,057</td>
<td>113,028</td>
<td>6,182</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>(3,029)</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV. Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>1,027,967</td>
<td>875,321</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>1,044,418</td>
<td>1,051,855</td>
<td>176,534</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>7,437</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV. General Church Administration</td>
<td>421,983</td>
<td>366,422</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
<td>411,415</td>
<td>408,860</td>
<td>42,553</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>(2,455)</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Church</strong></td>
<td>7,284,078</td>
<td>6,261,584</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>7,288,497</td>
<td>7,191,405</td>
<td>929,821</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>(87,092)</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVI. Southeastern Jurisdiction</td>
<td>352,375</td>
<td>301,253</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>309,115</td>
<td>310,000</td>
<td>8,874</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>26,252,000</td>
<td>23,109,954</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>25,910,000</td>
<td>25,295,067</td>
<td>615,933</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>(614,933)</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 208k. Interpretation of Recommended 2011 Budget

The proposed budget for 2011 is $25,295,067 a DECREASE of 2.4% over the 2010 budget.

**CONFERENCE FUNDS:**

**AREA I. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Residence/Office/Discretionary</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendents’ Compensation</td>
<td>1,699,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation Fund</td>
<td>420,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry</td>
<td>485,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area I</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,694,554</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2011, the General Church share of residence support is $10,000, while the General Church’s share of office support is $74,800.

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

The Equitable Compensation Fund enables our conference to ensure all appointed clergy will receive conference minimum compensation.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retired Minister Insurance/Future Retiree Ins.</td>
<td>$3,050,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees’ Past Service Pension (pre-1982)</td>
<td>3,330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area II</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,380,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retired Minister Pension/Insurance reflects funding for the pre-1982 pension liability of approximately $36 million, 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 ($30,000). The funding for this benefit is...
being reviewed by the Conference Task Force, as the unfunded liability now
exceeds $50 million.

**AREA III. ADMINISTRATIVE FUND**

**Annual Conference Session/ Journal/Handbook** $ 250,000
This includes funding for an additional day in 2011 to accommodate voting, and
$30,000 for the contracted voting service.

The following Area III office “sub totals” include director and staff salaries and
benefits and office related expenses. All these areas include a 2% salary
increase for non-Cabinet level laity staff.

**Office of Treasurer/Admin/Computer Services** $ 505,000
This office develops, maintains and administers a comprehensive plan of fiscal
and administrative policies, processes and services for the conference and
oversees Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. Additionally, the office
provides workshops for clergy and laity who serve as church treasurers 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.

**Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual Formation** $ 255,000
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.

**Office of Exec Asst to the Bishop & Conf Info** $ 515,836
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. The 2011 budget
does not include funds to continue the North Georgia Reporter. (the successor
to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate)

**BOT/Methodist Center Operating Expenses** $ 94,550
This represents net operating expenses for the conference offices, including
utilities and housekeeping and maintenance.

**Council on Finance and Administration** $ 116,000
This includes conference and district audit fees, legal fees and meeting
expenses for CFA.
Cabinet Expenses
This represents expenses for Cabinet members related to Cabinet meetings, including annual conference session, Minister’s Week and Pastor’s School.
Total Area III $1,786,386

AREA IV. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES

Connectional Ministries:
Office Related Expenses $ 672,846
Program/Ministry Teams $ 365,000
Sub Total Connect. Ministries $1,037,846
Extended/Related Agencies $ 100,150
Conference Leadership Development $ 30,000

The Connectional Ministries functions are responsible for equipping and training local church leaders for effective ministry, including Existing Church Development (with attendant programs such as Natural Church Development).

Action Ministries $ 420,000
This ministry continues the transformation of communities by counteracting social issues such as poverty.

Ministry of the Laity $ 30,000
The Conference Board of Laity fosters awareness of the role of laity both within the local congregation and through their ministries, develops and promotes stewardship, provides for training of lay members, provides support and direction for ministry of the laity and provides organization, direction and support for the development of local church leaders.

Housing and Homeless Council $ 12,000
This line item will help fund staffing and office expenses.
Total Area IV $1,629,996

AREA V. CAPITAL FUNDING

Total Area V $ 526,950
This line item includes a total of $145,000 for Camp Glisson. Also included is $35,000 for equipment and a “replacement reserve” of $125,000 that partially funds depreciation on the United Methodist Center. Also, this line item includes debt service for the credit facilities related to Simpsonwood.
**AREA VI. HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Total Area VI $1,091,776

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. NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT** $2,034,000

This proposed budget includes funding for the following activities:

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

**AREA XIII. SIMPSONWOOD** $900,000

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. The Conference Task Force is aggressively seeking alternative uses for Simpsonwood, with the goal of reducing/eliminating this subsidy by 2013.

Contingency Reserve $750,000

**SUB TOTAL 2011 CONFERENCE PROPOSED BUDGET** $17,793,662

**GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS:**

**AREA VII. BLACK COLLEGE FUND**

Total Area VII $505,023

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 $ 1,266,093

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 12/31/2009 is $201,000. 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 $ 98,659

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 2011 is support for:

National Council of Churches $32,000
World Council of Churches $27,000
World Methodist Council $23,000
Pan-Methodist Commissions $3,000
Ecumenical/Multilateral Conv $13,000
Other $659

AREA X. WORLD SERVICE FUND

Total Area X $ 3,747,787

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 $ 113,028

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 $ 1,051,855

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.

**AREA XV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND**

Total Area XV $ 408,960

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 2011 GENERAL FUNDS PROPOSED BUDGET $7,191,405**

**AREA XVI. JURISDICTIONAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUND**

Total Area XVI $ 310,000

This area supports the Jurisdictional Offices in Lake Junaluska, NC. And includes the last installment on NGA’s share of the cost of dam restoration.

GRAND TOTAL 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET $25,295,067

208l. 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 2011 budget, the latest available reports are the 2009 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 924 North Georgia United Methodist churches. For year end 12/31/2009, this total was $189,765,605.

**Step 5:** We determine “the decimal.” This is the conference budget divided by total church operating expenses (from step four). The decimal for 2011 is .133, or 13.3%. This compares to 14.3% in 2010.

**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.

Please note that churches that are considered “new” have 5 years to transition into their full computed apportionment. Specifically, after a church is chartered, they receive 20% of the computed apportionment in the first year after charter, 40% in year 2, etc. In effect, the difference between their computed apportionment and what they are actually apportioned is subsidized by the other churches in the conference for a five year period.

**Detailed Explanation of Step 7 as approved at AC2006:**

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

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

b. After the apportionments have been computed for all churches, three (3) comparative groups will be established: churches with membership from 1000-1999; 2000-2999; 3000+
The aggregate apportionments for each group will be divided by the aggregate membership of each group in order to calculate an average apportionment/member for each group.

Any church whose apportionment/member falls below the average for its group will be moved up to the group average over a three (3) year period. Group average calculations will occur each year based on the latest reported membership statistics.

The Cabinet will review the apportionments for the churches in all three groups and will, as a body, formalize the adjustments to each church indicated.

Apportionments added to the affected churches will not be offset by reductions in other churches, and will be applied to conference-specific apportionment line items ONLY and will NOT be added to General or Jurisdictional line items.
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 2011, General Church Apportionments total $7,191,405 or 28.4% of the 2011 proposed 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 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. Additionally, the CRA adjusted the requests commensurate with its stated goal of removing all related and extended agencies from the conference budget, effective December 31, 2012. The modified requests are included in the “Conference Benevolences” section, which was presented to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A). There are eight (8) different programs supported in this manner.

3. Conference-based programs and ministries requested funding based on their plans and priorities for the upcoming year. These plans are developed by program “conferencing” via staff as well as those serving on boards and committees, such as the Board of Church Development, the Board of Laity, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Board of Ministry, et. al.

Representatives from several programs/ministries and their board chairpersons, if applicable, presented their requests to the CF&A on February 22, 2010. CFA also reviewed written requests on that day. Those requests were then put in the draft budget.

4. On March 14 and 15, 2010 CF&A met to prayerfully review the draft proposed budget. At the March 15 meeting, CF&A made adjustments to the draft budget based on several factors, including: budget increase compared to increases in local church expenditures; reserve balances; apportionment collection rates from prior years; feedback from the local churches, the Cabinet and other members of the annual conference; national and regional economic conditions, etc. The total proposed
budget for 2010 is $25,295,067, a **DECREASE** of $614,933 from the approved 2010 budget.

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. During annual conference session, the proposed budget will be voted on by the voting members of annual conference, who represent all local churches. 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 calculating the local church apportionments, which represent each church’s “share” of the conference and world-wide ministry and mission.

**208n. Recap and Explanation of Present Clergy Benefits Plans of the North Georgia Annual Conference**

**DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFIT PLAN**

1. **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)** – This covers current (active and retired) clergy for death benefits and active clergy for disability benefits. The plan is overfunded at this time and the GBOPHB has declared a three year premium holiday beginning in 2010. The monthly cost of the CPP is billed to local churches rather than being apportioned as part of the conference budget.

**RETIREMENT AND PENSION PLANS**

2. **Pre-1982 Pension Plan (Pre 82)** – In 2010 this plan will pay $677 for each service year a retired clergy worked prior to 1982. Surviving spouses receive 3/4 that amount. The conference budget for 2010 includes $3,910,000, for this past service benefit that was not funded prior to 1982, which is now apportioned. The Conference Board of Pensions is recommending an increase of 1% to the PSR in 2011, and an increase of 4% in the apportionments to $4,066,000. The pre-1982 net pension liability of approximately $36,000,000 is required by 1980 General Conference action to be completely funded by 12/31/2021.

3. **Ministers Pension Plan (MPP)** – This was a defined contribution pension plan for clergy who worked from 1982 through 2006. The cost of the plan was billed to and paid for by clergy and local...
churches. Uncollectible amounts of those billings were borne by the Conference apportioned budget.

4    MPP Annuity Plan (MPP Annuity) – At retirement under the MPP a clergy is allowed to withdraw no more than 35% from his/her plan balance. The amount that is not withdrawn, between 65% and 100% of the clergy’s account balance at retirement, must be rolled into a fixed annuity contract. This annuity guarantees a market rate annual benefit payment during the life of the retiree. For those who retired before July 2003, the annuity was guaranteed at a rate of 8%. The essence of this arrangement is that the defined contribution pension plan, which would not result in any unfunded liability for the conference, is transformed into a guaranteed annuity plan which can and now has produced an unfunded liability for the conference. In other words, a plan (MPP) that would not cause a liability is required to be converted into an annuity, which has resulted in an unfunded liability for the conference.

5    Clergy Retirement Security Plan –Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB) – The 2004 General Conference approved a new plan that has both a defined contribution portion and a defined benefit portion. This new plan can produce an unfunded liability because it guarantees certain retirement benefits to clergy who are working after 2006. Any unfunded liability after the clergy retires will become a liability of the conference and will produce a cost that must be funded. In 2010, an additional CRSP-DB contribution from our churches of $509,000 will be required as a result of an identified unfunded liability. An additional increase of $134,137 will be required in 2011 and will vary each year thereafter based upon current actuarial calculations.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

6    Present Employee Health Care Plan (Healthflex) – This is a regular health insurance plan for currently working clergy and employees. A portion of the current monthly premium, presently an average of 19.6%, is billed to the individual and the remaining 80.4% is billed to the local church. However, there are some individuals and local churches that do not pay the premiums billed. In 2009 the amount of unpaid premium that resulted in a reduction in HealthFlex conference reserves was $390,000. No money spent for HealthFlex came from any previously apportioned dollars. The balance of the HealthFlex reserve as of 12/31/09 is $3,827,583.
Currently Retired Ministers Medicare Supplement Plan – This plan primarily provides a Medicare supplement plan for all covered retired ministers and their families. The yearly premium cost averages approximately $4450 per participant covered by Medicare for 2009. Of this amount the retiree pays on average $850 and the remaining $3,600 per person or $2,874,000 is being paid by the conference through apportionments.

Future Unfunded Medicare Supplement Plan Expenses – The 2009 budget includes $300,000 that is apportioned to the local churches and invested as “partial prepayment” for the cost of future retiree plan expenses. The invested balance in this fund at 12/31/2009 was approximately $21,623,689. However, the liability as of 12/31/08 for these benefits is $69,000,000. This results in an unfunded liability of $48,000,000. (The 12/31/2009 actuarial valuation of the liability is not available at the time of this writing)

Summary

The benefits plans in which the North Georgia Conference participates represent unfunded liabilities of over $93,000,000 over and above any funds on hand that can be used for those purposes. Apportionments to pay for these programs represent 28.7% of the 2010 Conference budget. Yet, even with that large percentage, we are essentially failing to address the retiree medical plan, as we are apportioning only $300,000 for this liability, when the more realistic amount would be approximately $2,000,000. These programs, in their current forms may not be sustainable and could, if left unaltered, place the conference financial status in jeopardy. The conference finds itself in a position similar to that of the Social Security program and many state pension programs, which have recently been estimated to be underfunded by an aggregate amount of over $1 trillion. The conference audited financial statements currently reflect “negative net assets” of approximately $35 million (an additional $58 million unfunded liabilities are not required by generally accepted accounting principles to be recorded).

Please refer to the attached financial summary for more details.
208o. Financial Summary of Pension and Health Benefit Plan

SUMMARY OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS
OF THE NORTH GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND UNFUNDED STATUS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLAN</th>
<th>DESIGNATED ASSETS 12/31/09</th>
<th>LIABILITY 12/31/08</th>
<th>UNFUNDED LIABILITY</th>
<th>RECORDED THRU</th>
<th>2010 ANNUAL COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RESTRICTED AND NOT AVAILABLE TO A/C</td>
<td>NOT RESTRICTED AND AVAILABLE TO A/C</td>
<td>Benefit Obligation</td>
<td>APPOINTMENTS</td>
<td>BILL TO CHURCHES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Retiree Medical Insurance</td>
<td>$21,011,180</td>
<td>$18,793,000</td>
<td>64,432,137</td>
<td>(93,900,100)</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1982 Pension</td>
<td>$49,645,068</td>
<td>$44,737,205</td>
<td>(39,056,137)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>3,910,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-1982 Defined Benefit Plan (CRSP-DB)</td>
<td>$8,215,972</td>
<td>$8,176,910</td>
<td>(5,960,206)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Est</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-1982 Defined Contribution Plan (CRSP-DC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Protection Plan (death and disability)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS | $65,853,040 | $37,548,953 | $187,105,262 | (93,900,100) | $7,495,000 | $7,008,548

TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS OF ALL PLANS | $14,463,548

(1) Includes $200,000 to partially address future liability. Also includes some funding for administration.

209. New Church Development

It has been a year of transition, not only in the position of executive director, but in the process by which we plant new churches and develop existing churches in our North Georgia Conference area. Following the instruction of our bishop to grow in membership at a minimum rate of the 2% general population growth of the North Georgia area, we have established Strategic Growth Teams in all twelve districts to look at the current, and projected, populations in each district.

We have identified the growth paths of our North Georgia area, and indentified the churches within those paths. An assessment of these churches within the growth paths helps to identify their willingness and ability to meet the rapidly growing mission field in their back yards, and, where appropriate, resource these churches on recommendation of the Strategic Growth Teams in order to make disciples of not only the existing population but the persons moving into their area throughout any given year.
In those areas where there is no Methodist presence, or where the existing church is not able to facilitate meeting the rapid growth, new church locations are identified and strategic models of planting are developed for that area.

We remain sensitive to those areas where, perhaps, the growth is not as large but are areas of transition with new groups of people of different ethnicity, race, mosaic, or culture. We seek to work with existing churches in those areas of transition to develop attitudes and ministries that will reach these new people for the glory of God and the advancement of God’s kingdom.

We desire, through this new process, to develop a comprehensive, conference-wide strategy of congregational development and growth in order to continue reaching people and making disciples for the transformation of the world. We covet your prayers, support, and participation as we seek to follow the path God makes, and remain aware and awake to the places where God is moving in our midst of North Georgia and beyond.

Tommy Willingham, Executive Director

209a. Committee on New Black Church Development
The New Black Church Development Committee for the 2009-2010 conference year continues to focus on fostering ongoing conversations with key African American churches that can partner with the Office of New Church Development to start new places for new people.

In conjunction with the overall plan of the Annual Conference Strategy for Congregational Development, the starting of new churches and new satellite campuses that continue to reach the growing African-American population within the bounds of the North Georgia Conference remains important. These key churches with their exciting growth and strong effective ministry are in a strategic position and have the vision, resources, creativity, demographic profile and DNA to expand the kingdom of God in North Georgia. Additionally, a part of this conversation is the need for the identification of effective leaders for these new worshipping communities.

In April 2009, we led a mini-conference at the United Methodist Center that included pastors, SPRC chairpersons, Church Council chairpersons and lay leaders from the following churches: Ben Hill, Cascade, Golden, Metropolitan, St. James Alpharetta; and Wesley Chapel, McDonough. During this gathering, Bishop Watson expressed his desire to support the planting of new churches. More specifically, he shared his vision for New Black Church Development. Additionally, there were conversations about how each church could commit itself to ensuring the worship needs of the Kingdom and how the needs of the
African-American community could be better addressed. One significant request was for each church to lead its congregation in prayer and planning for the coming year as they begin to consider starting or supporting new worshipping communities.

Churches were asked to consider these questions at the mini-conference:

- Is the “Church Planting” discussion we are having today something you can be a part of?
- Will you go back to your churches and begin to have conversations about this discussion? Could you support a new church start or satellite with people and finances?
- Will you be willing to go through training from the General Conference Initiative on New Church Starts?

As a result of our ongoing conversation, we are planning a 2010 event that will gather and identify persons who could serve effectively in new church starts and new satellite campuses. We want to identify pastors with the skills and competencies needed to establish new vital worshipping communities. Also, as persons are identified we want to expose them to a full array of experiences that can enhance the skills they already have. These would be experiences like our North Georgia Conference New Church Leadership Academy, Church Planters Boot Camp and the General Church initiative “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century” program “The SBC-21 Academy of Interns.”

Marvin A. Moss, Chair

209b. Committee on New Hispanic Church Development

We have seen extraordinary things happening in the area of Hispanic ministry. Our churches are seeing God moving within their Latino neighbors and have dreamt new ways to reach them. More churches are moving from fear to welcoming the stranger, and the message of the gospel is being heard and received by many.

Between 2008 and 2009, the Hispanic membership of the North Georgia Conference grew by 242 members, which constitutes a growth of 12.7% in one year, the highest of any other ethnic group.

However, although in 2009 Hispanics made up 9.3% of the total population of the North Georgia area, and are expected to be 11.3% by 2014, Hispanics consist of only 0.6% of the total membership of the conference. Thus, there is much work to be done. Our aim must be to have more local churches
effectively embrace their Hispanic neighbors in ways that make the message of the Gospel relevant to them.

Taking this reality into account, the Committee on New Hispanic Church Development continues to focus on leadership development. In 2009 our conference hosted the second BASIC Training “Boot Camp” for Church Planters in Spanish with Jim Griffith, where 85 participants attended with the event sold out weeks in advance. The committee has also provided training to our Latino clergy and lay leadership on growth strategies and small group development. This year we are offering workshops on how to develop small groups, and, with assistance from the national church leadership, we will train a team of facilitators to assist churches in the area of music and worship.

The challenges of effectively reaching the Latino population are real. Besides the language barrier, the issue of immigration and the economic slow down has deeply affected Latino families. Families separated by deportation and children growing up in two cultures challenge traditional outreach methods. The church is called to be a prophetic voice and a welcoming haven for so many hungry to hear the message of grace and hope that we have been commissioned to share.

Currently, 20 congregations offer worship in Spanish, as well as, other opportunities for discipleship and fellowship. This year we are focusing our efforts on starting new ministries in the areas of Dalton and Hapeville.

Juan Quintanilla, Chair
Nora Colmenares Martinez, Associate Director

209c. Committee on New Korean Church Development

God has faithfully blessed the Committee on Korean-American New Church Development in carrying out the following vision focus:

- Developing new Korean-American missions/churches
- Training and developing both pastoral and lay leaders
- Providing resources for church growth.

In 2009, in partnership with Korean Church of Atlanta, we revitalized the Atlanta United Methodist Church (AKUMC) in Norcross, GA. AKUMC was struggling and had become dysfunctional as a church. As the largest Korean United Methodist church, Korean Church of Atlanta stepped in to restart this church, relocating Dacula Korean Mission in a merger with AKUMC to reach the young adult population in the Korean-American community. Korean Church of Atlanta commissioned some of its leaders of young adults to serve at
AKUMC in this merger. We are grateful to Korean Church of Atlanta and its leadership for their support of Korean American ministries in NGA.

This year we focused on pastoral leadership development and training. Several Korean pastors were committed to meet weekly to study together in improving sermon preparation and delivery and in learning about new emerging ministries and churches. In an effort to build up a network, we will be continuing this study group in 2010 to improve pastoral leadership skills.

The United Methodist Council on Korean-American ministries (UMCKAM) has put emphasis on training small group leaders. We partnered with UMCKAM in hosting the nationwide small group leadership trainers’ event. Two pastors from NGA were selected to train small group leaders in NGA and the Southeastern jurisdiction. The development of the small group leadership will enhance the ministry of existing congregations and will provide one of the principles in starting a new Korean-American church or mission.

Growth of the Korean-American population has somewhat stalled due to the economic situation. However, the field is still ripe but the workers are few. As was mentioned in last year’s report regarding the national movement to plant 1000 Korean churches/missions by 2020, we will strive to be a part of this movement in planting new churches/missions wherever Korean-Americans reside in the North Georgia Conference. We ask for your prayers and support in reaching out to Korean-American communities with the gospel in order to make them disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Hyo Shik Kim, Korean-American/Asian Associate Director

209d. Committee on New Multi-Cultural Church Development

These are extraordinary times in the North Georgia conference. Our neighbors from minority ethnicities and cultures are growing faster than any other group. Compared to the State of Georgia, people over 5 years of age in North Georgia are more likely to speak a language other than English at home.

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. It calls for our churches to envision methods to share the Gospel message in ways that are relevant to those who are different.

The committee of New Multi-Cultural Church Development is excited to be a part of this effort and very aware of the many cultures and sub-cultures, ethnic groups, economic groups, educational groups, handicapped groups, and many others in our communities, whom we need to reach with the gospel of CHRIST!

Our committee has a full agenda this year, which includes, but is not limited to, the projects listed below:
• A new website, which will include a list of multicultural and ethnic churches as resources.
• A guide of best practices, including ideas for local churches on how to offer radical hospitality to their new neighbors.
• A list of resources.
• An educational video, which will be available to districts and churches that want to explore the motivation and strategies to become a multicultural church.
• An annual multicultural event, which will include worship, workshops and fellowship to resource churches and leaders on effective strategies to reach their neighbors from all nations and walks of life.

Churches in our conference continue to take leaps of faith to embrace other cultures and subgroups in North Georgia: Vietnamese, Kenyan, Liberian, Haitian and Chinese among others. These churches have welcomed other cultures and subcultures into their worship and their church family. As we learn from these experiences and others, our committee is developing people and materials to help us be a more effective resource for the laity and clergy of our conference.

Carole Hulslander, Chair
Nora Martinez, Associate Director
Hyo Shik Kim, Associate Director
More churches were visited, consulted with, and trained this year by this
department than any year on record! The second highest attendance in the 85
year history of Camp Glisson (only missed the highest year ever, last year, by a
couple dozen) more money and people power was contributed to our
Conference Disaster team than in anyone’s memory of North Georgia’s
response history. Everywhere we look for the year 2009-2010 Connectional
Ministries is setting new records and reaching new boundaries: in resourcing
and equipping local leaders and making an impact toward expanding the
Kingdom of God, from youth ministry to the church staff training labs, from the
Mystery Worshipper program to disaster response teams, from Generosity
Summit training events to Strengthening the Black Church in the 21st Century,
from the ministries with the jobless to the Celebration of the Small Membership
Church, from large church staff retreats and visioning events to the Bridges of
Mission program, and so much more.

The key measure of success for Connectional Ministries is not only how
well they are connecting with the local churches, but more importantly how
many new leaders from the conference, lay and clergy, are stepping up to give
guidance, input, and service to the nearly 960 congregations in the North
Georgia Conference. We’ve experienced a steady growth of new talent and
willing workers marching into leadership roles and this is one of the more
critical reasons we’re seeing increases in ministry opportunities. We attribute
this trend to several causes.

The first is that Connectional Ministries has for a few years been giving
serious study to how to do ministry for lower costs at the local church level.
Because most of our congregations in North Georgia are small membership
churches, we have been developing and steering our training and teaching to
‘how to do ministry on a shoe string’. When the recession hit last year, many of
our teams and their programs were perfectly suited to equip and empower
congregations how to reach out, step up, and move forward with little or no
cash on hand. The result has been not only a renewed interest in learning, but
an abundance of talent from the ‘trenches’ of experience that understand what it
takes from the small membership, and low dollar, perspective.

Another reason for the upward trend is an outstanding staff at the
conference center. The caliber of individuals laboring from the office of
Connectional Ministries is one of the hardest working, talented, and committed
teams in the Connection. At every level we are privileged to have experience,
wisdom, energy, and grace. Phil Schroeder continues to develop and create in
ways that resonate and energize local church leaders. Renita Thomas provides top-drawer leadership throughout the conference, but specifically in strengthening the African American congregations and leaders. Russell Davis, our Conference Director of Camps and Retreats is leading our conference into a new era of Christian education in the out of doors. Margaret Freeman has led our conference youth and young adult ministries to some of the highest levels in years. Our joint efforts working with Tommy Willingham and the new church development team has allowed us set new paths of church effectiveness, existing and new, throughout the conference. Our support staff continues to be peerless, although we have experienced a change mid-year. Melissa Alagon, with this office since 2005, took maternity leave at the end of 2009, and commit full time to her family. Sybil Davidson moved over from her part time position in the Conference Communications office to the full time position in Connectional Ministries and continues her outstanding service to our conference. Of course the office is anchored by the administrative assistant Pam Higgins whose calm demeanor and winsome presence keeps us all moving in the right directions.

It is important to recognize the gift and intentional efforts of many of the conference committees, the program teams, the Conference Board of Connectional Ministries, the Extended Cabinet, and Bishop Mike Watson in helping move the conference toward a strong Connectional mindset. However, the highest praise for all of this goes to the leadership in the local churches who have responded with and to, new and innovative ways to impact the local church with good, solid, and meaningful opportunities. There is a genuine sense of connectedness that is remerging and reenergizing our conference and the districts. This of course always begins and trickles down from our local churches where laity and clergy find ways to make a difference regardless of the times we live in, because of the times we live in. God is good! Ministry is alive! Halleluiah and amen!

Micheal Selleck, Director of Connectional Ministries

301. Nurture Team

The Nurture Team seeks to discern the most effective means of leadership development and connection throughout our local churches to enable the transformation of all ages into disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our children and youth areas provided a Safe Sanctuary facilitators’ training to have facilitators in every district to train in the local churches. We connect with Christian Educator’s Fellowship for opportunities in training and
connection on topics such as using technology in our churches, earth
stewardship, dealing with hurting people in difficult economic times and others.

The children’s area, under the leadership of Katie Atcheson, addressed
the issue of poverty through programs at Sugar Hill UMC. They also developed
district cluster meetings for those serving in children’s ministry. They are
striving to connect small membership churches with a focus on ministering to
children and youth in these settings.

Margaret Freeman leads the youth and young adult areas. Throughout the
2009 conference year youth worker gatherings focused on training, networking,
and resourcing adult youth leaders. The Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) is a
course designed to equip youth workers for long term youth ministry. The
Youth Ministry Leadership Team has been restructured and meets regularly.
The Young Adult ministry area focused leadership training through young adult
site visits led by Jasmine Smothers. They hosted the Young Adult Coffee House
Gathering at annual conference. They experienced active leadership through the
Confirmation and Spiritual Life retreats by serving as staff and have been active
in supporting Global Health and Dealing with Poverty. In July 2010, they are
partnering with these two agencies to join together in a mission trip to the
Bahamas.

Kim Reindel chairs the Christian education area. The Sunday School and
Beyond event was held in August 2009. This year a number of workshops
offered focused on community outreach opportunities.

The adult and family area, led by Chris Shultz, continues to expand the
N. GA. Resource Network, an on-line service that provides media-lending
programs between local churches. They partner with the children’s area to host
a parenting seminar, Reaching Out to Families and Children in Need, and are
considering workshops on marriage, finances, singles, parenting, and small
groups in local churches.

Louis Adams leads our Older Adult area. They hosted an event at
Simpsonwood designed to encourage leaders of older adults in the local church
stressing the need for older adults to remain active disciples. They are
developing readily available on-line programs for training. Several attended the
SEJ annual conference at Lake Junaluska.

Our camping and retreat area, led by Owen Skinner, offered numerous
camps and confirmation retreats. They also offer Leaders-In-Training (LIT) for
rising 10th-12th graders, as well as many structured opportunities for college
students to gain servant leadership training.

As we work into 2010 our goal is to support the connectional ministry
concept of developing the Connectional Ministry Café. This ministry will offer
a menu of training opportunities for leaders throughout our districts, equipping them to train others in our local churches as we all seek to move from ordinary to extraordinary through God’s movement in us.

Cindy Blocksidge, Chairperson

301a. Young Adult Ministry

Our conference Young Adult Ministries is wide awake and well aware of God moving in our midst! Our year started off with great things at Annual Conference 2009 with a young adult gathering with Bishop Watson at Two Story Coffee House for a time of connecting with other young adults attending annual conference. It was an opportunity to network with one another and learn more about “Annual Conference 101.” The Young Adult Task Force was intentional about setting up opportunities throughout the week for young adults to get to know each other and learn more about our conference.

Young Adult Site Visits are open houses for Young Adult Ministry, providing opportunities to see and hear about a variety of ways that churches are in ministry with and to young adults in their communities. Site visits included St. Paul/Grant Park UMC, featuring Susan Allen Grady and St. Paul’s leadership team as they shared how young adults have been integrated into the life and leadership of the church and Impact UMC, featuring Olu Brown and the Impact team as the participants experienced worship that engaged young adults and heard how Impact UMC plans worship and connects young people within the church. We hope to expand these site visits and want to hear more about churches doing things to engage young people on a large and small scale.

The Young Adult Committee was newly formed this year to identify needs of young adults across the conference and to plan and implement opportunities to help meet those needs. Several young adults were trained by the General Board of Discipleship’s Division on Ministries with Young People and brought back ideas for discussion and planning.

Young adults from across the conference participated in a United Methodist seminar trip to New York City in the fall of 2009. Through the General Board of Church and Society and the Women’s Division, they received training on how to work at home on issues of social justice, including global health initiatives and human trafficking – an issue particularly important to the state of Georgia. The seminar was designed to answer questions, challenge assumptions, and open up the group to reflection on how to take what they learned back to their local churches, communities and the N. Georgia conference. Using what we have learned, we hope to partner with the
Advocacy team and United Methodist Women to address human trafficking in North Georgia this year. We look forward to what God has in store for young adult ministry in this coming year!

Jasmine Smothers, Coordinator
Margaret Freeman, Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

301b. Youth Ministry

God is moving in our Conference Youth Ministry through…

**Developing Leaders:** Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM), our youth leadership team, was restructured and meets regularly with Emily Hinson presiding. Three youth from CCYM will attend the UMC Global Gathering of Young People next July in Berlin, Germany. Asia Howard and Christian Higgins represent the NGa conference in the jurisdictional delegation, and Layne Jackson represents the GBOD Ministries with Young People. We also have three serving on the SEJ Ministries with Young People leadership team: youth (Layne Jackson), young adult (Jasmine Smothers), and youth worker (Taressa Thompson).

YouthWorker Movement links together the youth workers of our conference for support and growth in various locations across the conference quarterly. Through collaboration with the national YWM, we provide networking and training in a community of other youth workers (both veteran and new). Youth Ministry Institute is an in-depth skill set training for adult workers with youth (either paid or volunteer). A three-day retreat was held in October, with one day sessions four times during the year.

**YL2L (Youth Learning to Lead),** is a new conference-wide leadership event created by CCYM for local church youth councils, as well as district and conference youth leadership that will be held June 11-13 at Young Harris College.

**Missions:** Money collected at conference youth retreats for Youth Service Fund provided grants to the Bahamas Methodist Conference Youth Ministry, Harris Chapel UMC Youth Empowerment Program, and scholarship funds for the Global Gathering of Young People. We are sponsoring a new opportunity for mission in the Bahamas through our connection with the YouthWorker Movement and Mission Encounter. NGa youth groups are joining with other United Methodists for a mission experience in July that offers projects with both Bahamians in need and Haitians who have come to the Bahamas to escape persecution in their own country and devastation from the recent earthquake.
**Spiritual Growth:** Confirmation retreats brought together almost 600 confirmands and their leaders for two retreats. Our theme, “Pieces,” focused on the “pieces” that come together in our journeys of faith as United Methodists. Spiritual Life retreats gathered 1,200 youth and their leaders over four weekends. “Breathe,” the theme for these weekends, helped us look at what it takes for us to be alive and in relationship with God, based on Job 33:4 – “The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

Kim Bell, Conference Youth Coordinator
Margaret Freeman, Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

**302. Outreach Team**

The goal for the Outreach Team this year has been to strengthen communication with the districts and local churches of the NGC. To that end 12 representatives (one for each district) have been identified by the committees on Mission/Global Ministries, UMVIM, and Disaster Response. This group of 36 met for the first time along with representatives from NGC UMW and UMM to build mission connections.

The following is the report for the five committees and two work areas which make up the Outreach Team:

**Disaster Response** (Mike Yoder, Chair) - The Disaster Response Team responded aggressively to the flood in North Georgia. Assessment teams were quickly formed to evaluate needs and distribute conference emergency funds as well as UMCOR grants. A command post and warehouse have been established. 176 work teams are scheduled to repair homes through 2010.

**Missions/Global Ministries** (Jeff Jernigan, Chair) - A Mission Volunteer Map was launched on the NGC web site. Three major events were held: the Compassion Conference, the Co-operative Mission Education Event and the first ever North Georgia Mission Conference “We Must Go.” Seven churches achieved the Church of Excellence in Outreach award for 2009.

**UMVIM** (Julia Crim, Chair) - Team Leader Training was held in two districts last year with plans to host at least 10 more next year to cover all 12 districts. UMVIM sponsored mission trips to Ghana in West Africa and Nicaragua.

**Resettlement** (Ann Guckert, Chair) - Resettlement has worked to communicate the needs of refugees, immigrants and homeless to the NGC.

**Health and Welfare** (Catherine Boothe, Chair) - The Golden Cross Program supported three applicants. H&W co-sponsored The Pastoral Care
Symposium with Emory Clergy Care. Support to local churches for Parish Nurse and health and wellness programs was provided.

**CSGM** (Alice Smith & Terry Raymond, Co-Chair) - Nine GBGM missionaries itinerated. GBGM missionaries Emmanuel and Beverly Barte were introduced at Annual Conference. One deaconess interview was conducted by the CCMP.

**7 Bridges** (Stephen Soulen, Chair) - Advance work began on a new initiative by Bishop Watson to build 7 Bridges to connect the NGC in mission to seven conferences throughout the world. A fact-finding trip to Uganda was made in February. Uganda will be announced as the “First Bridge” at the 2010 Annual Conference.

Terry Raymond, Chair

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**303. Parish Life Team**

In the second year of its inception, Parish Life has sought to further define its goals under five primary areas of focus: *Black Church Development, Church Staff Development, Existing Church Development, Natural Church Development and Small Membership Churches.*

One key element that continues to rise to the forefront within Parish Life is the need to serve as a success resource for Small Membership churches, while continuing to define the areas that fall under Parish Life for all of our churches.

Through the creation of a *Record of Success (ROS)* web-based tool, the Small Membership Church team sought in this past year to provide an arena in which churches who average 100 in worship attendance or less, could share with one another, success stories that translate into other churches of similar size. This tool has been integrated into the larger North Georgia Conference Data Service program. Therefore, the Small Membership Church team has shifted its emphasis to providing access steps for churches to navigate through this larger system for the purpose of gleaning information that will best benefit their areas of interest.

In our efforts to support all churches, we are preparing the way for strengthening Black churches through an Academy of Interns; providing more Great Start opportunities; and creating empowerment training, and a revamped criteria and application process for grants under Existing Church Development. Additionally under Parish Life, offering orientation, and acquiring assessment data through Natural Church Development; and celebrating small membership churches while extending motivational and equipping opportunities to these churches.
All of these active arenas are being offered as a means of enriching our churches, for God’s call to each of us in the world.

**304. Witness Team**

The Witness Team ascribes to the belief: "The best is yet to be experienced!" We invite and encourage you to seize the opportunity to learn more about God's plan to bless your journey to wholeness. Decide now! Get ready for a mighty move of God in North Georgia. Put this summit on your calendar today:

*From Ordinary to Extraordinary
"Abundant Living to Abundant Giving"
9/11 Generosity Summit

Date: September 11, 2010
Location: Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

Bernice Kirkland, Stewardship Chairperson
Across North Georgia, Action Ministries pulls people from the brink of hunger, homelessness, and addiction…and equips them to prosper.

From Rome to Augusta and everywhere in between, Action Ministries continued “doing good” to the most vulnerable among us.

Action Ministries pulled a lot of people “from the brink” in 2009, as recession and unemployment took their toll on the people of north Georgia.

“Feed my sheep” – Over 100,000 hungry people enjoyed a nutritious meal at one of Action Ministries’ community kitchens. Over 1,000 received special holiday meals and food. Hungry families received almost 750,000 pounds of groceries during the year through Action Ministries’ food pantries and distribution sites.

“Take care of my sheep” – 1,218 people in crisis received emergency assistance with rent, utilities, medical, and transportation expenses…in many cases avoiding homelessness or loss of employment. 20,000 people received information and a referral to help them deal with personal crises. 2,200 people obtained health-related assistance from one of Action Ministries’ program divisions. Almost 2,000 people – three fourths of whom were children – were able to have a merry Christmas through an Action Ministries program. 800 people – most of whom were homeless – received furniture, appliances, and household items to equip a new residence. Additionally, almost 500 bicycles were given to children and to adults who needed basic transportation for employment, and hundreds of people with various needs received clothing, blankets, bus tickets, etc.

Most importantly, hundreds of people and families across the North Georgia Conference region were “equipped to prosper” through one of Action Ministries’ many transformational program and ministry offerings such as life skills training, financial literacy, parenting, job readiness, GED and other adult education and supportive services. Women (42) suffering from drug and alcohol addiction received long-term, life-changing therapeutic treatment through Breakthru House. Homeless families (45), all with children, were given a chance to become self-sufficient through the transitional housing program and its associated supportive services.

Almost 5,000 volunteers—the majority United Methodists—seized the opportunity to turn their faith and compassion into action by giving over 43,000 hours of volunteer services to make these extraordinary ministry results possible…strong evidence that God is indeed moving through the body of Christ in north Georgia.
Aldersgate Homes and Collinswood have many reasons to celebrate. God's love shows in the ministries of Aldersgate Homes and Collinswood, as the "ordinary" becomes "extraordinary" in the lives of persons with special needs.

Aldersgate Homes continues to provide residential opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities in both group and independent living settings. Our group homes serve persons whose disabilities require assistance on a full time basis. Independent living opportunities meet the needs of those who are able to sustain independence with some supports. The need is great in both of these areas. We appreciate those who participate in and support this ministry. Our donors enable the meeting of special needs and assist us to show the love of God through the residential programs of Aldersgate Homes.

At Collinswood, our universally accessible retreat and recreation center on Lake Oconee, we see where God is moving, taking the "ordinary" to the "extraordinary" in the lives of persons with special needs. Our cottages, dining and meeting hall, pavilion, and lake front bathhouse, gazebo, and dock are all universally accessible, enhancing opportunities for all persons, including those with developmental disabilities, to enjoy God's great outdoors. These facilities open many opportunities for us to take life experiences from Ordinary to Extraordinary, to Wake Up and See Where God is Moving.

This year, the Board of Directors of Aldersgate Homes is delighted to present the first annual Aldersgate Homes Warm Heart Award. This award recognizes the hands on, volunteer contributions of time and talent that enhance the ministry of Aldersgate Homes and Collinswood.

For his many contributions to the building of Collinswood and his dedication to God's children as He moves us from Ordinary to Extraordinary, the 2010 Aldersgate Homes Warm Heart Award is presented to Ken Lowery.

God is good. We celebrate His love by sharing in ministry with His people with special needs. We invite you to join us in this journey of faith.

Becky Bocian, Executive Director

402. Camp and Retreat Ministry Task Force

Vision Statement Draft

Proposed Vision Statement of the North Georgia Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries:
Forward –

In the fall of 2009, Bishop Watson appointed a task force and charged it “to articulate a path forward that will give us (the North Georgia Conference) guidance in how, when, where and why we can continue to use and develop outdoor Christian settings for future generations of all God’s children.”

Members of that task force include:

Becky Bocian, Executive Director of Aldersgate Homes
Dan Brown, Senior Pastor, Trinity-on-the-Hill UMC
Mike Cash, Griffin District Superintendent
Keith Cox, Conference Treasurer
Gary Dean, Augusta District Superintendent
David Jones, Senior Pastor, Glenn Memorial UMC
Sharma Lewis, Senior Pastor, Wesley Chapel UMC
Joy Magnus, Executive Director of Wesley Community Centers
Bob Moore, Chairperson of Camp Glisson, Inc.
Micheal Selleck, Director of Connectional Ministries
Owen Skinner, Chairperson of Conference Camping Committee
C. Russell Davis, Director of Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries

Central to this task is the “why” of outdoor Christian ministry. In light of the United Methodist mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”, consider the following:

- “People who become Christian before their teen years are more likely than those who are converted when older to remain ‘absolutely committed’” to their faith. – The Barna Group
- “…religious change begins early in life. …(85%) who decided to leave their (childhood faith community) say they did so before reaching age 24…” – The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, April 27, 2009
- During one week at camp, a camp counselor spends more time with a camper than most workers with children and youth get in a year of offerings at the local church.
  – C. Russell Davis, Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry
- “When asked what has had the most positive influence on their faith, most of young people’s top choices were people, not programs. We know the programs are important and provide a context for growth, but the real impact comes from a person of faith modeling, influencing, guiding and sharing.”
  – Youth in Protestant Churches, A Search Institute Report, 1993
• When compared to church programs that report “positive faith influences,” summer camp and retreat experiences are surpassed by only “church youth groups and Christian education program” in effectiveness…In addition, the “church camp experience” proved nearly three times more effective than “work camps” in positively affecting faith development in youth.
  – Youth in Protestant Churches, A Search Institute Report, 1993

• “Evangelism is most effective among kids…two of three born again Christians (64%) made that commitment to Christ before their 18th birthday.” Almost four of five (77%) made their faith commitment before the age of 21.
  – George Barna, The Barna Group, October 11, 2004

Christian camping ministry is most effective as a partner with the ministry efforts of the local church.

Over the past six years, common understandings of best practices for camping have been crafted into the “Seven Foundations of United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry.” In a series of prayerful discussions that started at a jurisdictional camp leaders gathering at Glisson in 2003, camping professionals from across the country have discussed, debated and discerned the most fundamental elements of camping and retreat ministry. They are:

1. providing places apart: Sabbath, silence, solitude and prayer
2. extending Christian hospitality and community
3. nurturing faith and discipleship
4. developing Christian spiritual leaders
5. teaching creation care and appreciation
6. collaborating with UM churches and agencies
7. equipping guests to do love and justice.

Not only do studies show camping and retreat ministry to be effective in realizing the mission of the church to make disciples, but the Seven Foundations find common purpose with many of Bishop Schnase’s Five Fruitful practices - radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Hospitality, faith development and mission/service are expressly mentioned in the Foundations. Passionate worship and extravagant generosity have been a part of the camp culture for decades.

Imagine a camping and retreat ministry whose purpose, culture and practices fundamentally change the view of young disciples in ways that deepen their faith, more firmly connect them to the denomination and convey understandings...
that make the local church more effective. That ministry would have as broad a
reach in our conference as possible, wouldn’t it?

Many people are surprised to hear that the North Georgia Annual
Conference has only one camping program, Camp Glisson. While other
camping programs, Camp Wesley and Collinswood, are well-known and loved
in our annual conference, they are ministries of other agencies (Wesley
Community Centers and Aldersgate Homes, respectively) and exist to support
the missions of those agencies. Camp Glisson is the only North Georgia
conference-operated site and program.

There are 220 conference-related United Methodist camps and retreat
centers in the 62 annual conferences in the United States. That’s an average of
3.5 camps per conference. The North Georgia Annual Conference, with the
largest membership, relies on Camp Glisson alone to meet the needs of its more
than 50,000 children and youth. Glisson’s site, history and ministry are well-
regarded throughout the United Methodist connection, but it has a capacity of
just over 2,500 each summer. This is not enough! Therefore it is critical the
annual conference explore and address the needs and potential of North
Georgia’s camping and retreat ministry.

Our Vision

To advance the evangelism and discipleship efforts of the local church,
the North Georgia Annual Conference commits to rekindling its camping and
retreat ministries. We intend to develop Christian camping experiences that are
more accessible geographically, culturally, ethnically and physically. Using
existing facilities, churches and other available sites, we will double the current
number of campers from 2,500 to 5,000 in the next 10 years.

Implementation

The Vision Statement was presented to the Connectional Table in
January 2010.

- The implementation process will be developed by the current C&R task
  force, pending adoption of the Vision Statement by the Annual Conference. A
  proposal for implementation will be presented to the Connectional Table in
  January 2011.

- Communication and marketing of the Vision will be done from the
  point the Vision Statement is adopted by the Connectional Table through the
  2011 Annual Conference.
403. Foundation for Retired Ministers

The retired clergy of this conference have been in the forefront of moving from “Ordinary to Extraordinary” as they served through difficult times of low salaries, inadequate parsonages, and very frequent moves. The Foundation for Retired Ministers was formed in the late 1930s to insure that the retired clergy of the North Georgia Annual Conference had at least a small amount of money in their retirement years. As the times changed and the annual conference took over the funding of adequate pensions, the Foundation has been able to contribute to easing the mature years of clergy in various ways.

During 2009 the Foundation completed a pledge of $1,000,000 to the Aging with Grace Program at Wesley Woods. Because the amount budgeted annually is based on a five year rolling average income, less funds are available now than earlier. As the stock market rebounds, the average should increase and allow for larger contributions in future years.

Four years ago the Foundation invested $200,000 in a CD from the North Foundation Development Fund. In February of 2010 the amount of that CD was increased to $500,000 with a guaranteed rate of 3.3% for four years. Not only is that a better return for the Foundation, it also helps provide a source for loans to churches in the North Georgia Conference for capital projects.

For several years $25,000 annually has been budgeted for the NGC Retiree Needs account to provide assistance for retired clergy who are unable to pay the cost of their Medicare Supplement Insurance. Another discretionary fund has been used for this and other emergency purposes resulting in no disbursements from the Retiree Needs Account. The current total in that account is slightly in excess of $126,000. Therefore, the $25,000 distribution to that account will cease and that amount will be disbursed to assist in reducing the Retiree Medical Unfunded Liability through the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.


Sally AsKew, Chairperson
## 403a. Foundation for Retired Ministers Financial Report

### Financial Report
Statement of Activities for the Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Return</td>
<td>$1,227,351</td>
<td>$(1,830,500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$1,232,151</td>
<td>$(1,827,700)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to Board of Pensions</td>
<td>267,000</td>
<td>272,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers for Retirees Medicare Suppl Inst</td>
<td>178,000</td>
<td>181,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to Fdn of Wesley Woods</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers for Med Supplemental Assistanc</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Admin</td>
<td>40,847</td>
<td>48,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous / Other</td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td>3,903</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>612,706</td>
<td>629,918</td>
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</table>

| Change in Net Assets                | 619,445| (2,457,618) |
| Net Assets, January 1               | $6,342,558 | $8,800,176 |
| Net Assets, December 31             | $6,962,003 | $6,342,558 |

### Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2009 and 2008 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets:</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$7,098,453</td>
<td>$6,481,008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$136,450</td>
<td>$138,450</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>5,429,987</td>
<td>4,924,491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>1,124,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>293,453</td>
<td>293,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$6,962,003</td>
<td>$6,342,558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Liabilities and Net Assets    | $7,098,453 | $6,481,008 |
The North Georgia United Methodist Foundation and The South Georgia United Methodist Foundation merged effective January 1, 2010 to become the Georgia United Methodist Foundation.

The Foundation’s top priority is to help churches, related agencies and individuals multiply their financial resources for mission and ministry. Ministry goals include partnering with United Methodists in the North and South Georgia conferences to build God’s kingdom; maintaining high Christian and professional standards; and providing expert counsel, superior value and a comprehensive range of stewardship services.

**Investment Services** provide high quality, diversified and low-cost funds that aspire to conform to the Social Principles. We serve as a trustee and offer competitive rates of returns to churches and agencies who invest in money market, short-term bond, fixed income, and equity funds. In 2009, investments managed exceeded $76 million.

Churches, agencies and individuals 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 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 debts at rates below market to meet the needs of their growing ministries.

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

**Fundraising Services** assist churches and agencies with annual and capital campaigns to raise funds for property acquisition, building construction and renovation, debt reduction, and endowment growth. Custom-designed services include feasibility analysis, planning, training, and marketing.

Please contact the Foundation at 770.449.6726 or 877.220.5664, or visit [www.gumf.org](http://www.gumf.org) for assistance with any of your stewardship needs.

Bob Fletcher, President
Chuck Savage, Chair
405. Glisson Camp and Retreat Center

Humanity began relationships with one another and with God surrounded by the beautiful garden of Creation. How appropriate then that for the past 85 years children, youth and adults have enjoyed Christian community and deepened relationship with the Creator in a garden we call “Glisson.”

This fall a study to be published in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin reports that when we pay attention to the natural world, we not only feel better, we behave better. The survey found the more deeply engaged participants were with the natural subject matter, the more strongly they valued community and relationships.

For decades we’ve experienced how effectively our Camping and Retreat Ministry nurtures disciples of Christ. And now we begin to understand better why that is the case. May God’s Spirit continue to move in and through the outdoor ministry of our annual conference!

Parent and church appreciation of Glisson’s ministry was apparent in the midst of the significant recession of 2009. 2543 campers participated in our summer programs – the second-highest attendance at summer camp in Glisson’s 85 summers. The new day camp program expanded to three sites in 2009, though with more modest growth in camper numbers than anticipated. An additional day camp site will be added in 2010.

Glisson’s retreat season remained strong in 2009 with more guest groups and only slightly fewer guests than in 2008. This winter’s Confirmation and Spiritual Life Retreats served over 1425 children and youth even after snow forced the cancellation of the first Confirmation Retreat.

Glisson celebrated its 85th anniversary, and the 60th anniversary of the Glisson Chapel on April 17 at Glisson Day. Alumni, friends and staff from across the conference were in attendance.

Facilities at Glisson underwent change this past year thanks to the generosity of many supporters. The “Down Under” meeting space was transformed this winter into modern, large group meeting space accommodating groups of over 100. The summer creative arts program has undergone radical expansion and finds new space in a renovation of the bottom floor of the Old Rec Hall. Our well-used Low Elements Challenge Course was completely redesigned into a Low Circuit, complete with 10 new intense, team-building challenges for summer campers and retreat participants alike.

The Glisson Board appointed a task force to begin the work of updating Glisson’s Master Plan. Central to the task is the much-needed replacement of our 60-year-old dining hall that accommodates only half of the 400-plus...
campers and staff on site during the summer. After months of work with camp 
consulting firm, Kaleidoscope, Inc., an updated master plan was unveiled this 
past spring.

The commitment of the North Georgia Annual Conference to camping 
ministry makes its partnership with the Glisson Board and staff fruitful. We 
look forward to continued expansion of our support of local churches in 
growing Christian disciples in the coming year.

C. Russell Davis, Director

406. Interfaith Children’s Movement

The Interfaith Children’s Movement (ICM) is a grassroots advocacy 
movement, bringing together people of faith to work toward improving the lives 
and well-being of Georgia’s children. ICM was founded in 2001 in response to 
the need to bring the compassion and commitment of faith communities into the 
discussions and work for major changes in the services, laws and public policies 
that shape children’s futures.
- Co-sponsored 2009 Prevent Child Abuse Faith Summit; provided keynote 
speaker and led the faith community mobilization workshop;
- Held our annual ICM Day the Capitol;
- Continued our statewide juvenile justice campaign to educate faith 
communities about the Juvenile Code and the effort to reform it;
- Made several presentations on child sexual exploitation and trafficking and 
distributed information materials throughout the faith community (including, 
Johns Creek UMC, Rocky Head UMC and United Methodist Women);
- Developed a Children’s Sabbath Observance college campus education 
campaign on juvenile justice reform and child sexual exploitation and 
trafficking;
- Advocated for legislation that sought to help child victims of sexual 
exploitation and trafficking;
- Served on the planning committee and as a workshop leader at the 2009 
United Methodist Day at the Capitol;
- Held our annual ICM Call to Action Prayer Breakfast with approximately 
300 people in attendance; highlighted the issues of juvenile justice reform 
and stopping child sexual exploitation and trafficking in Georgia;
- Served on the planning committee and co-sponsored “Stop the School to 
Prison Pipeline” (STPP) forum for parents and children; held a joint STPP 
listening session with the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP;
• Held quarterly ICM general meetings; also began holding additional meetings in Cobb County (as part of “growing the movement”)
• Launched *Nurturing Our Children and Parents* - Brochure and Web pages to help faith communities respond to parents of children with special needs;
• Served on the planning committee and co-sponsored the 2009 Celebration of Excellence for Georgia’s foster care children (provided volunteers and raised $1,500-plus in gift cards for 85 scholarship students)

Pamela Perkins, Coordinator

**407. Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers, Inc., Cedartown, Georgia**

Children who come to Murphy-Harpst from across Georgia suffer from severe abuse. Failing in as many as 10 to 20 placements prior to admission, they have proven unmanageable and require extensive therapy and Christian care to heal. Our commitment is to return them to their schools and communities as children and youth who are reclaimed.

In 2008-09, Murphy-Harpst served a remarkable 282 children—98 in residential programs, 34 in therapeutic foster care and 150 in community services. We structure our residential program to serve as a “pass through” rather than a “stopping point”—providing our children of ages 7 to 18 with the professional care that will enable them to re-assimilate to their communities. We are proud to report that 82 percent of our children in the past year progressed to less restrictive living environments such as foster care.

The Annual Conference theme, “Ordinary to Extraordinary: Wake Up and See where God is Moving,” is particularly apt to Murphy-Harpst as our children struggle to trust the world around them. As they receive loving, professional care by staff and become friends with dedicated volunteers from churches across the North Georgia Conference, the children begin to feel the spirit of God moving in their lives, and even the smallest sign of progress is a wake-up call to the promises of a new life. Our volunteers, who numbered nearly 1,000 in the past year, are particularly moved by the children. In the words of one church volunteer, “Folks who get involved with children at Murphy-Harpst want to stay involved. It has been an extraordinary blessing.”

Murphy-Harpst is honored that July 18, 2010, has been designated a day of special giving across the conference for our children. Without financial support from United Methodist churches and the work of volunteers, Murphy-Harpst could not rescue the increasing number of children who need our help.

Emily Saltino, Vice President of Development
2009 saw the beginnings of what promise to be major changes in the programs of the United Methodist Children’s Home. Historically the Home has received children from DFCS, as well as from private families, and housed these boys and girls anywhere from a few days to several years. Residential care has been where the majority of our staff has worked and where the largest part of our budget has been spent. These residential services have included emergency intake (in our Whitehead Hall intake center), cottage life for young people here longer, and Independent Living and Transition Living for older teens (through age 21) who are working their way to independence. The community-based services of counseling, parenting classes, foster family care, and financial aid, have been important, but a smaller portion of what we do.

While the exact shape of the future is still cloudy and residential services will continue, it is almost certain that the community-based services will become a much larger part of the mission of the Home, both programmatically and financially. As these changes are worked out, this should help the Home increase services into the communities and churches of the annual conference. Already serving communities with district offices in Augusta, Dalton, Gainesville and Rome, the model of working with families in many places and in many ways - always a part of our ministry - seems destined to grow rapidly in the next few years.

Church giving was down approximately 13% in 2009 from the previous year, making a reduction of approximately 21.5% over the last two years. The amazing fact remains that as churches struggle with their own budgets, congregations continue to give, volunteer, and pray, to sustain the Home’s connectional ministry and mission to hurting children and families.

**SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Financial Aid</td>
<td>1,579</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Counseling</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting Skills</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term Family Housing</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Family Care</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Care</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. Currently located at 859 Metropolitan Parkway in southwest Atlanta, we strive to be the extraordinary organization where God is moving and great things are being done for low income persons. Today, the three primary ministries of Wesley Community Centers are the Bethlehem Senior Center, Project Extend and the Camp Wesley program. In the midst of this economy, we see God’s hand at work and feel His presence as we continue to live out the mission of the agency.

The **Bethlehem Senior Center**, owned by the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries and one of the first senior centers in the country, provides an environment of love, care and support for senior citizens. We average 40-45 seniors daily at the Center and serve about 20 seniors monthly through our Homebound program.

**Project Extend** serves seniors and disabled adults by providing no-cost home repairs for low income homeowners in metropolitan Atlanta. Project Extend staff, contactors and volunteers complete the repairs and in a year, repairs are made to approximately 150 homes of seniors and disabled adults. United Methodist Church groups, Macy’s, college students and individuals have volunteered with us.

**Camp Wesley** historically has provided a residential summer camping experience for disadvantaged children and youth. Still in transition, we continue to keep the needs of children and youth before us and have a goal of resuming the residential summer camp in 2012.

**Wesley Walk for Others** continues to be our major fundraiser. We thank all the adults, youth, children and four-legged friends that represented North Georgia churches as walkers and volunteers. Also, a big ‘thank you’ to the host churches of the “walks” at Stone Mountain; the Atlanta Motor Speedway; the “We Must Go” conference; satellite walks in Snellville, Elberton, Decatur, Lawrenceville and Oxford, GA.

We offer sincerest thanks to the United Methodist Women for their active participation in all of our programs and financial support throughout the year.
Please remember to visit our website, www.wesleycenters.org for upcoming events, opportunities to volunteer with us, and to donate online. I invite you to partner and fellowship with us as we continue “to give feet to the faith of the church.”

M. Joy Magnus, Executive Director

410. Wesley Woods

We at Wesley Woods this year have been looking at who we are and what our ministry is. Because we always want to be sensitive to where God is moving us, to be sure that we are always looking to be extraordinary, our Board – which is chaired by Glenn Warren – appointed a task force to study our origins and past. We want to be true to our historical roots and to explore how those roots can help us determine our future. We expect to report on the findings of the task force next year. The timing of this will benefit our preparation for our next EAGLE accreditation in 2011.

The development of Wesley Woods which has been accomplished by the North Georgia Conference has resulted in a ministry that has become one of the premier geriatric programs in our denomination and the country. Kenneth Weber is the President and CEO of Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc., and Albert Blackwelder is the COO of Wesley Woods Center of Emory University. These ministries include nine residential communities, a nursing home community, an outpatient clinic, a geriatric hospital and a unique continuum of care, from independent living to hospice.

Finally, we decided to stop and take a new and different look at the extraordinary persons we are privileged to serve. At the time we gathered the data among the more than 1500 persons we serve in our residences, we found that we had one resident who was 104 years old, one who was 103, one who was 102, three who were 101, three who were 100 and 45 between the ages of 95-99 for a total of 54 residents who were above the age of 95! We also found that we had several mother-daughter combinations living in our communities.

Of the persons in our care, 75% of them receive some form or financial assistance. We wanted you to see whom we are serving on behalf of our Annual Conference and the needs they have because we too are being seriously challenged by the present economic situation in our country. The Foundation of Wesley Woods, led by Mike Watson as President and CEO, is working diligently to find funding for our ministry.

From our beginning in 1954 to where God has led us today, we are truly blessed and grateful to God for the support we get from the Conference,
especially the Mother’s Day Offering and our relationship with Emory. We sincerely believe the churches of North Georgia will continue to help us put smiles on the faces of older adults. We hope that all in our denomination know that we are here to serve them when they have needs involving older adults or their families. Charles E. Hoover, Director of Church Relations
The Conference Board of Laity (CBOL) is committed to providing the laity of the conference a network of connectional opportunities through programs and mission activities that mentor members of local church congregations. Each local church is represented on the Board of Laity through the twelve district lay leaders, the leadership of Conference Youth, Conference Young Adults, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Scouting and four at-large members for inclusiveness and diversity.

To fulfill our commitment, we are structured to hold quarterly meetings with emphasis on identifying and training new leadership while utilizing the long-standing expertise of seasoned leaders on which our annual conference has been built and continues to be recognized throughout Methodism. It is through our strong leadership and membership growth coupled with the lay/clergy partnership that speaks with resounding emphasis of knowledge and dedication to The United Methodist Church throughout our denomination. We are the church reaching out to bring in those who have not yet learned of Jesus Christ’s love or have strayed away from their roots. Through this partnership, we are creating new places for new people and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are able to create spiritual sanctuaries that move God’s people from ordinary to extraordinary. Identifying one’s spiritual gifts and finding ways to best utilize these talents cultivate disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. What a blessing to be a part of this culture that encircles diversity, the financially blessed and the marginalized, the educated and the less informed bringing us all together at the foot of the cross. Though our differences are many, in Christ we are as one. We are all gathered under the multi-faceted umbrella called The United Methodist Church in the North Georgia Conference.

A glimpse of our CBOL 2009-2010 schedule reflects our varied activities. Our August meeting was a conference call to conserving our budget in reaction to the financial status of the conference and reflective of our sincere concern and sensitivity for the strained economic situation that many of our laity and local churches are experiencing. Our focus was the board’s participation in the program agenda of annual conference as well as our recruitment of persons for the Leadership UMC program.

In November we welcomed the 2009-2010 Conference Youth President, Emily Hinson, as a new member to the Board of Laity. Her report of the conference youth activities, including North Georgia’s youth delegation attending the 2010 Youth Convocation in Berlin, was inspiring. Our guest was John Simmons, Director of the Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual...
Growth, who discussed the conference’s sexual abuse hotline. We also addressed our procedures for acquiring at-large members to annual conference from the twelve (12) districts and ways to equip laity in local churches for leadership as a part of the district training event in all districts.

March 2010 was our “CBOL traveling day-apart” that is always an exciting time. This year’s location was The Bridge UMC, a new church start in the Northwest District located in Cartersville where Eric Lee and the congregation demonstrated radical hospitality in the praise and worship service and the delicious meal. Andy Postell and his leadership team from The Well UMC, another new church start in Northwest District, joined us for lunch followed by an enthusiastic conversation detailing how these churches got their starts, what works and what does not and why and how to “re-think church.”

We were inspired by the evangelism outreach of these two growing congregations that intentionally seek the unchurched in the community. We were honored by the blessings shared and the presence of God evidenced in the minds and hearts of members through the “bring-in energy” of these congregations. Two members of the Cabinet – Mike Cavin, Northwest District Superintendent and Tommy Willingham, Director of New Church Development – added resourceful insight to the “planting churches” conversation. The “Stop Hunger Now” (SHN) mission outreach initiative of the 2010 annual conference was the focus of our meeting. Lay and clergy along with local churches and the business community will unite in packaging 200,000 family meals. For more information on the Stop Hunger Now project, the packaging of meals and details on how you can be involved, see page 15 of this handbook. Visit the North Georgia Conference web site at www.ngumc.org/ac2010register to register for a segment of time to volunteer for the packaging project on Thursday, June 17. There is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of the packaging with various skill level assignments. Volunteers must be 12 years or older to participate.

Our May meeting focuses on the board’s participation in the annual conference which includes Laity Orientation, Memorial Service, Laity Luncheon, and Thursday and Friday morning devotions as well as presentations of activities for the programs sponsored by the Board along with the SHN mission initiative.

Our 2011 Laity Luncheon speaker is the Honorable Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, a member of Cascade United Methodist Church. Our usual buffet will be served at noon on Friday, June 18, in the Athena Ballroom, Classic Center for $20 and tickets may be purchased on line when you pre-register.
500a. Board of Laity Sponsored Programs

Leadership UMC (LUMC), Sam Kilburn, chair; Dianne Traynham, CBOL representative ~ The purpose of Leadership UMC is to identify and train emerging laity leaders from throughout the conference and to prepare participants for leadership in the local church, district and annual conference. Through this inspiring series participants discover what God has in store, and we seek ways to “wake up and see where God is moving” in the minds, hearts and lives of new leaders.

Our objectives for LUMC:

1. Identify, recruit and train laity interested in church leadership.
2. Insure that the identification, recruitment and training be age, gender and ethnic inclusive.
3. Assist participants to develop leadership skills and to grow spiritually through instruction, class participation and small group projects.

LUMC consists of four weekend workshops conducted by professional faculty at the Simpsonwood Conference Center. This 2009-2010 series was the 8th year of the LUMC program. This year’s class graduated 29 participants. We now have 294 LUMC graduates representing over 180 churches throughout the North Georgia Conference.

For the 2010-2011 series, our first workshop will be held November 12-13, 2010 and is designed to provide participants a better understanding of our United Methodist history, polity and the Book of Discipline. The second workshop is January 21-22, 2011 and is designed to help the participants discover their spiritual gifts, passions and talents. It is a weekend that promises personal growth and transformation through the discovery of the participant’s “call for service.” The third workshop is March 11-12, 2011 and is a weekend in which the participants and their pastors share dialogue in the workshop of partnership in an opportunity to learn how clergy and laity can work together in shared ministry.

May 13-14, 2011 is a celebration of ministry and graduation. LUMC participants present their small group projects to members of the Conference Board of Laity as the final part of the LUMC program. View summaries of these reports on the North Georgia Conference web site under Board of Laity, then Leadership UMC. Registration begins now. You have a brochure in your tote bag that provides additional information about LUMC. Discuss with your pastor about participating in the next class, complete the application and follow the instructions in the brochure. Check us out on the web site at: www.ngumc.org under the Conference Board of Laity, stop by our display in the Foundry building or ask any of our graduates or committee members.
Lay Speaking Ministries (LSM) – Verder Cunningham, chair; Ron Davis, CBOL representative ~ “Wake Up and See Where God Is Moving!” God is moving all across North Georgia through lay speakers as they serve through their churches in every facet of ministry. Some laity leadership choose to be lay speakers, and being a lay speaker affirms that a choice has been made to intentionally respond to God’s call to witness and service, taking advantage of continuous Learning & Leading studies that stem from the General Board of Discipleship.

From 490 congregations of the 922 North Georgia local churches, there are presently 494 local church lay speakers and 991 certified lay speakers. Local church refers to persons having successfully completed the Basic Course and are approved for leading in the local church. Certified identifies persons having successfully completed the basic and advanced lay speaking courses and are further prepared for leading in and beyond the local church, such as serving with district and conference programs, volunteering in community projects and being available to fill a pulpit. Lay speakers are involved in caring ministries with persons in health care facilities, persons in poverty, counseling, prison ministry, support groups and community programs. Always and foremost, lay speakers are communicating God’s love and grace, encouraging others in their faith journey. Ephesians 4:12 describes LSM: To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. In today’s vernacular, LSM’s purpose is “equipping United Methodist laity for all facets of ministry.” Lay Speaking training is not focused on one area such as preaching but includes ministry in acts of “radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking missions and service, and extravagant generosity” to use terminology described in Bishop Robert Schnase’s book, “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.” Advance lay speaking courses cultivate these areas of ministry. “To deny these opportunities for training can lead to a decline in churches;” on the other hand, there is the promise that to engage in lay speaking training relating to these practices will produce fruitful congregations.

Information on courses, dates and locations by districts, as well as a listing of District Directors, are found on-line: www.ngumc.org/pages/detail/438. You have a brochure in your tote bag with additional information.

LSM can be the spark that ignites a faith and inspires participants to move from “ordinary to extraordinary.” To keep the flame strong and to maintain certified status, a lay speaker must complete a lay speaking course every three years. Lay speaking is different things to different people, but one common thread that is entwined in it all is a calling to service blessed with love and joy.
**Lay Revitalization Ministry (LRM) ~ Leon Jourolmon, chair; Mathew Pinson, CBOL representative ~** This Conference Board of Laity sponsored 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, at which time experienced team members facilitate discussions between church members in ministry areas including: evangelism, prayer, music, finance, spiritual growth, history and organization of the United Methodist Church, and church image. LRM consulted with Princeton (Athens/Elberton District), and Newnan Springs, Gates Chapel, and Nine Mile of the Northwest District and has four more consulting visits in various planning stages. The team members are passionate about this ministry, because matching churches that have a particular area of interest with laity/clergy experienced in that area has great potential for the Kingdom. Our responsibility is assistance. If you would like to learn more about LRM or are interested in enrolling your church to be the best that it can be and would like to discuss a team visit, contact Leon Jourolman at 706-3563-3138 or email leonj@sepa.doe.gov. The same contact information is used to discuss becoming a member of the LRM team to share your gift/talents with other churches. See our brochure in your tote bag, look for our display in the Foundry building or visit us on-line at the conference web site for more information.

**Lay Mission Training (LMT) ~ Ruth Pinkney, chair; Dianne Spencer, CBOL representative ~** The LMT Board is proceeding with the development of a new and exciting curriculum for the program that will focus on laity’s role in mission and service. The emphasis will be a continuance of the learning experience found in Leadership UMC and will include professional faculty at the Simpsonwood Retreat surroundings. Watch for the preview of our new program coming soon.

**500b. Other Conference Board of Laity Projects**

"Stop Hunger Now", the 2010 North Georgia Annual Conference Mission Outreach Project ~ A Clergy/Lay Partnership
The CBOL is coordinating the Stop Hunger Now (SHN) program and expresses appreciation to the volunteers who enable the conference to accomplish our project at this 2010 Annual Conference. Through a $50,000.00 anonymous donation, the conference will purchase dehydrated, vitamin enriched food to be
packaged by members of annual conference, local business and community, local churches, friends and family members on Thursday, June 17 during annual conference in Athens. Visit the North Georgia Conference web site at www.ngumc.org/AC2010register to sign up as a volunteer in the 200,000 meal packaging project on Thursday, June 17.

CBOL celebrates churches paying 100% of FY 2009 Apportionments

The Board of Laity has emphasized with laity throughout the conference the importance of each local church paying 100% of apportionments. To express our sincere appreciation to the churches that paid 100% of apportionments, the CBOL sent letters of acknowledgement to the pastors and local church lay leaders. Understanding the economic difficulty confronted by individuals and businesses, these 669 churches are deserving of our recognition for fulfilling their commitment in spite of our current multi-faceted financial turn-down and double-digit unemployment. We appreciate the financial dedication and faithfulness of stewardship and say, “Thank you!”

Conference enters the age of technology with on-line registration

The Board of Laity has volunteers to assist with the on-line registration process for the 2010 Annual Conference. Members of annual conference without computer access can contact their local church or district office to make arrangements for assistance in completing the registration process. As details are finalized, more information will be provided.

2011 Laity election of delegates to General/Jurisdictional conferences

Delegates to represent North Georgia at the 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences will be elected by members of 2011 annual conference. Persons interested in offering themselves as candidates for election must meet the qualifications as outlined in Paragraph 36 of the Book of Discipline which reads: “The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election and are members within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.”
It is the Board of Laity’s desire to offer this candidacy opportunity to all eligible lay members and to inform interested persons of the qualifications, expectations and expense involved in the process. This advanced notification and information will hopefully provide opportunity for prayerful consideration of this important decision.

Elected delegates can expect significant expenditures of time, work, study and money in preparation for representing North Georgia Conference.

- General Conference lasts for two weeks, followed by the North Georgia Annual Conference which lasts three or more days and the Southeast Jurisdictional Conference which lasts one week. Delegates must commit a minimum of four weeks within a three month period from April through July, 2012.
- There will be numerous meetings of the clergy and lay delegates, usually a full day Saturday meeting per month, during the year following election in preparation for General Conference.
- General Conference, in particular, requires extensive preparatory study plus extended long hours of continuous daily meetings during the two weeks of the conference session.
- Most delegates find that the per diem provided by the General and Jurisdictional conferences does not cover all costs of being a delegate and have to use personal funds to cover additional expenses.

The Board of Laity appreciates all persons who give consideration to offering themselves for election. If you cannot meet the obligations stated above, you will be letting the Conference, the delegation and yourself down.

A Candidates’ Handbook is produced by the Board of Laity and contains information about each candidate along with the candidate’s picture. The form below provides information for submission of the form and required materials for inclusion in the Handbook. The Board of Laity requests this information be submitted beginning January 1, 2011 and all materials must be postmarked not later than January 31, 2011 for inclusion in the Candidate Handbook. The Board of Laity will provide a copy of this handbook to each lay member in advance of the 2011 Annual Conference.
Please include my information in the Candidate Handbook. I certify that I meet the requirements in Paragraph 36 of the 2008 Book of Discipline to be a candidate for election as a lay delegate to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. If elected, I will serve as a delegate.

Signature: ____________________________________________

Name_____________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Phone: Residence ______ Work Phone _______ Cell Phone _________

Fax ______ Email _____________________________________________

Local Church ____________________________ District______________

Occupation______________________________

Youth (18 and under) ______ Youth Adult (40 and under)______ Adult___________

Female _________ Male _________ Race_________________________

Please submit in 300 words or less an informational sheet (word picture of yourself). Suggestions for inclusion are information about family; church, district and conference positions (past and present); your position on issues that you believe to be pertinent to the church and its future; any additional information that you would like the voters to know about you. Please send the following:

1) The completed application
2) The 300-word informational sheet
3) A photo of yourself

The Lay Election Committee will arrange your material in a one-page format. All candidate information will appear in the Candidate Handbook in last name alphabetical order.

Mail this packet of information to Conference Board of Laity, Lay Election Committee, 4511 Jones Bridge Circle, Norcross GA 30092. Packet must be postmarked after January 1, 2011 but not later than January 31, 2011.

Two forums will be held prior to the 2011 Annual Conference for the lay delegates to have an opportunity to get to know the candidates through a two-minute speech. You will be notified of the date, time and location of the first forum. The second forum will be held at Laity Orientation on the first day of 2011 Annual Conference at 10 a.m.
501. United Methodist Men

The 2010 focus of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men is to connect with all men in the conference. We plan to promulgate UMM by distributing our brochure to all men. This brochure explains all NGCUMM ministries. We believe that UMM will grow if the men understand all the great ministries of the UMM. It is our goal to increase the UMM database of 537 fellowships to at least an additional 10%. Last year (2009), we chartered 225 fellowships and year-to-date (2010) we have 211 chartered fellowships with 10,422 individual men. A copy of the UMM newsletter is mailed to every man on our database. We also have an ENEWS letter.

In EVANGELISM, our prayer advocate promotes prayer across the conference, coordinates Upper Room Prayer Line and the prayer wall at our Rock Eagle Retreat. NGCUMM continue to travel around the conference speaking to local fellowships with emphasis on increased awareness and clearer visibility, of where God is moving UMM in ministry.

United Methodist Men have traditionally supported scouting and youth ministries. The fellowships have also assisted in sponsorship and have provided meeting facilities for scouting.

In MISSIONS, NGCUMM agreed to coordinate volunteer labor to rebuild an 8,000 square foot cottage for the United Methodist Children’s Home. UMM have coordinated more than 7,200 volunteer man-hours and over 970 people from 12 different states. In addition, over 880 lunches for volunteers were made available. The UMM negotiated more than $300,000 of free building materials and labor for the Children’s Home project. NGCUMM participated in several international mission trips. We also had a well drilled near a United Methodist School in Mozambique.

SPIRITUAL LIFE is last listed, but is first on our minds. UMM will press forward to develop ordinary men into extraordinary men in ministry. Attendance at our 47th annual Rock Eagle Men’s Spiritual Retreat included over 600 men. The NGCUMM submitted a Resolution, that a Men’s Day be observed each year. We plan to move the local fellowships to a new level with our extensive training and improved programs for men.

Jasper J. Russell Sr., President

502. UMW Moving from Ordinary to Extraordinary

The North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women’s 2009 theme was “Come to the Table.” At the beginning of a new quadrennium, we met at
the table to make plans and to pray for God to show us where he was moving.
As a result of our prayers and working as a Team, we put love in action to bless
women, children and youth through extraordinary programs.

We went from ordinary to extraordinary by focusing on ways to share our
faith, to be supportive, to serve and to be inclusive of all people in our mission
work. In February, Sue Raymond, Sara Worden and I were minorities at the
Immigration Rights Hearing (at Tabernaculo of Atlanta) with 3,000 people
pushing for immigration reform. We were there to support Immigration Rights
and to sign petitions to end deportation and the separation of families.

In March, over 130 women met at Trinity UMC for the Social Action
Event. We accepted the challenge to take action, to seek justice, to be a voice
for children, the poor, and to improve health for people globally. We came
together in May for a Spiritual Growth Retreat. The theme was “Praise, Prayer
and Worship.” We were blessed with answered prayers after 100-plus women
formed a circle and prayed for God to move in all situations.

God blessed us in June at the North Georgia Annual Conference with
extraordinary results when we prepared sack lunches and goody bags for the
Uganda children’s choir. The children were the ones who blessed us with their
love, joy and talents. The UMW gathered to assemble 856 UMCOR health kits
and sent 10 boxes of incomplete kits. In July we met at Oxford College for the
Mission Education Event with over 200 adults, 12 youth and 30 children
studying Food and Faith, Native American Survival and Sudan. We offered a
one day Mission Education for Pastors to share information about UMW and
General Board of Global Ministries.

We had an extraordinary program at our Annual Meeting in October at
Duluth UMC. We had three district superintendent speakers and were honored
to have all 12 district superintendents in attendance. They led us in a
memorable communion service. The recipients for the second year of the Doris
Paul Purpose Award were Tonya Murphy, Jo Dinkins, Bobby Solomon and
Rosalie Tabb. They received pearl Special Mission Recognition pins from the
late Doris Paul’s collection. In November we met with the UMW district
officers for Training/Leadership Update and promoted the Assembly on April
29-May 2 in St. Louis MO.

The UMW will continue in 2010 to move from ordinary to extraordinary
in our programs with Faith, Hope, Love in Action.

Deloris Carhee, Conference UMW President
Both the National Chapter and the Georgia Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) were established in 1982 under the direction of the General Council of Finance and Administration. The organization is open to both full time and part time employees and volunteers who work in United Methodist churches, district offices, episcopal offices and UM agencies in clerical and administrative assistant positions. The purpose of the organization is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuing education and spiritual enrichment.

The Georgia Chapter, which is made up of members from both North and South Georgia conferences, holds an annual meeting each year. The location of that meeting alternates between the two conferences. At the four-day meeting, members participate in a variety of workshops and worship experiences. There is a balance between spiritual growth workshops and workshops designed to provide training and support for office personnel. Those participating can earn 1 CEU credit. Our 2009 conference was held at Epworth By the Sea and our 2010 conference will be hosted by the Salem UMC in Covington, August 26-29.

In addition to the annual meeting, the organization publishes a chapter newsletter that is mailed to members three times a year. We also have an email network where we share prayer concerns and other pertinent information on a more frequent basis. Members are also encouraged to become Certified UM secretaries by participating in the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries Institute, which is sponsored by GCFA and held at Emory University each year in July.

In 2009 we had 59 members. We continue to publicize our organization to the churches throughout the North and South Georgia conferences and invite you to visit our display in the Foundry Building. In 2010 our goal is to sponsor various informal events throughout both conferences in an effort to make persons aware of our organization.

Denise Wilson, Chapter President

Additional materials may be included in Information Packets/Tote Bags for
distribution at Registration according to North Georgia Conference Standing
Rule C.5 (11 in 2008 Journal) with the guidelines listed below. Priority items
are those requiring conference action. Contents of this packet shall be limited
to:

- Addenda, amendments, or correction to the contents of the
  pre-conference handbook or
- Materials requiring conference action

Non-priority are those to be mailed to churches/individuals after conference or
those on display tables.

Promotional, marketing, interpretive, and educational materials for
conference agencies and ministries of the annual conference are
encouraged to utilize the display tables to promote the ministries, activities
and agencies of and related to the North Georgia Conference.

Materials that are not in the pre-conference handbook, packet of
supplemental materials or made available via the display tables are not to
be distributed inside the meeting and/or worship areas.

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.

1. Deadline to REQUEST distribution of supplemental materials: May 21,
2009 shall be 30 days prior to the opening of annual conference. Do
not assume your material will be included in the tote bag. Provide
description of material, justification for insertion in the tote bags rather
than distribution at display table, name and cell phone of contact. No
items will be considered after the deadline.

2. Volunteers: Four (4) volunteers from each committee, group, etc.
submitting material are required to help assemble the materials at the
designated time and place. Your material will not be included in the
tote bags without volunteers from your group.

3. Material Format: Quantity: 2800 copies; Size: 8.5 x 11 is preferred;
Format: 14 point type; 3 hole punch
Located in notably one of the most blighted areas of Augusta, Georgia, New Bethlehem Community Center, established in 1912 as the first social settlement house for Blacks in Augusta, has weathered the test of time.

With a staff of three employees and a host of volunteers, community service workers, and partner organizations, New Bethlehem Community Center accomplishes the “extraordinary” in ways that helps others to see and experience how God is moving in our day-to-day operations. The Center provides a variety of health and human services and programs to meet the physical, social, economic, health, and financial needs of the community. These include:

- **The After School Program**, for kindergarten to 7th graders, provides homework assistance, activity and a nutritious meal to students from low income families four days a week. Approximately 30 students are enrolled.
- **Summer Enrichment Day Camp** is offered each summer for 4-6 weeks. During the camp, children receive classroom instruction, daily breakfast, lunch, snacks, physical activity, arts and crafts and cultural enrichment.
- **Computer Literacy** classes for beginner and intermediate students are held twice a week and is one of our most popular programs.
- **The GED Program** is offered in partnership with Augusta Technical College. There is a constant waiting list for this program.
- **Senior Citizen Congregant Meal Program** is offered in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging to ensure that local area elderly citizens receive healthy meals, socialization, exercise and resource information.
- **Food Pantry and Clothing Closet** is open to the public each month. Over the last year, more than 4,800 people have received assistance.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** meetings are held at the Center daily and serve approximately 30 people per meeting.
- **White Christmas Toy Giveaway** in partnership with Augusta Urban Ministries and Salvation Army provided toys for 29 families.

We are humbly grateful for the prayers, generosity and untiring support of the General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Women, the North Georgia Conference and the Augusta District in our efforts.

Please visit us at [www.newbethlehemcommunitycenter](http://www.newbethlehemcommunitycenter) to stay updated on our progress and activities as we fulfill our mission “to be an extension of God’s ministry and to improve the quality of life.”

Millicent E. West, Executive Director
Memo to Bishop Watson:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you and others with an interim report on the work of the NGUMC 2010 Task Force appointed by the Conference in June 2009. As you will recall, we convened the 17 members of the Task Force at Simpsonwood on November 10, 2009. Their names are found at the end of this report. The entire Task Force has met on two other occasions, those being January 5, 2010 and February 26, 2010.

In addition, the Executive Committee of the Task Force, consisting of myself as Chair, Brenda Jones Cole as Vice Chair, Jill Irvin, Stuart Gulley, James Kim and Neal Purcell, have had periodic meetings between those of the entire Task Force.

The Task Force’s first decision was to divide the tasks with which it was charged into two (2) basic groups. We agreed to address the issue of the Simpsonwood Conference Center in preparation for the June 2010 Conference; we further agreed to address the various issues relating to ministerial compensation (i.e., equitable compensation, housing, health benefits and pension arrearages) in anticipation of reporting our findings and recommendations at the June 2011 Conference.

Addressing Simpsonwood, then, the Task Force determined that it needed to employ the services of a business consultant in order better to understand the financial viability of the Conference Center, and to investigate alternative uses for the Simpsonwood property. After interviewing two prospective consultants, the Task Force employed Setili & Associates of Atlanta, Georgia at a cost of slightly in excess of $43,000 to study the Conference Center operations, interview various individuals with knowledge regarding the Conference Center, and interview persons who have management roles with other conference centers operated by the Methodist church.

A more complete summary of the Setili & Associates findings will be presented at the June 2010 Conference. The firm’s conclusion, however, is that the Conference Center is at best a break-even business, and that the cash flow generated by the Conference Center will not be sufficient to pay interest or amortize principal on the $6 million debt associated with Simpsonwood. In addition, the firm confirmed that the cash flow generated by the Conference Center is inadequate to counteract the depreciation of the Conference Center facilities.

Setili & Associates’ findings included the fact that the Conference Center is not useful as a youth retreat center, because of the configuration of the
buildings and rooms. The firm learned that Methodists who live in the North
Georgia area outside the immediate Atlanta community are reluctant to come to
Atlanta for conferences, while those Methodists who live within the Atlanta
environs are reluctant to stay in Atlanta for conferences, preferring to go
elsewhere on retreats and meetings. Setili & Associates also learned that many
local churches have very fine meeting facilities, and that the need for a
conference center venue today is not as great as it may have been in the past.

Regarding alternative uses, the firm’s findings, supported by the Task
Force, were that the Simpsonwood land would not be a viable place for a
satellite campus of one of our Methodist colleges. Furthermore, developing
programming for Simpsonwood in order to attract visitors and customers would
probably not be successful in the long run. The firm had interviewed
management at both Epworth by the Sea and Lake Junaluska, and learned that
programming had not proven to be financially successful for those facilities.

After accepting the report of Setili & Associates, the Task Force next
approached the board and management of Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc.
(“WWSL”), to determine whether WWSL would have any interest in using
some portion of the Simpsonwood land for a continuing care retirement
community (“CCRC”). WWSL seems quite eager to construct and operate a
CCRC at Simpsonwood, assuming there is sufficient demand for this type of
facility in the northeast Atlanta geographical area. WWSL in fact employed a
firm from Charlotte, North Carolina to perform preliminary research on the
need for a CCRC in the Simpsonwood community. The Executive Committee
of WWSL met at Simpsonwood in February, and discussed the prospective
placement of a CCRC on a portion of the Simpsonwood property.

The $6 million debt on the Simpsonwood land was the next issue the
Task Force confronted. We learned that the debt, which is with SunTrust Bank,
would be due on or about April 10, 2010. Recognizing that resolving what the
Conference should do about Simpsonwood will not be accomplished within that
time frame, the Task Force contacted the Georgia United Methodist Foundation
(“GUMF”), knowing that the GUMF has a loan program for Methodist
institutions in the State of Georgia. Representatives of the GUMF informed the
Task Force that it has a loan limit to Georgia Methodist entities of $1.6 million,
but that the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church has a
development fund which has a $3.5 million loan limit. If loans could be taken
out through the GUMF and the Board of Global Ministries together, perhaps
$5.1 million of the SunTrust debt could be refinanced through these two
Methodist entities.
With that information in hand, the Task Force informed Keith Cox, Conference financial officer, regarding the possibility of refinancing the Simpsonwood debt through the GUMF and Board of Global Ministries lending programs. As this interim report is being prepared, negotiations are under way among the Conference, SunTrust Bank, the GUMF and the Board of Global Ministries to refinance the SunTrust debt through these Methodist entities in order to provide the Conference with more time to solve the Simpsonwood problem.

Next, the Task Force determined that it would need the assistance of a real estate consultant in order to determine what alternative uses the Simpsonwood land may have. Together with WWSL, the Task Force employed Haddow & Company at a cost of between $30,000 and $40,000 to investigate all possibilities regarding the Simpsonwood land. The president of Haddow & Company, David Haddow, has met with the Task Force and with the WWSL Executive Committee, and intends to make his company’s report to the Task Force and WWSL by May 1, 2010. Among the alternatives which the Task Force understands Haddow & Company is investigating are the use of a portion of the Simpsonwood land by WWSL; the possible sale of a portion of the land for single family housing; the sale of the portion of Simpsonwood which is in the Chattahoochee River corridor either to the federal government, the State of Georgia, Gwinnett County or perhaps the Trust for Public Land; and the possibility that conservation use tax credits may be sold to individuals or corporations. The goal which the Task Force has in mind is the “monetization” of the Simpsonwood property in order to pay entirely the debt which is now owed to SunTrust Bank and which prospectively may be owed to the GUMF and the Board of Global Ministries, while at the same time adhering as much as possible to the vision of Miss Ludie Simpson when she gave the land to the Conference more than 35 years ago. One of Ms. Simpson’s desires, we understand, was to have the land used by Wesley Woods in the event the Conference would no longer be able to use the land.

As alternative uses are explored by Haddow & Company, the Task Force, with approval by you, has made it clear that all options are “on the table,” including moving the Conference headquarters from Simpsonwood to another location within the north Georgia community. If such were to occur, however, the Conference would need to be reimbursed for the amount it received when it sold its former headquarters building, which sum was invested in the construction of the Conference headquarters building on the Simpsonwood site. This amount was approximately $2 million, we understand, and thus any monetization effort undertaken for the Simpsonwood land will need to raise a
total of $8 million, $6 million of that to pay off debt and $2 million to enable the Conference to move its headquarters to another location.

Finally, the Task Force has received and studied two or three legal opinions from prominent Atlanta law firms regarding whether the Conference would be able under applicable Georgia law to transfer a portion of the Simpsonwood property to WWSL, and to sell a portion of the property perhaps to a developer or to a governmental entity, as suggested above. The Task Force has concluded that once a firm decision is made regarding the disposition of Simpsonwood, a legal petition for declaratory judgment will be filed in the Gwinnett County Superior Court, seeking the Court’s approval of the Conference’s plan for disposition of the Simpsonwood land. In this manner, anyone in the community, or anyone related to Ms. Simpson, who wishes to be heard regarding the disposition of Simpsonwood by the Conference will have a legal forum in which to make their views known.

The Task Force has had a very preliminary conversation with a partner in a prominent Gwinnett County law firm, an attorney who actually knew Miss Simpson and previously lived near Simpsonwood, about assisting with the filing of such a lawsuit. This attorney has stated that the preliminary plans outlined herein, which the Task Force has shared with him regarding Simpsonwood, are consistent with what he knew Miss Simpson’s desires to be, and he would be willing to assist the Conference with such a court petition.

In short, the Task Force has preliminarily concluded that the continued long-range operation of the Conference Center at Simpsonwood is not financially viable. The Task Force expects that it will recommend to the Conference that it dispose of Simpsonwood, perhaps by transferring a portion of the land to WWSL, and perhaps by selling a portion of the land either to a private developer or to a governmental entity. The objectives of the Conference should be to dispose of Simpsonwood in such a manner as to adhere as closely as possible to the vision which Ms. Simpson had when she gave the land to the Conference, but also to make the Conference whole regarding the financial commitments which are secured by the Simpsonwood land.

The Task Force anticipates that these plans will need a period of perhaps 24 months to 36 months to be resolved, and will recommend to the Conference that it continue operating the Conference Center over this duration. By refinancing the debt secured by the Simpsonwood land, the Conference will have greater latitude in resolving all of these issues without the overhang of having to repay the debt in the short term.
To date, the Task Force has spent—or committed to spend—between $85,000 and $100,000 on this project, but has raised from private sources $60,000 to pay a portion of these costs.

All of the members of the Task Force have been given an opportunity to review this interim report prior to its submission. Should you or others have questions regarding any aspect of this report, please contact me or any other member of the Task Force.

Henry L. Bowden, Jr., Chair

604. Order of Deacons

Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and Service. “It is the deacons, ... whose distinctive ministry is to embody, articulate, and lead the whole people of God in its servant ministry.” (¶329)

Deacons by definition have the exciting and challenging opportunity to lead the church from the ordinary to the extraordinary, to see the emerging needs of our changing community, and to envision, create and implement ministries to meet those needs.

God is moving through the ministry of the Deacons in amazing ways, in the North Georgia Conference and beyond. From serving local churches as executive pastors, and pastors in areas of music, Christian education, discipleship, family life, missions, and age specific ministries; to serving the wider church in areas of community assistance, spiritual formation, higher education, operations, and in the general boards; and serving the community in areas of counseling, therapy, chaplaincy, community development, community assistance, among others, Deacons embody efforts to find new and effective ways to be the church in the world, to express God’s love to those who are hurting.

Last year the Deacons had the exceptional opportunity of participating with 333 other deacons, diaconal ministers and deaconesses from all over the world in the DIAKONIA 2009 World Assembly held at the Georgia Tech campus. With the theme of “Crossroads of Grace…. Revive and Reconcile” the participants enjoyed a time for fellowship and personal renewal.

With the theme of “Deacons Making a Difference,” the Order of Deacons is planning a Deacons Day of Service at a local church in the Fall. This remarkable group of people will provide a day of work to the church on whatever they need.
The Order of Deacons aims to support, care for, and hold accountable its members for the sake of the life and mission of the church. To fulfill this mission the order regularly schedules events that provide opportunities for service and growth for its members.

For more information, feel free to visit the Order of Deacons webpage under the Office of Ministerial Services.

Nora Colmenares Martinez, Chair, Order of Deacons

605. Order of Elders

The Order of Elders exists to support and hold accountable its members for the sake of the life and mission of the church. Your executive committee has sought the best ways to do that over the years, and continues in this quest as we hold to the inspiration gleaned from Colossians 3:14. It reads “And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Under the guidance of Bishop Mike Watson and our Cabinet Representative John Simmons, our focus on working with the district superintendents to support and encourage participation in district clergy events appears to have been effective thus far. The following events have been reported within the past year:

Athens-Elberton - District hosts meals around clergy meetings and a clergy retreat.

Atlanta-College Park - District holds monthly breakfasts and held an overnight retreat in the Fall.

Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford - Regular district breakfasts, lunches, and lectionary groups are available to all pastors.

Atlanta-Emory - The DS holds monthly lunches at different restaurants throughout the district.

Atlanta-Marietta - District clergy meetings with round table discussion opportunities.

Atlanta-Roswell - The DS holds weekly district breakfasts.

Augusta - The DS holds monthly district breakfasts. The district laity is planning a retreat for the clergy in the fall. Fred Smoot came to spend time with the district in both group and individual settings.

LaGrange - Have discussed holding a clergy retreat and lectionary groups

Gainesville - DS holds cluster group breakfasts and lunches. There are lectionary groups and small groups for fellowship.

Rome-Carrollton - DS organized a three-day retreat at Lake Junaluska under the leadership of Phil Schroeder, in addition to regular district breakfasts.
Additionally, we began this conference year with a clergy luncheon at our 2009 Annual Conference, with guest speaker, Dr. Jan Love bringing the message. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed that the clergy luncheons are an important opportunity for fellowship together.

Our previous research revealed that clergy who feel connected and supported report more trust and joy within our United Methodist system. Watch for further opportunities in your district this year and get connected in your area.

Susan Gary Ashe, Chairperson, Order of Elders

606. United Theological Seminary
“Spirit Led, Renewing the Church For the Mission of Jesus Christ in the World!”

How can seminary education help to renew the Church? By blending theological, biblical study with mentoring, classroom learning, spiritual growth and practice! This is what we do at United, and it is making a difference.

United Theological Seminary is committed to the purpose of renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. We invite your prayers and participation in this renewal and this purpose. The seminary has been serving Christ and the Church for 139 years, but our offerings are designed to meet the needs of today’s followers of Jesus and church leaders:

- A recently revised 78 hour Master of Divinity curriculum
- A growing number of online and blended courses
- New Doctor of Ministry degree focus groups and mentors
- Deep learning opportunities for clergy and laity
- Emphases in Church Renewal, African American Ministry Studies, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministries
- Appreciative theological reflection on the central doctrines and beliefs of the Bible and the Christian faith
- Spiritual formation in a variety of cultural contexts, including local and international communities
- A technologically advanced, fully accessible, state-of-the art campus
- A youthful, diverse, widely published faculty committed to the Christian faith
- Friendly and helpful staff and students
- A UM matching scholarship program.
Enrollment at United is growing steadily and we invite you to call, visit or sign up for a class that meets your needs. For more information, contact admissions@united.edu, www.united.edu, 4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, OH 45426, 937-529-2201.

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

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President
700. Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee of the North Georgia Annual Conference receives, reviews, and makes recommendations to annual conference regarding resolutions submitted to the committee that are not to be handled by other programmatic committees. The annual conference votes on the resolutions as presented. As of March 1, 2010, three resolutions had been received by the resolutions committee for the 2010 Annual Conference.

All who wish to submit resolutions to the June 2011 annual conference are urged to follow the following guidelines:

Guidelines for Submitting Resolutions

The Committee on Resolutions processes all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted through programmatic committees. The Resolutions Committee’s job is to ensure that resolutions presented are in compliance with the Book of Discipline and the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference and are properly before the annual conference for a vote as part of the Resolutions Committee report. The committee may take the following actions on resolutions: 1) Accept the resolution as presented with no changes; 2) Accept the resolution after amending it to comply with the Standing Rules or Book of Discipline; 3) Refer the resolution to another annual conference committee for inclusion in that committee’s report. (If the committee to which a resolution is referred does not choose to include it in their report, then that resolution is included in the Resolution Committee report.) Members of the Resolutions Committee vote concurrence or non-concurrence on each resolution and the committee’s decision is included along with the resolution in the oral report to annual conference.

To submit a resolution for consideration by the 2011 Annual Conference, send properly formatted resolutions to Beth LaRocca-Pitts, Chair, Resolutions Committee at beth.larocca-pitts@ngumc.net. The resolution is to be written in the following format: “whereas, whereas, whereas…therefore be it resolved” structure and submitted in 14 point, Times New Roman font, single spaced, with the following margins: top 1.25”; bottom 1”; left 1”; right 1.25”. The name, title, phone number, and email address of author/originator must be included with the resolution.

The deadline for submitting resolutions to appear in the annual conference handbook is February 1 of the conference year. Resolutions requiring additional research may preclude inclusion in the handbook.
Resolutions submitted after February 1 will be processed by the committee; then, upon notification by committee, copied by the author (3,000 copies paid for by the submitter), and delivered to the Secretary of the Annual Conference for inclusion in the member packets prior to annual conference. Resolutions submitted after the deadline for assembly of member packets can be received no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled report of the Resolutions Committee during Annual Conference. Resolutions submitted at this time will be processed by the committee, copied by the author, and given to the Annual Conference Secretary and properly distributed to the members of annual conference at least 24 hours before the Resolutions Committee report. Since the Resolutions Committee must process all resolutions before they are official and properly before the body, copies of late resolutions shall not be produced prior to committee processing and notification. We hope this information is helpful to you.

701. COSROW Resolution

Whereas the purpose of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is 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 of the Church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy making at all levels of the Church’s life (¶2102),

Whereas the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church affirm the importance of women in decision-making positions at all levels of the Church and in society and urges such bodies to guarantee their presence through policies of employment and recruitment (¶162.F),

Whereas the Book of Discipline already requires that at least one-third of the members of the local church board of trustees be laywomen (¶2524.),

Whereas women comprise 56% of the lay membership in the North Georgia Conference, yet only comprise 38% of lay leaders, 42% of finance chairs, 33% of trustees, and 51% of staff-parish relations chairs,

Therefore, the members of North Georgia Conference COSROW request that the leadership in the local church, pastors as well as the committee on lay leadership, make a conscientious and intentional effort to nominate more
women than the *Book of Discipline* requires to positions of leadership in the local church in order to more accurately portray the demographics of the local church.

North Georgia Conference Committee on Status and Role of Women
Tara Paul, Chair

702. Resolution on Program Coordinator for Creation Care

Resolved, that the 2010 Annual Conference of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church approve the formation of a Program Coordinator for Creation Care, relating to the Conference Board of Church and Society.

Explanation

The Tree of Life opens and closes the Scriptures; trees, along with all of the riches of the natural world, are featured in a thousand passages in the Bible. In the last chapter, on the last page of the Bible, we again encounter the Tree of Life that we meet in Genesis: “Then the angel showed me the river of the Water of Life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the Tree are for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:1-2).

God does not merely tolerate nature. Instead, He places it at the center of Heaven and views it as a vital part of His redemptive purpose, telling us that the “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed” (Romans, 8:19).

Thus, the Board, in consultation with the Program Coordinator is charged with the following:

1) to provide the districts and people with the necessary resources to develop deeper biblical and theological understandings of our obligations for the care of the earth; resources that will be available to all of our people at every age to deepen their sense of participation in the stewardship of creation;

2) to provide practical tools for our districts and our people to cut waste, reduce energy consumption, contain and reduce our carbon footprint, and other practical means to make a difference; and

3) to organize appropriate advocacy at the local, state, national, and international levels that contributes positively toward the accountability of our government leaders for the wise use of the riches of creation.

Conclusion

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As children of the Living God, our
transformative task extends to the people of God and to the whole of creation. By embracing the establishment of the Program Coordinator for Creation Care, the North Georgia Conference can more effectively address these sacred responsibilities.

Byron Ahrens, Jennifer Coffey, Matthew Malok, Shirley Alcorn, Mironda Williams, and Michelle Zackery
2009-2010 Leadership UMC Small Group Members

Dave Allen-Grady, Commission on Church and Society Chair

703. Resolution to Establish an Annual Day for Men Within The North Georgia Conference

WHEREAS, the men within the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Church represent a vital and significant part of the Church and of its ministries and activities, and

WHEREAS, providing a special day for yearly recognition of the men within each individual church or charge of the North Georgia Conference and of the work and ministry done by the men of each such church or charge will assist the men in the fulfilling of their ministry within the church and provide examples for boys and inactive men to become involved with the ministry and activities of their church or charge, and

WHEREAS, this Annual Conference firmly believes that setting aside and designating one special day during each calendar year for the recognition of the men within each church or charge, not just those men who are readily recognized as already being active in the Church, but for all of the men who are members of or attend the church or charge so that those who are less active than others can be encouraged through the Holy Spirit and the examples of those who are active to become active participants, and

WHEREAS, the organization of North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men has formally approved this Resolution for presentation to this Annual Conference, and

WHEREAS, this proposed Resolution has been presented to the district superintendent designated to work with North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men and to the bishop of this conference for their prior review and comments:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED THAT:

1. The fourth Sunday of the month of October of each calendar year hereafter be, and hereby is, established as “ANNUAL MEN’S DAY” to be observed each year in each church or charge within the North Georgia Conference.

2. The activities for recognition and celebration of each “ANNUAL MEN’S DAY” shall be planned and implemented by the local Fellowship of United Methodist Men within each such church or charge, in consultation with the pastor in charge, provided, however, if there is not then an active fellowship, the event shall be planned and implemented by the Council on Ministries, the Administrative Board, the Administrative Council, the Annual Charge Conference or by the pastor. The activity or activities for each Annual Men’s Day shall be as determined by the persons planning the event so as to recognize the uniqueness and individuality of each congregation or charge and the men therein.

3. At the Annual or Charge Conference of each church or charge, a report detailing the type and extent of the activities conducted in the celebration of Annual Men’s Day, the extent of the participation in connection therewith, and other pertinent information shall be presented to the district superintendent.

4. Each church or charge shall call upon our almighty God for direction and leadership in implementing this Resolution and may use the many resources that are readily available to them through their district superintendent, the Conference United Methodist Men’s office and otherwise.

North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men
Jasper J. Russell, President

704. Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowance 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 2010 and 2011 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.
800. Standing Rules Amendments

C.3. Quadrennial Boards, Teams, Councils, Commissions, Committees -
The membership of quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions,
committees, and other agencies shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) persons
plus ex-officio members. This rule shall not apply to standing committees nor to
any board, council, team, commission, committee, or other agency whose
membership is otherwise determined by the conference or by the Book of
Discipline.

All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of the
annual conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and lay unless
the Book of Discipline provides otherwise.

No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same board,
council, team, commission, committee, or agency for more than eight (8)
consecutive years and after serving eight (8) years may not be re-elected later
elected to the same board, council, team, commission, committee or agency for
more than one quadrennium four (4) years except as provided in allowed by
the Book of Discipline, for a lifetime total of twelve (12) years maximum on
the same board, council, team, commission, committee or agency.” No
person shall be nominated to serve concurrently on more than one (1)
quadrennial board, council, team, commission or committee, except as an ex-
officio member. However, one (1) exemption may be allowed for those serving
on the board of laity, episcopal committee, church development, nominations,
and the standing committees of the annual conference session
(acknowledgments, registration and assistance, journal and handbook,
resolutions and standing rules). No district superintendent may be nominated as
an elective member of any program agency or team of the conference. Persons
nominated shall have agreed in advance to serve if elected.

When quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees are
elected, they shall be convened for training within sixty (60) days following the
annual conference session, except in a year of Episcopal transition when the
window will be one hundred twenty (120) days, to be informed concerning their
responsibilities. Chairpersons shall be nominated by the annual conference
committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Under the
direction of their respective chairpersons, each board, council, commission and
committee shall elect a vice-chairperson and secretary. All team officers shall
be nominated by the committee on nominations.

All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams,
commissions and committees shall include members which ensure balance,
continuity, expertise, inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of *The Book of Discipline*, Part III Section VI, (¶ 139).

Rationale: See Conference Committee on Nominations Report

**D.1. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members** – The names and email addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts and by charges, shall be published in the *Conference Journal*, and they shall be compiled and made available to members of the conference, both lay and clergy, as early as is feasible following their election.

Rationale: See Conference Committee on Nominations Report

**E.7. Annual Conference Registration Fee**—A registration of $30.00 shall be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired clergy are exempt from the assessment.

Rationale: To help partially offset the costs of conducting the Annual Conference and thereby reduce the amount of apportioned funds used to pay for the Annual Conference session, the 2009 Annual Conference delegates approved a recommendation from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to initiate a $30 registration fee.

**H. 8.** The parish life program team shall have responsibility for the following program areas: existing church development, natural church development, **black church development**, small membership churches (¶ 645), church grants, and other areas or concerns involving congregational development.

Rationale: Black church development is a program of the parish life program team. This amendment corrects that omission.

**K. 1.** There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to sixty-two (62) sixty-five (65) persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 635.1, including those who serve by virtue of their office. The years of service limits in Standing Rule C.3 do not apply to the board of ordained ministry.

Rationale: See Conference Committee on Nominations Report

**M.8.** There shall be a Wesley Community Centers, Inc. Board of Directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.
Rationale: This is an amendment to correct an earlier omission from the listing of Related Agencies.

N. 1. There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. North Georgia at-large membership shall be eleven (11) persons who shall be selected from throughout the conference. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. In addition, North Georgia ex-officio members shall consist of: the Resident Bishop of the North Georgia Episcopal Area, the Executive Director of the Commission, the Presidents of the United Methodist colleges and universities and the Dean of Oxford College, Campus ministers/directors and Chaplains, a connectional ministries staff person, a cabinet representative a District Superintendent, the presidents of the Conference United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the president of the Georgia Wesley Student Movement, and (if applicable) a north Georgia representative on all members of the General Board of Higher Education who are members of churches of the North Georgia Conference the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Rationale: These additions are necessary to make the Standing Rule conform to the Charter of the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry.

801. Standing Rules

A. Introduction

"The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the Discipline of The United Methodist Church." (¶ 604) The standing rules of the conference expand and clarify these structures and their modes of operation.

(All references to the 2008 Book of Discipline hereafter shall be designated by the paragraph number.)


A. 2. Amendments - These standing rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the conference no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours following their presentation to the conference; provided, a written copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted to the conference secretary before being read
to the conference. Amendments shall take effect upon passage, except the
number of districts can only be changed at least one (1) year in advance.

B. Standing Committees of the Annual Conference

B. 1. There shall be a committee on standing rules composed of ten (10)
persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, plus
the conference chancellor. The committee on standing rules is charged with the
annual task of addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the
standing rules of the annual conference in the following three ways: to receive
requests for amendments and to analyze them for consistency with existing
standing rules and the current *Book of Discipline*, and to recommend editorial
changes as needed. The committee is also charged with the quadrennial task of
examining the rules of the annual conference for consistency with the new *Book
of Discipline* and to recommend any editorial changes to bring about that
consistency.

B. 2. There shall be a committee on registration and assistance composed of ten
(10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
The primary functions of the Committee on Registration & Assistance are to
conduct registration, along with the Host Committee, certify delegates and to
issue badges accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee
helps retired pastors receive financial assistance, and during the week of Annual
Conference, the committee maintains a table to assist visitors with nametags
and other needs.

B. 3. There shall be a committee on journal and handbook composed of ten
(10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
The Committee on the Handbook and the Journal sets the standards for the
submission of information for the handbook and journal, prepares the
conference handbook and supplementary materials, and is responsible for the
dispersal of those materials. The committee works with the conference
secretary to ensure that the official records of the annual conference shall be
kept in accordance with ¶ 606.3

B. 4. There shall be a committee on resolutions composed of ten (10) persons,
nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The charge of
the Resolution Committee is to process all resolutions presented to the Annual
Conference that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through
dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the Annual Conference affected
by the resolution. This committee makes sure that, with occasional exceptions,
resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of the Annual Conference year are included in the handbook.

C. Annual Conference Session and Related Committees

C. 1. Annual Conference Committee on Nominations - There shall be an annual conference committee on nominations whose duty shall be to nominate all lay and clergy members of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies of the North Georgia Conference. The committee shall be composed of the bishop, who shall be the chairperson, the district superintendents and extended cabinet, the conference lay leader and associate conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the chairperson of the advocacy team, the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and of United Methodist Women, the chairpersons of the conference young adult organization and the council on youth ministry, and not more than five (5) members-at-large who shall be named by the bishop for inclusiveness. The committee shall make its nominations not later than the second morning of the annual conference.

The executive committee of the annual conference committee on nominations, composed of the bishop, the conference lay leader, the director of connectional ministries and three (3) other members of the annual conference committee on nominations named by the bishop, will coordinate the comprehensive nominations process of identification, recruitment, training, selection and evaluation for the annual conference. Where vacancies in essential elected positions occur between annual conference sessions, the executive committee may fill the positions until the next annual conference elects. Task forces may be used in keeping with the directions stated in standing rule H.2.

C. 2. District Committee on Nominations - There shall be a district committee on nominations, composed of five (5) clergy and six (6) lay members. One (1) clergy member shall be the district superintendent, who shall serve as the chairperson. One (1) of the six (6) lay members shall be the district lay leader. The district committee on nominations shall assist in identifying, recruiting and recommending potential leaders to the conference committee on nominations.

C. 3. Quadrennial Boards, Teams, Councils, Commissions, Committees - The membership of quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) persons plus ex-officio members. This rule shall not apply to standing committees nor
to any board, council, team, commission, committee, or other agency whose membership is otherwise determined by the conference or by the *Book of Discipline*.

All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of the annual conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and lay unless the *Book of Discipline* provides otherwise.

No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same board, council, team, commission or committee or agency for more than eight (8) consecutive years and 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, except in a year of Episcopal transition when the window will be one hundred twenty (120) days, to be informed concerning their responsibilities. Chairpersons shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Under the direction of their respective chairpersons, each board, council, commission and committee shall elect a vice-chairperson and secretary. All team officers shall be nominated by the committee on nominations.

All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees shall include members which ensure balance, continuity, expertise, inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of *The Book of Discipline*, Part III Section VI, (¶ 139).

C. 3. a. For Persons Holding Chairs:

C. 3. a. 1) Chairpersons are expected to maintain a yearly calendar of scheduled and announced meetings for planning, budgeting, and evaluation;

C. 3. a. 2) Chairpersons are expected to plan meetings at such times and locations that encourage and allow for maximum attendance of the
elected membership, giving particular mind to the academic schedules of youth and young adults.

**C. 3. a. 3)** Chairpersons are to submit proper budgets with supporting rationale and any other requested reports in a proper and timely manner;

**C. 3. a. 4)** Chairpersons are expected to provide consistent communication with members of their committee or board regarding agendas, time/date/locations/ and related information that impact a member’s ability to serve well.

**C. 3. a. 5)** Chairpersons are expected to attend all called meetings of the committee or board for which he or she is responsible. Missing (2) two consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or missing (3) three consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

**C. 3. a. 6)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt a letter from the Conference Nominations Executive Committee, releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact subsequent nominations or committee service) so the Conference Nominations Executive Committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

**C. 3. b. For Committee and Board Members:**

**C. 3. b. 1)** Elected members are expected to attend all called meetings of the committee or board on which they are serving. Missing (3) three consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or missing (4) four consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

**C. 3. b. 2)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt a letter of notification from the Conference Nominations Executive Committee, releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact subsequent nominations or committee service) so the Conference Nominations Executive Committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

**C. 4. Annual Conference Planning Committee** - There shall be an annual conference planning committee responsible for setting the agenda for sessions of the annual conference, recommending the site of the conference annually, and overall coordination of annual conference. Applications to host the conference shall be submitted to the bishop not less than eighteen (18) months
in advance and must include adequate data to satisfy the planning committee of
the suitability of the proposed site, with special attention to housing, food
service, seating, congregating areas, parking and all standard public services
necessary to accommodate large numbers of people. All facilities must meet
ADA Accessibility Guidelines. All applications to host the conference must
include an itemized account of anticipated expenses. The site must provide
seating for all members of the conference, both clergy and lay, and for visitors
and guests. The planning committee shall submit applications approved by
them to the conference council on finance and administration for approval of
projected costs. The planning committee shall advise the conference
concerning the desirability of each acceptable proposed site, including
estimated costs. The conference may select sites into the future, but must
reconfirm that selection within three (3) years of that scheduled conference.
When for unforeseen circumstances related to finances, logistics or other
compelling reasons the annual conference is not able to hold annual conference
at the agreed upon site, the annual conference planning committee is authorized
to work with the conference council on finance and administration to secure an
appropriate alternate site.

The committee shall consist of the following persons: the bishop; the
executive assistant to the bishop; the annual conference lay leader; the associate
conference lay leader(s); the conference secretary, the dean of the cabinet, the
conference presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men,
conference youth organization, conference young adult organization, and the
conference young adult task force; the chairpersons of the conference 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 bishop or his/her designee shall be the chairperson of
the annual conference planning committee.

C. 5. Conference Handbook & Information Packets - Material for
publication in the conference handbook shall be submitted annually to the
conference secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the opening date of
the annual conference. Other material may be distributed to the members of the
conference, at the discretion of the conference secretary, in a packet of
supplementary materials. All printed materials requiring action by the annual
conference shall be available in large print.
C. 6. Pre-Conference Briefings - Not more than twenty-five (25) days prior to the opening session of the annual conference, each district superintendent, in consultation with the district lay leader, shall convene, at such time and place as the two (2) of them together shall determine, the conference members residing in the district, both clergy and lay, for the purpose of examining the published reports and recommendations of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees and other agencies of the conference.

C. 7. Consent Agenda - In order to expedite the business of the conference, the consent agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the chairperson of the committee on standing rules, the director of connectional ministries, and the conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or resolutions, may present in the conference handbook a written list of items which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda shall be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of conference. Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda to be placed on the regular agenda by a motion to remove supported by a second from two (2) voting members of the annual conference. When an item has been removed from the consent agenda, it shall be placed on the regular agenda at an appropriate time as determined by the conference secretary.

C. 8. Reports - Reports shall be in writing, and an original, signed copy of the same shall be in the hands of the conference secretary before being read on the floor of the conference. When twenty-five (25) percent or more of the membership of a board, council, team, commission, committee or other agency shall request the privilege of presenting a minority report to the annual conference, the chairperson of said board or other agency shall appoint a committee to draft a minority report and shall submit the said minority report along with the majority report to the conference.

C. 9. Committee on Resolutions - There shall be a committee on resolutions, nominated and elected under the provisions of the standing rules. Any resolution coming to the floor of the annual conference which has not been before an official board, commission or agency of the annual conference, or a resolution not previously printed in the conference handbook, shall be referred to the committee on resolutions for study before the resolution is considered by the annual conference.
D. Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference

D. 1. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members - The names and addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts and by charges, shall be published in the Conference Journal, and they shall be compiled and made available to members of the conference, both lay and clergy, as early as is feasible following their election.

D. 2. Lay Member Equalization Plan - The lay membership of the annual conference shall be equal in number to its clergy membership. Lay members shall be elected by each charge conference as directed by the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, Division Two, Section VI, Article I (¶ 32). The following are designated by the Constitution, (Loc. Cit.), to be members of the annual conference: the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference President of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy membership, the following lay persons shall also be members of the annual conference: the associate conference lay leaders, the 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 adult persons 18 years and under and two (2) young persons 40 years of age and under.

Additional members shall be elected from each district by the district board of laity to achieve equalization of the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference.

The conference secretary shall advise the district superintendents annually, not later than November 1, of the number of additional lay members required to achieve equalization. The district superintendents shall assist the district board of laity to elect the necessary persons, to notify them of their election, and to
forward their names and addresses to the conference secretary by January 1 of each year.

**D. 3. Moving Day and Expenses** - Moving Day for pastors shall ordinarily be Thursday of the week following the regular session of the annual conference; provided, if unusual circumstances prevail, the cabinet may change the date to a more suitable one; provided, further, the secretary of the cabinet shall have notice of the change published in the North Georgia Advocate not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the annual conference. Departing clergy shall vacate their parsonages by one o'clock on the afternoon of Moving Day. District superintendents shall encourage the pastoral charges to pay moving expenses for newly assigned clergy moving within the bounds of the North Georgia Conference.

**D. 4. Care of Parsonages** - Clergy shall use care to maintain cleanliness and good housekeeping of the parsonages in which they reside. In addition to the annual inspection of the parsonage, Part V, Chapter Six, Section VI (¶ 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.

**D. 5. Number of Districts** - There shall be twelve (12) districts in the North Georgia Conference.

**D. 6. Service Year** - The conference service year shall be July 1 through June 30.

**D. 7. Local Church Reports** - Pastors shall submit their annual reports as directed by the conference statistician, not later than January 20. The conference statistician shall reconcile the financial reports with the records of the conference treasurer.

**D. 8. Archives** - The depository for archival records of the North Georgia Conference shall be the Candler School of Theology of Emory University through its Pitts Theology Library.
E. Finance and Property

E. 1. Budget Development - All requests for appropriations shall be submitted to the conference council on finance and administration, in writing, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the opening session of the annual conference. Requests shall include a detailed financial statement. Any persons or group presenting a proposal to the annual conference for a program or activity which is not included in the conference budget shall at the same time, present a financial analysis including estimated cost and plans for funding. Before final action by the annual conference, the conference council on finance and administration shall review the financial aspects of the proposal and make its recommendation to the conference regarding the proposal. Budgets submitted to the conference for approval shall include itemized comparative figures for the previous year, except in the case of new programs.

E. 2. Fiscal Regulations - The conference fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31. All monies for conference and district items shall be remitted by December 31. The books of the conference treasurer and the district treasurers shall be closed at the end of business on the fifth (5th) working day following January 1. The conference treasurer shall make final settlement and disburse all funds to the annual conference boards, councils, commissions or other agencies within fifteen (15) days following the end of the fiscal year. The conference treasurer shall report by districts and by charges all payments for equitable salaries, mission appropriations and the temporary general aid fund. The conference treasurer shall report monthly to the district superintendents all conference askings paid by each local church in the district.

E. 3. District Superintendents' Financial Support - The support of the district superintendents, including their salaries, pensions, and insurance (subject to the same insurance rules for other clergy), shall be provided by the annual conference, through the conference council on finance and administration. Housing, utilities, office expenses, travel and district work funds shall be provided by the respective districts.

E. 4. Church Property - Each district superintendent shall furnish the conference secretary annually, for publication in the Conference Journal, a list of the real property situated within the district, belonging to but not currently in use by The United Methodist Church.

E. 5. Salary Supplements - All supplementation of pastoral salaries from whatever source shall be administered by the commission on equitable compensation in accordance with guidelines developed by the commission and
approved by the annual conference, except that the conference board of new 
church development shall be authorized to administer salary supplementation 
for pastors of new and redeveloping congregations, in keeping with guidelines 
developed by the committee and approved by the annual conference.

**E. 6. Charters** - Charters authorized by the North Georgia Conference shall be 
reviewed by the conference chancellor before being filed with the Secretary of 
State.

**F. Connectional Table**

**F. 1.** There shall be a Conference Connectional Table with responsibility to 
focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church 
within the boundaries of the North Georgia Annual Conference. It shall give 
leadership and guidance in setting the vision of the annual conference and in 
conducting an on-going process of refining and revising that vision.

**F. 2.** The director of connectional ministries, in consultation with the resident 
bishop, shall chair the connectional table, which shall be composed of the 
following persons: resident bishop, director of connectional ministries, district 
superintendents, executive assistant to the bishop, director of ministerial 
services, director of new church development, chairperson of the board of new 
church development, conference treasurer, chairperson of the council on finance 
and administration, chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, secretary of 
the annual conference, conference chancellor, conference lay leader, associate 
conference lay leaders, conference president of United Methodist Women, 
conference president of United Methodist Men, president of the conference 
youth organization, president of the conference young adult organization, 
chairperson of conference personnel practices and policy committee, 
chairperson of the Board of Connectional Ministries, chairperson of 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. The eligibility limitations of standing rule C.3. shall 
not apply to the Connectional Table.
F. 3. There shall be an executive committee of the connectional table composed of the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the dean of the cabinet, the chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

F. 4. The connectional table shall meet regularly twice each year and additional times as considered appropriate or needful by the bishop and the director of connectional ministries, and shall report each year to the annual conference regarding the conference’s stewardship of its vision and its commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

G. Connectional Ministries

G. 1. There shall be a director of connectional ministries who, in partnership with the bishop and cabinet, shall have the following primary responsibilities: To serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference, including the development, clarification, interpretation, and embodiment of the conference’s vision; to serve as leader of the continuous process of transformation and renewal necessary for the annual conference to be faithful to our Christian identity in a changing world; to ensure alignment of the total resources of the conference to its vision; and to ensure the connections among the local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries for the purpose of networking, resourcing, and communicating their shared ministry.

G. 2. The director of connectional ministries shall serve as an officer of the annual conference, and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.

G. 3. The director of connectional ministries shall supervise the conference staff related to the office of connectional ministries, coordinate the recruitment and training of conference program leaders, provide oversight and leadership in the conference’s program and ministry, and serve as chair of the connectional table and as executive officer of the board of connectional ministries.

H. Program Teams of the Annual Conference

H. 1. The programming of the annual conference shall be done primarily by five (5) program teams – nurture, outreach, advocacy, parish life development and witness. 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.

**H. 2.** Each program team shall be composed of thirty-six (36) duly elected members. These shall include the team’s officers (chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary), who shall be nominated by the conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. The number limitation specified in standing rule C.3 shall not apply to the program teams. Additional members shall include a cabinet representative, a youth named by the conference youth organization, and any member of a corresponding general board or agency who is a member of or related to the annual conference. To ensure continuity of experience and leadership, members of the program teams shall be grouped in classes so that normally no more than one-fourth of the members of a team will rotate off in any given year.

**H. 3.** There shall be a witness team with responsibilities for the following program areas: archives and history (¶ 641), evangelism (¶ 630.3), stewardship (¶ 630.5), worship (¶ 630.4) and vocations and career/life planning. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2.

**H. 4.** There shall be an outreach team with responsibilities for the following program areas: global ministries (¶ 633), disaster response (¶ 633.22), refugee resettlement, conference related agencies, and health and welfare ministries (¶ 633.27). The membership of this team is defined in standing rule H.2.

**H. 5.** There shall be an advocacy team with responsibilities for the following program areas: religion and race (¶ 643.1), status and role of women (¶ 644), Christian unity and interreligious concerns (¶ 642), church and society (¶ 629), disability concerns (¶ 653), native American concerns (¶ 654), ethnic local church concerns (¶ 632) and persons living in poverty. The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2.

**H. 6.** There shall be a nurture team with responsibilities for the following program areas: education (¶ 630.2), adult ministries [older adult (¶ 651.1) and young adult (¶ 650.1)], children’s ministries (¶ 630.1.g), youth ministries (¶ 649.1), family ministries (¶ 651.1), higher education and campus ministries (¶ 634) and camping and retreat ministries (¶ 630.1.c). The membership of the team is defined in standing rule H.2, with the added stipulation that two (2)
representatives from United Methodist youth (¶ 649.1) and United Methodist young adults (¶ 650.1) will be included.

H. 7. There shall be a conference youth organization as provided by ¶ 649.1. It shall relate to and be answerable to the nurture team.

H. 8. The parish life program team shall have responsibility for the following program areas: existing church development, natural church development, small membership churches (¶ 645), church grants, and other areas or concerns involving congregational development.

H. 9. 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.

I. Ministry of the Laity

I. 1. Conference Board of Laity - There shall be a conference board of laity which shall provide for the ministry of the laity related to the objectives of the General Board of Discipleship as set forth in ¶¶ 1101-1127. The purpose of the conference board of laity shall be as outlined in ¶ 631.2. Funding for the board shall be provided through the conference budget.

I. 2. Membership of Conference Board of Laity - The following shall comprise the membership of the board: The conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the conference director of lay 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 H.2.

I. 3. Election of Conference Lay Leader and Associate Conference Lay Leaders – The conference lay leader and no more than four (4) associate conference lay leaders shall be elected quadrennially by the annual conference on nomination of the conference committee on nominations after consultation with the board of laity. The conference lay leader shall serve as chair of the conference board of laity. No person may serve as the conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. No person may serve as the associate conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. The conference lay leader and the associate conference lay leaders shall be members of the board of laity by virtue of their election to the offices they hold. Years of service as an associate conference lay leader shall not be considered in determining the eligibility of a person to serve as conference lay leader.

I. 4. Conference Committee on Lay 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 ¶ 631.6. 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.

J. Board of New Church Development

J. 1. There shall be an annual conference board of new church development. The annual conference board of new church development shall be charged with the responsibility of developing, implementing and continually updating a comprehensive plan for the planting of new churches within the bounds of the North Georgia annual conference. The responsibilities shall specifically include establishing, nurturing, supporting and guiding new congregations from conception through birth and until the district superintendent, the new church and the office of church development agree that the support is no longer necessary.
J. 2. The board of new church development shall work with the bishop, cabinet and district boards of church development to determine locations for new churches and potential church planters. It shall also have responsibility for the training, assessing and recommending persons to the bishop and cabinet for appointment as new church planters.

J. 3. The board of new church development shall encourage local churches to partner with the annual conference board of new church development to birth new churches.

J. 4. The board of new church development shall serve as liaison with jurisdictional and general conference board and agencies related to the work of new church development.

J. 5. The board of new church development shall be incorporated as the Board of Church Development of the North Georgia Conference, Inc., for the purpose of managing, buying, selling, and holding developmental properties owned by the annual conference. The officers of the board of new church development and the director of the board of new church development shall be the officers of the corporation.

J. 6. The board shall develop an annual budget for presentation to the annual conference Council on Finance and Administration to support the work and ministry of the board of new church development.

J. 7. The director and the president of the board of new church development shall sit on the Conference Connectional Table. The director shall serve as an officer of the annual conference and shall be a member of the bishop’s extended cabinet.

J. 8. The annual conference board of new church development shall be composed of one (1) representative from each district board of church development appointed by the district superintendent; six (6) at large lay persons recommended by the director of the board of new church development and approved by the bishop and cabinet; six (6) clergy recommended by the director of the board of new church development and approved by the bishop and cabinet; chairperson of the committee on new black church development, chairperson of the committee on new Hispanic church development, chairperson of the committee on new Korean church development, and chairperson of the committee on new multi-ethnic church development; cabinet representatives to the five committees of the board of new church development as appointed by the bishop; a council on finance and administration representative; director of connectional ministries; conference treasurer; director of new church development; and associate directors of new church development. This totals 39 persons and is an exception to Standing Rule C.3.
J. 9. The president, vice-president and secretary of the board of new church development shall be recommended to the bishop and cabinet by the director of new church development and submitted to the annual conference committee on nominations for inclusion in their report to the annual conference for election.

J. 10. The board of new church development shall be organized with a president, a vice-president and secretary. The term of office shall be one quadrennium, but each may be elected for one additional term, provided no one shall hold the same office for more than 8 years. The board of new church development shall meet annually and may meet more often at the request of the director of new church development or the president of the board.

J. 11. There shall be an executive committee composed of the officers of the board of new church development (who shall also be the officers of the executive committee), the council on finance and administration representative, chairpersons of the Committees on new black church development, new Hispanic church development, new Korean church development and new multi-ethnic church development, 4 at large members (2 clergy and 2 lay to be elected by the board of new church development upon recommendation of the director), the cabinet representative appointed by the bishop, and the director and associate directors of new church development. The executive committee shall have all the powers of the board of new church development except the right to change the budget or elect officers. This committee shall be responsible for training and assessing persons who will plant new churches. It will also request funds for the expenses related to the training and deployment of these persons. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church development or the president of the board.

J. 12. There shall be a committee on new black church development composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet representative), a cabinet representative and a new church development staff person. This committee shall make recommendations to the executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new black congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are important from a cultural perspective in planting new black churches. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and
may meet more often at the request of the Director of the board of new church
development or the chairperson.

**J. 13.** There shall be a committee on new Hispanic church development
composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church
development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the
director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet
representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new Hispanic
church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the
executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
Hispanic congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that
are important from a cultural perspective in planting new Hispanic churches. It
shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new
church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and
may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church
development or the chairperson.

**J. 14.** There shall be a committee on new Korean church development
composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church
development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the
director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet
representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new Korean
church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the
executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
Korean congregations. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are
important from a cultural perspective in planting new Korean churches. It shall
request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new
church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and
may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church
development or the chairperson.

**J. 15.** There shall be a committee on new multi-ethnic church development
composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of new church
development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
the bishop and cabinet), 3 or more lay and clergy members (selected by the
director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the cabinet
representative), a cabinet representative and the staff person for new multi-
ethnic church development. This committee shall make recommendations to the
executive committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
churches among the various other ethnic groups living in the bounds of our
annual conference. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of new church development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of new church development or the chairperson.

**K. Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference**

**K. 1.** There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to sixty-two (62) persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 635.1.

**K. 2.** There shall be a commission on equitable compensation as provided by ¶ 624, composed of twenty (20) persons with one (1) representative from each district. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

**K. 3.** There shall be a board of pensions and health benefits as provided by ¶ 639.1 composed of thirty-six (36) persons arranged in classes and serving a term of eight (8) years to include representatives of both lay and clergy, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

**K. 4.** There shall be a board of trustees of the annual conference, elected as indicated in ¶¶ 640 and 2512.1, composed of twelve (12) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, serving in four (4) year terms, except for the first board. It is recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, and one-third (1/3) lay men.

**K. 5.** There shall be a joint committee on incapacity which shall be made up of an equal number of members from the board of pensions and health benefits and the board of ordained ministry and shall have duties as directed by ¶ 652.

**K. 6.** There shall be a council on finance and administration as provided by ¶¶ 611-618, composed of five to twenty-one (5-21) persons, with one (1) lay person more than clergy included on the council. Ex-officio members are the conference treasurer, director of connectional ministries and the cabinet representative. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

**K. 7.** There shall be a committee on episcopacy as provided by ¶ 637.1, composed of fifteen (15) persons. It is recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, one-third (1/3) lay men, provided that one (1) lay person be the conference lay leader. One-fifth (1/5) of the membership shall be appointed by the bishop. The lay and clergy members of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall be ex-officio members.
K. 8. There shall be an episcopal residency committee as provided by ¶ 638.1.

K. 9. There shall be a committee on investigation consisting of four (4) clergy in full connection, three (3) professing members, and six (6) alternate members, three of whom shall be clergy in full connection and three of whom shall be a professing members. The committee shall be nominated by the presiding bishop in consultation with the board of ordained ministry (for clergy members) and the conference board of laity (for lay persons) and elected quadrennially by the annual conference. If additional members or alternates are needed, the annual conference may elect members to serve for the remainder of the quadrennium. Committee members shall be in good standing and should be deemed of good character. The committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

¶ 2703

K. 10. There shall be a North Georgia Loan Guarantee Committee, comprised of two (2) members of the cabinet, the president and the executive director of the board of new church development, two (2) members of the council on finance and administration, one (1) lay and one (1) clergy and two (2) members representing areas of expertise appointed by the bishop in consultation with the chancellor, conference lay leader, executive director of the conference board of church development and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

K. 11. There shall be a diaconal committee on investigation as provided by ¶ 2703.3.

K. 12. There shall be an administrative review committee as provided by ¶ 636.

K. 13. There shall be a conference communications office under the office of the bishop that will plan and administer the information/communication needs of the annual conference.

K. 14. There shall be a conference information advisory group whose membership shall not exceed ten (10) persons. The group shall be nominated by the conference communications office and the conference committee on nominations and approved by the annual conference but shall not be subject to the requirements of standing rule C.3. The persons shall include skilled communicators in print, public relations, electronic and video media.

K. 15. There shall be a committee on personnel policy and practices which shall consist of a chairperson nominated by the committee on nominations, the director of connectional ministries, the conference treasurer, the executive director of the board of new 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 (¶ 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. (¶ 613.13 as interpreted by Judicial Council Decision
952).

K. 16. There shall be a north Georgia United Methodist housing and homeless
council which shall be composed of no more than 36 persons nominated by the
conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference.
Each district shall be represented by no fewer than two members, one of which
shall be a clergy member in that district and one of whom shall be a lay person
who shall be a member of one of the churches in the district that they represent.
In addition, the following other persons shall be members: a district
superintendent designated by the cabinet; a member of the connectional
ministries staff designated by the director of connectional ministries; the
director of the council, who shall be a non-voting member; a representative of
the advocacy team, and a representative of the outreach team.

L. Districts

L. 1. District Conference Membership - The membership of the district
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.

L. 2. District Board of Laity – There shall be in each district of the annual
conference a district board of laity composed of the district lay leader who shall
serve as chair, the associate district lay leaders, the district superintendent, the
chair of district connectional ministries or equivalent, the district presidents of
United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, one (1) youth and one
(1) young adult named by the youth and young adult groups respectively, the
district director of lay speaking and
such other persons as the district lay leader and the district superintendent
together may select. The district board of laity shall elect annual conference at-
large delegates from the districts.

L. 3. Election of District Lay Leader and Lay Leadership – The district lay
leader, the district associate lay leaders and the district director of lay speaking
shall be elected annually, on nomination of the district nominating committee,
after consultation with the district board of laity, by the membership of the
district conference at the district orientation meeting before the annual
conference session. It is recommended these officers will serve quadrennially
and will be elected for their first term at the district orientation meeting
immediately preceding the start of the new quadrennium. Replacements for
these positions shall be elected at the annual district orientation meeting as
needed.

M. Conference Related Agencies

M. 1. There shall be a North Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc., board
of trustees, nominated by the Foundation to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 2. There shall be a Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers Board of
Trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be
confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 3. There shall be a Simpsonwood, Inc., board of directors, nominated in
accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 4. There shall be an Action Ministries, Inc., board of directors, nominated
in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 5. There shall be an Aldersgate Homes board of directors, nominated in
accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 6. There shall be a United Methodist Children's Home board of trustees,
nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or
denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 7. There shall be a Wesley Woods, Inc., board of trustees, nominated in
accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 8. There shall be a Board of Directors of Camp Glisson, Inc., nominated in
accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
confirmation by the annual conference. Camp Glisson is the entity through which camping ministry for children and youth shall be carried out. The director/manager of Camp Glisson is accountable to the conference director of connectional ministries.

**M. 9.** There shall be a Wesley Community Centers, Inc. Board of Directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

**N. Joint Ministries of North and South Georgia Conferences**

**N. 1.** There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. North Georgia at-large membership shall be eleven (11) persons who shall be selected from throughout the conference. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. In addition, ex-officio members shall consist of a connectional ministries staff person, a cabinet representative, the president of the Georgia Wesley student movement, and (if applicable) a north Georgia representative on the General Board of High Education and Ministry.

**N. 2.** There shall be a Georgia Pastors' School committee, composed of persons by virtue of office and at-large members named by the annual conference committee on nominations.

**O. United Methodist Related Institutions of Higher Education**

**O. 1.** There shall be boards of trustees of United Methodist related schools, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

**O. 2.** There shall be boards of directors of Wesley Foundations, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.