

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

2009

Statistician's Report
2008 Compensation of Clergy in Extension Ministries
Christian Educators Fellowship
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STATISTICIANS REPORT

TABLE I - 2008

	2007	2008	Change +/-
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP			
1 Total Professing members at beginning of year	236,564	237,159	
2 Received this year on Profession of Faith or Restored	4,039	3,331	-708
3 Received from other United Methodist Churches	2,417	2,393	-24
4 Received from other denominations	2,045	1,979	-66
5A Total removed by Charge Conference action	1,735	1,365	-370
5B Removed by withdrawal	534	1,146	612
5 Total removed by Charge Conference action or withdrawn	2,269	2,511	242
6 Removed by transfer to other United Methodist Churches	1,702	1,376	-326
7 Removed by transfer to other denominations	1,115	870	-245
8 Removed by Death	2,820	2,615	-205
9A Asian	567	728	161
9B African American/Black	6,079	6,112	33
9C Hispanic	493	641	148
9D Native American	2,504	2,495	-9
9E Pacific Islander	93	79	-14
9F White	226,850	226,032	-818
9G Multi-Racial	573	1,403	830
9 Total Professing members at close of year	237,159	237,490	331
Females 132,890 Males 104,600			
10 Average attendance at the principal weekly worship service(s)	84,391	83,052	-1,339
11 Number of persons baptized this year (all ages)	2,885	2,796	-89
12 Total Baptized members who have not become Professing members	22,155	20,465	-1,690
13 Number of persons on Constituency Roll	21,870	22,541	671
14 Total enrolled in confirmation classes this year	1,905	1,777	-128
SUNDAY SCHOOL			
15a Number of leaders	10,822	10,850	28
15b Number of leaders in all other groups	5,640	6,273	633
16a Children (0-6th grade) in all classes and groups	19,304	19,230	-74
16b Children (0-6th grade) in all other groups	10,616	12,498	1,882
17a Youth (7th-12th) in all classes and groups	9,908	9,484	-424
17b Youth (7th-12th) in all other groups	8,173	8,598	425
18a Adults (post high school) in all classes and groups	39,580	38,898	-682
18b Adults (post high school) in all classes and groups	21,157	23,972	2,815
19a Total Christian formation participants in church school groups	79,614	78,462	-1,152
19b Total Christian formation participants in other groups	45,586	51,341	5,755
20 Average attendance in the Sunday School	39,169	38,845	-324
21 Average Attendance in Accountability Groups	19,335	22,626	3,291
22 Average Attendance in Mission and Ministry Groups (no longer used)			
23 Average Attendance in Support Groups - Children	893	1,233	340
23 Average Attendance in Support Groups - Youth	1,207	1,187	-20
23 Average Attendance in Support Groups - Adults	3,043	3,371	328
24 Average attendance in short-term classes/groups for learning	21,428	21,980	552
25 Sunday School members joining the church on profession of faith	2,426	2,192	-234
UNITED METHODIST MEN			
26 Membership in chartered United Methodist Men	9,604	9,475	-129
27 Amount paid for projects	1,043,301	1,061,662	18,361
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN			
28 Membership in United Methodist Women	20,543	20,719	176
29 Amount paid for local church and community work	1,156,985	1,224,593	67,608
UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP			
30 Membership in United Methodist Youth Fellowship	11,157	10,703	-454
31 Amount paid for projects	964,784	1,110,304	145,520
PROPERTY AND OTHER ASSETS			
32 Value of church land, buildings and equipment	1,090,716,801	1,186,082,930	95,366,129
33 Value of church-owned parsonages and furniture	92,380,872	105,375,184	12,994,312
34 Value of other assets	141,387,155	148,833,240	7,446,085
35 Indebtedness on items 30, 31, 32 at end of year	94,756,004	104,429,289	9,673,285
36 Other indebtedness	1,674,596	2,149,023	474,427
37a Number of UMVIM teams sent from this local church	226	184	-42
37b Number of church members participating in any UMVIM team	2,352	2,038	-314
38a Number of weekday ministry programs	1,617	1,647	30
38b Total persons served in weekday ministry programs	84,778	105,362	20,584

TABLE II - 2008

	2007	2008	Change +/-
BENEVOLENCES			
World Service and Conference Benevolences	4,211,861	4,326,341	114,480
36 Ministerial Education Fund	644,494	628,614	-15,880
37 Black College Fund	248,126	245,319	-2,807
38 Africa University Fund	55,585	54,502	-1,083
40 Total General Advance	529,828	528,419	-1,409
41 Youth Service Fund	5,174	4,124	-1,050
42A Human Relations	15,220	15,129	-91
42B One Great Hour of Sharing	74,351	68,251	-6,100
42C Peace with Justice	11,714	9,937	-1,777
42D Native American Awareness Sunday	19,985	24,148	4,163
42E World Communion	22,906	19,314	-3,592
42F United Methodist Student Day	11,055	10,905	-150
42 Total General Church Offerings	155,230	147,684	-7,546
44 Conference Advance Specials	849,989	1,594,761	744,772
45 \$10 Club	125,755		
46 Higher Education	863,709	715,880	-147,829
48 Health and Welfare agencies	607,958	514,724	-93,234
50 Local Church Benevolence not Remitted to Conference	524,851	535,821	10,970
51 Other benevolences paid directly by local church	<u>9,010,064</u>	<u>11,988,242</u>	2,978,178
	17,832,624	21,284,431	3,451,807
CONNECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION FUNDS			
52 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	48,385	48,478	93
53 General Administration Fund	162,219	170,095	7,876
54 Jurisdictional Administration Fund	146,144	143,472	-2,672
55 Area and conference administration funds	1,806,336	2,079,602	273,266
56 District Work Fund	<u>1,230,327</u>	<u>1,283,608</u>	53,281
	3,393,411	3,725,255	331,844
CONNECTIONAL CLERGY SUPPORT			
58 Pension and benefit funds remitted to GB of Pension	4,876,415	4,864,829	-11,586
60 District Superintendents' Fund	1,892,561	1,869,571	-22,990
61 Episcopal Fund	479,841	506,633	26,792
62 Equitable Salary Fund	758,486	804,625	46,139
63 Apportioned ministerial support	<u>6,782,867</u>	<u>3,537,985</u>	-3,244,882
	14,790,170	11,583,643	-3,206,527
CLERGY SUPPORT LOCAL CHURCH			
64 Pastor's base compensation	23,985,479	24,140,518	155,039
65 Associate's base compensation	2,561,633	2,733,900	172,267
66A Pastor's utilities and other housing-related allowances	2,345,730	2,390,694	44,964
66B Associate's utilities and other housing-related allowances	325,481	358,903	33,422
66 Total Utilities/Housing	2,671,211	2,749,597	78,386
67A Pastor's travel	2,217,994	2,307,866	89,872
67B Associate's travel	298,408	198,209	-100,199
67 Total travel paid	2,516,402	2,506,075	-10,327
68A Other cash allowances paid to/for pastor	277,731	261,307	-16,424
68B Other cash allowances paid to/for associate	77,093	108,575	31,482
68C Pastor's Medical Insurance paid by the church	6,763,906	6,297,139	-466,767
68 Total other cash allowances	<u>7,118,730</u>	<u>6,667,021</u>	-451,709
38,853,455	38,797,111	-56,344	
LOCAL CHURCH EXPENDITURES			
69 Diaconal Minister(s) total compensation	325,518	182,454	-143,064
70 Other staff compensation	25,130,192	26,021,498	891,306
71 Current expenses for program (including church school)	8,048,900	8,251,780	202,880
72a Property Insurance paid by church	3,910,813	3,881,857	-28,956
72b Other current operating expenses (not including program expenses)	19,983,413	20,613,067	629,654
73 Principal and interest paid on indebtedness, loans, mortgages, etc.	18,948,306	15,615,415	-3,332,891
74 Paid on buildings and improvements (not include. funds borrowed)	<u>21,013,751</u>	<u>19,637,596</u>	-1,376,155
	97,360,893	94,203,667	-3,157,226
United Methodist Women			
75 UMW cash sent to District or Conference UMW Treasurer	578,098	551,655	-26,443

TABLE III - 2007

	2007	2008	Change +/-
1 Number of Pledges and Identified Givers	80,449	80,681	232
1a Received thru Pledges	62,220,747	64,356,179	2,135,432
1b Received from non-Non-Pledging yet identified givers	68,954,799	70,787,750	1,832,951
1c Received from Unidentified Givers	<u>5,579,828</u>	<u>7,244,444</u>	1,664,616
Total 1a, 1b, 1c	136,755,374	142,388,373	5,632,999
1d Received from Interest & Dividends	1,346,153	921,535	-424,618
1e Received from sale of Church Assets	320,714	640,911	320,197
1f Received from building use fees, contributions and rentals	1,278,674	1,455,449	176,775
1g Received thru fundraisers	<u>2,927,003</u>	<u>3,647,172</u>	720,169
1 Totals	142,627,918	149,053,440	6,425,522
2a Capital Campaign	19,772,566	14,649,194	-5,123,372
2b Memorial/Endowment/Bequests	8,755,915	8,164,167	-591,748
2c Other Sources & Projects	<u>2,746,720</u>	<u>2,154,628</u>	-592,092
2 Totals	31,275,201	24,967,989	-6,307,212
3a Equitable Compensation Fund	103,342	135,102	31,760
3b Advanced Specials & Apportioned Fund	28,067	187,650	159,583
3c Other	<u>1,547,786</u>	<u>1,578,158</u>	30,372
3 Totals	1,679,195	1,900,910	221,715

NOTE: The table data provided above are preliminary figures and are subject to change upon final audit

2008 COMPENSATION OF CLERGY IN EXTENSION MINISTRIES

The 2004 *Discipline*, ¶627, states: "Every clergy member of the Annual Conference appointed beyond the local church shall furnish annually to the conference secretary, at such time as the secretary shall direct, a statement of his/her total compensation (including base compensation, travel, automobile, housing, and other expenses allowed and paid) for the year then ending, and said compensation of all clergy appointed beyond the local church shall be published in the journal of the Annual Conference. When this information is not furnished, the appointment of the clergyperson shall be subject to review by the resident bishop and the Cabinet."

Indicates salary not reported.

NAME	SALARY	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRAVEL	OTHER
Burley, Christie A.	#				
Burrus, Carolyn H.	3400 month	2000 per month		Voucher	
Cauley, Marty J.	58,964			Voucher	3,500 cont. ed.
Colon-Emeric, Egardo	61,500				
Compton, Stephen C.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Cook, Charles M.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Crutchfield, Karen M.	42,240				
Dixon Jr., Samuel W.	113,000			voucher	
Fairley, Leonard E.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Felton, Gayle C.	59,835				35,086
Fleishman Wilson, Amanda	31,716				
Frazier, R. Carl	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Gattis, William H.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Gleaves, Edith L.	#				
Goehring, Carol W.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Goodwin, Dennis M.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Hadley, Jacob M. H.	51,000	9,000			
Harris, Jo Elaine	20,500	1,015		2,000	2,000
Hicks, Phyllis K.	34,212	10,628			35,086
Hood, Elizabeth H.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Hudson, Pamela Jo	57,000				
Hillman, Randy A.	64,000				
Jones, Gertrude B.	42,000				
Keck, Andrew J.	58,250				
Lange, Audrey H.	42,534				
Laytham, D. Brent	57,725				
Mentzer, Jim	54,075	18,000			
McMillan, Samuel D.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Miller, Yuko	#				
Morrison, Charles K.	60,000			Voucher	
Oldham, Kirk B.	56,590	8,500			
Pace, James H.	94,500				
Parker, Rhonda	42,000	provided			
Petty, Bruce E.	12,000				
Purcell, Joan	18,000	22,000			
Rawlings, Jim	107,500				
Rose, Ellen W.	9,381				
Russell, Timothy J.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Safley, Michael	75,000	2,400		3,600	3,000
Shields, Michele R.	104,000				1,000
Shivers, Mary Anne	15,000				
Southern, Gray H.	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	
Stanley, Bruce E.	#				
Taylor, Berry L.	38,563				
Thornton-Irvine, Janet G.	20,917	12,000		3,000	
Walker-Jones, Kelli	50,700				
Walton, Brenda C.	50,000				
Willingham, Malcolm C.	49,000				
Wynn, Samuel	99,292	provided	provided	voucher	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of CEF is to nurture, support, challenge, and advocate for persons responsible for working in all areas of Christian spiritual formation or discipleship training, such as Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Children, Youth or Adults, Sunday School leaders and teachers, and Small Group ministry leaders.

Regional networking groups have been established. They include: Sanford, Fayetteville, Rockingham Districts, facilitated by Dorothy Funkhouser, Burlington/Durham Districts, facilitated by Robin Marley, Raleigh/Rocky Mount Districts, facilitated by Helen Champion, and Wilmington District, facilitated by Donna Pinckney. The groups meet at various churches within the regions and discuss topics relevant to Christian Education. We are in the process of developing regional networking groups in the other areas.

The N.C. Chapter continues traditional events such as Book and Resource Sharing in May, and Celebrations/ Installation of Officers at the CEF Christmas Party in December, luncheon at Annual Conference. We hosted a CEF "Day Apart" in November with the theme; "Taking a Closer Look: Transforming Congregations " with Mary Jane Pierce Norton, the Associate General Secretary for Leadership Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship, and a Deacon in the North Carolina Conference.

Several Christian Educators from our Conference attended the National Christian Educators Conference, "Blessed to be a Blessing" in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October. All persons are welcomed to become members of the N.C. Chapter and National Chapter of CEF and help shape the foundation and future of the ministry of Christian Education.

Cynthia Powell, President

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, REPORT OF BURLINGTON DISTRICT

In the spirit and witness of our Wesleyan tradition, many of the 56 charges of the district continue to live into greater practices of fruitfulness to Christ and his Church. Nine of the 56 were named Acts 2 Congregations at the last Annual Conference. Fifty-three paid 100% Missional Apportionment Giving 2008, yielding a district pay-out of 98.11%. The second Confirmation Retreat at Chestnut Ridge engaged 90 plus confirmands and adult leaders. Carr currently is building, with support from Duke Endowment, a new fellowship hall following "green" guidelines. The Congregational Health Specialists Team with now a part-time employed district director continues to be called upon by local churches for strategic planning and conflict intervention. A district Incubator of 12 clergy and laity, meeting eight hours monthly for a year, for spiritual leadership and learning was begun in January. Hispanic/Latino ministry, following the NCC model of EMBRACE, was begun in July 2008, with a district team working alongside the lay missionary located at Davis Street. The Anathoth Garden at Cedar Grove continues to draw attention and funding (e.g., Kellogg Foundation) from across the country and connection while modeling the local community garden in other locations: Union Grove and Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center. Union Grove, with Duke Endowment funding, is developing a curriculum for use in Sunday school and worship around "Shared Story." With Union Grove, the district sponsored a story-telling workshop, with renowned story-teller Tracy Radosevic. "Peace Matters," a district gathering at the beginning of Advent, focused on understandings of biblical peace as they relate to community and environment. Bellemont celebrated its 125th Anniversary on November 2. Six clergy attended "Change the World" Conference at Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio. A three-day seminar on Church by Size, led by Doug Anderson of the Rueben Job Leadership Center, attracted approximately 200 lay and clergy for a fuller understanding of unique differences and best practices based on church size. Some district church clusters share fellowship and witness at seasonal worship services and revivals. The district Christmas offering supported the Caswell Parish, MOSAIC Center, and EMBRACE. Two day-long lay speaker ministry trainings a year grow and equip laity for stronger witness and work. One scholarship was presented by the Board of Laity to a person "native" to the district pursuing ministry. The district laity rally, with Rev. Dr. Ben Witherington as guest preacher, included for the first time children ("Lamb Jam"). Third Thursdays, for fellowship, discovery, and worship with older adults at Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center, is now in its third successful year. "God is good...All the time!"

William H. Gattis, District Superintendent

DURHAM DISTRICT

The Durham District is growing to new strength and vitality as we focus on becoming a district of ever healthier churches in mission for Jesus.

There are growing churches in the Durham District: six of the strongest growing communities are in areas where population growth has either been static or actually declining, proving that a remarkable witness will win hearts and change lives.

The newly forming congregation in southeast Durham/northwestern Cary has taken the name "Abundant Life Church" in order to represent to that growing area of our state the abundant life to be found in Christ that is no where else to be found. The Rev. Ken McLean is giving strong leadership to this initiative.

The congregation of Carr Church donated their property to Shepherd's House Church, an African congregation now at work to evangelize their neighborhood. They were helped in that work by McMannen Church's generous gift in connection to acquiring a church van. The Carr congregation now meets at Pleasant Green Church while discerning God's will for their future.

When Lakewood Church closed, Sanctuary at Lakewood was born. Sanctuary is a congregation with an intentional focus on reaching those often forgotten by traditional churches or people who have excluded themselves from the church, but not from Jesus' embrace; their attendance has doubled in the past 8 months.

This March we are celebrating a Mission Saturation Event, an occasion to have a United Methodist missionary in every church on Sunday, March 29, as well as, allowing us to promote United Methodist missions as a way by which every church in the Durham District is involved in ministries around the world.

Building projects are still on the board at several Durham District congregations, despite the economic downturn. Building a new sanctuary and Sunday School space is continuing at Union Chapel and should be finished at about the time Annual Conference meets. Other building plans are underway at various other churches.

I praise God for all those who work with me and strengthen me in my ministry in the Durham District. It is a joy to be among the great people of the Durham District and I am thankful for this opportunity to serve them and our Lord.

H. Gray Southern, District Superintendent

ELIZABETH CITY DISTRICT

There are stories of the abundant faithfulness of God and the people of God in the Elizabeth City District that should be told:

The story of the congregation that, at Charge Conference, celebrated its first Vacation Bible School in forty years – reporting that the lives of over thirty children were touched!

The story of the congregation that has grown, under the leadership of a local pastor, from an average worship attendance of 18 to 60 in three years. When asked by the Superintendent how, the response was "we've become a praying church."

The story of how the Fairhaven-Clark's Bethel Charge, determined to renew itself in mission and ministry at Rodanthe, built and consecrated a new parsonage. Or of Wesley Memorial, in Columbia, whose new educational building/fellowship hall is testimony to its intent to thrive in a community in decline. Or of Ocracoke Church, seeking to restore a community landmark, the Rec Hall. Or of Moyock Church and its renovated playground, of Mount Olivet Church working to make its facilities open to all by becoming handicapped accessible, of Little Grove on the Hatteras Charge, renovating its sanctuary and fellowship hall, of Camden Church and its project of renovation of sanctuary and fellowship hall.

The story of the church going through a difficult time of testing that decided to view itself as "new church start" and find hope for future.

The story of New Hope Church, whose congregation burst into applause when it was announced in worship that the church had been accepted as sight for Food Bank distribution. Or of the first international mission team sponsored by Mount Hermon Church in Creswell. Or of mission teams from Duck, Bethany in Wanchese, and a host of other churches to the Gulf Coast. Or of the continuing success of the Mobile Food Pantry. All stories of growing missional energy among the churches of the district.

The story of the district's extravagant generosity in paying 97.4% of its conference apportionments in 2008. The story of the District Council on Ministries reorganizing itself into teams around the Four Areas of Focus to direct and envision ministry for the years ahead. The story of strong and faithful lay leadership, witnessed to by large turn-outs at the Lay Rally and annual training workshops.

The stories of heritage and faithfulness as milestone anniversaries have been celebrated: 200 years of witness by the Methodist movement at Edenton and New Hope, 150 in Kitty Hawk. The stories and hope of the future witnessed to by over 250 youth at the annual Youth Beach Retreat, by a successful, first time District Confirmation Event, and by a spring Children's and Youth Ministry Workshop around the theme "We All Need the Lord."

The stories continue, stories of the abundant faithfulness of God and the people of God in the Elizabeth City District. It is my great honor and privilege to be the story-teller! Grace and peace.

R. Carl Frazier, Jr. , District Superintendent

GOLDSBORO DISTRICT

The sixty-nine congregations of the Goldsboro District have continued to press toward the goal of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Specifically this ministry has manifested itself in many different forms.

Although it was difficult to say good-bye to the one congregation that closed (Turkey UMC), this sorrow was tempered by the joy at beginning three new church launches in the rapidly growing area around Clayton, NC. Greater Heights UMC continues in its third year under the leadership of the Rev. Matt Evans. Trinity UMC under the leadership of the Rev. David Wehrle is beginning to gain traction in the Cleveland School area. Similarly, Showers of Blessing UMC, led by Gail Myers, seeks to make its impact felt in the African-American community.

There is a continued focus on meeting for inspiration rather than information. The superintendent has extended his efforts to reduce the number of unnecessary district meetings, and to transform the meetings that remain into a time of worship, inspiration and encouragement. Monthly meetings of the District Leadership Team are now being held by conference call. One especially inspiration district meeting was held at the Methodist Children's Home facility near the O'Berry Center. Officials from the Children's Home and the Goldsboro District agreed to make "1 K for 1 Kid" a priority for 2009. Information technology is used more widely than ever, and all of the district files have now been digitized and stored on the conference server.

Congregations facing special challenges have seen an increase in coaching sessions provided by the district to move them back to health. Similar coaching arrangements have been made for pastors who experience a need for growth. The new year of 2009 began with three separate seminars designed to help local congregations become or stay healthy. The first seminar, led by the superintendent, was offered at three different locations, and offered instruction in visioning and goal setting for local congregations. In February a team led by the Rev. Dr. Tim Reaves of the Bladen Charge, brought lay persons to speak with the laity of the Goldsboro District about how congregational revitalization can occur even in rural contexts. In March an educational event designed and executed by the Academy for Spiritual Formation brought Ken Garfield of Charlotte to instruct church leaders on ways to communicate to their specific communities. Coupled with the many other learning opportunities offered by conference boards, agencies, and fellowships, there was ample information available to any congregation interested in learning techniques to help them become more effective.

Continuing our emphasis on healthy congregations and healthy pastors is more than a metaphor. Throughout 2008 the pastors of the Goldsboro District participated in a health survey conducted by Westat for the Duke Divinity School/Duke Endowment Clergy Health Initiative in which over 95% of pastors contacted responded. Partly as a result of this effort, the Goldsboro District was chosen to be the target district for a pilot project on clergy health.

Perhaps one of the most exciting developments is the creation of an Incubator group modeled after the small group meeting pioneered by John Wesley. In a year-long series of sessions with Craig Robertson of Louisville, KY, the cabinet learned the techniques of forming and sustaining this primary accountability group, as a tool through which to bring God's presence into the district. Beginning on March 1, 2009 the superintendent began meeting with an Incubator group that will seek to replicate the experience of the cabinet.

In all of these endeavors, it has been the goal not for the district to become the delivery point for ministry. Rather, the district attempts to equip the local congregation as the delivery point for the proclamation of the gospel and the demonstration of Christ's love in each specific community context. In effectively executing this task, may local churches be transformed into communities that seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Chuck Cook, District Superintendent

NEW BERN DISTRICT

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." – Matthew 7:7-8

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20

Eleven more churches had professions of faith in 2008 than in 2007! Our churches have been asking, seeking, and knocking in order to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As they have embraced the Great Commandment and lived the Great Commission, God has blessed so many of our churches.

In August of 2008, we broke ground for a new sanctuary at Northwoods UMC in Jacksonville. It is now almost complete. Churches who identified early in the year that the paying of apportionments would take God's hand in the life of their church witnessed God's gracious and generous presence in tangible ways.

In September we had a wonderful "Vision Event" at Garber UMC in New Bern with over 400 persons participating in God's vision for our churches to be healthy. Our youth gathered at Camp Don Lee in October to support "Stop Hunger Now" and prepared thousands of meals as well as enjoyed a full day of fellowship and fun. Even our clergy families Christmas Party in December was centered around the theme of fun as a Christian comedian ushered in the joy of Christmas into every heart.

The Fellowship Hall was full of persons in February of 2009 who chose to be trained in order to lead Disciple Bible Study in their churches. Attendance was up this year for our District Lay Rally. Some of our young persons received full scholarships to attend Global Vision and we awarded two ministerial scholarships as well as sent monies to a church in Galveston, Texas seeking to rebuild after Hurricane Ike.

Renovations and new facilities are being planned to accommodate growth within some of our churches and a new spirit is evident at other places. Our people have faithfully asked and God is providing the fruits of His kingdom in the New Bern District. We eagerly await what God is yet to do among us.

Dennis M. Goodwin, District Superintendent

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

The co-laborers in Christ of the Wilmington District, laity and clergy together, continue to live out our commitment to "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Thirty of our congregations received persons on profession of faith. We will strive forward until every congregation has at least one profession each year! Towards that goal, the Wilmington and New Bern Districts held a joint pastor's conference on Faith Sharing in February. The 7th Annual Camp Meeting hosted guest evangelist Leonard Sweet, who also taught a continuing education event entitled, "The Divine Design for Life." Fan the Flame, a small membership revitalization event, was hosted by Windsor UMC and the Bladen Charge. We are committed to sharing the life-giving and transforming good news of Jesus Christ.

Missions remain a focus of this District. Sixty-two of our congregations paid 100% of their missional giving and the District paid almost 96% percent of our share. The 1 K for 1 Kid program for the Methodist Home for Children remains a priority in 2008. The Epicurean Evening for the MHC was an overwhelming success. WARM continues to guide disciples into serving through rebuilding/repairing homes in the District and across the country. Teams from Mississippi and Pennsylvania were hosted here to work through WARM. A Stop Hunger Now project of UNCW was supported by Methodists from around the area. A partnership between the Duke Endowment, Oleander UMC, the District, and a private computer business opened a new computer learning center with 12 work stations teaching Spanish and English and offering computer classes to laity and clergy from around the District. Duke Endowment grants were received for Hispanic Ministry and the development of Hispanic Health Ministries. A significant grant was received for a partnership between the Wilmington District and Duke Partners in Caring to offer training and coaching for teens regarding HIV Aids and Substance Abuse. Other district churches are doing – community gardens, Christmas Eve meals for the homeless, workteams to everywhere and more. One smaller congregation even provided 1500 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The District UMM hosted "Success that Matters," a men's weekend by Man in the Mirror with approximately 50 participants. The District UMW increased their number of local units in 2008 and hosted five sub-district meetings, a Spiritual Day Apart, participated in Stop Hunger Now events, Mission Studies, Mother Child retreat, mission service giving and projects, and all Conference UMW events. The District UMY continues to work to reach youth and youth persons and come together for fellowship and service.

Nineteen congregations in the District were recognized in 2008 as Acts 2 congregations and we are committed to each congregation maturing and growing so that Christ is being lifted up, God glorified, disciples made, and the world transformed.

E. Powell Osteen, Jr., District Superintendent

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY

Two thousand and eight (2008) has been filled with events that I believe have the possibility of being direction-changing for Lake Junaluska. Added to all the external and internal changes within the United Methodist Church and Lake Junaluska have been the financial challenges of a weakening economy.

The 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference set a new direction for the entire jurisdiction. It called for Lake Junaluska to be one of only three agencies and did away with the Administrative Council that had been Lake Junaluska's governing board. Along with looking at the new future of Lake Junaluska differently, it also set us in the direction of being more financially self-sufficient.

The new Board of Directors afforded Lake Junaluska the opportunity to have persons who have a deep abiding commitment to the ministry of Lake Junaluska as board members. As we moved away from the Administrative Council, which was a broad and representative board for the entire jurisdiction, we now can see a future with a smaller board which can take a well-defined vision and mission and build a stronger Lake Junaluska Assembly.

These changes offer, for the first time, the possibility of living and working as one organization. Lake Junaluska can be an agency that provides Christian hospitality with its campus, housing, services, etc., along with disciple-making and equipping ministries. This big change makes it possible to alleviate our age-old problems of competition between the conference center and ministry.

Building this new organization has required us to look closely at our ministry focus. Our focused ministry will be built around offering our events based on research that meets the identified needs of the church and individuals. To a larger degree, these ministry offerings will need to be self-supporting, thus requiring us to be more realistic in our financial charges to participants.

All of these changes and challenges have given us the opportunity to take an in-depth look at our financial needs and budgeting processes. As we have prepared to move toward 2013 and started to build a business plan, we focused on the 2009 budget process to inform us. We have looked closely at every area from ministry to housekeeping to determine a realistic understanding of our real costs.

In 2008 we celebrate an entire year of using the new Bethea Welcome Center. The building is being seen as a tipping point for the Lake Junaluska campus. It has inspired us to look closely at our hospitality needs, our facilities as its design has challenged us to have a more architecturally coordinated campus, as we plan for buildings in the future. The new golf course clubhouse that opened in the spring is a wonderful example of this new architectural influence.

There are many staff persons who make the ministry of Lake Junaluska possible. I am privileged to work with all of them and share a brief synopsis of the work of the executive staff.

The Conference and Retreat Center struggled in 2008 under the escalating price increases of petroleum, surcharges for products, and uncertain economic times. We were able to provide an air-conditioned Stuart Auditorium which not only pleased our guests but established the fact that we can successfully air condition Stuart as we build into the future. This year considerable progress has been made upgrading our facilities at the west end, Terrace Hotel, and Lambuth Inn. We have been challenged in providing enough staff to offer guests a quality experience because of budget constraints. Our exit evaluations from guests still remain high at 93 percent willing to return/willing to recommend.

We're implementing a new training program for our staff built around the "delivery of a quality Junaluska Experience to every guest". This program will be provided under the Workplace Discipleship Program. It will include orientation for all new staff and existing staff around providing Christian hospitality in every job on the Lake Junaluska campus.

The Ministry Event Development Department has made progress establishing a new direction and focus that totally incorporates ministry into the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Working with the Marketing Department and the Business Office, the ministry area is using new marketing processes with the Lake Junaluska ministry events. We are proud of the partnership with Alban Institute and are pursuing partnerships and initiatives such as "Chautauqua Events" and establishing the Center for Racial Ethnic Ministries.

The Marketing and Communications Office has made significant progress this year. We have generated 180 stories on Lake Junaluska; had a significant increase in visits to our website; have begun on-line reservations for lodging rooms; and continued our e-newsletters. The conference coordinators and sales staff are giving concerted efforts to reaching as many persons as possible who will use the facilities and services of Lake Junaluska.

The Development Office continues its work with capital needs and the annual fund. We have developed a strategy that will move our annual fund to the next level with the Pacesetters of Lake Junaluska Program. The goal is to increase our donor giving to the operating budget. We continue to solicit gifts for the Jones Cafeteria improvements.

Residential Services has progressed in 2008. We have had many accomplishments and challenges since moving under the North Carolina Utility Commission, which now sets our water, sewer, and fire protection rates. We have moved to a new security firm. We are pleased with the support of Lake Junaluska residents to the ministry of Lake Junaluska and appreciate all their financial and volunteer support.

Yes, 2008 has been a good and challenging year! As God continues to bless us as we strive to offer our unique ministry to The Church we appreciate your prayers and support.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

PARTNERS IN CARING

The Following Calls Have Been Paid Since January 1, 2008

Call No. 506 - The Reverend Ralph Epps, Sr.	\$4,800.00
Call No. 507 - The Reverend Haywood Harrell	4,800.00
Call No. 508 - The Reverend Bob Moore	4,800.00
Call No. 509 - The Reverend Walt Bass, Sr.	4,800.00
Call No. 510 - The Reverend John Blue	4,800.00
Call No. 511 - The Reverend Grady Kinley.	4,800.00
Call No. 512- The Reverend Jim Auman	4,800.00
Call No. 513 - The Reverend Cling Capps	4,800.00
Call No. 514 - The Reverend Jack Crum	4,800.00
TOTAL	\$44,400.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on Hand,Checking Acct., Wachovia 01/01/08	\$10,368.55
Invested in Methodist Foundation, 01/01/08	45,672.72
Investment Appreciation,Methodist Foundation,2008	(10,067.60)
Received from Payment of Calls/Methodist Foundation	<u>64,672.00</u>
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR	\$110,645.70

DISBURSEMENTS, 01/01/08-12/31/08

Payments to Beneficiaries	\$44,400.00
Office Expenses	<u>4,285.60</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$48,685.60

FUNDS ON HAND, 12/31/08

Balance, Wachovia, 12/31/08	18,713.16
Certificate of Deposit	7,500.00
Interest Earned on Certificate of Deposit	141.79
Invested in Methodist Foundation, 12/31/08	<u>35,605.15</u>
TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND	\$61,960.10

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND FUNDS ON HAND	\$110,645.70
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TRUSTEES - 2009-Caswell Shaw, Sam Loy, Bill Haddock; 2010-Leonard Rex, Gayla Collins, Dennis Adams; 2011-Taylor Mills, Kris Williams, Charles Michael Smith

Sally Bates, President; Branson Sheets, Vice-president; Henry N. Lovelace, Secretary-Treasurer

RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS, TASK FORCE ON

The Task Force on Retiree Benefits is a task force that Bishop Gwinn asked the Board of Pensions and the Insurance Committee to form three years ago to begin to address the issues facing our local congregations of increasing costs for retiree benefits. The Task Force reported last year that it has been making substantial progress at addressing the large and troubling situation our conference faces in supporting health care benefits for our retired clergy, and in preparing to provide the same type of help in the coming years. The Task Force was asked to devise ways to start containing our health care liability since currently clergy benefits take about 30% of our annual conference budget.

Current Financial Situation

In 2009, we are raising 2.7 million dollars through the conference budget to fund this responsibility. That amount has been growing sharply across the past several years even though, this year, it is not recommended that the amount increase. Actuarial projections tell us that we will usually have to raise the amount we give to these costs however, the number of our retirees is increasing and, as we all know, health care costs are rising.

Last year, at the 2008 annual conference, our Task Force made some recommendations that the conference approved. Those were wise actions as they lowered our accumulated responsibility to approximately \$35,000,000, lowering our responsibility by over \$11 million. To say “accumulated” liability means that if we suddenly stopped both the roll of time and any future service to the church and simply paid the projected health care costs for all clergy and their families currently eligible in our plan that we would need \$35,000,000 to pay the total bill.

While that is a staggering sum there are several things to remember. First, we are currently paying this year’s portion of that responsibility and are planning to fund next year’s. The Insurance Committee has made some actuarial gains that we intend to devote to funding this cost. But, unless we alter our current approach, we will see the annual amount of money we have to budget for retiree health care costs rise to as much as \$5.6 million dollars by 2037. That figure is in terms of today’s dollars.

Our liability is a constantly shifting target. Unlike our pension liability for all those clergy and their families who served prior to 1982, the pool of people contributing to the liability is always changing. The goal of our work is to contain the costs, not to pay for them. We have to talk about managing this responsibility, as our nation and our conference develop new ways of dealing with these realities.

The actions we took at conference last year were a good example of how we will have to move forward in managing these costs. We put in place the requirement that to have coverage in retirement, future clergy will have to have 180 months in our health care plan prior to retirement to obtain retirement benefits. Our clergy continue to have to be enrolled in our plan for the five years immediately preceding retirement in order to receive benefits. In addition, we carefully redefined spousal and dependent coverage. We also asked our current retirees to begin assuming a share of the deductible costs just as actively serving clergy are required to do and clergy retiring before the age of Medicare eligibility should help fund their health care coverage, just as private industry does.

Finally, we grandparented in currently serving clergy so as not to make these changes overly difficult for anyone and we suspended any action on mandatory funding of health care for our churches. We are extremely aware of all the difficulties facing churches in these times and do not want to see the economic pressures caused by the costs of health insurance to singlehandedly overwhelm anyone.

Further Steps

The Task Force also said that we would be back with further recommendations to continue to fund this liability and to review our situation. We must remember, going forward, that all these plans are built on assumptions. That means that since we are predicting medical costs, numbers of participants, medical trends, as well as, governmental actions (or inaction) in the arena of health care, all our numbers have to be understood as describing most likely scenarios. It would be highly irresponsible not to plan and we do have the God-given ability to analyze our situation and what we observe around us. It would be foolish to begin to build firm plans as to specific years or amounts of money that we might use 10 or 15 years in the future. What we can do is make some guiding statements and point to what the Task Force thinks of an almost inevitable outcome.

Costs and Numbers

We assume that costs will continue to rise, although medical trends have not been rising as fast as some forecasts would have predicted. We also predict that our numbers of retirees will continue to increase. We have said before that this is a reality that we will have to constantly manage and that future retirees should plan on assuming more of their health care costs themselves. That assumption is only justifiable as clergy retirement income is predicted to grow based on absolute dollars, in the years ahead, even given the recent economic troubles. We also assume that Medicare will continue to exist in some form though plainly we do not know—nor do we hear anyone willing to predict—what retiree or general health care insurance will look like far into the future, given the various discussions now before our government and society as a whole.

Continued Funding

We do know, however, that we will have to continue to fund this responsibility. Currently, all retiree and clergy benefits make up about 30% of the conference budget. We are very concerned about that reality and know that the amounts cannot continue to grow larger. In 1991 we adopted a plan to pay for pensions for those clergy with service prior to 1982. General Church legislation, and federal requirements, mandate that we must have that responsibility fully funded for accumulated liability by 2021. We have called the apportionment that we are using to fund that accumulated responsibility the “past service liability” line item. We have long enjoyed the hope that eventually—say in ten years or so from now—that apportionment would simply “go away” and we would fund the responsibility we will have to those then serving and/or retired who have pre-1982 pension credit from current income. That plan is working; thanks be to God!

However, it appears now we are not likely to be able to someday soon eliminate the past service liability apportionment. It is far more likely that we will have to redirect it to paying for retiree health benefits. Current projections would have us needing to continue this apportionment at its current level—or perhaps a lower one—for several years before our health care liabilities become sustainable without such an apportionment.

Without the infusion of additional monies we will not be able to sustain our current retiree health care coverage for more than the next several years. How long the apportionment will have to be continued and in what amount—the same or a lower level—are variables impossible to reasonably predict at this time. It is reasonable to hope, however, that we will be able in ten or so years, when the pension liability is satisfied, to redirect the apportionment to health care at a lower level than we currently set it and to see that apportionment probably continuing for another ten or so years.

No Action at This Time

This is simply a report about future actions that we are beginning to discern that the annual conference will have to make in the future, perhaps as far down the road as a decade. There is no action called for at this time. This report is troubling because of the size of our responsibility that has grown in the last two decades. We are like the rest of our society in that regard. Many people find this summary intimidating given the current economic climate where everyone is understandably worried and somewhat overwhelmed.

However, it is also a good report in that we are developing a plan to manage our responsibility long-term. We have made progress. We have lowered our liability by our own actions of last year. And this plan calls for no new action or money on our part, just sustaining what we have done and have committed to doing already. This plan requires us to continue to sustain our conference budget and our apportionments so as to allow all of our ministries, new things as well as retirement ministries, to continue.

This news continues the discussions we have been having for the past several years, insuring the vitality both of our retiree health plan and our conference for years to come. They maximize the benefits the conference can offer while simultaneously insuring the financial strength of the conference to support these and other ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Gray Southern, Chair, Task Force on Retiree Benefits

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS, TASK FORCE ON

In November, 2007, Bishop Gwinn appointed a task force chaired by Dr. Bill Simpson, the purpose of which was to explore and devise a plan to address how the Annual Conference and its churches can support our institutions related by faith to the Conference, and how the institutions can function as full partners with the Conference. Members of the task force included Bishop Gwinn, Bill Simpson, Tom Greener, Beth Norris, Emily Innes, Ruth Woods, Christine Dodson, Wilson Hayman, Carl Frazier, Reginald Ponder, Michael Clyburn, Charles Smith, David Clift and Gray Southern.

This Task Force has met throughout the past Conference year and has taken the following actions:

- (1) A letter was prepared for response by all college presidents, executives of the other institutions and chairs of board of directors and/or trustees. The letter how they perceived the relationship of their institution to the North Carolina Conference. It further asked how the churches of the Conference could support them in their ministry.

- (2) Some additions to the composition of the Task Force have been requested and Bishop Gwinn has granted these. In particular, with the change in the president of Louisburg College, the Task Force requested that Dr. Mark LaBranche, the new president of Louisburg College, be added to the membership. Dr. LaBranche comes from Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Alabama, with a legacy of strong church relation building.
- (3) The Task Force committed to reporting to the 2009 Session of the North Carolina Conference on its work with a compilation of its findings and recommendations.

The Task Force looks forward to making a detailed report to be distributed to members of the Annual Conference at the 2009 session. We covet your prayers and support in the work we seek to do on behalf of the Conference and the Institutions.

William C. Simpson, Jr., Chairperson

NEW CHURCH STARTS, TASKS FORCE ON

The 2007 Annual Conference passed the following resolution:

Paul Dunham, Wellspring (WI), moved that "the Bishop appoint a task force to include representatives from Office of Congregational Development, Board of Trustees, Board of Missions and other participants as the Bishop determines to address capital concerns and connectional issues which directly impact the success or failure of new church starts so that each new church and new church start pastors understand that they are not alone, are fully supported, and equipped to succeed."

In August, 2008, the Task Force was organized by Bishop Gwinn and the Reverend Tim Russell, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Ministerial Relations. Those appointed to this task force are: Rev. Gary Allred, chair (RA), Rev. Johnny Branch (GR); Rev. Paul Dunham (GR); Rev. Jo Elaine Harris (RA); Rev. Lamont Hemminger (NB); Rev. Greg Jenks (RA); Rev. Tim Russell; Rev. Linda Taylor (WI). Subsequently, Dr. Irene Brownlee (Acting Director of Congregational Development) was asked to join us by the chair. Mrs. Nancy Koontz (Admin. Asst. to the Office of Congregational Development) also participated.

The Task Force met on November 25, 2008, with all of the above in attendance except Rev. Jenks who was excused due to out of state commitments for ZOE Ministry.

The consensus of the Task Force is that there is a need for a new approach to new church starts in our conference. This new approach should have as its foundation an interactive paradigm whereby communication among new church pastors, sponsoring mother churches, district superintendents, area churches, and the Office of Congregational Development is enhanced. The Task Force determined that a report with concrete recommendations which reflects this new approach be forwarded to the Annual Conference. Rev. Allred, Rev. Harris, and Dr. Brownlee were assigned the responsibility of drafting this report.

The recommendations of the New Church Starts Task Force are as follows:

- We recommend that the preferred means of planting a new church utilizes a sponsoring or mothering congregation model. The mothering congregation will commit to support the new church with human and financial resources. This support would include a period of long range visioning and planning between the sponsoring congregation and the new church. There should be a clear, written covenantal agreement between the sponsoring congregation and the new church pastor (and other representatives of the new church were applicable). This covenant should include a list of what resources (human, financial, and material) will be shared and what will be the means of sharing. We further recommend that consideration be given to the new church pastor being actively involved in the life and ministry of the sponsoring congregation for a minimum of six months prior to the launching of the new church.

We recommend that a physical location for initial meetings of the new church be secured before the appointment is made. At minimum, an investigation of options of such location be made and shared with the new church pastor.

- We recommend that a comprehensive and detailed "resource list" in the form of a checklist/notebook be given to each new church pastor when the appointment is made. The checklist/notebook will be compiled by The Office of Congregational Development, in consultation with others as appropriate. The notebook would include vital and helpful information to assist the new church pastor in the launch of a new congregation (i.e. check list and timetable of important tasks in the first six months, first year, etc.; available sources of funds and other forms of conference support; places to secure office equipment, sound system and equipment, paper supplies; reputable vendors with an estimate of costs/fees). The Arkansas Conference has prepared a notebook titled "The United Methodist Manual for New Church Development" with 440+ pages which can be used as a resource.
- We recommend that the new church pastor must have an initial goal of instilling a "mission mindedness" in the new congregation.
- We recommend that when a new church is planned the District Superintendent meet with and inform the area congregations before the announcement of a new church launch and the appointment of a pastor.

- We recommend the following encouragement to the District Board of Trustees. When funds are realized from the closure of churches, we strongly encourage those funds to be allocated to the Congregational Development Fund, Inc. for the purchase of land for new churches.
- We recommend that the Conference begin to develop a list of potential sponsoring “mother” churches as well as a list of potential coaches/mentors for new church pastors.

These recommendations will be shared with the Office of the Bishop, The Office of Congregational Development, The Board of Missions, and the Board of Trustees. The Task Force will meet again following the 2009 Annual Conference Session and before October 1st to evaluate and report on progress made on the above stated recommendations. Furthermore, this report will be shared with the future Director of Congregational Development.

Respectfully submitted to God’s glory,

Gary E. Allred, Chairperson

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

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution in Favor of Tobacco-Free Environments

WHEREAS, tobacco is the number one preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more people than AIDS, car crashes, illegal drug use, alcohol, and murders combined. Each year 11,900 adults in North Carolina die from their own smoking and 1,200 Americans lose their life every day to tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, smoking causes North Carolina alone more than \$5.7 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity, and cigarette butts, whose filters are made of plastic and not biodegradable, are the number one most littered item, adversely affecting the environment;

WHEREAS, addiction to smoking is higher than the addiction rates for marijuana, alcohol, or cocaine, and for 90 percent of all adult smokers begins at or before the age of 18. Each day more than 2,000 children under 18 become new regular, daily smokers;

WHEREAS, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke risks the life and health of non-smokers as well as smokers. The American Heart Association says second-hand smoke causes 40,000 heart-related deaths each year, and second hand-smoke has been definitely linked to heart and lung diseases, cancer, complications of diabetes, higher risks of pneumonia and bronchitis, worsened effects of asthma, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, there is no safe amount of environmental tobacco smoke, nor are there viable ways to protect non-smokers from the effects of its presence. Separate “no smoking” sections, air filters, and opened windows are not effective in limiting the danger of second-hand smoke to those who choose to smoke; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting all smoking in public spaces has proven to be the only effective way to eliminate or reduce the risks from second-hand tobacco smoke;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Annual Conference commends the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor for adopting legislation in May making most bars and restaurants tobacco-free environments, building upon previous legislation making most governmental spaces tobacco-free; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Annual Conference encourages all our United Methodist Churches to establish a tobacco-free environment and encourage our members to make their homes and cars smoke-free for the health of themselves and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to all members of the General Assembly, the governor, and the media.

Adopted by the NC Annual Conference, June 13, 2009

A Call to Action by United Methodist Annual Conferences: The Priority of Health and Wellbeing

Preamble

Access to quality affordable health care has reached crisis proportions in the world. Impacting the wellbeing of God’s children – of all ages, everywhere, but especially the most vulnerable – the poor, the children and the aged.

Biblical and Theological Imperatives

Concern for health and health care has been central to the Jewish and Christian faiths from their beginnings. The Hebrew Scriptures address issues of sickness (Exodus 23:25) and healing (Jeremiah 33:6). The actions required to achieve these goals involve both personal (Exodus 24:3; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27) and social (Ezekiel 34:4) responsibility. The Gospels report the ministry of healing of Jesus Christ, for whom healing, like salvation, was an expression of deliverance from sin and death. Jesus’ message emphasizes health as the will of God and a sign of the presence of God’s kingdom (Matthew 10:7-8), so that humans are responsible to seek and accept God’s gift of good health. St. Paul, in turn, identifies “the powers and principalities of this present darkness” (Ephesians 6:12) as a source of much that is ill in this world, and encourages Christians to side with God against these powers. In all these times, the provision of health care has been an expression of the duty of hospitality (Matthew 25:36). Through the ages the Christian Church has expressed this duty through personal deeds of service, and the creation of healing institutions.

The United Methodist Church through its Social Principles (§162T) has expressed its commitment to health care for all. John Wesley was always deeply concerned about health care, providing medical services at no cost to the poor in London and emphasizing preventive care. The first Methodist Social Creed (adopted in 1908) urged working conditions to safeguard the health of workers and community. Through its many hospitals and health-care facilities around the world, as well as public-policy advocacy for health, the United Methodist Church continues to declare its commitment to quality and affordable health care as a right of all people. (UMR 113)

Defining the Problem

Today, health care is a major issue globally for the world’s population. Key indicators of child mortality, poverty, environmental degradation, maternal health, the spread of communicable diseases and access to medicine constitute 6 of 8 United Nations Millennium Goals and tell of a world that is sickening to too many and brings the end of life too soon.

In the United States, the number of persons without access to health insurance is 47 million and regrettably continuing to grow; those who do have such access face a health care delivery system of increasing cost and diminishing quality. Regardless of health care access, people in the United States live in a culture that does not sufficiently recognize the health impact of environmental degradation.

In the United States, the number of people who were without health insurance for some period of time in 2003 and 2004 rose to 85.5 million people, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the years 1999-2000. Rising costs for health care have made health care both less comprehensive for those who can afford it, as well as unreachable or substandard for those who are in poverty.

The United Methodist Church in the United States provides health care insurance through its General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to over 24,000 persons. An additional number of United Methodist clergy and lay employees are provided health insurance by Annual Conferences through other agencies. Rising health care costs divert critical United Methodist resources from ministry and have caused annual conferences to contemplate re-ordering ministry in large part due to these rising costs. Those insured by the United Methodist Church are "older, sicker, and fatter than the U. S. population as a whole." The leading causes of death in the United States – heart disease, stroke, cancer, and unintentional injuries – all are impacted by personal behavior, yet impact our covenant to take care of each other. Unchecked, rising health care costs, will impact the financial viability of the United Methodist Church as a whole.

In the United States, increasing health care costs are causing increasing numbers of employers to abandon provision of health care services, increasing the number of uninsured. When employers find their products less competitive after paying for health care costs, these costs threaten the economy and international competitiveness of the United States.

In North Carolina, a study reported by the N.C. Institute of Medicine and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, released in March 2009, says the ranks of the uninsured in our state have grown at the fastest rate in the nation since 2007.

This study reflects that one in three residents under the age of 65 in the state of North Carolina have no health care insurance coverage. In the past two years 2.8 million North Carolinians have lacked basic health insurance coverage. The bulk of these uninsured, nearly 80 percent, came from working class families (which are defined as those in which at least one person has a job). More than 55 percent were families with incomes below \$42,400 and 23.4 percent were individuals and families with incomes at or below \$84,800. Health Insurance coverage, in North Carolina, directly correlates to unemployment statistics. Where insurance coverage is attained through one's employer, the combination of the rising costs of coverage and the weak economy have forced many employers to cut their health insurance programs. Additionally, when workers lose their employment, they in turn lose their company paid health insurance benefits. (Incidentally our state's unemployment rate reached 9.7% in January of 2009, the highest it has been since March of 1983 when it was 10%). (source: Charlotte Business Journal April 7, 2009)

THE CALL TO ACTION

In the face of this crisis, the United Methodist General Conference in 2004 approved or re-approved over 30 resolutions dealing with a range of health care topics. These resolutions state that health care is a right, the current system is broken, and changes need to be made.

The North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is similarly impelled to act in the midst of this crisis. Therefore:

1. We challenge our members to make an individual commitment to live healthier lives and work toward health care for all, and we encourage our clergy and lay employees to model health and well-being for our local church members.
2. We call upon our congregations to conduct Health Care Justice Sabbaths on a weekend of their choosing, in which the theological, political, economic and medical issues involved in health care can be raised in sermons and discussions, and a range of health care related works of mercy, from blood pressure screenings to blood drives, can benefit the community.
3. We call upon United Methodist Theological Seminaries to undertake theological work to increase understanding of what, in the area of health, individual human beings should expect from themselves, should be able to expect from others, and can securely expect from God, and to make the results of this work available to the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Orders of Elders and Deacons in our Annual Conference.
4. We call upon the General Agencies of the United Methodist Church to support our Annual Conference efforts in our communities, and the efforts of other appropriate agencies and organizations, by discussing and coordinating their respective concerns in the area of health care, such as church-sponsored health care services, health benefits for United Methodist clergy and lay employees, health care chaplaincies, and health wellness programs as a spiritual and moral discipline, and to employ United Methodist resources and communications capabilities to promote both personal action and social change toward health and wholeness.

5. We call upon the North Carolina State Legislature to introduce and pass legislation to address health care for all in North Carolina. We anticipate and support that a variety of regional approaches may result, and that this will provide an experience base that can be replicated in other regions as well as the country as a whole.
6. We call upon the United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation which will move us to universal health care, consistent with UMC Resolutions, and to the extent this cannot be immediately achieved, to introduce and pass legislation which will move us toward this goal in increments, such as effective means of providing health care coverage toward seniors, toward the poor, toward those who are employed but cannot access coverage, and toward children; and to support state-level initiatives toward expanding health care coverage.
7. We call upon the United Nations, its constituent agencies, such as the World Health Organization and World Trade Organization, and member nations, to determine actions that will address the United Nations Millennium Goals and increase the quantity of health care services, particularly preventive and village-based health care services, throughout the world.

Scripture Notes (NRSV)

Exodus 23:25. Included in God's covenant promise is that God will bless Israel's bread and water and "take your sickness from among you."

Jeremiah 33:6. Included in God's promise to Jeremiah concerning Judah: "I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.

Exodus 24:3. After Moses tells the people all the words of the Lord, the people assure with one voice, "all the words that the Lord has spoken we will do."

I Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul uses the analogy of a race to suggest that people must run in such a way that they win, and "punish my body and enslave it" to do so.

Ezekiel 34:4. On behalf of God, Ezekiel denounces the leaders of Israel: "You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and weakness you have ruled them."

Matthew 10:7-8. Jesus tells the disciples to announce that the Kingdom of God has come near, and to make this tangible by curing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers, and casting out demons.

Ephesians 6:12. Paul identifies the focus of our struggle: "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Matthew 25:36. In the parable of the great judgment, the king will say "I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me," indicating that when these acts are done to "one of the least of these," they were done to the king himself.

Adopted by the NC Annual Conference on June 13, 2009

Resolution 3 – Evaluate and Overhaul the Criminal Justice System, National and State

WHEREAS, Senator Jim Webb introduced the "National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009" in the U.S. Senate, which is legislation creating a blue-ribbon commission charged with undertaking an 18-month, top-to-bottom review of the entire criminal justice system and offering concrete recommendations for reform; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Ed Jones has sought to establish a joint legislative study committee on exoffender reentry, which is now referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the N.C. Senate; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians depend on their government, national and state, to maintain their safety and security and expect it to be reliable and fair in addition to being effective at deterring crime and punishing offenders. The N.C. Department of Correction has an annual budget of \$1,300,000,000, which includes the cost of \$23,000 to incarcerate an individual per year of confinement. The cost of prison construction is approximately \$80,000 per bed, and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system, both national and state, has deteriorated to the point that it is wasteful and inefficient. With five percent of the world's population, our country houses twenty-five percent of the world's prison population. Incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1,200 percent since 1980. Four times as many mentally ill people are in prisons than in mental health hospitals. The recidivism rate, in national and state prisons, speaks of the ineffectiveness of our current criminal justice system. Our neighborhoods are at risk from gang violence. We should be devoting our monetary and law enforcement resources toward making communities safer; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries of the North Carolina Conference is committed to providing services and opportunities for United Methodists in the North Carolina Conference to achieve and maintain an understanding of prison ministry and the importance of prison reform based on Christian principles;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in Sacramental faithfulness joins its Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries in urging our government leaders,

state and national, to pass the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009 as well as establish in North Carolina a proposed joint legislative study committee on exoffender reentry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the North Carolina governor, the President of the United States, North Carolina's congressional delegation; members of the North Carolina legislature; and the state press.

Adopted by the NC Annual Conference on June 13, 2009

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

United Methodist Foundation, Inc. (UMF) is an independent, non-profit corporation that is related by tradition and faith to the North Carolina Annual Conference through its Board of Institutions. Strengthened by this faithful connection and a rich tradition of excellence in stewardship ministry, the Foundation is chartered to serve only the churches, boards, institutions, agencies and ministries of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

Since 1955, the Mission of United Methodist Foundation, Inc. has been to:

- Educate, encourage and receive planned gifts from individuals in support of their local church, United Methodist institutions, and special ministries of the North Carolina Annual Conference.
- Provide professional investment management services for both short-term and long-term funds belonging to local churches, boards, institutions, agencies and special ministries of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

PROFESSIONAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Currently the Foundation assists more than 370 local churches and conference agencies. These investment partnerships provide the potential for greater diversification of investments while minimizing investment costs and maximizing investment returns. At the same time, all funds entrusted to the Foundation are invested according to the ***Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*** as guided by the Statement of Investment Guidelines (Revised Edition 2004) of the Investment Committee of the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church. A team of professional financial management experts provides the Foundation's Board with ongoing investment management and consultation services while overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Foundation's ten professional fund managers. Currently, the Foundation partners with Graystone Consulting, an institutional management division of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Since the beginning of this relationship in 1992, the Foundation has provided its investment partners with an average annual return in the Balanced Fund of 9.03% net of all fees. This is a significant average annual return considering the unprecedented negative impact that dramatically declining stock values had on investments during 2008. During this same time period, the Foundation has added \$32 million in increased value to its Balanced Fund while distributing to its investment partners a total of \$86 million in support of local missions and ministry. On December 31, 2008, the Foundation managed just over \$78.4 million in 827 accounts belonging to churches, agencies, institutions and ministries of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

PLANNED GIVING AND ENDOWMENT EDUCATION SERVICES

While the Foundation's Investment Management Service provides valuable support for ministry throughout the Church, the heart of the Foundation's mission is its Planned Giving, Endowment, and Legacy Building services. These "donor-focused & church-building" services provide specialized planning and technical assistance designed to help individuals accomplish their charitable dreams in concert with their legal, tax and financial advisors. Additionally, the Foundation serves as trustee for individual family endowments, donor-advised funds, and life-income gift plans producing charitable remainder benefits for ministries throughout the Church. As Trustee of these special funds, the Foundation is responsible for ensuring that all charitable remainder amounts and endowment fund earnings support the ministries selected by the donor.

Lynn James, Executive Director
Rev. James G. Mentzer, Director of Planned Giving
Virginia L. Schwenn, Controller
Kimberly M. Smith, Office Manager
Shane Oxendine, Administrative Assistant