



South Carolina Annual Conference Report 2009 Florence Civic Center May 31 – June 3

Intro – Review the [Agenda](#) online

The annual conference began with registration on May 31. Each day started with a bible study given by a new church start pastor, followed by committee reports & voting on resolutions in the afternoon with worship services each evening.

Worship & Bible Study Highlights – Listen to audio's at UMSC.ORG

- OPENING DAY: **Sunday Evening** - Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor opened the conference with the sermon theme – The Consecrated Life and encouraged clergy and laity to work together.
- BIBLE STUDIES, NEW CHURCH START PASTORS: **Monday** - Rev. Joe Cate, Pointe Hope UMC, Mt. Pleasant. **Tuesday** - Rev. Michael Hood, Grace Point UMC, Bluffton. **Wednesday** - Rev. Enrique Gordon, Esperanza UMC, Greenville.
- WORSHIP SERVICES: **Monday** - *Memorial Service*, Rev Mel Arant, Waters Edge UMC Beaufort, *Contemporary* – Rev. Jennifer Williams with Praise Band, Bethany UMC, Summerville. **Tuesday** – *Retirement Recognition Service* with video reflections, *Great Day of Service Celebration* - Reverend George Ashford, Journey UMC, Columbia with Spirit Singers. **Wednesday** – Communion service - Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor.

Business Highlights – Review a pre conference guide to this material at [Orientation Slides](#)

- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT HIGHLIGHTS at [Amendments & Results](#) - Voted on 32 constitutional amendments from General Conference which could not be amended and required a yes or no vote. Twenty three of these addressed the worldwide nature of the church and basically dealt with replacing the wording jurisdictional with regional. The vote was collective throughout all conferences so the results are not yet known. The other nine dealt with other worldwide issues.
- CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION – Apportioned fund income is currently behind 2.3% & specialized giving is down over 50%. Our Walterboro District has paid 80.3% of its apportionments vs. 100% which should be in hand.
- BUDGET FOR 2010 – Next year's overall Conference Budget reflects a reduction of 3.3% over this year at \$16,948,274. A copy of the budget breakdown will be available online when the conference proceeding are published. Copies are available from the pastor or the delegates to annual conference. Some items with changes not available in the conference materials will be available when the Journal is published.
- BOARD OF PENSION HEALTH BENEFITS - details of the report are in the conference materials
 - New rate for annuity payments to retired ministers is \$663 per service year a 2% increase



- The conference has elected to use Health Flex Blue Cross/Blue shield – Option B750 Health Flex Pharmacy Plan FX2 as the Health Care Plan with a deductible of \$750 individual and \$1,500 for family
 - Health care premiums have increased 9% for clergy and 10% for retired clergy
 - Mail order pharmacy options continue to be evaluated– current report details can be found in the conference materials
 - A decision on how to fund the pension plan was deferred until next year pending further review. The alternatives being reviewed are to fund it either through apportionments or by a surcharge over a defined period of time
- EPWORTH CHILDREN’S HOME - a resolution was passed keeping it as a separate entity not financed through apportionments but through special giving
 - COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION – the minimum increase in the base salary for full time clergy in the local church is set at 2%. In addition to the base. The commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses which should not be considered compensation. The district superintendent assists local churches in setting appropriate compensation and expenses to the SPRC of the local church. The council reminds churches that vacation time plus time for renewal and reflection are an expected part of compensation. Those having more than 10 years experience should be granted 4 weeks non-church related time including Sundays. For more information on compensation please review the conference materials.

Great Day of Service

- Your delegates chose this year to help distribute food and participate with the Cumberland UMC in Florence in their lunch program open to all in the community free of charge. We were encouraged to mingle and talk with all who came from various walks of life. Spaghetti and salad were served most of the afternoon and many less fortunate than us left with full stomachs and a bag of food.
- This church served their meal in a temporary building originally used for outreach but now for services while they are rebuilding their church which had deteriorated from termite damage. To see more about their project visit [Cumberland UMC](#)

Noteworthy

- Attendance – 849 Laity, 875 Clergy
- Annual Conference Journal available online or ordered for a fee – no longer sent out free
- The UMC is losing 1,500 persons / week through death and they are not being replaced
- Youth Revolution! To be held January 22-24 1010 in Columbia
- Use your congregational specialist for church committee and other training – Our contact is Judson King <mailto:ajking@umcsc.org>

Al & Dian Litster, Delegates to Annual Conference