

Part IV

AWARDS, REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

AWARDS

EDUCATION AWARD

ALICE W. LOCKMILLER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND CREATIVITY

Mrs. Carolyn Cooper of First United Methodist Church of Winter Park is the recipient of the Alice Lockmiller Award for Outstanding Church School Teacher for 1999, presented by Mrs. Delia Halverson, Discipleship Ministry Team Chair.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARDS

EULALIE GINN OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Gabriel Karkenny, Florida State University, Tallahassee

I am a senior in the School of Business at Florida State University. I am working on achieving a degree in Real Estate. I am also currently working as the Upper Room Staff Coordinator at the Wesley Foundation. My goal is to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart, soul and mind. My goal for my life and my ministry is to learn to live in what Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first His kingdom and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well". In seeking first His kingdom and righteousness, I will learn how to make Godly decisions. I will then know how to properly respond in a situation. Putting God first would teach me to treat a person the way God would treat that person.

My goal is to be like Moses and spend as much time with God as I possibly can. That is the way Moses was able to become a great leader. He went into the tent meeting and asked God what to do in situations he encountered everyday. That is what I want to do.

[Dr. Eulalie Ginn came to work in the Florida Conference in 1946 as the Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Miami, and shared responsibility for coordinating the State Methodist Student Movement. She joined the Conference Council on Ministries staff in 1962, where she served as Associate Council Director for Higher Education and Campus Ministry and Church and Society until her retirement in 1976. Dr. Ginn died on April 30, 1990.]

LINA H. McCORD INTERN – BLACK COLLEGE FUND

Vaneasha Jackson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Waymond Jackson of Pendleton, South Carolina, is a member of Fairfield United Methodist Church in Easley, South Carolina.

Vaneasha is a sophomore at Claflin University majoring Criminal Justice. Her goal is to be a Counseling Psychologist. Having survived a near fatal accident she feels even stronger that her task from God is to continue to inspire and encourage others.

Her extracurricular activities include the University Gospel Choir, Cross Country Team, Track and Field Team, Theatre Ensemble, Career Development Office Volunteer and Gear-up Tutorial Pro-gram.

In addition to having received a scholarship from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, she is the recipient of the Department of History and Sociology Certificate for the highest GPA for Spring 1999 and the Best Hustler Award Cross Country for Spring 1999.

For more information, please contact Joreatha McCall Capers, The Black College Fund Office, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, PO Box 871, Nashville TN 37202-0871; phone (615) 340-7378.

2000 FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD

The Francis Asbury Award is given annually to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to United Method-ist ministries in higher education. The Florida Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is pleased to present the 2000 Francis Asbury Award to Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr.

Dr. Bronson has been president of Bethune-Cookman College since 1975 and leads a highly skilled and talented faculty and staff of nearly 400 who are committed to providing excellent educational, social and cultural programs in a Christian environment for a student body of more than 2,400.

Under Dr. Bronson's leadership, Bethune-Cookman has nearly doubled its enrollment, increased its community economic impact to over \$200 million, increased its endowment from \$1.2 to \$20 million, increased its total operating budget from \$6 to \$40 million and completed over \$3 million renovations to administrative, classroom and dormitory buildings, as well as nearly \$21.5 million in new construction and land acquisitions. As a key fund raiser for the college, he succeeded in securing a \$15.7 million Congressional authorization for the construction of the Mary McLeod Bethune Fine Arts Center Complex

Dr. Bronson was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He has also served as chair of the Board of Directors for the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education and president of the Council of Presidents of the United Methodist Church.

A former president of the Interdenominational Theological Center and a native of Sanford, Florida, Dr. Bronson is a 1950 graduate of Bethune-Cookman College. He served as a pastor in the Florida, Georgia and Rock River (Chicago) Conferences of the United Methodist Church for 16 years.

Dr. Bronson is the first African American ever to have been elected a member of the Volusia County School Board. His civic and religious affiliations are numerous, and his list of honors and awards are a litany of his many outstanding accomplishments as an educational and religious leader.

He and his wife, Helen, recently celebrated 44 years of marriage and are the proud parents of three children and grandparents of five grandchildren.

REPORTS

FLORIDA CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Vision Statement: The Conference Council on Ministries seeks to be a vital and welcome aid to the local church facilitating its role in responding to the call of Jesus Christ in making, nurturing and equipping disciples (1995).

Mission Statement: The Conference Council on Ministries assists the local church in discovering, facilitating and implementing Christian ministry (1995).

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Vision Statement: The vision of the Discipleship Ministry Team is to inspire and assist local churches in proclaiming the gospel and responding to the call of Jesus Christ in making, nurturing and equipping disciples.

Mission Statement: The Discipleship Ministry Team will respond to those needs of the local churches for creative leaders, cutting edge resources and opportunities for spiritual formation and training which can be provided more appropriately by the annual conference.

Short term goals of the Discipleship Ministry Team include: Strengthening the current networking groups of workshop/arts/music and Christian education; collect names of persons and churches to network in the areas of children/family ministry, adult needs, stewardship, elementary schools in churches and be a listening group for the needs of the local congregation which we can meet. Medium term goals of the Discipleship Ministry Team include: launch networking groups for leaders in children/family ministry, adult needs, stewardship, elementary school in churches; seek ways to enhance the training for leaders of age level groups such as older adults and singles.

In 1999 Discipleship Ministries sponsored 24 retreats/ workshops with 6,000 total participants from 14 districts, 30 scholarships totaling \$5,500 were given for training. In addition, Discipleship Ministry offered administrative/staff support for ministry/programs which may include but not limited to the following: annual conference worship task force, twelve of the above retreats, Operation Evangelization, summer camp, local church training and resourcing. Three networks were set up in different areas of the conference in children's ministry; a Single's Adult Task force was set up to address this ministry issue and a joint task force with Church & Society was set up for Older Adult Ministries. In addition 20 local congregations received training in their local church.

RETREATS/WORKSHOPS: Minister's Mates, Mature Years Retreat, Scouting Retreats, Totally Me, Children's Rally, Christian Ashrams, Women's Retreats, Clergy-Spouse Retreat, Camp Orientation, United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP) Conference, Family Camping Retreats; Discipleship Training Day, Summer Camp.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS: Harry Denman Award, Robert Raikes Awards, Alice W. Lockmiller Award and scholarships for training to local, conference and national training events.

RESOURCES FOR SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES: Disciple Bible Study, United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP), Networking setup for specialized ministries in local churches, mentoring./consultant ministry, resourcing local congregations.

MINISTRY/PROGRAM SUPPORT: Administrative support for meeting costs, task force and design team expenses sponsored by this ministry team.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Retreats, Workshops – 46%; Awards, Scholarships – 21%; Specialized Ministries – 27%; Ministry, Program Support – 6%

Total Discipleship Funding Request for 2001: \$34,000

CHURCH AND SOCIETY MINISTRY

Vision Statement: Through the Grace of Jesus Christ, the Church and Society Ministry Team shall work with and through local churches to engage in ministries to meet the needs and challenges of society.

Mission Statement: The Church and Society Ministry Team will be faithful to the authority of Scripture and shaped by the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church in assisting local churches through communication technology, resources, education and advocacy.

The short term goal of the Church and Society Ministry Team is to set up a resource network of task forces each formed around one issue for which the group will research the issue, prepare information for local congregations and be the advocates for this issue. The medium term goal of the Church and Society Ministry team is to set up a system using the resource network to effectively get the most recent information regarding issues into the hands of lay persons in the local congregations.

In 1999, Church and Society supplied resources to the Council of Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty; 455 youth and adults participated in the Real Luv Weekend; gave 41 grants to community ministries provided by local congregations, missions and agencies; provided advocacy on the issues of Anti-Casino, gambling, farm workers, jail/prison ministries, environmental concerns and disabilities; gave financial assistance to Florida Impact and Florida Council of Churches.

STAYING CONNECTED: We will continue our support of Florida Impact to aid us in legislative advocacy on issues that we support surrounding children and poverty, the disenfranchised and the powerless. Our presence on the Florida Council of Churches will be continued giving us the opportunity to work in coalition with other denominational groups on such issues as the farm workers ministry, immigration issues, children and poverty, advocacy and other common issues.

LOCAL CHURCH/AGENCY GRANTS: Church and Society will offer grants to encourage local congregations to be in ministry and service to the powerless in all areas that need the arm of justice. We will also support the need for ministry to the incarcerated.

RETREATS AND TASK FORCE RESOURCES: Weekend retreats for youth through the Real Luv Event and for children with Totally Me. Administrative Staff support for ten issue focused task forces; a Peace With Justice resource booklet; web site support to stay connected and the Council of Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty.

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES: Administrative staff support for all the task force meetings, design teams for retreats, total team meetings, leadership development to keep the ministry team on the cutting edge and resources needed to help local congregations stay current.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Staying Connected – 35%; Local Church/Agency Grants – 42%; Retreats and Task Force Resources – 12%; Supporting the Ministry Team – 11%.

Total Church and Society Funding Request for 2001: \$57,420

MISSION MINISTRY

Vision Statement: The Florida Conference Mission Ministry empowers local congregations and ministries to develop disciples of Jesus Christ, who are connected by a covenant to bring health and wholeness and to touch the hurts and hopes of people in their communities and around the world.

Mission Statement: The Florida Conference Mission ministry will facilitate local congregations, ministries, and individuals through encouragement and education and by providing opportunities to live out the Great Commission as given to us by Jesus Christ when he said: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:18-20, NRSV).

The long-term goal is to be faithful to God's calling and to The United Methodist Discipline to help churches achieve the expectations of a church, i.e., to minister to persons in the community where the church is located, to provide appropriate training and nurture to all, to cooperate in ministry with other local churches, to defend God's creation and live as an ecologically responsible community, and to participate in the worldwide mission of the Church. The mid-term goal is to raise the awareness of every pastor, layperson, youth and child of the rich mission opportunities through the Florida Conference, and to evaluate the missions ministries we support. Short-term goal is to equip, train, and/or encourage at least one ministry in every church in the Florida Conference for mission beyond itself.

ADMINISTRATION: Supports the 9 task forces in the Mission Ministry for meetings and travel and the Conference Mission office for printing, mailing in support of the ministries.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: Provides educational seminars and network opportunities for small churches and churches in transition. Church development opportunities are found through the Fellowship for Small Membership Churches.

COMMUNICATIONS: Provides the local churches with the means for education and information about mission opportunities and on-going mission projects through print, visual media, and the Internet; for the execution of district training seminars for local church mission leaders, and for covering the expense for itinerating missionaries, and

transportation to the annual SEJ Mission conference. Mission communications is covered under these ministries: Cultivation and Education; Mission Communication; Itineration of Mission Speakers, and SEJ Mission Conference.

ETHNIC MINISTRIES: Provides salary support, programs, education and office expense funding for ethnic minority ministries. Among the task forces supporting local churches and missions are: Haitian Committee on Ministry; Hispanic Committee on Ministry; Native-American Ministry, and the UM Seminole Ministry; Brighton.

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS MINISTRIES: Educates, encourages, and advocates local congregations to be accessible to persons in the areas of childcare, older adults, healthcare, and handicapping conditions. This ministry promotes: Golden Cross Sunday, Camp Pioneer; Deaf Ministry; Disabled Ministry; Health & Wholeness Retreat; National Association of Health and Welfare Ministries; National and SEJ UM Congress of the Deaf; Volunteer Conference Coordinator for the Deaf; Parish Nurse Ministry; Health Related Institutions, and Task Force Meetings.

MISSION INITIATIVES: Provide a means for the Florida Conference to establish, develop, and strengthen relationships between UM churches, districts, and the Florida Conference with the Methodist Church in Cuba through the implementation of the Cuba/Florida Covenant.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES: Involves local churches in ministry together with people in need, by providing direct services such as food, clothing, financial assistance, summer camp, daycare and after school programs, consultation and outreach education, and advocacy for and with people in poverty. Their main goal is to equip and involve United Methodists in hands-on ministry with people in need. Thousands of volunteers give of their time and talent for which they receive spiritual renewal as they minister to people in need. The Fellowship of Outreach Directors offers education and consultation services for mission initiatives within the conference. These ministries include: Action Ministries Plus, JA; Christians Reaching Out to Society, WP; Madison County Coop. Ministry, TL; FM; Greensboro Community Services Project, TL; Halifax Urban Ministries, DL; Indian River Regional Outreach Ministries, ME; Miami Urban Ministries, MI; Specialized Urban Ministries, WP; Tampa Urban Ministries, TM; United Methodist Cooperative Ministry-Suncoast, SP; Wesley House Community Centers, MI, and Consultation, Research and Implementation of Outreach Ministries.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES: Support the task forces that coordinate mission opportunities for local churches to respond to their call to mission at home and abroad. When disaster strikes in the Florida Conference, the coordination of volunteers is essential for a sensitive response. When disaster strikes outside the Florida Conference, the coordination of volunteers provides for a compassionate response. These ministries include: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and Florida United Methodist Disaster Response.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Administration - 2.3%; Church Development - 0.7%; Ethnic Ministries - 21.5%; Health and Wholeness Ministries - 5%; Mission Communications - 2.6%; Mission Initiatives - 1.1%; Outreach Ministries - 64%; Volunteer Ministries - 2.8%;

Total Mission Funding Request for 2001: \$305,780

The Mission Ministry Team recommends the Advance program (SECOND MILE GIVING to missions) as a part of each local church's benevolence budget. The main lanes of the Advance are: World Division, National Division, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Conference Advance and District Advance. Ones that are *bolded in italics* are new.

Conference Advance Mission Specials

1. Alfalit International, Inc. (Florida Programs Only); 2. *Branches Ministry (Miami)* 3. Madison County Cooperative Ministry (Tallahassee) ; 4. Church in the Community Program, Childs Park UMC, St. Petersburg; 5. Cooperative Parish Ministry and Group Ministries: Greensboro Project (Tallahassee), Gainesville Group Ministry (Gainesville); 6. Ethnic Local Church Concerns; 7. Cuba/Florida Covenant 8. Florida United Methodist Seminole Ministry; 9. Goodwill Industries in Florida; 10. Habitat for Humanity Projects in Florida; 11. Haitian-Hispanic Ministry Fund; 12. Haitian Committee on Ministry; 13. *Haitian Ministry, Church & Community Worker (Miami)* 14. Jim Russo Prison Ministry; 15. Migrant Ministry Projects: Lee County Mission, Inc.; Wahneta Hispanic Migrant Ministry; National Farm Worker Ministry (Florida); Hardee County Hispanic Ministry; Immokalee Neighborhood Service Project; United Child Care Centers, Inc. (Wahneta and Zolfo Day Care Centers); 16. Refugee Ministries; 17. Riverside House, Miami; 18. Society of St. Andrew; 19. Tampa United Methodist Centers; 20. United Methodist Disaster Response; 21. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM); 22. Urban Ministries: Halifax Urban Ministries (Daytona Bch), Specialized Urban Ministries (Ft. Lauderdale), Action Ministries Plus, Inc. (Jacksonville), Miami Urban Ministries (Miami), United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast (St. Petersburg) and Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc. (West Palm Beach); 23. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.; 24. Wesley House, Key West.

EVENTS MINISTRY

Vision Statement: Provide new opportunities to spiritually energize.

Mission Statement: Assist the local church by providing spiritually energizing events, rallies and camps.

Focus: To provide camp programs and events that cultivate cutting edge ministries to inspire and enable discipleship in the 21st century.

Short-term goals of the Events Ministry Team include: the continuation of the young adult task force to gather ideas and develop a plan for reaching young adults for Christ. An intense effort is being made to have young adult delegates at the Annual Conference Event. Continue to strengthen and develop the Summer Camping Ministry so young people will continue to come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Develop ways to promote the summer camp endowment fund.

In 1999, Events Ministry sponsored Summer Camp, held meetings of the Young Adult Task Force and held a Young Adult Retreat in the fall. The total number of participants at Camp were 3404 and over 230 adult volunteers. Over 200 scholarships were given for summer camp totaling over \$15,000. In addition, Events Ministry offered administrative and staff support for ministry/programs which may include (but not limited to) the following: all of the above events, annual conference planning, local church training and resourcing.

Total Events Funding Request for 2001: \$271,400

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS MINISTRY

Vision Statement: The Committee on ELCC envisions a church that is pluralistic and inclusive in character and witness through faithful obedience to Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement: The Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns seeks, through the grace and power of Jesus Christ, to enable Florida local churches to recognize the integrity of the multi-cultural roots of current and potential membership, nurturing a spirit of unity and openness in our diversity.

ADMINISTRATION: Covers the cost of the Committee to meet, as well as postage.

LAITY AND CLERGY TRAINING, YOUTH CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: These funds make it possible for local church laity and clergy to participate in training workshops, in order to equip and strengthen local church congregations. Local church children and youth are able to participate in the conference camping program through partial scholarships, making it affordable for them to benefit from this ministry.

LOCAL CHURCH GRANT SUPPLEMENT: Maintains a fund in the ELCC conference grant account. Together with the annual ELCC special offering, grants are distributed to local churches demonstrating ministry initiatives in their communities.

PROMOTIONAL PUBLICATIONS: Publications to communicate the support services such as camping and training promotional materials, to local churches in the conference.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Training Events/Camp Scholarships - 79.6%, Local Church Grant Supplement - 6.8%, Promotional Publications - 6.8%, Administration/Program Support .8%.

Total ELCC Funding Request for 2001: \$22,000

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Vision Statement: The Conference Council on Youth Ministries seeks to be a vital and exciting instrument which enables the local church to hear, respond to and disciple youth as they follow the call of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement: The Conference Council on Youth Ministries assists the local church in their youth ministry by offering to equip and train others in issues related to youth, improve communication at the conference, district and local levels, and provide exciting opportunities in ministry and mission.

Short-term goals of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry include: to continue to provide quality evangelistic and discipleship opportunities for the youth of the local church including; retreats, training events and mission opportunities. Another goal is to continue to use current technology to increase the level and the variety of communication among youth and youth workers. A long-term goal is to improve the credibility of youth workers within the Florida Conference by promoting educational opportunities and dialogue with other professionals in ministry.

In 1999, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries sponsored 5 retreats/workshops with 2456 total participants. In addition, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries offered administrative/staff support for **ministry/programs which may include (but are not limited to) the** following: all of the above events, annual conference planning, local church training and resourcing.

RETREATS/WORKSHOPS: Youth Ministry Spring Training, Conference Youth Event, Crosstrainers, Discipleship Weekend.

Total Youth Funding Request for 2001: \$36,500

LEADER DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

Vision Statement: The laity and clergy of the Florida Annual Conference are leaders who keep the Great Commandment personally and organizationally, becoming powerful witnesses for God and building organizations that effectively reach people with the Gospel and develop them as disciples.

Mission Statement: Use an effective array of workshops, local church training events, seminars, and similar programs to help people grow emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and physically. The process includes acquiring skills, gaining knowledge, and deepening one's desire for ministry in the name of Christ. It also includes skills for managerial and organizational leadership, including systemic change.

Goals of the Leader Development Ministries include:

- Expand Leader Development offerings by creating a team of consultants able to offer new workshops and broader coverage to local churches and districts.
- Conference-wide Leader Development event to highlight key issues, build enthusiasm, and train leaders. Similar to the Easum/Bandy 2000 Tour.
- Expanded number of workshops to help churches see new methods of ministry, discern God's vision for their work, and organize effectively for the 21st century.
- Expanded number of workshops in personal development as a leader, including *Principle-Centered Leadership*, *What Matters Most*, and 12 other workshops based on material from Stephen Covey.
- Expanded number of workshops in individual leadership skills such as listening, small group leadership, leading change, claiming leadership, and team building.
- Increased use of workshops based on the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator to address areas of leadership effectiveness, communication, prayer and spirituality, and effective congregational work.
- Local church consultations, staff training, team building.
- Begin a Pastors' Academy to prepare pastors for leadership in large, multiple-staff churches.

Total Leader Development Funding Request for 2001: \$10,000

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

Vision Statement: Connecting seekers to the unfolding of the Spirit.

Mission Statement: The office of spiritual formation works to aid communities and individuals in their journey toward fullness of life in Jesus Christ, particularly by helping them let the Spirit of Christ reveal God's presence and call.

Scriptural Basis: Jesus said, "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21 (NKJ)

Ongoing goals of Spiritual Formation Ministries include:

- Facilitating workshops, retreats and seminars working directly with local congregations, districts and groups, and Train the Trainer events.
- Sponsoring The Christ Path - A Two-Track Covenant Forum for Spiritual Formation.
- Sponsoring the Spiritual Director Training Program (Track 3) in conjunction with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.
- Offer retreats featuring outstanding national Spiritual Formation leaders
- Continue Making Disciples Christian Initiation Process for congregations training events.
- Coordinate Prayer Ministries at Annual Conference.
- Sponsor traveling Prayer Labyrinth to congregations and program for the St. Michael's Labyrinth and the Society, a permanent site, located in Leesburg.
- Sponsoring Walking the Mourner's Path training courses in conjunction with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.
- Continue the shoe ministry for needy children, retreat scholarships, and books/resources.
- Intensify Web Ministry to seekers through www.spiritworks.org.
- Facilitate and resource Heart to Heart Spirituality Groups for Women and Journeymen Spirituality Groups for Men.
- Continue to build and support a network of Spiritual Formation consultants and resource persons to work directly with local congregations.

Ministries supported by Spiritual Formation Ministries also include (but are not limited to) the following: An Adventure in Healing and Wholeness training weekends; 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation; Heart to Heart, A Spiritual Journey for Women; HIV & AIDS Healing Ministries, Learning to Lead Form Your Spiritual Center Seminars, SpiritGifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts training Retreats and Seminars; Spiritual Disciplines for Life Retreats; Twelve Paths to Prayer Retreats; Walking the Prayer Labyrinth; and Write Your Life & Right Your Life Retreats.

Total Spiritual Formation Funding Request for 2001: 46,820

CAMP FACILITIES MINISTRY

Vision Statement: To see more people encounter Christ at camp and in retreats through the use of the camp facilities.

Mission Statement: To provide adequate camping and retreat facilities in a setting conducive to the ministry and mission of The United Methodist Church.

Goals: the Camp Facilities Committee meets regularly during the year to study, prioritize and make recommendations for short and long term projects for the camps and Life Enrichment Center. The Camp Facilities Committee continues to explore avenues for capital improvements for our facilities.

Operation and Maintenance of Three Outdoor Ministry Sites: (1) Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp, Leesburg, (2) South Florida Camp, Labelle and (3) Lake Asbury Retreat Center, Green Cove Springs. The Subsidy requested will continue to provide significant financial assistance to the camps in the midst of yearly insurance premiums, operating expenses and current debt service. The outdoor ministry of the Camp Facilities Committee offers a diversity of programs, spiritual growth experiences, recreation and leadership development opportunities. It is inclusive of sex, age and race in an outdoor retreat-type setting.

One hundred percent (100%) of amount budgeted goes to cover camper insurance (accident), general insurance (liability) and current debt service.

Total Camp Facilities Funding Request for 2001: \$143,000

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

FUM GENERAL INITIATIVES

Vision Statement: Through the sharing of information, promote a sense and spirit of connection among the conference's family of local churches and individual members; motivate disciples to be active in ministry and mission; and create a vital and constant positive presence **within the community**, enabling individuals to be successful in their Christian ministry.

Mission Statement: Through a combination of advanced and traditional communication techniques, communicate with local churches and individuals accomplishments throughout the conference and the world through their efforts; reflect the value of the connectional system of The United Methodist Church; inform local churches of resources within the conference, both those provided by the Council on Ministries and others; assist local churches in enhancing their communication efforts; and maintain a strong, conference-wide media relations program that creates public awareness of the ministry, missions and leadership of United Methodists.

Scriptural Basis: "Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all." (Matthew 5:15, 16; The Living Bible, Paraphrased)

Short-term Goals: Revamp the Florida Conference Web site, produce "The Florida United Methodist Review" and increase readership through paid subscriptions, and develop other electronic communications tools as necessary (such as news groups).

Mid-term Goals:

- Conduct a conference-wide communications audit to identify communications issues within the local church, needs of local church communicators, general church issues about which more effective communications to the local church is needed, and other information that will drive future communications initiatives.
- Investigate additional opportunities to communicate through electronic media.

- Begin coordinating communications-specific training sessions and workshops and conducting communications consultations on an individual church basis.
- Develop crisis and disaster communications plans.
- Produce materials to market the resources available to local churches through the Conference Council on Ministries.

Long-term Goals:

- Develop a network of communications professionals to act as resources and assist local churches in their efforts.
- Develop a media campaign that includes production of radio, television and print public service announcements and purchase of air time to help reach people in the community.
- Develop communications resources to help churches reach out to people in their communities and educate them on communicating with people in all phases of their involvement with a church family (from visitor to member).
- Produce promotional materials and utilize other communications tools to promote existing and new conference-wide and Council on Ministries initiatives.
- Produce and implement communications tools related to church-wide issues.

1999 Accomplishments:

- Increased regular communication to local church pastors on current church events and issues through the distribution of news releases and stories by e-mail.
- Coordinated disaster communications efforts following hurricanes that impacted Florida.
- Coordinated media and crisis communications efforts related to crises surrounding local church pastors and workers.
- Assisted with the Dare to Share Jesus 1999 Florida Annual Conference Event by managing the development of the theme and logo that was used for the event and will be used for the next three years, producing print materials, coordinating audiovisuals, producing video spots and securing media coverage.
- Produced 24 issues of "The Florida United Methodist Review."
- Began co-leading the design team coordinating a new training/motivational component for the 2000 annual conference event.
- Assisted other ministry areas with production of communication materials (summer camp, Events ministry, Evangelism).
- Served as a member of United Methodist Communications' (UMCom) Program on Giving Advisory Committee to assist UMCom with its initiative to increase giving within the local church.

2001 Initiatives: Florida United Methodist Communications General Initiatives may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Strengthening Communication To Conference Churches/Members: Produce "The Florida United Methodist Review," continue to enhance the conference Web, develop additional methods of communicating through electronic media, develop methods of communicating directly with church members on church- and denomination-wide issues. (80%)
- Resourcing The Local Church: Coordinate communications-specific workshops, conduct communications consultations at local churches, develop communications materials that market CCOM resources, continue coordinating training opportunities on a variety of church-wide issues at the annual conference event. (7%)
- Positioning The United Methodist Church In The Community: Develop a co-

marketing initiative to support United Methodist Communications' (UMCom) nationwide media campaign to place television spots across the country if approved at General Conference 2000, distribute releases on conference issues/events as they arise, develop crisis and disaster communication plans that foster effective communication between multiple groups --- churches, the public, etc. (2%)

- Ministry/Program Support: (11%)

FUM Communications General Initiatives Funding Request: \$123,000

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST RESOURCE CENTER

Mission Statement: The Florida United Methodist Resource Center will connect the congregations of the Florida Conference with a variety of media resources to assist them in Christian ministry.

Short-term Goals: Continue to update the center's collection of video resources and promote the center's service to local church pastors and church leadership through the Internet and regular mailings. Mid-term Goals: Develop promotional materials to advertise resources available through the center, begin to develop plans for the redesign of the center's physical arrangements, and develop a logo specific to the Resource Center to begin defining its own identity. Long-term Goals: Offer a variety of resources in addition to videos, such as books, training materials and books on tape.

1999 Accomplishments: Helped conference churches purchase a license from the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation at a discounted group rate, provided periodic announcements and updates concerning video resources available through the center on the conference Web site, and provided nearly 700 videos to more than 140 clients.

2001 Initiatives: Initiatives of Florida United Methodist Resource Center may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Resourcing The Local Church: Purchase video and non-video resources for inclusion in the center's collection, develop a more cost-effective method of supplying churches with a list of available resources (for example: on disk or on-line). (58%)
- Promotion Of Center: Develop communications tools to promote the center. (14%)
- Physical Development: Reorganize resources and renovate facility to upgrade center's effectiveness as a resource to the local church. (14%)
- Ministry/Program Support: (14%)

FUM Resource Center Funding Request: \$7,000*

*This amount may be offset by the income generated from the loan of resources to local churches.

FUM Communications General Initiatives: \$123,000

FUM Resource Center: \$7,000

Total FUM Communications Funding Request 2001: \$130,000

CCOM OPERATING BUDGET

	1999 <u>Budget</u>	1999 <u>Expended</u>	2000 <u>Budget</u>	2001 <u>Proposed</u>
CCOM Expenses:				
Staff Travel	37,000	41,170	37,000	39,000
Vehicle Maintenance	3,000	0	0	0
Worker's Compensation	5,500	4,610	6,000	5,300
Annual Conference Presentation ¹	3,000	0	0	0
CCOM Meetings	6,000	304	5,000	3,000
CCOM Ptg, Postage,Supplies	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,621</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total CCOM Expenses	57,000	49,345	49,000	49,800
Staff Compensation and Benefits	750,255	715,693	806,260	846,573
Contingency Reserve	60,000	33,061	60,000	70,000
Central Services ²	<u>40,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL CCOM OPER BUDGET	907,255	798,099	915,260	966,373

CCOM MINISTRY BUDGET SUMMARY

Discipleship Ministry	36,000	23,027	32,000	34,000
Church and Society Ministry	57,140	46,751	54,140	57,420
Mission Ministry	274,860	242,354	309,840	305,780
Events Ministry	226,000	223,516	232,400	271,400
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	18,500	9,614	22,000	22,000
Youth Ministries, Conf. Council on	39,000	36,025	36,500	36,500
Leader Development Ministries	16,000	11,699	10,250	10,000
Spiritual Formation Ministries	29,550	24,987	45,000	46,820
Camp Facilities Ministry	143,000	120,807	143,000	143,000
Communications Ministry	<u>125,000</u>	<u>76,259</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
TOTAL CCOM MINISTRY BUDGET	965,050	815,039	1,015,130	1,056,920
TOTAL CCOM OPERATING AND MINISTRY BUDGET	1,872,305	1,613,138	1,930,390	2,023,293
(Less reduction mandated by CFA to not exceed 2000 budget)				<u>-92,993</u>
GRAND TOTAL CCOM BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2001 ³				\$1,930,300 ³

ADDENDUM TO CCOM BUDGET (WITH adoption of Standing Rule changes)

¹ Covered through Contingency Reserve.

² Transferred to Print Shop and Building Operations Budget.

³ This total does not include funding for implementation of National Hispanic Plan. See Welcome Book.

CCOM OPERATING BUDGET

	1999	1999	2000	2001
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
CCOM Expenses:				
Staff Travel	37,000	41,170	37,000	39,000
Vehicle Maintenance	3,000	0	0	0
Worker's Compensation	5,500	4,610	6,000	5,300
Annual Conference Presentation ⁴	3,000	0	0	0
CCOM Meetings	6,000	304	5,000	3,000
CCOM Ptg, Postage, Supplies	2,500	3,621	1,000	2,500
Total CCOM Expenses	<u>57,000</u>	<u>49,345</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>49,800</u>
Staff Compensation and Benefits	750,255	715,693	806,260	846,573
Contingency Reserve	60,000	33,061	60,000	70,000
Central Services ⁵	<u>40,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL CCOM OPER. BUDGET	907,255	798,099	915,260	966,373

CCOM MINISTRY BUDGET SUMMARY

Discipleship Ministry	36,000	23,027	32,000	34,000
Church and Society Ministry	57,140	46,751	54,140	57,420
Mission Ministry	274,860	242,354	309,840	290,380
Health and Wholeness Ministry ⁶				15,400
Events (See footnotes 4 and 5)	226,000	223,516	232,400	0
Summer Camp Ministry ⁷				260,900
Young Adult Ministry ⁸				10,500
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	18,500	9,614	22,000	22,000
Youth Ministries, Conf. Council on	39,000	36,025	36,500	36,500
Leader Development Ministry	16,000	11,699	10,250	10,000
Spiritual Formation Ministry	29,550	24,987	45,000	46,820
Camp Facilities Ministry	143,000	120,807	143,000	143,000
Communications Ministry	<u>125,000</u>	<u>76,259</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
TOTAL CCOM MINISTRY BUDGET	965,050	815,039	1,015,130	1,056,920
TOTAL MINISTRY & OPER BUDGET	1,872,305	1,613,138	1,930,390	2,023,293
(Less reduction mandated by CFA to not exceed 2000 budget)				<u>-92,993</u>
GRAND TOTAL CCOM BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2001				\$1,930,300⁹

⁴ Covered through Contingency Reserve.

⁵ Transferred to Print Shop and Building Operations Budget.

⁶ Standing Rule Change: Health & Wholeness MT (funding from Mission MT Budget)

⁷ Standing Rule Change: Summer Camp MT (funding from dissolved Events MT Budget)

⁸ Standing Rule Change: Young Adult MT (funding from dissolved Events MT Budget)

⁹ This total does not include funding for implementation of National Hispanic Plan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN
CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES**

**RESOLUTION AND PROPOSED STANDING RULE CHANGE
HEALTH AND WHOLENESS MINISTRY TEAM**

(Adopted in substance by the Annual Conference. Standing Rules Committee will present exact wording to be adopted at the next Annual Conference.)

WHEREAS, the Health and Wholeness Task Force (formerly titled Health and Welfare Ministry), of the Florida Conference, United Methodist Church, vision is to bring about physical, mental and spiritual wholeness and acceptance for all persons; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Health and Wholeness Task Force is to provide resources and training to motivate and empower local congregations to be in ministry with persons in the areas of child care, older adults, health care, handicapping conditions and to provide a direct relationship between the Annual Conference and Health and Welfare institutions, and,

WHEREAS, the 1996 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church states, As United Methodists, we are called to ministry of health and wholeness. Therefore, we challenge our membership to: (I) Make health concerns a priority in the Church, with unbiased, informed diagnosis and treatment of older adults; preventive care (including health education); special health concerns and needs of children and youth; and establishment of networks for information sharing and action suggestions and "encourages each annual conference and central conferences to focus on health for all by the year 2000 through its health and welfare unit or most appropriate unit;" and

WHEREAS, the Health and Wholeness Task Force of the Florida Conference, United Methodist Church has grown to include, Camp Pioneer Program, Deaf Ministry Team, Disabled Ministry Team, Volunteer Coordinator of Interpreters for the Deaf, and the newly developed Congregational Health Ministry and Parish Nursing Ministry and continued involvement in the National Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Health and Wholeness Task Force, under the Mission Ministry, of the Florida Conference, United Methodist Church, be separated from Mission Ministry and become the Health and Wholeness Ministry Team of the Conference Council on Ministries of the Florida Conference.

**PROPOSED STANDING RULE CHANGE
REGARDING EVENTS MINISTRY TEAM**

(Adopted in substance by the Annual Conference. Standing Rules Committee will present exact wording to be adopted at the next Annual Conference.)

The Events Ministry Team, which has had responsibility for Camps, Conferences, and Retreats, shall cease to exist as of Annual Conference 2000. In its place will be the following:

Camp Ministry Team: This team will consist of 9 members whose job will be two-fold.

- a. Establish the yearly program plan for the summer camping program for children and youth. Hire needed program staff and recruit leaders and counselors for the program and evaluate and train camp personnel for the operation of the camping program.
- b. Establish a yearly budget based on the expense of facility operation, personnel, and program expense. Formulate the budget plan to balance the cost of camp fee, Annual Conference budget for summer camp and other sources of revenue. The goal will be not to increase the cost of camp by more than 5% of the previous year's camp fee.
- c. Representation on this team will be a rotating three-year service with no more than three people changing on the board on a yearly basis.

(We recommend to Nominating Committee that this committee be made up of established pastors with a passion for the camping program and younger program oriented pastors and lay persons to provide a needed balance for this important ministry.)

Young Adult Ministry Team

The Conference Young Adult Ministry Team will consist of between 9-15 Young Adults in the conference between the ages of 18-29. These Young Adults will develop a strategy for increasing the ministry opportunities for young adults on both the conference and local church level. Various resources will be made available through the Young Adult Department to provide growth in ministry and opportunities for service for this important age ministry of the church. At least three persons to be people of color and women.

PROPOSED STANDING RULE CHANGE REGARDING CAMP FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(Adopted in substance by the Annual Conference. Standing Rules Committee will present exact wording to be adopted at the next Annual Conference.)

1. The Camp Facilities Committee ("CFC") shall have overall supervision of all aspects of property maintenance, construction, renovation and repair at the Life Enrichment Center, Warren W. Willis Camp, Lake Asbury Retreat Center, South Florida Camp, and other conference camp properties, if any. ("The Facilities") the CFC shall not be concerned with program use of The Facilities.
2. The CFC shall report its actions to the Conference Board of Trustees, the Conference Treasurer, the Conference Council on Ministries.
3. The CFC shall be accountable solely to the Conference Council on Ministries, except for capital improvements in excess of \$25,000, which shall be approved by the Conference Board of Trustees.
4. The CFC, after no less than one month's prior consultation with the chair of all the Committees to which it reports and with the Conference Council Director, shall have sole authority to set fees for use of the Facilities. Without such prior consultation, the CFC shall determine all needed renovations and repair, and, as funds are available, direct such renovation and repairs, and establish budgets and oversee all spending related thereto.
5. Further, The CFC shall determine an appropriate amount to provide for future capital

repair, renovation and replacement, and establishing in regard to same a "Capital Replacement Reserve" account with the Conference Treasurer. The CFC shall determine the annual amount to be added to such fund as a cost of current occupancy, with the ultimate results that capital replacement costs will be funded by current users. (Leland McKeown moved for further study of capital replacements. See Daily Minutes.)

6. The CFC shall be composed of the following: Designee of the Conference Board of Trustees, Designee of the Conference Treasurer, Two persons elected by the Conference Council on Ministries, One person elected by the Conference Committee on Finance & Administration, The Executive Director of the Facilities, The chair of the CFC shall designate the secretary. The Camp Facilities Committee shall elect four at large committee members.

RECOMMENDATION CONFERENCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC PLAN

At a September 1999 meeting of the Cabinet, a Task Group was named to consider and prepare a comprehensive plan for Conference implementation of The National Hispanic Plan. This group has met several times, and its report is below:

The plan, if adopted as written, requests that \$125,000 be apportioned to churches of The Florida Conference, with the proceeds to be used to implement the plan, with the largest portion of those monies being used to employ staff and related support to accomplish the work envisioned by the plan. Under the plan, the Hispanic Ministry Team that would result will be related to the Conference Council on Ministries. If approved the \$125,000 will be in addition to the amount of the Conference Council on Ministries budget otherwise presented herein.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Introduction

In September of 1999, the Cabinet of the Florida Annual Conference approved the formation of a Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry for the Conference. This is the culmination of many years of work in this area which include two major factors.

The first factor has been the work of the Florida Conference Hispanic Committee on Ministries. This Committee was established by the 1975 Annual Conference. Its Constitution in its current amended form dates from January of 1986. The purposes of the Committee have been to interpret and promote the decisions and programs of the Annual Conference, to study the needs of the Hispanic churches and bring these before the Conference, initiate new service programs in the churches and to administer the available funds and resources for Hispanic Ministries. The membership of this Committee is made up of the pastors and one lay delegate of each of the Hispanic congregations, two Anglo pastors and a District Superintendent named by the Bishop, a member of the Missions Work Area of the Conference and various ex-officio members. There is an Executive Committee made up of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations person and those elected to carry on the ministry of the various work areas. These officers are elected annually. The full Committee meets regularly three times a year.

The second factor has been the development of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. The General Conference of 1988 mandated a study for the development of a national Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry. This National Plan was approved by the General Conference of 1992 and confirmed again in 1996. In 1993 the Florida Annual Conference adopted this plan for its own and it has been implemented on a part time basis since then. The 1999 Annual Conference approved a resolution to the General Conference of 2000 for the continuation of this Plan. Its promotion in the Florida Conference has included the work of two part time coordinators plus the sub-committee of the Conference Hispanic Committee whose work has primarily been the training program for lay missioner and pastor-mentor teams.

The Urgency

It is time to enter a new phase in our Conference work with Hispanic people. The rapid growth of the Hispanic population is the best indicator of this. It is estimated that the total number of Hispanics in the United States will be around 45 million by the year 2010, and that they will become the largest ethnic minority in the country. In 1990 the Florida Conference had 1,566,680 (or 12.8% of the total population), but by 2020 it is projected to have 4,608,850 (or 23% of the total), an increase of over 3 million in twenty years (194%). Soon, one in five persons in Florida will be Hispanic. Early concentrations were in South Florida with the influx of Cuban refugees in the decade of the sixties, and from Central America in the seventies, but now there are Hispanics in virtually all parts of the state and we are now experiencing the spontaneous development of Hispanic congregations in the middle part and even in the north. The population of Miami-Dade County is now over 54% Hispanic, with some areas of central Miami and Hialeah over 90%. There is now a migration of several thousand people from Puerto Rico to the Orlando area. In the last three or four years at least 13 unofficial missions with Hispanic people have sprung up in western and central Florida. We need to develop a coordinated strategy to deal with this great opportunity that God is providing us.

The time has come to develop a new Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the Florida Annual Conference utilizing the best insights of our past efforts, mobilizing them in new and creative ways and finding new forms that will meet the challenge of the future.

Basic Components of the National Plan

The basic vision of the National Plan includes a sense that God is doing something new in our society: bringing together peoples of various cultures and traditions to form a truly multi-cultural reality. It is a vision of a church which, as in the first Pentecost, all can hear of the mighty works of God in their own language (Acts 2.8). This diversity, rather than dividing, unites, joining all in a common task. It is a vision of a dynamic and growing church, joyously sharing and living the Good News of Jesus Christ in all kinds of places and under all kinds of circumstances. It has an understanding of the church as basically called to be a pilgrim people in mission, where laity and clergy alike are called to participate. In order to carry out this mission, the National Plan has developed three basic program components: mobilization of conferences and local churches, leadership development, and resource development.

Mobilization

Conference mobilization is the process whereby Annual Conferences form their Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry. It is this process that we recommend for the Florida Annual Conference, described in this document.

Congregational mobilization is the latest program of the National Plan to be put into place. It is a methodology which helps a local congregation in its long range planning process. This process takes several months and there are special consultants available to accompany a congregation in it. A new Handbook is being published in Spanish which guides the congregation in beginning and completing the process. This is a process of congregational revitalization. It is hoped that congregations will opt to use the lay missionary/pastor-mentor teams and that the process of revitalizing the congregation will be aided by a new sense of mission which will include the establishing of new faith communities and community ministries.

Faith communities take the church to the people, meeting informally in homes and other non-church settings. The forming of such communities is to be one of the major responsibilities of the lay missionary/pastor-mentor teams, normally working out from the base of a mother congregation. Such faith communities will be the church in their setting. Activities will include regular worship, Bible study and prayer. They will promote full congregational development through evangelism and forms of community ministries. They will be centers of mission training and promote stewardship as crucial to Christian discipleship. They will be organically related to existing charges and endeavor to reach people where no congregations are accessible, or who are not reachable using conventional methods. Thus they represent another way of being the church.

Community ministries must be developed by every local congregation as well as every faith community that ministers to the needs of Hispanic people. These are outreach ministries which endeavor to meet the pressing social and economic needs of a population which generally is at a disadvantage in our society at large. Closely related to this are advocacy ministries which seek to aid the poor and oppressed, migrants and undocumented persons in our midst. These ministries often must be undertaken at various levels of ecclesiastical and civil government, often in collaboration with other denominational bodies and people of good will.

Consciousness raising concerning the challenge of Hispanic Ministry among non Hispanic churches is an important emphasis and is an important part of congregational mobilization (in this case nonHispanic local churches). Many congregations are not aware of the large Hispanic population in their areas. Two study aids have been produced in English to help in the consciousness raising process. NonHispanic churches can also sponsor new Hispanic ministries, new congregations, and faith communities as a part of their mission in their community.

Leadership training

The leadership for carrying out these various ministries lies mainly with Lay missionary/pastor mentor teams. The training of these teams is an important part of the National Plan.

Lay missionaries, according to Paragraph 274 of the 1996 Book of Discipline are "committed lay persons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and work in a team with a pastor-mentor to develop faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school programs, and engage in congregational development....They are accountable to their pastor-mentor as a member of the ministry team. The ministry team is accountable to the local congregation or sponsoring body that established the goals for the ministry and assigned the ministry team....The concept of lay missionaries is theologically based in the ministry of the laity. While lay missionaries are engaged in a variety of ministries, their purpose is to complement, not replace pastors."

Pastor-mentors are persons under appointment in the Annual Conference who will mentor the lay missionaries. They will help identify persons who will be lay missionaries, then help train and support them in their ministry. They will form a team with them and exercise mutual accountability with them in their common ministries. Usually the pastor-mentors will be pastors of local congregations, but they also may be district mentors appointed by the district superintendent to supervise and support lay missionaries who work beyond the local church.

A Curriculum for Training Lay Missioner/Pastor-Mentor Teams is now available. Three modules have been designed for the training of these teams. The first two constitute the basic curriculum after which, together with practical experience, a person may be formally recognized as a lay missionary or a pastor-mentor. The third module are a series of training experiences which offers continuing education. Modules I and II are available in a bilingual edition and the workshops of Module III continue to be produced at the General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Board of Global Ministries. These modules incorporate a basic action/reflection methodology and are being used in Florida.

Resource Development

Resources, both personnel and financial, are being developed on national and jurisdictional levels to help in these programs. Consultants are trained to help in the Congregational Mobilization program. They are also available to help Annual Conferences plan their Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministries. These consultants are related to the General Board of Global Ministries and it is a requirement of the Board to have a consultant participate in the forming of the Conference Comprehensive Plan if a financial grant is to be given for Hispanic Ministry in that Conference under the National Plan. Facilitators are available, under a program of the General Board of Discipleship, to offer the training programs for lay missionaries and pastor-mentors. In the Southeastern Jurisdiction we have around 25 persons trained to do this, including 6 here in Florida. Missionaries to work in connection with the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry can be placed by the General Board of Global Ministries. Placements will be made only after an annual conference has gone through a consultation process for this purpose. For these missionaries the annual conference will be responsible for half of the salary and the housing, while the General Board will be responsible for the other half of the salary and benefits.

All of the General Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church are participating in the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. Each one has its own assignment in providing resources for the implementation of the Plan, in the areas of their concern. This is especially true in the areas of financial grants and the production of study materials.

A Florida Annual Conference Comprehensive Plan: Basic Organization

The new Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the Florida Annual Conference should seek to preserve the best aspects of the work of the existing Conference Hispanic Committee on Ministries, to combine this with the resources available in the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry and to provide the flexibility necessary to meet new challenges as they occur. The basic organization will consist of three parts: the Annual Conference Hispanic Ministry Team, the Hispanic Assembly and the Conference Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry.

The Florida Conference Hispanic Ministry Team will be the basic working unit of the new Comprehensive Plan. It will consist of three categories of members totaling up to 25 persons: 1.) The eight person executive committee of the Hispanic Assembly, elected quadrennially by the Hispanic Assembly. 2.) Up to 14 district coordinators of Hispanic Ministry, each one named by, and responsible directly to, his or her district superintendent. This appointment should be made in consultation with Hispanic leaders in the Conference, especially the conference coordinator. These coordinators will be named in districts where there is Hispanic work now in existence or where there is an intention to establish it. These persons should preferably be Hispanic, or other persons who are willing to work in Hispanic Ministry. He or she may also function as a pastor-mentor for the lay missionaries who may be working in the district program when this is carried on beyond any existing local congregation. Each of these districts could have a district Hispanic Ministry Team which would plan and carry out the work in the district. Since each district situation is different, a great deal of freedom should be encouraged to plan and work according to the context. Cross-district work could be experimented with, especially in cases where the natural clustering of Hispanic churches crosses district lines. Such is the case in the Tampa Bay area and in central Florida around Lake Placid and Sebring. 3.) Up to 3 or 4 at large members who are there because of their expertise in matters that the Ministry Team considers important. In addition to the Conference Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, at least a person from the Conference Committee on Church Development and the director of the Hispanic Institute should be among these. This group will be one of the Ministry Teams of the Conference Council on Ministries, free to relate to any other Conference committees and agencies that it deems necessary. This whole comprehensive plan will therefore no longer continue as a program of the Conference Work Area on Missions. The Executive Committee of the Conference Council will select the Coordinator, and the Coordinator will be accountable to the Executive Committee. The budget of the Hispanic Ministry Team will be part of the budget of the Conference Council and the Team will organize itself according to the rules of the Annual Conference.

The current Conference Hispanic Committee on Ministries will become the Hispanic Assembly. The make up of the Assembly will remain the same as the current Conference Committee. Its specific responsibilities will be 1.) carry out the ministry responsibilities requested of it by the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team, 2.) elect eight persons at the beginning of each quadrennium to be its executive committee and therefore members of the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team and 3.) receive reports on the work of the Ministry Team from the Conference Coordinator, dialogue about them and offer input and requests to be considered by the Team. The Ministry Team could request that the Family Camp and the retreats continue as they have in the past. The work areas could function the same as they do at the present time. The fellowship which this group has had in the past will continue to enrich the lives of its participants. The Hispanic Assembly will continue to meet three times a year. Budget considerations for the Assembly will be a part of the budget of the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team.

The Conference Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry should be a full-time position. This person will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Conference Council and in turn be accountable to the Executive Committee. He or she will be responsible for coordinating the work of the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team and be one of its at large members. He or she will be responsible for seeing that the Conference Comprehensive Plan on Hispanic Ministry with all its goals, strategies and programs be implemented and will also be the main advocate for Hispanic Ministry before the other boards and agencies of the Annual Conference. This person could be a missionary under the General Board of Global Ministries, mentioned above, designated to work under the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. This would help raise the support for such a person. A job description for this person appears as an addendum to this document.

A Florida Conference Comprehensive Plan: Basic Ministries

In a general sense the Florida Conference Comprehensive Plan should be concerned with all aspects of the work of Hispanic United Methodism in the Conference.

Our special vision is to reach the growing Hispanic population in the state of Florida with the Good News of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. This involves the development of congregations, both old and new, which will be growing and vital and which will minister in Christ's name to the needs of the whole person and the whole community where they are. To implement this vision, the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team will work in at least three areas: congregational mobilization, leadership recruitment and training and resource development.

Congregational Mobilization

In this area the special goals are:

Goal 1: To revitalize and mobilize existing Hispanic congregations.

Implementation:

- a. Use the resources of the Congregational Mobilization program of the National Plan for local churches who wish to revitalize their ministry.
- b. Encourage the development of faith communities and community ministries as defined by the National Plan.
- c. Strengthen the traditional ministries that have been successful in the past: the Work Areas of Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship and Youth Ministries. The family camp and seasonal retreats also should continue.

Goal 2: To incorporate into the life of the Annual Conference the many unplanned new Hispanic faith communities which are developing spontaneously in many parts of the state.

Implementation: The Conference Hispanic Ministry Team and the Conference Committee on Church Development will develop a coordinated strategy to help incorporate these faith communities into the life of the Districts where they originate. This strategy could include the use of lay missionary/pastor mentor teams where appropriate. District Hispanic Ministry Teams with their own Coordinators should contextualize these plans.

Goal 3: Help Districts develop planned strategies for new churches among the growing Hispanic population in the state.

Implementation: As in goal 2, the Conference Hispanic Ministry Team and the Conference Committee on Church Development should develop suggested guidelines for this and make them available to each District where the demographic studies suggest that new Hispanic churches are possible. Here also, the use of lay missionary/pastor mentor teams should be considered.

Goal 4: Aid NonHispanic Churches to be in ministry to the Hispanics that surround them.

Implementation: Make available to these churches the materials available from the National Plan to help raise their consciousness and help them plan active ministries among their Hispanic population.

Leadership Recruitment and Training

In this area the special goals are:

Goal 1: To develop lay and clergy leadership for the many facets of ministry among Hispanics.

Implementation: Recruit, train and support lay missionary/pastor mentor teams, as defined by the National Plan, to carry out these ministries.

Goal 2: To further develop the Hispanic Institute.

Implementation: The Hispanic Institute is a name for the several efforts at Hispanic leadership training. Currently the existing Florida Conference Hispanic Committee on Ministries has offered training workshops in areas like family life and Christian Education. Also the current National Plan committee continues to offer Modules I, II and III. Several members of this committee are facilitators for these modules. All of these efforts should be systematized into one effort that we will call the Hispanic Institute. The Institute is not a place but a group of people interested and qualified to train leaders. It could have a place later on especially with the development of a basic library. Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando has expressed interest in offering courses for pastors and lay leaders in Spanish. There may be other seminaries who would be willing to do the same. These courses, and other educational experiences would be coordinated by the Institute, which should have at least a part time director and a steering committee to coordinate its work. The work of the Institute, with its basic curriculum of the National Plan modules, will be the main training effort for lay missionary/pastor mentor teams and others involved in the work of Hispanic Ministry in the Florida Annual Conference.

Resource Development

In this area the special goal is:

Goal: To develop both personnel and financial resources for these ministries.

Implementation: In addition to the recruitment, training and support of lay missionary/pastor mentor teams, we will discover and use the resources available from the different general and jurisdictional boards and agencies of the larger Church: the consultants, facilitators and missionaries, for personnel: grants for finances. We also need to develop stewardship programs to work toward the goal of self-support for our Hispanic congregations and programs.

We now have in place the experience and the resources available to launch this Florida Conference Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry. It is probably the best instrument that we have available at this moment to respond to God's initiative for Hispanic people in our midst.

Conference Task Force to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic Ministry

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1

It is recommended that the 2001 salary of each District Superintendent be set at \$70,968, which is an increase of 0% (\$ 0) above the 2000 salary.

It is further recommended that each District Superintendent be reimbursed for in-district travel at the IRS allowable rate (for 2000 at 32.5 cents per mile) and that the estimated amount necessary to cover that cost (\$142,800) be budgeted in the Conference Service and Administration Fund. This includes the cost of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in district and out of district and for cabinet purposes.

(Recommendations No. 2 through No. 10 were not considered.)

Recommendation No. 11

In lieu of approving the 2001 Conference Benevolences, Conference Service and Administration, and other budgets as presented at this time, it is recommended that the Annual Conference approve a special one-day session of the Annual Conference to be held on a Saturday in the late Fall of this year (2000) at a central location (exact date and location to be announced). The purpose of this one-day session would be to approve the 2001 budget and to consider using a similar method for approval of the 2002 budget, namely a special one-day called session in the late Fall of next year. It is further recommended that World Service and Conference Benevolences shall be apportioned separately effective, January 1, 2001.

Respectfully submitted, Morgan Wright, President
Council on Finance and Administration

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Florida Annual Conference of
the United Methodist Church
Lakeland, Florida

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of **Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church** as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the related statements of activities, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Conference's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church** as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Baylin & Company PA

Certified Public Accountants

April 13, 2000

DIVISION OF MINISTRY

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Florida Annual Conference is experiencing a decline in the number of candidates applying for ordination. Combined with a nationwide increase in the number of pastors reaching age 65 or retiring before age 65, this causes an increasing gap between the number of ordained ministers and the number of churches needing pastors. Part of the gap is filled by a wonderful group of ministers who serve as Local Pastors. Across our Annual Conference, Local Pastors are serving effectively in what are sometimes the most challenging of circumstances. Many of the churches served by gifted Local Pastors are experiencing growth in attendance and revitalization of ministry.

Additionally, there is a national trend towards ministry as a second career, which means that our probationary members, as a group, are older as they begin ministry and they serve fewer years before reaching age 65. You can do the math – we need more candidates for ministry in order to continue to supply pastoral leadership for congregations in the Florida Annual Conference.

Many Districts have held “Ministry Events” to encourage people who are hearing God’s call to full-time Christian Service. Our camping ministry, campus ministries, and the annual “Exploration” event also give young people information about experiencing God’s call. These are helpful programs, but over the years we have observed that the best place for people of all ages to hear God’s call to full-time ministry is in a vital local church.

There are tiny congregations in our conference where a Sunday School teacher helped numerous individuals discern the call to preach. Within the bounds of the Florida Annual Conference, there are local congregations and particular pastors who have encouraged significant numbers of people to respond to God’s call on their life for ordained ministry.

When a church is vital and it is communicating effectively that all Christians are called to ministry; when that church is empowering lay persons to do ministry in the church and the community; when Christians are worshiping, praying, studying their Bibles through ministries like “Disciple,” and serving, some will hear the God’s call to full time Christian Service. The renewal of local congregations is the only recruitment tool that will address the problem of declining numbers of ordained ministers.

At this Annual Conference, we recognize the ministry of Dr. Richard Burnette, a clergy member of the Virginia Conference who has served his entire ministry with us at Florida Southern College, where he is Professor of Psychology. For thirty-three years, Dr. Burnette has served as the Ministerial Assessment Specialist for the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Florida Conference. That means he knows a lot of stuff about most of us pastors, but he loves us anyway. In addition, through his work with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Dr. Burnette has literally shaped the process of psychological assessment for the entire denomination. We have been blessed to have the pioneer of clergy assessment as a colleague and wonderful servant of the Board of Ordained Ministry for these past thirty-three years. This Annual Conference brings to a close Dr. Richard Burnette’s outstanding service to the Board and the Board of Ordained Ministry expresses their appreciation and love to him.

In theological education, 1999-2000 has been a banner year with the opening of the Orlando campus of Asbury Theological Seminary. For the first time in history, Florida students will be able to attend a fully accredited Seminary in the Wesleyan Tradition without leaving the state of Florida. Block scheduling has allowed some Florida students to commute from hours away, without uprooting families, or leaving their church home. Asbury has worked hard to provide worship and community building among the more than 80 students of this first year, so that the fellowship and informal sharing so vital to the seminary experience is a part of their lives.

Approximately half of Florida's candidates for ordained ministry attend the Wilmore, Kentucky campus of Asbury. With the opening of the Orlando Campus, we anticipate that more Florida students will enroll locally. The other half of our candidates for ordained ministry are divided between Candler School of Theology at Emory, which offers a wonderful scholarship program for Florida students, and The Divinity School at Duke University, which is the school of choice for many of our youngest candidates for ministry. Each year we have a very small number of students attending other seminaries as well.

Changes in the program of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the summer of 2000 will include a new assessment process, being implemented over the next year. The Board is contracting with a group pastoral counseling center to do two new assessment packets for persons applying for probationary and full connection membership. These two assessments will differ significantly from the candidacy assessment.

The candidacy packet of psychological assessment remains much the same but will be offered in three regional locations (North Florida, Central Florida, and South Florida) and a personal interview with a licensed counselor will be part of the assessment.

The Board expresses its deepest appreciation for the members of the Board who are completing their terms at this session of the Annual Conference. Each of these members has spent many weeks away from home interviewing candidates, and many hours reviewing materials. Our gratitude to: Polly Cook, Wayne Curry-Chair of the Division of Elders, Sandra Forkner, John Green-former chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and our cabinet Liaison for 6 years, Tom Hamilton, Dan Johnson, Paul Juvinal, Sara Reed, and Todd Stube. In addition, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation to three of our number who are leaving us to serve on the Cabinet: Geraldine McClellan, Sharon Patch, and David Herman.

The Board of Ordained Ministry could not accomplish its work without the fine leadership and service of the Rev. David A. Dodge, our Registrar and Executive Director of the Division of Ministry, and Mrs. Winnie Dean, Administrative Assistant.

I have served ten of the last twelve years on the Board of Ordained Ministry and I want to thank the Annual Conference for the privilege of leading this endeavor these past four years.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah A. McLeod, Chairperson

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

The Ministerial Education Fund apportionment supports a fundamental part of the connectional ministry of the United Methodist Church. It enables all local churches

throughout the Conference to assist persons who are candidates for ministry. With the contributions made by members of the churches, during 1999, your Board has been able to assist persons up to \$3,000 per year. This help is often crucial for candidates, many of whom give up other careers to enter the ministry. These are the guidelines which the Ministerial Education Fund Committee uses in administering these funds:

1. Ministerial Education Funds (MEF) will be made available to all certified candidates who are attending seminary. Local Pastors in Course of Study schools may receive scholarship assistance from MEF, as can persons attending License to Preach School. MEF funds may also be used to provide scholarship assistance to local pastors and deacons, licensed by the Board of Ordained Ministry, who are enrolled in an ACPE-approved CPE program.
2. MEF student aid money will be made available to certified candidates for Diaconal Ministry who are enrolled full-time in a master's degree program. The same MEF repayment process will be used for diaconal ministers coming to Florida from other conferences as is used for ordained ministers. No MEF grants will be used for professional certification.
3. MEF continuing education grants will be made available to Diaconal ministers to help finance their two annual continuing education units on the same basis as such funds are made available to ordained ministers.
4. Certified candidates for diaconal ministry taking the foundational studies shall be entitled to MEF assistance on the same basis as local pastors attending the course of study.
5. Distribution of MEF receipts is 90% for student aid and 10% for continuing education.

Apportioned to the local churches	\$1,103,879	
Received from the local churches	<u>896,173</u>	
Deficit	<u>207,076</u>	
Allocation of 1999 Receipts:		
To Gen.Church for seminary distribution 75%	677,810	
Retained by the Annual Conference 25%		
For Student Aid 90%	196,526	
For Continuing Education 10%	<u>21,836</u>	<u>218,362</u>
		<u>896,172</u>
1999 Summary of Funds Retained by Annual Conference:		
Student Aid:		
Amount available from 1998 and prior years	111,370	
Disbursed in 1999 for:		
85 seminary students		
43 local pastors in Course of Study		
23 candidates License to Preach School	<u>217,717</u>	
	<106,347>	
plus 1999 allocation	<u>196,256</u>	
Available for use in 2000	<u>89,909</u>	

Continuing Education:	
Amount available from 1998 and prior years	36,070
Disbursed in 1999	<u>17,545</u>
Unexpended Balance	18,525
Plus 1999 allocation	<u>21,836</u>
Available for use in 2000	<u>40,361</u>

CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT

New theological understandings and methods for meeting the ever-increasing and changing work of ministry are always necessary for effective ministry. One of the ways the Continuing Education Committee encourage ministers to seek new ideas and insights for ministry is by offering on an annual basis, the School of Ministry. The School of Ministry offered each October continues to be a wonderful arena for fresh ideas for ministry, dialogue and fellowship.

Many universities, colleges and seminaries are also offering conferences; courses, seminary, symposiums and workshops to help ministers better equip themselves for the work of ministry. The Internet offers another opportunity to take college and seminary course work without leaving your location. Our Conference Board of Ministry office, District Superintendents, District Committees and seminaries can also be good sources for identifying continuing education sites.

For persons who find financing to be a challenge in underwriting some of the cost for continuing education events, the Board of Ordained Ministry does offer some assistance. Ministers may access conference funding up to the amount of \$750 per quadrennium. Each person filing a request for the first time will be given funds first, those who are seeking funds a second time or more will be considered depending on the availability of funds.

Lawrence Q. Barriner, Chairperson

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

The Board recommends to the Annual Conference the following newly certified professional:

Linda Hetrick – Associate in Christian Education

RECOMMENDATION FOR DIACONAL MINISTRY CONSECRATION

Phillip D. IGNEY

Age 50; married; Florida State University; Foundational Course of Study; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Consecration.

RECOMMENDED FOR ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION

Lewis D. ARNOLD

Age 51; married; Monmouth; Candler; Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

Daniel Milton BELL, Jr.

Age 33; single; Stetson; Duke; Miami District; Candidate for Elder.

Brian A. CARR

Age 38; married; Marshall University; Asbury; Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

Steven COSS

Age 41; married; University of Houston; Asbury; Lakeland District; Candidate for Elder.

Will E. FURLONG, Jr.

Age 45; married; University of Florida; Duke; Gainesville District; Candidate for Elder.

Alexander M. KNIGHT

Age 53; single; Florida State University; Course of Study; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Elder.

A. Sarg MAGYAR

Age 65; married; University of California – Fullerton; United; West Palm Beach District; Candidate for Elder.

Calvin Jerome McFADDEN

Age 25; married; Bethune Cookman College; Gammon; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Elder.

Jerry F. MILNER, Jr.

Age 40; married; Nova Southeastern, Asbury; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Elder.

Steven M. PRICE

Age 36; married; Furman; Duke; Sarasota District; Candidate for Elder.

Christopher R. SCHMIDT

Age 26; married; Florida Southern College; Duke; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Elder.

Theodore E. WOOD

Age 28; married; University of Florida; Candler; Gainesville District; Candidate for Elder.

Marcus P. ZILLMAN, II

Age 27; single; Florida Southern College; Candler; Leesburg District; Candidate for Elder.

RECOMMENDED FOR DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION



Catalina
Magali Borbon



Connie L.
DeLeo



Leroy O.
Lallance



Brinda Lee
LeBleu

These persons are recommended for transitioning from Diaconal Minister to Deacon in Full Connection.

RECOMMENDED FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

Jodi L. BERNDARDT
Age 40; single; Ferris State; Asbury; St.
Petersburg District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Lisa Ann Moss DEGRENIA
Age 33; married; University of South
Florida; Duke; Tampa District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



John M. DEMARCO
Age 31; married; Florida State University;
Asbury; DeLand District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Mason DORSEY
Age 28; single; University of Florida;
Asbury; Orlando District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Pamela Anderson HALL
Age 46; married; University of North Florida;
Course of Study; Jacksonville District;
Candidate for Commissioned Minister.



Kenneth C. HAMILTON
Age 36; married; Troy State; Candler;
Gainesville District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Bruce E. HINER
Age 44; married; University of Central
Florida; Asbury; Orlando District; Candidate
for Deacon's Orders.



Jane A. HUFFMAN
Age 27; single; University of Central Florida;
Asbury; St. Petersburg District; Candidate
for Commissioned Minister.



Jeffrey ICE
Age 37; married; Florida International;
Asbury; Miami District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Daphne E. JOHNSON
Age 35; married; Florida Southern College;
Candler; Lakeland District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



Arthur P. MCCLELLAN
Age 39; married; Florida State University;
Asbury; Tallahassee District; Candidate for
Commissioned Minister.



John PEAVEY
Age 39; married; Asbury; Asbury;
Jacksonville District; Candidate for
Deacon's Orders.



Daniel K. PRINE
Age 31; married; University of South
Florida; Asbury; Tampa District; Candidate
for Commissioned Minister.



Samuel A. RAMIREZ
Age 63; married; University of Texas – El Paso; Course of Study; Lakeland District; Candidate for Probationary Membership.



G. Troy RAY, III
Age 40; married; Central Bible College; Asbury; DeLand District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.



Jeremy D. REBMAN
Age 25; married; Florida Southern College; Duke; Tampa District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.



Charles D. REEB
Age 26; married; Florida Southern College; Candler; Lakeland District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.



RECOMMENDED FOR LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING

Mark E. BECKER
Heidi BENDER
Margaret BENSON
Michael COFFEY
Elizabeth H.
GARDNER

Harry H. HOLLOWAN
Steven BRUNS
Richard DERRETH
Derek GOLDSTEIN
William MUELLER
Dennis ROEBUCK

Terry MCLAUGHLIN
Richard JONES
Georgia GASTON

RECOMMENDED FOR RECOGNITION OF ORDERS AND LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING

Graham BINGHAM

Age 51; married; Helderberg; Mt. Angel; Seventh Day Adventist;
Melbourne District.

James A. DIVINE

Age 36; married; College of the Ozarks; Wesley Biblical Seminary; World
Gospel Mission; Tallahassee District.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

The Florida Chapter of the Christian Educators Fellowship seeks to support, nurture, and encourage professionals in Christian Education in Florida, and strengthen Christian education in local congregations, districts and our conference. As the second largest chapter in United Methodism with many educators involved only in our local clusters, this chapter has worked to accomplish our purpose in many ways.

Our banquet and meeting at Annual Conference in Lakeland, 1999, was a delightful gathering of members and friends enjoying a candlelight meal, celebrating 31 years as a CEF chapter. We also celebrated persons newly certified in Christian Education, newly consecrated as Diaconal Ministers, and those transitioning from Diaconal Ministers to Permanent Deacons. Vicki Walker was elected to serve as Vice President of program and Jean Taylor was elected to serve as Treasurer of our chapter. Our Officers now include Delia Halverson, a member of the National CEF Board of Directors

Many of our members were asked to serve as leaders at the Discipleship weekend in September, as well as District representatives of Cokesbury Action Teams. Members continue to serve at numerous training events throughout the state.

Thirty of our members attended the annual CEF Retreat in Leesburg in February to experience "What Now? *ministering to a millennial generation*" led by Craig Miller and Carol Sue Hutchinson. Guided by four presentations, a panel discussion, worship, reflection, and shared fellowship, we returned ready to serve God more intentionally in our local settings.

Members of our chapter are planning to attend a National CEF conference in San Diego, California October 2-6, 2000 which will include outstanding keynote speakers, numerous workshops, and inspirational worship experiences.

Our district clusters and interest clusters have been involved in numerous gatherings for the purpose of support, exchange of ideas, covenant sharing, and education.

The officers who led our chapter this past year include: Brinda LeBleu - president; Vicki Walker - vice president of program; Bob Hutchinson - vice president of membership; Laura Roy - secretary; Jean Taylor - treasurer; and Carol Sue Hutchinson as the conference staff representative.

It is our prayer that God will continue to guide our efforts as we seek to provide Christian education opportunities through which all persons may come to know Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Brinda LeBleu, President

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED METHODISTS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS
Florida Chapter, March 1, 2000

The Florida Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts is currently the largest and continues to be one of the strongest chapters in the National Fellowship. Each district of the Florida Conference is represented by an elected representative who is to report to the Executive Council which meets annually in October and again at the annual business meeting which is held during the Church Music Workshop each summer. The executive officers for 1999 – 2000 are:

Dr. Mark Stallings, President; Shelby Fullerton, Past-President;
Kathy Evans, President Elect; Luke Nash, Secretary;
Michael Coldwell, Treasurer; Sue Bond, Membership Secretary;
Jean Bennett serves as editor of "Quarternotes," the Florida Chapter newsletter, which is published four times a year.

The purpose of the Florida Chapter is to "promote worship in the Florida Conference, to provide enrichment and training opportunities for musicians, and to encourage the creative use of music and other arts to glorify God." These goals are implemented throughout the year throughout each district and at the annual Church Music Workshop. Last year's Workshop entitled "Growing Through the Year" was held at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg on July 18 – 23, 1999. The clinicians included:

Terry Goolsby, Adult Choral	Melodie Kvalvik, Youth Choral
Nancy Wood, Middle School Choral	Matthew Corl, Organ
Bryan Fitzgerald, Handbells	Willys Gaines, Dance
and Dr. Tom Price, Worship Leader	

We were excited to add a children's track director to this year's agenda with Michael Nichols as clinician.

This year marked the 41st anniversary of the Adult workshop, the 38th anniversary of the Youth workshop and the 15th anniversary of the middle school workshop.

Participation in the workshop is for all that are interested in music and worship and continues to be a valuable experience for local church worship leaders, musicians, choir members, and handbell ringers. This year marked the third annual Pastor's Day concentrating on "Being in Ministry Together." Each year the Fellowship awards a \$1500 Grant K. Pulen scholarship to a member of the Florida Conference who plans a career in church music.

Members of the Fellowship are available to be of assistance to worship and music leaders throughout the conference. Membership in the "Fellowship" is open to anyone interested in all aspects of worship and is a valuable resource for anyone in the music industry. All

Florida churches are encouraged to participate in this organization. The 2000 Church Music Workshop is scheduled for July 9 – 14 at Eckerd College.

My best for Him, Dr. Mark Stallings, President

THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

The Board of Pensions is committed to serving the Florida Annual Conference by providing the best possible benefits for our clergy participants and lay participants, and their families. The Board is composed of twenty-one members: fourteen lay persons and seven clergy persons, along with ex-officio persons, consultants, and liaisons. Board members also serve on the Health Insurance Committee and the Preacher's Relief Board. Many members of the Board are completing their eight years of service, including Patty Daniels, John Harrington, Gerald Lossing, Jim Mitchell, Bill Pickett, Maida Pou, and Hayes Tate. Over these last four years, we appreciate the leadership given to the Board by Jim Mitchell, as chairperson of the Board of Pensions, Gerald Lossing, as chairperson of the Health Insurance Committee, Bill Pickett, as chairperson of the Preachers Relief Board, and all the faithful members, consultants, liaisons, and ex-officio members. We are proud of what the Board has done over these last four years: substantially increase the Past Service Rate with a current unfunded liability of zero; establish a formula for the pension rate for retired conference lay employees; stabilize the health insurance program; and begin to address the task of unfunded retiree health insurance benefits for the future. There is still a lot of work to do as we pass on the torch to a new Board for a new quadrennium. The Board is fortunate to have the capable leadership in Rev. David Dodge as Executive Director and Rev. Tom Marston as Conference Treasurer. We are also appreciative of the fine work and support that Jenny DiLorenzo and Winnie Dean give this Board in so many ways.

The Florida Conference Average Compensation (CAC):
2000 — \$ 48,785 2001 — \$ 49,976

The Denominational Average Compensation (DAC):
2000 — \$40,805 2001 — \$ 42,233

The Board of Pensions submits four reports for action:

Report I - Past Service Rate

The Board of Pensions recommends that the Past Service Rate for 2001 be \$550.

The 2001 Rate is equal to 1.10% of the 2001 Conference Average Compensation. This recommended increase is made possible by a recent actuarial analysis by the General Board. The 2000 Past Service Rate was \$512.

Report II - Special Grants

The Board of Pensions recommends special grants for Humberto Carrazano, Richard Johnston, William Johnston, Walter McMullen, Deborah Parsons, and Donald Rock.

The Board of Pensions recommends continued special grants for former lay employees of the Florida Annual Conference: Doris Buhman, Janet Hardin, Elizabeth Hogan, Eugene Hogan, Leroy Northrup, Clara Spencer, and Mary Winslow. The rate per service year is

set according to a formula based on 50% of the Conference Past Service Rate. The rate per service year for former lay employees is projected to be \$ 275.00 for 2001.

Report III - Apportionment Recommendation for 2001

The Board of Pensions recommends the Apportionment for Pension and Benefits Programs, amounts that are required to meet the needs of the pension and benefits programs of the annual conference according to ¶ 1507 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 1996, include the health insurance supplement and the funding for the reduction of retiree health insurance unfunded liability. The health insurance supplement currently is included in the Conference Service Administration apportionment. The Apportionment for Pension and Benefits Program would be apportioned to the local churches by formula determined by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and would include the current policy of prior claim on unpaid amounts by the local church for the following years.

The Board of Pensions recommends the following amounts with referral to the Council on Finance and Administration as necessary to fund the Apportionment for Pension and Benefits Programs for 2001:

Apportionment for Pension and Benefits Programs

Health Insurance Supplement	
Active Clergy Supplement & Life Insurance	\$ 1,250,000
Retiree Insurance Plan	\$ 1,250,000
Ministerial Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF)	\$ 0
Ministerial Retiree Benefits Fund (MRBF)	\$ 120,000
Comprehensive Pension Program (CPP)	\$ 1,180,000
Basic Protection Program (BPP)	\$ 62,000
Special Grants	\$ 50,000
Pensions Support	\$ 50,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 3,962,000</u>

Report IV - Housing/Rental Allowance Resolution

Relating to Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Disabled Minister
of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

WHEREAS, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a housing/rental as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

WHEREAS, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Florida Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Florida Annual Conference;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. An amount equal to 100% of the pensions payments received during the year of 2001 be and is hereby designated as a housing/rental allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Florida Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement.
2. This housing/rental allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or place on disability leave by the Florida Annual Conference and whose name and relationship to the Conference is recorded in the Journal of the Florida Annual Conference and in other appropriate records maintained by the Conference.
3. The pension payment to which this housing/rental allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference or institution of The United Methodist Church or of a former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired ministers' pension.

NOTE: On August 20, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. This legislation contained a provision that ensures that pension benefits designated as housing allowance for retired clergy are not subject to Self Employment Contributions Act (SECA) tax.

- Retired clergy will continue to avoid paying taxes (either income or SECA taxes) on the portion of their pension which is used to provide housing and housing related expenses. The amount excluded cannot exceed the smallest of the following amounts:
- the amount actually spent for housing including, but not limited to: maintenance, utilities, furnishings and taxes;
- the fair rental value of the housing including the fair rental value of furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of the utilities; or
- the amount of the taxable portion of the pension benefit received from the General Board.

The General Board reports to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the full amount distributed to a retired clergyperson, even though all or a portion of that amount may be excluded from income. The clergyperson will receive from the General Board a Form 1099-R. This form will reflect the amount of money the clergyperson received from the General Board.

A retired clergyperson who is excluding the eligible portion of the clergy pension from income as housing allowance should attach a copy of the Form 1099-R to the federal tax

return and also add an explanatory note. The note should state something similar to the following:

"I received \$x,xxx from the General board as reported on the attached 1099-R. I did not include that amount on Line 16b because it has been excluded under the provisions of IRC Section 107 as a rental allowance exclusion. As a retired United Methodist clergyperson, I am entitled to take this rental allowance exclusion."

The General Board receives many questions from surviving spouses asking about whether or not they are able to use the housing allowance exclusion. The IRS has ruled that the exclusion applies to clergy only. Thus, upon the death of a retired clergyperson and assuming the filing of a joint tax return, the surviving spouse may exclude from pension income any housing costs paid for during the life of the clergyperson. Costs which were paid for after the death of the clergyperson may not be excluded from pension income.

If you received a distribution from the General Board and you rolled over that distribution to an individual Retirement Account (IRA) or another 403 (b) annuity, you may not be able to claim the rental allowance exclusion against any of the payments you receive from that IRA or section 403 (b) annuity.

IRS Publication 530 will also be useful to you regarding the housing allowance exclusion. This note was contained in "Pension Notes – January 1999" published by the General Board and is being provided with the understanding that the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and its constituent corporations, their members, officers and employees are not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or professional services. If legal advice or other professional assistance is required, the services of a competent professional advisor should be sought.

James A. Mitchell, Chairperson
Patricia M. Daniels, Secretary

Board of Pensions
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 1999

Assets

Investments in General Board of Pensions

Conference Endowment Fund	4,534.29	
Deposit Account	18,448,845.63	
Past Service Funding Account	17,492,415.44	
Superannuate Endowment Fund	<u>253,546.21</u>	<u>36,199,341.57</u>

Cash

	278,815.69	
A/R Apportionments	117,148.56	
Total Assets	36,595,305.82	

Liabilities and Net Assets

Net Assets
Pension Fund Balance 36,595,305.82

Board of Pensions
Statement of Financial Activities
January 1- December 31, 1999

<u>Income</u>		
MRPF/CPP Apportionments	1,562,856.30	
Defined Benefit Annuity Reserve Fund	3,028,958.00	
Temporary Aid Fund		
United Methodist Publishing House	22,772.97	
Chartered Fund	515.13	
Printing Establishment Fund	0.00	
Interest Income	3,637,900.74	
Superannuate Endowment Fund	<u>31,116.80</u>	<u>8,284,119.94</u>

Expenditures		
BPP Premiums	54,702.47	
CPP Premiums	842,275.09	
MRPF	564,865.68	
Special Grant	43,623.58	
Unfunded Liability	<u>2,505,911.23</u>	<u>4,011,378.05</u>
Income in Excess of Expenditures		<u>4,272,741.89</u>

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

The Florida Annual Conference provides disability benefits through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). When a participant has been approved for disability status and has been certified as disabled by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Medical Review Board, the applying participant will begin to receive compensation at the rate of 40% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) on a monthly basis and an additional 10% from the Basic Protection Plan (BPP). The 2000 disability rate is \$ 20,402.50 and the 2001 disability rate is \$21,116.50. As the DAC increases, the CPP and BPP benefit will increase proportionately. In addition, there is a 3% annual increase each July, provided the benefit was in effect by the previous December 31.

The Joint Committee on Disability has approved continuing disability benefits for the Conference Year 2000-2001 for the following persons: Donald M. Brown, Larry P. Dinning, Frank Edwards, Thomas P. Ettinger, Carol E. Green, Don Jordan, Don McMillan, Chilton W. McPheeters, Russell Moore, James K. Rowland, and Robert L. Sterner, Curtis Norton. The Joint Committee on Disability asks the Conference members to keep these persons and their families in your prayers.

James A. Mitchell, Chairperson
Patricia M. Daniels, Secretary

INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The Conference Committee on Insurance makes the following recommendations:
 - a. The Florida Conference continues with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits HealthFlex program for 2001.
 - b. The Florida Annual Conference budget for 2001 for medical and life insurance program shall be set at \$2,500,000. The Conference share funding is set at 22%.
 - c. Cigna is to continue as our carrier for the Basic Life Insurance Program. Minnesota Mutual is to continue as carrier for the Supplemental Life Insurance Program and will be paid 100% by each participant without Conference funding.
 - d. The Florida Conference will continue with the American Dental Plan, the Dental insurance coverage for 2001.
 - e. The firm of AON Consulting shall continue to serve as Agent of Record for the Life Insurance Program.
2. A special sub-committee of the Florida Conference Insurance Committee was appointed January, 1999, with Rod McClarnon as Chair to study the Health Insurance Unfunded Liability. This Committee met 5 times during 1999 and twice in January 2000, in order to get input from all sources.

As a result of these meetings, a medical evaluation of the Florida Annual Conference Unfunded Liability concerning health insurance costs for the next 20 years was made. This study was done by in-house actuaries of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and this was reviewed by William E. Mercer, Inc., a well known national consulting firm.

An analysis of participants demographics, medical claims experience and utilization, in conjunction with national trends was performed to determine actuarial assumptions, including but not limited to, mortality, turn over, investment return, healthcare inflation, and number of future retirees and beneficiaries.

These assumptions were incorporated in an actuarial model which was used to predict the Florida Conference future retirees medical premiums, and the liability associated with the provision of such benefits.

Using this information the unfunded liability for the next 20 years amounts to an estimated 59+ million dollars. Up to this point, the Florida Conference has been on a "pay as you go" basis which means that retiree medical costs are ignored totally during an active's career and paid for annually as premiums come due.

This study points out that one of the greatest dangers is that "pay as you go" expenses for the Florida Annual Conference is expected to triple in the next 15 years. This is why we must address this issue now.

Within the United Methodist Church, the provision of retiree medical payments is determined individually by each Conference. Decisions are made by the Annual Conference on the method of sharing costs. Cost sharing occurs between the Annual Conference, the local church and the individual clergy. There is no requirement in the *Book of Discipline* that benefits are to be provided.

The Florida Annual Conference up to this point pays 22% of the annual premium for active clergy, and the local church pays 78%.

In looking at other Conferences, there are many variations; some do not provide funding for retiree (including spouse) health insurance at all. We, in Florida, provide 100% funding. Many Conferences choose to provide less funding than Florida does.

In summary, the huge anticipated growth in retirees medical costs is due to many factors. The largest of these factors are:

- a. healthcare inflation
- b. increased utilization of health care associated with living longer, partially due to development of new drugs.
- c. Growth in the number of retirees. It was found that more than half of the active work force is age 50 or over.

You are all very familiar with the situation we were in concerning our unfunded liability in the pension fund. This is a somewhat similar situation. Pension funding is a more exact science, and is more predictable than future health care costs. However, it is equally important that we start solving this problem now.

The Conference (Board of Pensions) Committee on Insurance recommend the following actions to address the retiree health insurance liability and that such actions would be implemented effective 1/1/2001:

- a. the amount used from the health insurance supplement for retiree health premiums will not exceed 50% of the supplement for the next quadrennium, subject to annual review.
- b. an allocation be made from the Deposit Service Account in the amount of \$600,000 in 2001 and increasing by 7.9% annually.
- c. A monthly premium allocation of \$10.00 be paid by each retiree enrolled in the health insurance plan and an additional \$10.00 be paid by each retiree spouse enrolled.
- d. A \$120,000 annual apportionment be included in the MRPF/BPP/PPP apportionment total (to be renamed the Apportionment for Pension and Benefits Program). This part of the total apportionment will be entitled "Ministers Reserve Benefit Fund (MRBF).

Gerald Lossing, Chairperson

PREACHERS RELIEF BOARD

Rev. Paul Morris, property manager, and his wife, Ann continue to do a fantastic job of "pastoring" 19 ministers and/or families from Tallahassee to Miami as well as overseeing the upkeep of the properties where they live. We have 19 homes and 1 duplex. All but one are in good repair and are covered by the conference insurance.

David Dodge, Division of Ministry director, announced there will be a luncheon for retiring ministers at this years Annual Conference. David also submitted an excellent financial report in the absence of Conference Treasurer, Tom Marston.

Necessitous cases among the clergy are not being reported to this committee and we are purchasing a one page advertisement in the "Welcome Book" to try to reach more clergy who are in need.

Maida Pou, Vice Chairperson

Lee Ferdon, Secretary

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

It has been a fine four years serving as Equitable Compensation Chairperson. Supporting and facilitating ministry has its own satisfaction. I commend the Bishop, the Cabinet, the churches and all members of the Commission on Equitable Compensation for making it such a pleasant experience.

My prayer is that the churches will continue to grow stronger in ministry, financial sufficiency and love for Christ's church and its mission. May God richly bless you.

The recommendations for the following year are as follows:

Guidelines

Equitable Compensation funds will be granted in accordance with the following guidelines. Only the Equitable Compensation Commission at the request of a District Superintendent may grant exceptions.

1. Who is qualified to receive minimum salary funds?
 - All full-time pastors who are not excluded in Section 2.
 - Student Pastors - maximum allowable \$3,700 from Equitable Compensation Funds with total salary not to exceed \$8,000.
 - Ministers serving those pastoral assignments of more than 125 members with an average attendance of 55 at the principle worship time. If the membership and attendance figures remain the same over a three year period, consideration will be given to the church becoming part of a circuit or part-time. The exceptions are student appointments and new church situations in the first three years of organization.
2. Who are not eligible for minimum salary support?
 - All pastors who are retired.
 - Part-time pastors are not eligible for minimum salary support except in those cases where ministry within the discretion of the District Superintendent and Cabinet warrant special support. The amount of support available will not exceed 50% of the amount available on a full-time basis.
 - Ministers on Leave of Absence.
 - Associate Pastors.
 - Any ordained conference member not under pastoral appointment.
 - Those who are appointed from other Annual Conferences under Disciplinary appointment of 337.1 and 377.2.
3. To become a claimant a minister must live in the bounds of his/her parish and give full-time service to that charge. Studies pursued in an approved college or university are considered part of the work of the ministry if approved by the District Superintendent.
4. Applications for Equitable Compensation funds are submitted twice a year and must be received by the Conference office on or before December 1 and May 1. The December 1 application requires the signature of the Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, request for funds by the Charge Conference and the signature of the District Superintendent. The May 1 application may be completed by the District Superintendent and submitted to the Conference office.
5. Before a church is granted salary support, the church must conduct, or agree to conduct, a Stewardship Commitment plan.
6. The maximum allowable for any one minister is \$5,000 per year from Minimum Salary Support funds.
7. Assistance may not be received from both Missional Situation Funds and New Church Development Funds. Assistance may not be received from both Minimum Salary Support Funds and New Church Development Funds.
8. Churches whose salary support is at or near minimum may apply for assistance with utilities, health insurance, or moving expenses, or from the Haitian Hispanic Ministers Fund.
9. Churches/missions must submit a plan for ministry when making an initial application for equitable compensation funds. This plan must demonstrate the need for

assistance and the manner in which the church/mission will be working to eliminate that need in a timely way. *

10. Churches/missions may receive the requested assistance for up to five years. In year six (6) the request will be reduced by 25%; in year seven (7) by 50%; in year eight (8) 75%. There will be no assistance granted after the eighth year. *

* denotes new guidelines to become effective for 2001

Minimum Salary Recommendations

The Commission has reviewed the cost of living index and suggests the following minimum salary levels including travel.

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Full Connection with M. Div	\$27,625	\$28,525
Probationary Members with M. Div.	\$27,125	\$28,025
Full Connection without M. Div.	\$26,625	\$27,525
Associate Members	\$26,125	\$27,025
Full-time Local Pastor with two or more years of Course of Study	\$25,840	\$26,740
Full-time Local Pastor with less than two years of Course of Study	\$25,565	\$26,465

Other Equitable Compensation Funds

Longevity Merit Increase:

A minister who has served ably four years or more in full-time service, two of which have been in the Florida Conference, may receive an additional merit supplement to insure that the present salary is \$500 above the minimum salary level. A minister who has served ably eight years or more in full-time service, four of which have been in the Florida Conference, may receive an additional merit supplement to insure that the present salary is \$1,000 above the minimum salary base. Each minister must notify the District Superintendent who will make application to the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

Missional Situations:

Missional situations are those missions or organized churches in areas which demand an effective ministry but are not financially capable of providing such ministries without Conference assistance. There will be an annual review by the District Superintendent, the district Work Area on Missions representative and/or the District Committee on Missions to determine if each Missional situation in the district meets the guidelines. The Associate Council Director with responsibility for missions will consult with the District Superintendents concerning each Missional situation, and will share this information with the Work Area on Missions. Upon recommendation of the Conference Work Area on Missions, the Equitable Compensation Commission will provide amounts up to \$2,000 for support. Upon recommendation of the Conference Work Area on Missions an additional \$2,000 may be granted in exceptional circumstances. Request for salary support from Equitable Compensation Commission for Missional situations shall be made by December 1 and May 1 and shall accompany the Equitable Compensation Request form.

Utilities, Health Insurance, Moving Expenses:

The Equitable Compensation Commission recommends that each local church pay the Pastor's utilities and the portion of the group hospitalization premium which is not paid by the Annual Conference. In hardship situations pastors may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for utilities and for health insurance payments not covered by the Conference or the local church. The Equitable Compensation Commission will pay only 60% of the base Health Insurance plan. In areas where HMO's are available, they shall be considered the base plan.

The Equitable Compensation Commission joins with the Cabinet in recommending that each receiving church pay actual moving expenses within the bounds of the Florida Conference. Pastors at minimum salary level may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for funds not to exceed \$400 or 75% of the total cost if not paid by the local church.

Ethnic Parsonage Fund:

This fund is intended for the purchase and upgrading of ethnic parsonages and not for rental property or pastors living in their own homes. Application can be made through the District Superintendent for grants not exceeding \$3,600 for full time minister or \$1,800 for part-time minister.

Haitian-Hispanic Ministries Fund:

This fund, budgeted by the Conference Work Area on Missions and administered by the Commission on Equitable Compensation, provided a maximum supplement of \$2,000 for Haitian and Hispanic pastors that meet the other Equitable Compensation guidelines.

Beginning in 1993, a Haitian or Hispanic congregation that has already received a supplement for six years or more may be eligible to receive additional funds for a maximum of one more year at 100%, a second year at 75%, a third year at 50%, and a fourth year at 25%. A Haitian or Hispanic congregation that has already received a supplement for five years or less, may be eligible to receive additional funds for a maximum of five more years at 100%, an additional year at 75%, an additional year at 50%, and an additional year at 25%.

2001 Budget Request

The Council on Finance and Administration is requested to appropriate \$425,000 for the Equitable Compensation Commission Program for the fiscal year 2000. The Conference Treasurer shall remit funds to the District Superintendents for the distributions to the pastors as certified by the Executive Director of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Equitable Salaries	\$187,000	\$100,000
Longevity	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000
Missional		\$ 75,000
Haitian/Hispanic		\$ 26,000
Utilities and Moving	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,000
Ethnic Parsonages	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000
Health and Hardship	\$ 59,500	\$ 57,000
Pensions	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000
Workers Compensation	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500
Administration	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Special Grant - Church Redev.	<u>\$ 75,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>

studies, praise night, fellowship dinners, campus evangelism, prayer ministry, mission trips, small group fellowship, Church-related vocational counseling, community service opportunities, Upper Room residential student staff, student choir, praise band, prayer garden, drama team, and fellowship activities.

University of Florida, Gainesville

Budget Request: \$108,695.00

Current Percentage of Total Church Budget Funded by Florida Annual Conference: 35%

University United Methodist Church & Student Center is a unique combination of both church and campus ministry student center. Its purpose is to focus on the spiritual needs of the University of Florida's 51,500 students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding Gainesville community. The ministry recently celebrated two landmark anniversaries – the 50th for University Church and the 75th for the Wesley Foundation. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Minister's salary and benefits, church support staff salaries, church and student center ministry programs, property maintenance of church, student center and parsonage (Church property value \$1,826,050.00; parsonage value \$130,000.00.) Ministry programs include: providing pastoral counseling/care for both church and student center, weekly worship services, bible study groups, Sunday school classes, retreats, small groups, evangelism outreach, mission trips, community service opportunities, Church-related vocational counseling, Maranatha Choir, handbell choir, Upper Room residential student staff program, leadership training, and fellowship events.

Miami District Campus Ministry

Budget Request: \$127,482.00

Current Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC: 63%

Miami District Campus Ministry is offering Christ to the more than 50,000 students, faculty and staff of the University of Miami. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salaries, campus ministry programs, building maintenance for University of Miami Wesley Foundation and parsonage (Foundation property value \$773,000.00; parsonage value \$197,000.) Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, "The River" weekly worship service, weekly coffee house, bible studies, small groups, mission trips, prayer group, drama group, dance team, praise band, community service projects, evangelism outreach, Church-related vocational counseling, Upper Room residential student staff, leadership training, Christian library and fellowship activities.

Stetson University Wesley Foundation, DeLand

Budget Request: \$62,907.00

Current Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget funded by FAC: 78%

The Wesley House at Stetson University is dedicated to sharing, deepening and enriching the Christian faith of Stetson's 2,600 students, faculty and staff. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Ministry Director's salary and benefits, campus ministry programs, and Wesley Foundation building maintenance (property value \$530,000.00.) Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, bible studies, prayer ministry, small groups, drama and puppet ministry, mission trips, evangelism outreach, spiritual retreats, community service projects, fellowship dinners, coffee house, Upper Room residential student staff, leadership training, Church-related vocational counseling, Christian library and fellowship activities.

University of Central Florida Wesley Foundation, Orlando
Budget Request: \$65,000.00
Current Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC: 38%

The Wesley Foundation seeks to minister to the 32,000 students, faculty and staff of the University of Central Florida. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, campus ministry programs and parsonage maintenance (parsonage property value \$111,000.) UCF ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, bible studies, small groups, small group leadership training program, mission trips, community service projects, evangelism outreach, fellowship dinners, Church-related vocational counseling, student leadership training, staff intern program and fellowship activities.

University of South Florida – Crosswinds, Tampa
Budget Request: \$63,718.00
Current Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC: 68%

The Crosswinds campus ministry has the opportunity to reach the University of South Florida's 40,000 students, faculty and staff on four campuses throughout the central gulf coast area. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salary, ministry programs and building maintenance for the Wesley Foundation and parsonage (Crosswinds property value \$250,000.00; parsonage value \$150,000.00.) Crosswinds provides the following programming: pastoral counseling/care, student leadership training, weekly worship service, prayer teams, bible study, mission trips, evangelism outreach, service projects, residential staff team, Church-related vocational counseling and fellowship activities.

Jacksonville Campus Ministry
Budget Request: \$26,000.00
Current Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC: 44%

Jacksonville Campus Ministry is an ecumenical ministry that serves over 13,000 students, faculty and staff at the University of North Florida. A total of six Protestant denominations support this ministry. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salary, and ministry programs. Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, worship services, bible studies, student leader scholarships, leadership training, mission trips, fellowship discussion dinners, drama productions, community service projects, prayer breakfast and fellowships activities.

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers
Budget Request: \$26,000.00

The requested funds will allow the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to establish a Wesley Foundation at Florida's newest state university – Florida Gulf Coast University. Programs will be run in cooperation with local United Methodist congregations and include the following: pastoral counseling/care, small group outreach to new university apartment complexes, weekly worship opportunities, bible studies, community service projects and fellowship activities.

Grant Money
Budget Request: \$50,000.00

Ecumenical ministries are eligible to apply for a grant up to, but not more than the amount received from any other single denomination, including local churches. The grant is not to exceed \$8000.00. All campus ministries may apply for grants of up to \$5000.00 for new ministry programs on the basis of their creativity. The purpose of this program is to stimulate new ministry ideas. The deadline for submitting request for these grants is June 1, 2001, and they are required to have matching funds.

Student Conferences

Budget Request: \$6,000.00

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry sponsors a yearly state-wide United Methodist Student Movement Retreat at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp. This event was first organized in the 1930's. There is no substitute for the vitality that comes from intercollegiate relationships among Christian students. This retreat gives college students from 12 Florida campus ministries and local church congregations the opportunity to grow spiritually, share ideas and enlarge their circle of Christian peers.

Campus Ministry Staff Grants

Budget Request: \$22,000

This Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry Staff Grant Program is designed to assist campus ministries in creating full-time staff-intern positions. These internships give college graduates an opportunity to gain valuable experience and training in both practical and theoretical aspects of ministry. They dedicate one year of their lives to learning about and experiencing full-time Christian service to college students. It is the desire of the BHECM that these interns will discover and use their spiritual gifts, develop theologically, and gain practical ministry training. Many of these young people intend to pursue positions in church-related ministry as a career.

United Methodist Colleges

Since its inception, the United Methodist Church has demonstrated a deep commitment to learning and higher education. We share a rich heritage of quality academics strengthened by Christian values. United Methodist educational institutions are true to the principles of a liberal arts education, which exposes students to a wide range of disciplines. More importantly, they teach young people to create a vision of themselves as leaders and achievers so they can apply their faith and education to a career that enriches their lives. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry strongly recommends continued financial support to our two Florida Conference United Methodist-related colleges: Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Southern College.

Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach

Budget Request: \$113,000.00

(Bethune-Cookman receives additional funding from the Black College Fund)

Florida Southern College, Lakeland

Budget Request: \$428,000.00

BHECM Administration	\$ 13,000
Salaries and Benefits	63,000
Property Maintenance	136,000

Contingency	15,000
Resource Development	7,500
Property Acquisition - UCF	16,500

Short-Term Goals:

- To conduct yearly evaluations of campus ministries for the quality of their performance, the integrity of their mission, fiscal responsibility/annual audits, and their response to the missional goals of the United Methodist Church.
- To provide young adult ministry resources to local United Methodist Churches.
- To focus on providing campus ministers with new resources and continuing education events to enrich their ministry to young adults.
- To promote the United Methodist Student Day Offering and scholarship and loan opportunities for United Methodist students. The BHECM will administer scholarship funds rebated from the General Church.
- To promote the Eulalie Ginn Foundation for Higher Education, which seeks to help campus ministries build financial endowments and assist local boards in fund-raising training.
- To continue to work closely with local campus ministry boards of directors and develop a board training program and handbook.
- To assist Wesley Foundations in creating internet web-sites and internet evangelism programs.
- To continue publication of our new bi-annual BHECM Florida Conference Newsletter which provides resources for persons in ministry to collegians.
- To maintain a state-wide system to track United Methodist Students during their transition from youth group to college campus ministry.
- To refine our new property management system for campus ministry buildings under our guardianship.
- To work with Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Southern College to develop publicity posters and materials to promote United Methodist higher education.

Medium-Term Goals:

- To conduct extensive on-site visitations and evaluations of campus ministry units every two years, including detailed interviews with students, local board of directors, and campus staff.
- To continue building a new network of ministries to community college campuses by encouraging and resourcing local church congregations to reach out to campuses not currently served by a Wesley Foundation.
- To facilitate the formation of a United Methodist Student Movement Florida Conference Leadership Team.
- To interpret systematically to the districts, and all local churches the conference program of campus ministry to the whole campus (students, faculty, staff and administration), encouraging their support, and urging United Methodist students of all ages to participate.
- To study current and developing trends in campus ministry for the creation of new outreach models.

Board of HECM Funding Request For 2001: \$1,574,717

**HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESLEY FOUNDATIONS OR ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

UNIVERSITY

OF FLORIDA

Jim Alexander
Wendy Alexander
Rosellen Dedlow
Doug DeMichele
Mary Derrick
Pam Dixon
Mary Ruth Elfe
Eric Enholm
Bill Feaster
Pam Feaster
Ray Feinberg
Glenda Gable
James Gilbert
Barry Graves
Janice Graves
Bethany Hansen
Dennis Hansen
Sally Hansen
Robert Jackson
Doug Johnson
Lavonne Johnson
Beth Keith
Brice Keith
Lauren Keith
Jeanne King
Janet Langworthy
Anne Lawson
Michael LeGrande
Michelle LeGrande
Tim Leslie
Reta Matthews
Lorraine Mott
Grace Okine
Amy Palmer
George Palmer
Adam Perkins
Jim Perkins
Patti Perkins
Heath Petersen
Pam Petersen
Rick Petersen
Pat Samuel

Carolyn Scheaffer
Dick Scheaffer
Nancy Scheaffer
Cheryl Simpson
Heather Simpson
Kim Simpson
Lindsay Slinkard
Brian Smith
Joe Smith
Emory Springfield
Jennifer Springfield
Molly Springfield
Robin Sterling
Tim Sterling
Enid Storter
Bob Swinford
Mickie Seinfeld
Emily Venable
Dick Wilson
Ruth Ann Wilson
Arnold Wirtala
Grace Wirtala
William Yeager

UNIVERSITY

OF MIAMI

Kim Adams
Sharon Austin
David Beers
Lisa Beers
Marta Burke
Linda Burton
C. Campbell-Evans
Steve Clark
G. Gilyard-Ingraham
Craig Hammond
Brent Hodkey
Carolyn Hurt
Tim Hurt
Gertrude Jarrett
Annette Jones
Cristina Kesler
Ana Lopez
Curt Maxwell

Delano McIntosh
Meredith McMillan
A. Paulus-Rosenow
Z. Paulus-Rosenow
Clint Rodenbush
Cheryl Star
Todd Stube
Amy Tarantino
Dana Turpin
Sue Van Orsdel

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

Bill Anderson
Chuck Arnett
Fred Bonsteel
Janice Boone
Carol Christopher
Ron Christopher
Matt D'Angelo
Evelyn Dunn
Perry Dunn
Gil Fonger
Anna Jackson
Liz Kohlmyer
Becky Mueller
Mike Mullens
Meade Owens
Dick Paradise
John Powers
Sarah Roland
Tom Tanenbaum
Carlton Vaught

STETSON

Kevin Boyd
Melissa Delker
Andrew Dexter
Montfort Duncan
Robert Fox
Ross Geiger
Melissa Greg
Cindy Guiles
Wayne Hanks
Linda Hidek
Ben Johns
Janet Kelley
Becky Kruse
Nancy Lail
Bill Ottinger
Kim Rathburn
Hardy Sandlin
Owen Stricklin
Dorothy Winters
Frank Wood
Michael Wycuff

JACKSONVILLE

CAMPUS MIN.
William Fackler
Teresa Hill
Juanita Jones
Dianne Knoepfel
Robert McCrary
Evelyn Penney
Ed Washburn
Barbara Wilcox

CROSSWINDS

USF WESLEY
FOUNDATION
Carol Baker
Bob Braman
David Brazelton

John Denmark
Mark Dummeldinger
Clark Edwards
Tonya Eichenberger
Ted Fielland
Rob Harding
Steve Haulman
Alan Hevner
Allen Johnson
Marvin Moore
A. C. Myers
Richard Neal
Tamara Preston
Charlie Pritt
Thom Shafer
John Shively
Mac Steinmeyer
Bruce Toms

FLORIDA A & M

Kimberly Ames
Richard Andrews
Lawrence Barriner
Edna Bennett
Mark Caldwell
Delores Dean
Ronald Downing
Richard Flamer
Ronald Lumpkin
William McCray
Shelita Nelson
Bill Rhoads
Barbara Stiles
Joseph Stiles
John Stroman
Charles Weaver
Charlotte Williams
John Williams
Newton Williams

FLORIDA STATE

Guy Brewer
Mark Caldwell
Gary Cherry
Dorothy Downing
Ron Downing
Bill Fritchman
Claude Geiger
Elaine Geiger
John Harrington
Louis Hernandez
David Hodges
Tim Jones
Wayne Maxwell
Jim McWhinney
Jon Morales
T. J. Moroney
Dean Morphonios
Joni Morphonios
Gary Morris
Gabe Mnayarji
Betsy Ouellette
Barbara Pearce
Jack Pearce
R. Quackenbush
Rayni Risher
C. Shackelford
Linda Simmons
Elaine Smith
Jack Stroman
Sean Thomasson
Bob Tindale
Josefina Tranfa
Art Ulrich
Charles Weaver
Terry Williams
Freddy Williams
Rich Wilson

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER REPORT

It has been my privilege to serve as your Conference Lay Leader for the past four years. I have tried faithfully to represent the laity wherever I have been called to serve. I have met so many wonderful people and seen the positive effects of lay ministry on all levels of the church. I have traveled about 70,000 miles in this Conference and other places and spent more than 500 days away from home. I have attended more meetings than I can remember, but I count it all as joy!

For the last four years, the Board of Lay Ministry has tried to look at innovative ways of doing things and making our presence known. You will note that we have increased our ministry at Annual Conference by sponsoring the Prayer Garden and hosting a Laity Dinner as well as conduct Lay Orientation. We have developed a new Lay Leader Handbook which is available to every lay leader in the Florida Conference. This document will soon be on the Conference Web site where you will also find a listing of all laity who are in Conference leadership positions

We have increased our support for District Lay Events and for District Lay Leaders. Once again this year we will help to sponsor Discipleship Weekend which will be held in September at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg. This event offers a variety of ministry opportunities for laity including credit for Lay Speaking. When I was elected Lay Leader four years ago, I recognized the need for an effective communications vehicle for the laity. For many reasons, I have not been successful in this effort but I have appointed a committee to study and work with other appropriate entities to make this a reality.

The ministries of the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Youth continue to provide excellent opportunities for lay ministry under the leadership of John Dowell, Annie Woods and Chandler Bricklemeyer. The United Methodist Men will again co-sponsor the Bishop's Invitational in Tallahassee in July. The UMM retreats continue to provide opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. This year they will add a Singles Retreat. The United Methodist Women's gifts to mission totaled \$801,569.29. Their priorities are welfare reform on children, refugees and immigration and eliminating racism, they have approved a Haitian Coordinator and Korean Coordinator. These coordinators along with the Hispanic coordinator will enable a more then to reach more women. One of the most exciting ministries in the Florida Conference is the Lay Speaking Ministry so ably directed by Glenna Kyker Brayton. This ministry continues to grow and the Board of Lay Ministry has increased its budget over the last two years to enable expansion of this ministry. Jim Goode had been the director of Lay Speaking, and Lay Renewal. He will be stepping down this year but the Board has elected Wayne Storey to that position for the coming year. This has been an effective ministry in those churches who have had these missions. I urge you to consider inviting this group in the coming year to your church.

It has indeed been a privilege to serve on the board of Florida Southern College and as Secretary for the Bethune-Cookman College Board. Both of these colleges have been recognized for their commitment to value and excellence. We give thanks that Florida Southern not only met but exceeded its campaign goal of 50 millions dollars. Bethune-Cookman's campaign is on-going but they have received several significant grants and donations and are in the process of building an auditorium and a student center. The BCC Chorale performed at the President's Prayer Breakfast and also General Conference. We give thanks for the positive effect they are having on the lives of young men and women. These institutions are worthy of your continued financial support and prayers.

It has been a joy to participate in the ministries of the National Association of Conference Lay Leaders and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Lay Leaders. Our own Patricia Brown led the NACLLE in worship when we met just outside of Portland in February. The SEJ Laity Conference held in July is always a highlight. I wish more of our Florida laity would take advantage of the opportunities offered at this conference.

I am grateful to all of you, both clergy and lay, who have continued to support me with your prayers and for all the former Conference Lay Leaders who have provided their advice and support. I am especially thankful for Dorothye and Bishop Henderson; our cabinet liaison, Walter Edwards; the Bishop's administrative assistant, Keith Ewing; Conference administrative assistant, Barbara Holden; Council Director, Bill Walker and his assistant Diana Herchig, and the officers and other members of the Board of Lay Ministry. Finally I give thanks for my husband, Bob, who has been so supportive of my ministry. Without his love and understanding and God's grace and guidance, I would have never been able to fulfill this commitment.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Conference Lay Leader. It has been a joy and a privilege.

Mary Alice Massey, Conference Lay Leader

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST

Vision Statement: The vision of the Board of Lay Ministry is to make faithful disciples, in a shared ministry with clergy.

Mission/Purpose Statement: The mission/purpose of the Board of Lay Ministry is to provide opportunities to celebrate, encourage and strengthen the ministry of the laity.

The Board of Lay Ministry continues to seek innovative ways to assist the laity in their ministry. We have successfully linked with other entities including the Discipleship Ministry Team, Spiritual Formation and School of Ministry to offer opportunities for the laity. We also know that we must seek new and younger leadership to be a part of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry, so we look for ways to make this a reality.

In 1999, we developed a "Lay Leader Handbook" which is being made available to every congregation in the Florida Conference. There is still a need for a more comprehensive means of communication for all laity and a committee will be appointed to study the feasibility of such a piece in 2000.

One of the fastest growing programs involving lay ministry is the Lay Speaking Program. We recognize that they have not been adequately funded and we seek to rectify this in the 2001 budget. We also know that Annual Conference affords us an opportunity to reach a great number of laity and so we have enhanced all of our events, which include Orientation, a Laity Dinner (to which all laity are invited), and in 2000 we will fully sponsor the Prayer Garden. We will continue to evaluate each program/event's effectiveness in an effort to be good stewards.

Board Of Lay Ministry Funding Request For 2001: \$25,275

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The retreat theme this year, "Jesus is the Answer". Says a great deal about the Florida Conference United Methodist Men. I say that because whatever we as men of this great denomination do, the clear directive "Jesus is the Answer" becomes the very fiber of our actions.

In our personal witnessing, wherever our walk takes us, in our family, our church, our community life, where we work or play, we keep coming back to this basic truth 'Jesus is the Answer'.

The couples' retreats are before us as I complete this report and these five weekends are a great part of the activities in which the United Methodist men participate. I encourage the men and their wives to take advantage of the very special times as folks from all over the conference come together in a retreat setting to a place called Leesburg.

A place made holy by the many who have gone before us
A place made holy by the preaching and reading of God's Word
A place made holy by the prayers lifted up and answered there

A place made holy by the joy of people singing praises to the majesty of our God.
A place made holy by our laughter and our tears
A place made holy by hearts and relationships healed

But most important Leesburg is made holy by the very presence of Jesus Christ. If you've never been to a United Methodist Men's retreat and seen for yourselves the Spirit of our awesome God as he moves through our lives, please come! If you've been before, come back again

On June 24 the men from three conferences will come together to honor God in fellowship, song, prayer and preaching of the Word. South Georgia, Alabama-West Florida and Florida Conferences will gather in Tallahassee for the second Bishops Invitational for Christ's Men. Our first one was held July 1998 and was a spiritual blessing for some 2,000 men and women. This was the first time an event like this had ever taken place in the United Methodist Church. Our own Bishop Henderson will give the keynote address again this year. This is just another outstanding event the United Methodist Men are pleased to provide for our conference.

Our four Fall Men's Retreats in October will again have an all Contemporary weekend. This will be our third year for this type of worship and each has been exceedingly well attended, especially by our younger men. The other three weekends have outstanding preachers of the Word from our conference and throughout the country.

On the last weekend in October the United Methodist Men will host the first all singles retreat held at our conference retreat center at Leesburg. For years we have provided retreats for the men and couples of our conference and now we are asking the many single members of our churches to join us for a spiritual weekend that will not be soon forgotten. We encourage all singles – young, middle-aged, seniors – all single men and women to join us! Blessings will happen!

Again we are giving financial support to many projects in our conference and throughout the denomination. This list includes scholarships for ministerial students, the Florida Conference Children's Home, the Jim Russo Prison Ministry, Lay Renewal, Scouting Programs and the Foundation for Evangelism. This year because of the special need of our Children's Home, we gave an extra \$4000 from our missions fund to help this ministry. Further, we gave \$ 6,000 to the North Carolina Conference Disaster Relief to help the churches and people in eastern North Carolina because of the devastation caused by the hurricane that hit the area last summer.

In February, my wife and I were in Jerusalem and we went to the Wailing Wall to pray. It was a moving experience to see the Jewish rabbi there praying as they had for hundreds of years. While there I put prayer requests into one of the crevasses of that ancient and holy wall of the temple. One of my prayers was for peace and unity in our church. I prayed an outpouring of the Holy Spirit will fall upon this great denomination and that we will turn away from our own agenda and turn our eyes upon Jesus and let Him guide us through the power of His Spirit. I believe God will answer this prayer. He has already answered one petition I left in the wall. Truly God is faithful and as we go throughout this year, whatever our circumstances are, we can always be sure that "Jesus is the Answer."

God Bless all of you, John Dowell, President

"NEW DAYS, NEW WAYS, NEW FACES"
FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Anna J. Woods, President

Being a mission organization for over one hundred thirty years is a humble, exciting and enriching feeling of gratitude to the many members that have shown their love for Christ in the caring of those less fortunate, marginal people through out the world. God's love is mighty and powerful in touching lives as the women continue this gift of their service in ministry to women, youth and children. As we move into the twenty-first century we find "New Days, New Ways, and New Faces" to continue as the women's organization of the United Methodist Church.

The Conference elected officers attended the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission, in June, at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center at Blackstone, Virginia. Thirteen officers were in attendance.

In July, the United Methodist Women held the Florida Conference School of Christian Mission at Florida Southern College. Over 700 women, men, youth and children from around the Florida conference, attended. The theme "Empowered by God's Timeless Love". The studies of the school were:

The Bible (Part 11, Authority and Interpretation)
Mission in the 21st Century
Humanity Comes of Age

These studies were led by study group leaders from around the country. We are fortunate to have Study Group Leaders in diverse languages that are indicative to our conference. In addition the school included worship, a learning center, focus groups, leadership training, a Mission Fair with conversation areas with several missionaries from our conference, Mission Institution displays, membership promotion, social action and interpreting the Purpose and total program of United Methodist Women.

We encourage all United Methodist to attend the 2000 School of Christian Mission to enable us to be more informed about the mission areas of the Church. The studies for 2000 will be, Paul's Letters to the Corinthians, Children of Africa and God's People in an Urban Culture. Classes will be available in English, Spanish, Haitian, and Korean languages. Classes are included for adults, youth, and children. Childcare is available for preschool children. The school will be held at Florida Southern College campus.

Amy Miller, Judith Pierre-Okerson, and Roberta Lau attended the National Seminar held at Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN in August. The theme for the Seminar was "What Does The Lord Require," to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Each one participated in issue groups: Immigration and Refugees, Impact of Welfare Reform on Children, and Eliminating Racism. These three issues have been adopted as Priority Issues for the Florida Conference during the year 2000.

The Life Enrichment Center at Leesburg was the setting for the Florida Area World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Retreat. Jacquelyn Whitehouse and Donnell Keeling were representatives of the Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

Those attending the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in Leesburg received an exciting and joyful experience in sharing with retreat leader, Sue Owens, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach of the South Carolina Conference, as we worshiped together in "The Joy of God's Spirit".

As president, I had the privilege of attending the Annual Board Meeting of the Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries held at Stamford, Connecticut, in October. It was inspiring to be in the midst of the dedicated Directors representing many conferences, as they came together to worship, celebrate, receive reports, and take action on issues that affect women, children and youth throughout the world. How truly fortunate the United Methodist Church is to have dedicated volunteers that give much of their time to being disciples to do the Lord's work. Mary Melvin of Tampa is serving her fourth year as a Women's Division Director. We are thankful for her service.

The Annual Korean-American United Methodist Women Leadership Training Event was held at Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN with 140 women in attendance. As a Conference Officer, I had the privilege of participating in this event with six Korean women from the Tampa area: Eun Mi Cho, Chun Lan Chong, Yearny Hall, Hwal S. Halterman, Sohee Lee, and Yun Nam Goong Yup. It was exciting to be with a different culture other than my own and to share wonderful worship services, discussions on pressing issues of the Korean culture and to enjoy fellowship and training experiences.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Florida Conference United Methodist Women was held November 6 at Branscomb Auditorium, Florida Southern College. Nearly 700 women were in attendance to celebrate "New Days, New Ways, New Faces" with the focus on Teen/College and University Women. Units with Teen members and new and reorganized Units were recognized, new officers for 2000-2001 were elected and installed, the 2000 Budget, and a Pledge to Mission was approved, a Love Offering for Undesignated Giving of \$3,770 was received. Ms. Cheryl Hemmerly, Executive Secretary for Teens & College/University Women, Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries, led the Biblical Reflections and was the keynote speaker for the day. Teens from several local units assisted in the Worship, and Memorial Service. It was exciting to have 8 past Conference Presidents in attendance. We were pleased that our resident Bishop Cornelius Henderson could also be present.

I was invited to attend The Quadrennial Institutional Ministries Meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries, at Houston, TX in November. We had the opportunity to visit some of the Mission Institutions in the Houston area. It is exciting to see the many opportunities that are provided by the United Methodist Church to help assist those in need in many communities and to be thankful for the many United Methodist that help support these project through the apportionment's and the pledge to mission.

The incoming/outgoing Conference Mission Team met at the Evaluation/Goal Setting Event at the Life Enrichment Center in December to evaluate the 1998-1999 Goals and establish Goals for 2000-2001. The Leader for the weekend was Carol Gaston, Secretary, Southeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group. It was a time of fellowship, worship, and reflection as we also planed for the future of the Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

We are indeed grateful and give praise and thanksgiving for the many United Methodist Women in the Florida Conference that through their;

Prayers, by experience growth and renewal in their relationship of God
Time, to respond to human need through study, action and reflection
Gifts, to share in the global ministries of the church.

The United Methodist Women of the Florida Conference sent gifts of \$801,569.29 to the global ministries of the Church. In addition many thousands of dollars were given to local and community mission. "Praise be to God!"

Officers from the Fourteen Districts and the Conference Elected Leadership met in January at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly for District/Conference Officer Training. Sandra Ruby, Executive Secretary for Leadership Education, Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries led the training sessions. It was a time of prayer, meditation, fellowship, leadership training, and commitment to service for the newly elected leadership.

Florida Conference is a very diverse conference and the Conference Mission Team is sensitive to the many cultures represented in our churches. In order to become more inclusive and understand other cultures, the Mission Team has approved the appointment of a Haitian Coordinator, and a Korean Coordinator. We are excited about the possibilities of these new coordinators as we strive to learn, understand, and share in ministry together.

We were privileged to have Jan Winfield, Executive Secretary for Leadership Education, Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries to lead the Mission Team in additional leadership education in February.

In March, the Florida Conference United Methodist Women were represented at the Quadrennial Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction by Annie Woods, Donnell Keeling, Helen Ellis, Doris H. Campbell, Julia Haile and Amy Miller. New Officers for the next quadrennium were elected and we are delighted to have our own Betty Sue Mason, immediate past president, to be elected as the new President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group, 2000-2003. "Congratulations, Betty Sue!" Betty Sue will also serve as a Director of Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries. In addition we are pleased to have Mary Melvin of the Tampa District, and Nelida Morales of the Miami District to be elected as Directors of the Women's Division, 2000-2003.

We are in "New Days" as we move into the twenty-first Century. We are excited to have "New Ways" with technology and new ideas. We are thankful for "New Faces" with the Teen/College and University Women, Young Women, and Newly Retired Women. It is gratifying to know that United Methodist Women, the women's organization for the United Methodist Church, is alive and well and are continuing to give their dedication to do God's work through prayer, study, and action. We shall continue to tackle difficult justice issues, and provide services to women, youth, and children, as we fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins and both are preserved." Matthew 9:16-17.

PURPOSE

The organized unit of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

OTHER CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As Florida United Methodists gather for the first Annual Conference event of the 21st century, there will be "No More Playing Church"! Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson called for Florida United Methodists to get serious about the mission of The United Methodist Church last fall in an address to the clergy at the annual School of Ministry. Your program committee takes our leader's challenge with excitement as a different conference event is birthed!

"Dare to Share Jesus" is our conference theme for 2000. The program committee designed a new format for conference, guided by the motivation to equip disciples to "Share Jesus". Each morning of conference will be devoted to the usual business. The fresh look in conference will come on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday when delegates and lay persons from across the conference will be summoned to prepare to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Using the Bishop's challenge, "No More Playing Church," Ambassador Andrew Young will challenge us in the Conference Key Note address on Wednesday afternoon. Also on Wednesday afternoon, The Reverend Jessica Moffatt of Breckenridge, Oklahoma will highlight her ministry in discipling lay persons in small groups in her address to us. Thursday afternoon will feature an address by Dick Wills, one of the pastors of the dynamic Christ Church, United Methodist, Fort Lauderdale. On Thursday afternoon, Operation Evangelization classes will be offered featuring such leaders as Tom Bandy. This fresh approach to Annual Conference states that your program committee is setting new directions for our conferencing together.

The opening worship of Annual Conference on Tuesday evening features the matchless preaching of our Bishop, Cornelius L. Henderson. The Africa University Choir sings on Tuesday evening. We are honored to have Ambassador James Laney preach the ordination sermon on Wednesday evening. Thursday evening promises to be an inspiring worship experience with Cuba Methodist Bishop Ricardo Periera preaching and music by the Youth Praise Band from Cuba. Bishop Jack Meadors of the Mississippi Area preaches our closing communion service on Friday.

We encourage laity from across the conference to come to this exciting and different Annual Conference Event. In Florida United Methodism we are committed to "No More Playing Church," as we "Share Jesus"!

E. Keith Ewing, Annual Conference Program Committee Chair

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES AND AGENDA REPORT

The following is recommended for approval:

1. The authority for procedure of the 2000 Florida Annual Conference is the following: (a) the 1996 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church; (b) the Standing Rules of the Florida Annual Conference, 1999 Journal; (c) Robert's Rules of Order.
2. An "Order of the Day" is adopted for those times when specific persons are available for presentation to the Annual Conference.
3. The printed program on pages 3 through 6 of the 2000 Florida Annual Conference Workbook is recommended to be the agenda for the 2000 Annual Conference.
4. Any member of the Annual Conference who wishes to be recognized shall stand at his/her place and wave the brightly colored "Welcome Book." When the Bishop recognizes that person, he/she goes to the designated numbered microphone and addresses the conference. The person must state his/her name, clergy or lay, and the name of the local church, district or conference organization he/she represents.
5. A written report may be found in the "Welcome Book" for those groups who require no conference action.

E. Keith Ewing, Agenda Chairperson

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Vision Statement: The vision of the Commission on Archives and History is to promote, and assist in, the recovery, preservation, study, and celebration of the heritage of Methodism in Florida.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Commission on Archives and History is

- To collect and preserve the historically significant records of the Florida Conference and its agencies, including data relating to the origin and history of the conference and its antecedents;
- To encourage and assist local churches in preserving and managing their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage;
- To provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of abandoned and discontinued churches;
- To maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved therein;
- To establish retention and disposition schedules for annual conference and local church records;
- To receive gifts of items related to the history of the Florida Conference;
- To plan and encourage appropriate celebrations of the heritage of the Florida Conference.

Short-term goals:

- To describe the material in the Archives for the United Methodist Annual Conference Survey Project of the General Commission on Archives and History.
- To continue the fund-raising campaign for the Florida United Methodist Heritage Center.
- To establish a collections policy for the Archives.
- To implement an oral history project.

Medium-term goals:

- To build and furnish the Heritage Center.
- To work with conference bodies to establish a records retention schedule.
- To microfilm important archival records.
- To put finding aids and appropriate archival records on computer.
- To assist appropriate conference historical sites in applying for Historic Site status from General Commission on Archives and History.

On-going goals:

- To respond to the needs of local churches by providing information on archival management and preservation, offering assistance in planning celebrations, providing guidelines for writing local church history and preserving oral history, and encouraging attendance at workshops.
- To provide research services for churches and individuals.
- To acquire an up-to-date history of each church in the conference.
- To recognize anniversary churches and clergy at Annual Conference each year.
- To recognize recently closed churches at Annual Conference.
- To assist closed churches in determining what materials should be sent to the Archives.
- To provide archival-quality storage containers for materials in the Archives.
- To add to the collection of photographs of ministers.
- To present Florida Flame to ordinands.
- To assist the archivist in taking advantage of training opportunities.
- To provide scholarship help for local church historians to attend biannual SEJ workshops.
- To promote the celebration of Heritage Sunday.
- To provide displays of historical materials.
- To encourage individuals and Conference organizations to give historical materials to the Archives.
- To promote membership in the Historical Society.

Criteria for determining the success of the work of the commission on Archives and History:

- Attendance at workshops and training events.
- Interest on part of local churches in obtaining information about celebrations, preservation, writing church history, and participation in Annual Conference recognitions, etc.
- Research requests from churches and individuals.
- Gifts given to the Archives.
- Response to displays at UM Building and at Annual Conference.
- Use of archival storage containers for preservation of materials in the Archives.

Criteria used to determine allocation of resources:

- Most of our resources are spent on preservation and administrative activities, allocation being determined by past expenses. Our chief programming activity is the workshops conducted for local church historians. Funds are allocated simply to meet expenses of these workshops, which are offered without charge.

Results of applying criteria to 1999 work:

- Good attendance at training events; good representation of commission at outside meetings and workshops.
- Many requests for information from local churches.
- Fulfillment of more than 100 research requests.
- Receipt of thirty gifts for the Archives.
- Receipt of twenty-five local church histories.
- Increased use of archival storage containers.
- Good response to displays at UM Building and at Annual Conference.

Archives And History Funding Request For 2001: \$11,600

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History continues to look to the future and the construction of the Florida United Methodist Heritage Center. Fund raising continues, and we are optimistic that groundbreaking can take place in the near future. We look forward to the day when we will be able to house our archives collection in a suitable environment.

The Archives received thirty gifts during 1999, including a collection of Sunday school pins, photographs used in the Florida Methodist, several additions to its postcard collection, records from the old Board of Education, and twenty local church histories.

In the past year the Archives has answered approximately one hundred requests for information from churches and individuals.

The archivist, Nell Thrift, is surveying the Archives as part of the United Methodist Annual Conference Archives Survey Project being coordinated by the General Commission on Archives and History. She attended a workshop in November to be trained to conduct the survey. A guide containing brief descriptions of the archival holdings of all the conferences will be produced for use by researchers.

A permanent Acquisition Register listing all Archives acquisitions beginning in 1990 has been established.

Members of the commission continue to be available to local churches and to districts for workshops for local church historians. "Memory and Ministry: Caring for Your Church's Heritage," a video produced by the General Commission on Archives and History, is available for local churches and other organizations interested in managing and preserving their records.

The Commission was represented at the annual meetings of the SEJ Historical Society, the SEJ Commission on Archives and History, and the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

Several local church historians and commission members attended the Heritage Preservation Workshop sponsored by the SEJ Historical Society at Lake Junaluska in November.

The Florida Conference Historical Society held its ninth annual banquet during the 1999 Annual Conference. Drs. John and Sarah Foster, professors at Florida A & M University, presented a program based on their book Beechers, Stowes, and Yankee Strangers: The Transformation of Florida. Everyone interested in the heritage of Florida Methodism is encouraged to become a member of the society.

Members of the conference who are celebrating the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries of their ordinations were honored during Annual Conference:

Ordained in 1950

Paul W. Haines
Charles P. Hamilton
E. Duane Hulse
Frederick O. Hunt
Jimmy S. Jones
Donald E. Kribbs
Duane Meier
Marvin R. Park, Jr.
Ronald L. Rearic
Eddie J. Rivers, Jr.
Morrell S. Robinson
Walter B. Rutland
Samuel C. Seizert
H. Paul Smith
James M. Smith
J. Tom Sofge, Jr.
J. Marvin Sweat, Jr.
Manuel Viera

Ordained in 1975

Scott A. Baker
Betty Batey
Pamela A. Cahoon
Thomas J. Derrough
Gregory F. Duncan
James M. Fogle-Miller
V. Scott Harris
Jaynie Nell Hickman
James D. Johnson
Joseph E. Jursa
Charlene P. Kammerer
Myric W. Laite
Larry B. Lake
Chilton W. McPheeters
James E. McWhinnie
Russell M. Moore
David E. Paul
Candido Perez
Jeffrey R. Ramsland
James K. Rowland
Roger G. Watts
Guyton M. Weatherly
Dennis I. White
William H. Yeager

Twelve anniversary churches were also recognized:

175 years (1825) :	First, St. Augustine
150 years (1850) :	Coleman; First, Ocala; White Springs
125 years (1875) :	First, Brandon; First, Titusville; Lake Lake
100 years (1900) :	St. Paul, Melbourne
75 years (1925) :	Elosie; First, Boca Raton; Gibsonton; Pasadena Community, St. Petersburg; Ruskin
50 years (1950) :	Bethal, Eustis; Northeast, Tampa; St. Mark's, Ocala; Southside, Jacksonville; Trinity, Bradenton
25 years (1975) :	Cypress Lake, Ft. Myers; Leisure City Hispanic and Peace Hispanic, Homestead

Banners from the anniversary churches were displayed on the floor of conference.

Vernon and Jamie Parramore, Chairpersons

FLORIDA CONFERENCE COUNSELING NETWORK

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Florida Conference Counseling Network is to provide professional counseling for United Methodist clergy and their families and church lay employees and their families. The Conference Counseling Network Committee serves as an advocate for Network Counselors, where appropriate, thereby supporting the mental health well being of our clergy, lay employees and their families.

Mission Statement: Our mission has a single focus, which is to support, enhance and further the Conference Counseling Network ministry.

Goal 1: To provide affordable access to counseling for United Methodist clergy, lay employees and their families.

- The committee requires Network Counselors to provide a fee break to Florida United Methodist clergy, lay employees and their families.
- The committee pays a minimal fee for professional evaluations of Network Counselor applicants. This written evaluation is the final step in the application process. Network Counselor applicants pay one half of the fee for their professional evaluation.
- The committee grants Subsidy to qualified clients in counseling with financial need. The Chairperson and Coordinator review Subsidy requests. Client confidentiality is stressed. The maximum grant is \$300 per case per year.
- New: The committee anticipates an increase in Subsidy requests, having been informed by the Conference Ministerial Assessment Specialist that district boards of ministry are requiring counseling contingencies with no other funding available.

Goal 2: To increase awareness of the availability of Network Counselors to those in need of counseling through professional resources.

- The committee seeks to fulfill this goal by publishing a Newsletter which is sent to all clergy both active and retired, clergy widows and widowers, Directors of Christian Education, musicians, church business administrators, church secretaries, Network Counselors, committee members, the United Methodist Children's Home and the staff of the Conference Council on Ministries.
- The committee places a half page ad in the Annual Conference "Welcome Book" to promote the Counseling Network.
- The committee distributes a brochure at events for new clergy, clergy spouse, church secretaries, etc.
- The committee is emphasizing increased publicity of the Counseling Network. Client confidentiality limits the sharing of counseling experiences.
- The committee publishes annually a Directory of Network Counselors distributed to all clergy both active and retired, clergy widows and widowers, Directors of Christian Education, musicians, church business administrators, church secretaries, Network Counselors. committee

members, the United Methodist Children's Home and the staff of the Conference Council on Ministries.

- The committee provides information for the Conference Web Site concerning the Counseling Network.

Goal 3: To provide opportunity to increase knowledge and collegiality among Network Counselors.

- The committee sponsors an annual Continuing Education Event for Network Counselors, committee members and other mental health professionals. The Samaritan Center of South Florida has worked with the committee to provide continuing education units for licensed mental health professionals. In addition to the information presented, unique concerns of working with United Methodist clergy are discussed. This is held in a religious retreat setting as an opportunity for relaxation and as a way that the committee can give back something to counselors who give so much of themselves to their counseling ministry.

Goal 4: To provide professional psychological consultation and support through the service of Network Counselors to United Methodist clergy in their ministry.

- The committee has received reports from Network Counselors indicating that they are contacted by clergy who are in need of some direction in their pastoral counseling.
- New: The committee is aware of Network Counselors who lead clergy support groups as well as provide leadership for clergy workshops, seminars and other events.

Goal 5: To provide referrals for Conference clergy pertaining to qualified counselors.

- The committee assists clergy by providing referrals to Network Counselors for persons being seen by the clergy. The Directory of Network Counselors is the resource used to make these referrals. Network Counselors are located in all districts. The Coordinator is regularly contacted for referrals.

New: Goal 6: To assure professional accountability of Network Counselors appropriate documentation is required.

- The committee directs the Coordinator to perform counselor background checks with the FDLE to protect clients and the Annual Conference. New Network Counselors will be checked with all others re-checked on a five-year cycle, beginning again in 2002. (The Conference Risk Manager recommends this schedule.)
- The committee is working directly with the Conference Insurance Committee and the General Board of Pensions on issues of mental health benefits.
- New: The committee is working directly with the Conference mental health benefits company recommending Network Counselors who wish to apply to be providers.
- The committee directs the Coordinator to maintain files of current professional mental health licenses and counselor liability coverage.
- Personnel Costs: This includes the Network Coordinator's salary and F.I.C.A. (There are no health insurance or retirement benefits.)
- The committee has a Consultant who is a Network Counselor attending the committee meetings providing professional consultation and guidance on issues relating to therapists and the Continuing Education Event. (Network Counselors may not be elected to serve on the committee due to the conflict of interest.)

Administrative Costs: This includes committee expenses and office expenses.

Criteria: The criteria used to determine the success or failure of the Conference Counseling Network is found in the Subsidy requests and the Semi-Annual Reports of Network Counselors, as well as the evaluations from the Continuing Education Event.

- In 1999, twenty-eight Subsidies were granted to twenty-five people for \$6,035.00. Clergy (active and retired), clergy spouses, clergy children, lay employees and their families were provided grants ranging from \$50.00 to \$300.00 per case. (The average fee reduction for clients receiving Subsidy was \$22.00 an hour.)
- The Semi-Annual Reports of Network Counselors cover the year from November 1, 1998 – October 31, 1999, indicating that 183 clergy and family were seen for 1,335 hours while 65 lay employees and their families were seen for 424.5 hours. The Network Counselors saw a total of

248 persons for 1,759.5 hours. Each district has a minimum of two Network Counselors with one district having fifteen. In this reporting period seventy-seven Network Counselors saw a total of three to forty-one persons per district for at least seventeen to 376 hours. Since Network Counselors must reduce their fees, and if the reduction was only \$10.00 less per hour, and sometimes it is more, our clergy and lay employees saved \$17,595.00!

- The 1999 Continuing Education Event for Network Counselors had thirty-two participants: twenty-one Network Counselors, three committee members and eight other mental health professionals. This was the best attendance in three years. Evaluations indicated all objectives were met "exceptionally well." Nine and one-half continuing education units were provided for licensed mental health therapists, marriage & family therapists, and clinical social workers.

Counseling Network Funding Request For 2001: \$35,925.00

COMMITTEE ON COURTESY

I know we have been talking about "not playing church" –but Bishop, I remember a game –perhaps you the conference remember it let's play together –fold your hands, fingers laced between each other. Now you say...here's the church, (2 index fingers up), here's the steeple, open the door and QUIT IT! let's stop playing church I've got a Courtesy Report to give.

But you know, Here's the church, here's the steeple, open the door and MY look at all the people that made this conference possible:

Dr. E. Keith Ewing, Program Chair.

Bill Owens, Thom Shafer, Masie Hartsfield, and others – once again we literally couldn't have done it without you. The sound system by Prostage was fantastic, and the lighting effects added so much to the services. Good News did a superb job with all the video and presentations. The Worship Committee of Sharon Patch, Jim Rosenburg and Pam Lynn and others who put in much time coordinating the services. The beautiful altar/worship centers by Gerald Partney helped literally to set the stage.

Jim and Marilyn Walker of His Name Exalted Ministries once again blessed us with Banners the Bishops Banner was wonderful. The signers and Hispanic, Haitian, and Korea Interpreters helped make the messages understandable for all. Thank you for your time.

Again we take "note" of the Music Coordinator Mark Jaeger. Along with Lori Blair, Belinda Womack and Jarvis Wilson there was always inspirational music. Throughout various services others gave of their time and talent through music: Sue Fee, and Trall Heitzenrater. Various music groups and soloists such as Cymbala, Walkabout Ensemble, Orlando District Choir, Denzil Southwood Smith helped us focus on the message. We even had dancers from Broadway. Broadway UMC in Orlando.

Participants in worship such as Barbara Odum, Aldo, Martin, Carol Rooks, Carmen Arnett, Agnes Watson and others helped us Dare to Share Jesus together. Mary Alice Massey thank you for your spirit and enthusiasm as Conference Lay Leader.

Bishop Knox, again thank you for your leadership. Ambassador James Laney, thank you for your words. Trish Brown and the Office of Spiritual Formation helped us in so many ways before the sessions actually began, including the Prayer Labyrinth, and the Prayer Garden also sponsored by the Board of Lay Ministry. Here's the church, here's the steeple, open up the door and My! look at all the people that made this conference be such a celebration.

Many, many people filed reports and chaired committees and their recognition only comes in the form of the written word found in Workbooks, and Welcome Book. We do not take those for granted. Thank You.

To Bill Walker and the Council – thank you. Okay – no more playing church.

We Celebrated the Remembrance of 40 and dancer Todd Shanks reminded us that "This is Your Time." Friends they are not playing church they are the saints of the church. Twenty-nine retired with

total of 900 years of service – let me tell you – that is not playing church. Fifty-one were licensed, commissioned, consecrated, or ordained – they are not playing church they are ready to do church.

Charles Courtoy celebrated with us 10 new church starts – why there has not been more churches started in Florida since when I was 3 (1962) No more playing church! That is the church –for the church is the people.

Bill Barnes thank you for leading us in the seminars. Bill, I think you've convinced us – it is time for us to quit playing at being the church of Jesus Christ.
Dr. Robert Franklin challenged us to be Public Christians.

Jessica Moffitt told us to quit playing church and get out of the pews and into the streets – by the way be careful who you talk to at baggage claim area.

Dick Wills wants us to awake to God's dream. Thank you for your story and vision. The Ministry Expo participants and workshop leaders: Timothy, Tyrone, Sally, Tammy, Tom, Steven and Daniel clearly remind us No More Playing Church. Thanks for your fine work.

And then there was last night –Monte de Sion Praise Band. And no Bishop Pereira there were no cows in the parking lot. You gave a material gift to the Bishops and others, you gave the human gift of the dancers who reminded us to take the candle and go light your world, and yes, Bishop, you gave us a spiritual gift. No more playing church. Simple formula –receive the Holy Spirit. God still performs miracles. Last night was a miracle. And as Bishop Henderson said –that translator, she's dangerous up there. Let's not play church anymore.

Bishop, for the last quadrennium I have found, what I have call Bishopisms. Allow me to share these statements of worth from our Episcopal Leader.

"You can out preach me." Yeah, right!

"You can out evangelize me" (I don't go to that many Waffle Houses.)

"You can out argue me" (Don't think I'll try)

But you said, "You can't out love me".

"Hope blossoms in hard times."

"We don't have to invite God here. He's already here. God was already here taking a nap."

"Take the amen corner to the street corner."

"You can carry a Bible under each arm and still be dead."

"Behind every Happening there 's a Happener."

And concerning last night's display of fervor, fever, and festivity, "Brother Cornelius said everything is okay"

"Maybe indeed, we need to take the pews out of the church because they are in the way of people.

"Help Him, Lord!"

Bishop, I want to close by telling about a family in my church. In fact this family has been in every church I've served. In fact, I think everyone here has the same family. They are the family by the last name of Tator.

Dad's name is Spec. Spec-tator. Just sits and watches. We don't need spectators –No More Playing Church!" Wife's name is Hesi. Hesi-tator. Everytime a new ministry begins she stops and stalls. We don't need hesitators. No More Playing Church!

Spec and Hesi have twin girls, Agi and Irri. That's right Agi-tator, and Irri-tator. They are always stirring up something. They have not yet learned that church is really about a relationship. We don't need agitators and irritators. No More Playing Church!

Why grandpa even comes to this church. His name is Dick. Unhuh, Dic-tator. It's got to go his way or off he goes. We don't need dictators. No More Playing Church!

What this Tator family needs is another child. A child with a weird name. The name of Partissa. Her middle name is Pa. Partissa pa-tator. We don't need spectators, hesitators, agitators, irritators, or dictators – we need participators. Not Pew Potatoes, but participatators in Daring to Share Jesus. No More Playing Church!

Bishop, there is another member of the Tator family. There is also one of these in every church. And every conference has one, too. They call him Sweet. Sweet Tator. Bishop, on behalf of the conference, for you I YAM thankful.

Over the last several years I have presented you with various items. In light of the Tator family – I recognize that you are our Episcopal leader – our head. Therefore, I have a Mr. Potato Head. Complete with robe and Methodist stole. Bishop, I know I shouldn't say this because the appointments haven't been set yet, but –This Spud's for you.

David W. Baldrige, Chairperson

REPORT OF GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION

For eleven days the 992 delegates, including more than 150 delegates from the Central Conference of General Conference worshiped, sang praises, prayed, worked and even cried together.

We were blessed by the opening worship and communion service which is always a highlight. A major event was an evening devoted to an act of repentance and reconciliation, for the sin of racism within the denomination. We also heard a stirring message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the first time the head of a the worldwide Anglican movement had come to a General conference. Each day's work began with worship that featured music, bishops preaching and a time for prayer and discernment.

All 26 of the delegates were faithful to the task as well as the alternates. We were able to seat all during the course of two weeks. Charles Courtroy was elected to chair the Conferences Legislation Committee, Dick Wills served on the Presiding Officers Committee, and I was elected to chair the Agenda Committee. Our own Bishop Henderson was selected to preside over one of the plenary sessions.

Significant actions were: The defeat of the Connectional Process Team's recommendations except for the transformational directions. Passage of a new formula for representation at General Conference. Maintaining the church's current stances on homosexuality including the assertion that the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching" and the prohibition on ordination or appointment of pastors who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

Separation of World Service and Conference Benevolence and the Passage of a 545 million budget for the next quadrennium.

Passage of several Constitutional amendments dealing with "professing members."

When all was said and done, we had completed processing more than 2,000 petitions and dealing with 1,400 legislative calendar items in plenary action and we were ready to return home. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you in this ministry.

We now present the following nominees for the Jurisdictional Pool for your approval:

Clergywomen: Ann Davis, Geraldine McClellan; Clergymen: David Dodge, Bruce Toms, Mike Oliver; Laywomen: Sally Shelton-Culver, Christine Williams, June Johns, Ginger Jackson, Juanita Bryant; Laymen: John Dowell, Bill Walker, Scott Whitaker, Hugh Root, Jim Yost; Racial/Ethnic Persons: Asia-American – Joseph Ha, Black-American – Johannes Martin, Hispanic-American – Manuel Garcia, Samuel Gonzales, Hildelisa Ordaz; Youth: Daniel Acevedo, Sarah Warren, Will McLeod, Elizabeth Irwin, Daniel Miglia; Young Adults: Tracy Collins, Todd Willis, Alex Shanks, Mady Mora, Kirkland Reynolds; Older Adults: Evelyn Lewis, Wallace Joplin, Jane Hickman, Jack Inman, Emily Ann Zimmerman; Persons with Disabilities: Jimmy Garrett, Larry Purvis, Bill Richardson, Bruce Harter, John Newbold. God has lifted up David Brazelton to be our Episcopal nominee from the Florida Conference.

Mary Alice Massey and Dick Wills, Head of Florida Delegation

GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATES -- 2000

CLERGY DELEGATES,
2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Wills, Richard J.
Hill, Teresa L.
Harnish, James A.
Roughton, Philip H.
Barnes, William S.
Jennings, James F.
McLeod, Deborah A.
Johnson, Dan G.
Martin, Aldo O.
Brazelton, David L..
Acevedo, Jorge A.
Ewing, E. Keith
Courttoy, Charles W.

CLERGY DELEGATES,
2000 JURISDICTIONAL CONF

McClellan, Geraldine W.
Dodge, David A.
Short, Riley P.
Hunter, George G. III
MacLaren, Joseph R., Jr.
McEntire, W. David
Burkholder, Anne L.
Rankin, Lawrence A.
Pickett, William A.
Green, John H.
Taylor, Kendall M.
Icaza-Willets, Migdalia L.
Cahoon, Pamela H

CLERGY RESERVE DELEGATES,
2000 JURISDICTIONAL CONF

Burke, Marta J.
Bove, Jose P.
Edwards, Walter D.
Oliver, Michael C.
Duncan, Monfort C.
Campbell-Evans, J. Clarke
Hartsfield, Matthew

LAY DELEGATES,
2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Massey, Mary Alice
Sessums, T. Terrell
McEntire, Katie
Fields, Lynette,
Roberts, Rodell F.
Mason, Betty Sue
Bass, Ressie Mae
Tabbert, Russ
Cade, Pasco
McKeown, Leland P.
Morales, Neilda
Bright, Joyce Waldon
Furman, Frank H., Jr

LAY DELEGATES,
2000 JURISDICTIONAL CONF

Zimmerman, Emily Ann
Ha, Joseph
Moxley, Jody Parks
Yost, James
Shanks, Alex
Rodriguez, Manuel
Woods, Annie
Fowler, F. Bud
Collins, Dorothy J.
Garrett, Jimmy Sr.
Dowell, John,
Garcia, Manuel
Inmann, Jack

LAY RESERVE DELEGATES,
2000 JURISDICTIONAL CONF

Johns, June
Stricklin, Barbara
Pierre-Okerson, Judith
Yost, Lois A.
Brayton, Glenna Kyker
Winebrenner, Opal
Bliven, Owen R

COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY REPORT

Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson has completed his first quadrennium as the resident Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference. We are pleased with how well he has faced his health challenges and it is good to see him gaining his strength and the vigor for which he is most famous.

The Committee on Episcopacy anticipates the return of Bishop and Mrs. Henderson for another quadrennium and we will support them with our love, our prayers and our effort to serve Christ and His church. Bishop Henderson is a model of spirituality we need and can profit from. He is a powerful and winsome preacher and has brought a new evangelical spirit to the pastors and lay

people of this conference. We need for him to lead us as we face the many challenges that are before us and to show us the way, the truth and the life in Jesus that will bless us in the new century.

Faithfully, Riley P. Short, Chair

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR AND THE LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chancellor advises the Bishop and the Annual Conference, including District Superintendents, on legal issues as needed. The Legal Advisory Council is designed to be a group of attorneys, with at least one located in each District. The members of the Legal Advisory Council are available to the District Superintendents in the Districts in which they reside. Ideally, a variety of areas of practice would be represented by the members of the Council so that an array of expertise will be available when various questions arise. All serve as volunteers.

During the coming year members of the Council will be confirmed and, where needed, new ones selected by the District Superintendent. A meeting of all Council members is desired.

The Chancellor has been available and has responded on numerous occasions to calls from conference personnel, including the office of the Bishop, the Office of the Conference Treasurer, a variety of questions from District Superintendents and local churches. Some Districts are further along in making use of local attorneys who serve on the Advisory Council. The Miami District has recently empaneled several attorneys to serve its needs, each with differing areas of specialty.

Whenever there is an organization as large as the Annual Conference and the number of churches which are connected to it, legal problems will inevitably arise. Such is the case with our Conference and its churches. Considering the size and number, there have been only a handful of lawsuits filed during the past year. Virtually all involve tort claims for personal injury and the Office of Risk Management has properly assumed responsibility working in conjunction with the insurance advisors and third-party insurance administrators. The Chancellor is notified and informed of any significant developments.

Unfortunately, in the latter part of 1999 two of our Conference pastors were arrested and charged with sexual battery on a minor. These arrests and the allegations which prompted them have caused heartache and concern within families, congregations, and the conference. The Chancellor was consulted at all stages in the handling of these events. From what I observed I wish to commend the quick and effective response of David Brazelton, Tampa District Superintendent, the district in which both arrests occurred within two weeks of one another, and the response of the Florida Conference Communications department, as well as the Episcopal Office. As a result of a quick and active response, people were helped, information was communicated forthrightly, and the healing process was able to begin at a quicker pace than would otherwise have occurred.

The Mission and Goals of the Office of Chancellor and Legal Advisory Council are as follows:

Mission: To provide excellent and helpful advice as the Chancellor advises the Bishop and the Annual Conference, including District Superintendents and members of the Legal Advisory Council assist District Superintendents with legal issues impacting the districts they serve.

Short Term Goals: To locate and maintain attorneys in each district who are willing to give of their time and serve as a resource for the District Superintendent.

Medium Term Goals: To identify attorneys with specialized expertise which differ from one another. By so doing the legal knowledge base is expanded. An attorney in one District could call upon the expertise on another attorney located in a different District.

The Chancellor and the Legal Advisory Council join others in our Conference in offering our prayers for Bishop and Mrs. Henderson.

Respectfully submitted, Paul B. Butler, Jr., Chancellor

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT/CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT

NEW CHURCH START BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2001

Pastoral Compensation for new churches: The Annual Conference will provide clergy compensation for new churches up to the Denominational Average Compensation plus health insurance and pension on the following basis: first 12 months, 100%; second 12 months, 65%; third 12 months, 30%. The D. A. C. for 2001 will be \$42,233 (salary, travel and housing). Health insurance is estimated at \$6,000 and MPP/MRPF at \$6,500. The maximum possible compensation for 2001 is estimated to be \$54,733 at 100%, \$35,576 at 65% and \$16,420 at 30%.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>100% COMPENSATION</u>		<u>65% COMPENSATION</u>		<u>30% COMPENSATION</u>	
	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>
DL		31,928				
FM		31,928				
GN						
JA	22,805			20,753		
LA		31,928			6,842	
LE			14,823	20,753		
ME			14,823			9,578
MI	45,610	31,928		41,506		
OR	22,805		14,823	20,753		9,578
SP						
SR		31,928	14,823		6,842	9,578
TL					6,842	
TM	22,805	31,928	14,823	20,753	6,842	9,578
WP	22,805		14,823	20,753		9,578
TOTALS	136,830(1)	191,568(2)	88,938(3)	145,271(1)	27,368(4)	47,890(3)

TOTAL PASTORAL COMPENSATION : \$637,875

(1) Six new churches launched June 2000:

Northwest St. John's County, Jacksonville District
 City Ministry Parrish, Miami District
 La Nueva Iglesia, Miami District
 City Ministry Parish, Orlando District
 City Ministry Parish, Tampa District
 City Ministry Parish, West Palm Beach District

(2) Six churches projected for launch June 2001:

World of Golf Area, St. Augustine, DeLand District
 Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers District
 Eagle Ridge Area, Lake Wales, Lakeland District
 Hispanic – Miami SW, Miami District

Toledo Blade, Sarasota District
Multi-Cultural, Tampa District

(3) Six new churches launched June 1999:

Villages of Lady Lake, Leesburg District
St. Lucie West, Melbourne District
Heathrow, Orlando District
Osprey, Sarasota District
Lithia/Pinecrest, Tampa District
Fort Lauderdale Hispanic, West Palm Beach District

(4) Four churches launched June 1998:

Shepherd's Community UMC, Lakeland District
Crossroads UMC, Rotonda Area, Sarasota District
Ray of Hope UMC, Tallahassee District
CrossRoads UMC, Wesley Chapel, Tampa District

Seminar for Clergy interested in/appointed to new church launching: A seminar June 23, 2000 will be provided in Lakeland for newly appointed pastors appointed to launch new churches. Pastors who have been nominated by their district superintendent and screened by the executive director of church development will participate in the five day National Institute of New Church Development at Duke in August, 2001.

Funding: \$12,000

Mission Facility Rental: Where it is necessary to rent facilities for a mission congregation, the Conference Committee will provide District Boards of Missions and Church Extension for each approved new mission congregation launched after 1995, up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of three (3) years.

1999 Funding: \$30,000

Contract with Percept: To provide demographic data necessary for making church development decisions. By the Conference being a client of Percept, Percept services to local churches such as Ministry Area Profile and Revision are available at discounted prices.

Funding: \$12,000

Meetings of Committee: The Committee meets in January, May and October to conduct the business of church development. There are twenty-three (23) members of the committee.

Funding: \$ 8,000

Total New Church Start Request For 2001: \$699,865

CONFERENCE LAUNCHES MOST NEW CONGREGATIONS IN 35 YEARS

Charles W. Courtoy, Executive Director

The Conference year 1999/2000 has been a banner year for launching new congregations. The following new congregations will receive certificates of recognition from Bishop Henderson at the Tuesday, May 30, evening opening worship service of Annual Conference: Grace Community United Methodist Church at Fish Hawk Creek, Tampa District, Robert L. Harding, pastor Lakeside Fellowship United Methodist Church at Heathrow, Orlando District, Robert M. Martin, pastor Bay Life Community United Methodist Church in Sarasota, Sarasota District, Donald D. Nations, pastor Grapevine United Methodist Church in Port St. Lucie, Melbourne District, Vance C. Rains, pastor Broward Hispanic United Methodist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach District, Samuel Gonzalez, pastor Community Hispanic United Methodist Mission in Casselberry, Orlando District, Lucy Martinez, pastor Revival United Methodist Mission in Sarasota, Sarasota District, Jim Campana, pastor Vietnamese United Methodist Mission in Tarpon Springs, St. Petersburg District, Lai Minh "Sabrina" Tu, pastor Chispa United Methodist Mission in Miami, Miami District, Mayda Mora, pastor New Covenant United Methodist Church in Villages of Lady Lake, Leesburg District, Gary Bullock, pastor.

In addition to the ten new congregations launched this year four congregations started three and four years ago will receive their Charters during Annual Conference. These congregations have achieved membership and financial strength to be self-supporting: Community of Life United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Candace M. Lewis, pastor Pine Ridge Fellowship United Methodist Church in Deltona, David C. Moenning, pastor. Your support of The New Church Start Apportionment has made it possible for hundreds of persons to hear the gospel and be equipped as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you. You can assure that thousands of people will hear the gospel in the decades to come by making contributions to the Church Development Permanent Endowment Fund. Call the Office of Church Development (800-282-8011 or 863-688-5563 ext. 146) for additional information.

THE ORDER OF DISBANDING SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS OF THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE

Bishop Henderson and delegates to the Annual Conference. The Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment has as one of its responsibilities to report to you for your action on the discontinuation of local congregations that have made the decision to disband. I certify that the three following congregations have each voted in a duly called church conference to disband and have instructed that all property and assets be transferred to other United Methodist entities; that the remaining members have been transferred to churches of their choices; that the Cabinet has voted concurrence with the discontinuation of these congregations; and that the Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment has confirmed the decision for these congregations to disband:

North Jacksonville in the Jacksonville District

North Jacksonville traces its roots to the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church South, founded in 1901 as Panama, later Phoenix Park, with J.H. MacDowell as the first minister. In 1991 the church merged with North Shore, which had been founded in 1947, with Luther V. Laite as its first pastor.

Leisure City Hispanic in the Miami District

Leisure City Hispanic United Methodist Church was established in Homestead in 1975, with Jose Morales as the first minister.

York Memorial in the Miami District

Ojus Methodist Episcopal Church South was founded in Miami in 1907. The name was changed to Yourk Memorial in 1975.

Bishop Henderson: The before mentioned congregations were organized as a part of Christ's Holy Church and of The United Methodist Church. They were God's gifts for a season. We are thankful for the many ways they have served the mission given to them by Jesus Christ. They have accomplished their purpose. We declare that these are no longer United Methodist congregations and are now disbanded. If you concur, you will vote yes. In dying these congregations are providing resurrection and new life for other congregations through transfer of members and resources. Christ's Holy Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of God's Word and Sacraments, and the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world.

Paul Butler, Chair of New Church Development

NOMINATIONS REPORT

(See Part I, Listing of Conference Boards and Agencies)

OPERATION EVANGELIZATION

Description: Operation Evangelization supports the annual conference vision "to provide a vital United Methodist congregation of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ at every strategic location within the bounds of the conference and to provide competent, learning pastoral leadership for these congregations."

- It does so by providing training, resources, and consultation services in congregational evangelization strategies;
- by offering training support for congregations to equip their laity in personal faithsharing;
- by partnering with key annual conference leaders in building knowledge in long-term, effective growth strategies;
- By offering staff and office support to evangelization efforts through the Celebrate Jesus Mission, prayer evangelism, and other efforts to reach unchurched people in Florida.
- By coordinating the "400,000 by 2000" emphasis of the annual conference.

Goals: The ultimate goal is the re-vitalization of plateaued and declining congregations into disciple-making communities of faith. The more immediate goal is to impact the leadership of congregations by an experience of team learning, through the "New Wineskins for the New Wine" workshop/seminar, that will build a base of common knowledge and commitment to evangelization. The medium-term goal is to provide hands-on, on-site consultation services in strategic locations for growth.

Criteria:

- Evaluation of congregational and conference leaders that they have been well served by the training and consultation services offered.
- Evidence of direct assistance from Operation Evangelization to congregation's efforts to reach out and receive unchurched people.

Allocation of Resources: The major portion of the 2001 budget is allocated to professional and support staff. The other major piece is an expanded Bishop's Fishing Guide to Florida to tell more stories of disciple-making efforts in local churches. Another portion is for web-page maintenance to put "Dare to Share Jesus" newsletter on the conference Website in 2000.

1999-2000 evaluation: There has not been enough time to evaluate what difference Operation Evangelization is making in resourcing local churches to be effective disciple-making communities. As of this writing seven "New Wineskins for the New Wine" workshops/seminars have been offered with a combined attendance of more than 1400 persons. In addition the Director has keynoted four District Conferences or Trainings, as well as met with the clergy of 11 districts.

Operation Evangelization Funding Request For 2001: \$113,810

OPERATION EVANGELIZATION

As the 2000 annual session of the Florida Annual Conference meets the first goal of Operation Evangelization has come and gone. It was our hope and goal that by May of 2000 the Florida Annual Conference would have grown to 400,000 members. Visionary goals, however, usually require 3-5 years to achieve. As the saying goes, it takes a lot of sea space to turn the Queen Mary!

The turn is in progress. Worship attendance is increasing across our entire annual conference, which speaks volumes of the commitment to excellence being demonstrated by pastors and worship teams. A growing number of our congregations have embraced the reality of the new missionary situation with a renewed Wesleyan passion to reach out to the unchurched and lost. Learning leaders in many congregations are learning how, sometimes by trial and error, to be a mission congregation.

A burden we carry is the large number of people who have been removed from our rolls. In 1998 we topped the list of annual conferences by removing 20,964 persons. At the same time we received more members than any other conference in United Methodism in the U.S.A., while also having the most new church starts as well. Only North Georgia was close behind us. Yet they removed 7,678

fewer persons than we did. Had we removed the average of the 66 conferences of 6,672 persons or the average of the SEJ of 8,779, we would have shown significant gains. Yet some of these removals are beyond our control and others are made in the name of membership integrity. One hopes, however, in the spirit of Luke 15:1-7, that people are not being removed without intentional efforts to reclaim them and to reconnect them to the congregation.

Since its inception in 1998 Operation Evangelization has stimulated the development of clergy peer groups for mutual support and accountability in disciple-making as well as publishing "The Bishop's Fishing Guide to Florida" and video "Gone Fishing." These two resources detail exciting ventures in evangelism being undertaken in churches of all sizes in our state.

In its second full year, since the appointment of Dr. Roger Swanson as director, a major emphasis has been on developing and implementing an all day district seminar/workshop for local church leader teams. Developed and conducted by Roger Swanson, "New Wineskins for the New Wine" seminar/workshops have been held in all fourteen districts with a remarkable attendance of 2800-3000 pastors and other local church leaders. Intended as a means of getting Florida United Methodist leaders "on the same page" in regards to the mission and vision of evangelization, as well as evangelization strategies that are growing the church here and elsewhere, these seminar/workshops have seemed to achieve their purpose. The measurable result, to date, has been many requests for on-site local church consultations, as well as a follow-up experience dealing with practical helps for leading a church through the kind of change which the new missionary situation is making necessary.

Another emphasis in this second year of Operation Evangelization has been the initiation of an intentional effort to bring training in personal evangelism/faith-sharing to the laity in the local church. Forty pastors and laity were trained in a model developed by the evangelism section of the General Board of Discipleship. Many of these persons will be available to offer similar training in districts and clusters. The aim is to help the church's laity to recover their biblical ministry and franchise as the principle evangelists in family, neighborhood, and the places of work and leisure activities. Some congregations are also using a resource with the same goal known as "The Contagious Christian." One of our retired pastors, Jack Kelley, has produced a series of simple booklets aimed at teaching the laity to share their faith. There is no more important evangelization strategy than for the church's laity to exercise their ministry of sharing faith and inviting friends and family, associates and neighbors to come with them to Christ and his church.

Another positive development has been the growth of the Share Jesus Mission, now known as the Celebrate Jesus Mission. Two missions are set for this summer in Deland and St. Petersburg Districts, after a very successful mission last summer in Jacksonville. This ministry came to birth as a part of Operation Evangelization and is now going forth as a most effective evangelization strategy under the leadership of missionary Alan Poole and soon-to-be-appointed General Evangelist Joe MacLaren. It is expected that God will grow the number of district missions in the next few years.

There is consensus among our conference pastors and laity that "the harvest is plentiful," while it is also true that "the laborers are few," but thank God their numbers are growing among us. Soon we hope every congregation will be an outpost of God's coming kingdom, inviting and welcoming the lost, relating them to God, teaching them, and equipping them for the ministry of reconciliation.

Roger K. Swanson, Director

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Vision Statement: The Florida Conference Commission on Religion and Race envisions a biblically nurtured, experienced, matured, diverse, and inclusive Florida United Methodist Church as conduit, in union with the general church, to be a living example to the world in carrying out God's plan for humankind.

Mission Statement: The conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) seeks to carry out the guidelines and fulfill its mandate as stated in the Book of Discipline, Section IX, Paragraph 640,

and to develop and implement a performance based action plan which identifies methodologies designed to enhance its role, responsibility, and status within the conference.

SUMMARY: The master plan for our mission will focus on legitimately surveyed issues and concerns of non-inclusiveness within the conference and provide optimal resolution designed to strengthen internal organizations where lack of mutual respect insight, and understanding occurs.

The Florida CCORR, in order to be successful, must address and fulfill its mandate under ¶640 of the Book of Discipline. The on-going and planned programs listed in the budget reflect a reinvigorated Commission's plan to move boldly forward in accomplishing its mandate and in providing greater opportunities for cultural diversity and respect. Activities involve:

- Monitoring
- Surveying districts and churches for needs determinations
- Training and sensitizing local church coordinators and others who are identified in social psychology issues surrounding human behavior and belief systems
- Travels to conferences and areas effecting cultural change
- Developing activities for understanding cultural differences
- Mailing informative materials
- One or more culturally diverse activities/events per annual conference
- Support target community culturally diverse activities based upon needs determination
- Becoming an intentional model of inclusiveness as a commission

Resources will be allocated as programs and activities are organized and approved through planning and development, meetings, and conferences.

Religion And Race Funding Request For 2001: \$14,250

THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE
Leads Training On Racial Sensitivity
To Promote Diversity And Racial Inclusiveness

With the aim of promoting diversity and racial inclusiveness and all the areas of the Church's ministries, the Book of discipline of the United Methodist calls for the existence of a Commission on Religion and Race in each Annual Conference. The paragraph (¶ 640.1) of the Book of Discipline affirms that, "there shall be in each Annual Conference a Conference Commission on Religion and Race or similar structure . . . It shall follow the general guidelines and structure of the General Commission on Religion and Race where applicable."

The Mission of the Florida Conference Commission on religion and Race is encompassed in the purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) set forth in the Book of Discipline 1996. The paragraph (¶ 2002) states "the primary purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race shall be to challenge the general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures of the United Methodist Church to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire Church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness." Therefore, the mission of the Florida CCORR is to ensure that racial inclusiveness exists at all levels in the ministries and missions of the Florida Annual Conference.

After a long period of inactivity, the Florida CCORR is being revitalized to fulfill its mission. A team of lay and clergy members from different ethnic backgrounds has been nominated and elected to serve on the Commission on Religion and Race. Under the leadership of Dr. Arnett Smith of the St. Petersburg district, this team has been working tirelessly to identify activities leading toward the fulfillment of the CCORR's mission. Since August of 1999, the Florida Conference Commission on Religion and Race has been facilitating training seminars on Racial sensitivity to promote and encourage diversity, not only in the United Methodist boards, agencies and institutions, but in the local congregations as well.

With the participation of a training leader, Constance Barnes, from the General Commission on Religion and Race, the Florida Conference Commission on Religion and Race has conducted training seminars on Racial Sensitivity and on Monitoring Techniques for the members of the Commission (August 1999 and March 2000). Two training sessions on Racial Sensitivity were also offered to the Bishop's Cabinet.

Responding to a request from the Bishop's Cabinet, training seminars on Racial Sensitivity geared for pastors and lay persons are being conducted in the districts. By the 2000 Annual Conference, Training will have taken place in six districts: Gainesville (February 19), Jacksonville (February 28), Tampa (March 29), St. Petersburg (March 30), Leesburg (May 19) and Tallahassee (May 28). The remaining eight districts are being scheduled for the Summer and Fall of 2000 and for early 2001.

The evaluation received from these training seminars revealed that these events have been a success in most of the districts. It has also been noted that the training sessions were best attended in districts where the Superintendents promoted them aggressively. With an increase awareness of barriers created by racism and a deeper understanding of "white privilege," CCORR hopes that the United Methodist Church in Florida can begin to embrace its diversity in every gathering and at every level. The Florida CCORR's expectation is that the participants to these events will share the information they receive with the members of their congregations. In addition to the training seminars on Racial Sensitivity, the Florida Conference Commission on Religion and Race has plans to monitor the session of the 2000 "Dare to Share Jesus" Annual Conference and all the institutions and agencies in the Florida Annual Conference.

The CCORR is not creating diversity. The Florida area is already one of the most diverse Annual Conferences in the United Methodist connection. As servants of the God who created this diverse world in which we live, we need to be able to help make the gospel of Jesus Christ come alive for constituents from all backgrounds in this Annual Conference. With God's help, let us strive to be truly and intentionally inclusive in our relationships and in our ministries.

Jacques E. Pierre

SELF-INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

I. **INTRODUCTION:** The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the history, progress, and current status of the Conference-wide Property/Casualty/Workers' Compensation insurance program. A more detailed report is available at the Risk Management booth.

The Conference-wide program officially began on December 1, 1996. It provides insurance coverage for all entities in the Conference. Included are the Conference Headquarters, the Districts, the local churches, church-affiliated pre-schools, our camps, and the Children's Home (for Workers' Compensation only). As you will read below, the program has been very successful. Additional coverages and higher limits have been added each year and the cost of insurance has remained level.

Since its inception, a lay member committee, made up of persons knowledgeable in large commercial insurance programs, has guided the self-insurance program. Frank Furman, a successful insurance executive, serves as committee chairperson. The other members are:

- Ed Smith: Retired Comptroller of Hillsborough County, past CF&A member, Treasurer of the Tampa District Board of Missions & Church Extensions.
- Errol Campbell: Current CF&A member, Administrative Chair of local Church, Library Director of Evaluation & Treatment Center.
- Barbara Coleman: CF&A member, State Farm Insurance agent.
- Bob Standifer: Senior Pastor, Vice-Chair of CF&A.
- Jack Inman: Retired attorney, past President of third party administration business – Workers' Compensation, past State legislator.
- Jessica Mann: CF&A Secretary, CPA
- Don Works: Attorney, Employment practices.

- Morgan Wright: President of CF&A, Church Business Administrator.
- Keith Ewing: Administrator to the Bishop.
- Ransom E. Casey-Rutland: Interim Conference Treasurer

The program is self-contained (i.e., operates solely from premiums collected from insured entities). A total of \$5,975,000 will be billed and collected this year. Premiums charged to insured entities pay for excess insurance, claim costs, claims administration, and the expenses of the Risk Management Department. Jenny Albritton in the Risk Management Department does the premium billing and collection. Jenny reports to Jim Severance, the Risk Manager. The Risk Manager reports to the Conference Treasurer.

The term "self-insurance" as used to describe the Conference program means that the initial cost of each incurred claim is paid by, first the local church's deductible and then, if required, by the Conference Loss Fund. If a claim exceeds the Conference's self-insured level, our excess insurance carriers pay the additional claim costs. Figure #1 contains a general description of the entire Conference program. For all Property/Casualty claims, the insured entities have a "nominal" deductible. For Year #4, the church deductible has been reduced to \$750.

The Conference Loss Fund (that pays for self-insured claim costs in excess of the church deductible), is included in the premiums charged to each entity. The annual Loss Fund amount charged is the total claim costs "expected" to occur within the Conference's self-insured levels. The Self-Insurance Committee sets the required Loss Fund amount for each policy year.

The program is financially sound. Coverages continue to be placed only through A+ rated insurance companies. Four large property loss claims have occurred since the program's inception. For these large losses, the Conference program has paid for damages that far exceed the building and contents values submitted by the churches. In addition, several hurricanes have caused significant damage to multiple locations. The program has responded effectively to these losses.

II. SUMMARY OF YEARS #1 - #3:

- Property Rate Cost Control: Property insurance rates are stated in terms of dollars per \$100 dollars of coverage. For Year #1 our property rate was \$0.18 or 18 cents per \$100 of covered value. For Years #2 & #3, our rate decreased to \$0.15. During that time span, it is estimated that property rates for an independently insured church would have increased by at least 3% to 4% per year.
- Coverage Enhancements: The following enhancements were implemented for Years #2/#3:
 1. The umbrella limit was increased from \$5 million to \$20 million.
 2. The self-insured retention for sexual misconduct was reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000.
 3. Physical damage coverage to non-owned autos was added.
 4. Coverage for the personal property of pastors was made available outside the program.
 5. The Property/Casualty Loss Fund was increased from \$535,000 to \$700,000.
 6. The limit for Employment Practices Liability was increased from \$2 million to \$3 million.
 7. The self-insured retention for Workers' Compensation was decreased from \$200,000 to \$100,000.
- Financial Soundness: Self-insured insurance programs are required to have "adequate" cash reserves to pay for claim costs that are "ultimately" expected. The calculation of financial reserve requirements is performed by professional actuaries who include factors for unexpected claim value increases as well as factors for claims that have been incurred but not yet reported. The results of the program's actuarial analysis, completed as of November 30, 1999, indicate that our cash reserves are sufficient to pay all expected claim costs at a 95% level of statistical confidence. The industry standard is 75%.
- Bishop & Conference Chancellor Coordination: The Risk Manager routinely assists the Bishop's office in the investigation of complaints received by the Bishop. Findings of these investigations are reported to the Bishop for his consideration and action. The Conference

Chancellor is being copied on important matters related to litigation. The Conference Chancellor also serves as an active member of the Self-Insurance Committee and offers valuable insights into the need for additional coverages, higher limits, and pastor and/or staff training.

III. YEAR #4: (December 1, 1999 thru December 31, 2000)

- Policy Year Change: The original policy year date of December 1st was chosen by the Self-Insurance Committee as the earliest possible program start date after Conference approval occurred in May 1996. Since the Conference fiscal year begins on January 1st, accounting for the Property/Casualty/Workers' Compensation program has required extra accounting entries and complicated financial statements. After much Self-Insurance Committee discussion, it was decided to change our policy year to coincide with the Conference fiscal year. This decision resulted in the one-time requirement for a 13-month premium for Year #4.
- Coverage Enhancements: Several significant additional coverage changes were made for Year #4. These include:
 - The church deductible was decreased to \$750
 - The sexual misconduct limit was increased to \$10 million.
 - The crime limit was increased to \$1,000,000.
 - The Property/Casualty Loss Fund was increased to \$800,000.
- "Flat" Premium Concept: For Year #4, the primary renewal goal was to improve the program but keep the cost of insurance level (i.e., flat). This was accomplished. If an entity's insured values remained constant, their cost of insurance for Year #4 is the same as it was for Year #3. The Self-Insurance Committee and our broker worked hard to make this possible.
- Humana Workers' Compensation Services: Beginning on December 1, 1999, Humana became our Workers' Compensation claims administrator. Humana is also our managed care provider which means that one company is responsible for handling all aspects of our Workers' Compensation claims. This change was made to simplify the claims management process and will also result in lower claim costs.
- Planned Loss Control Focus Areas: Risk Management will continue to stress the need for requiring criminal background checks on all staff and regular volunteers. Performing site inspections to identify unsafe conditions will also be stressed. The entire area of how to minimize employment practices liability will be revisited. Continuation of our successful program depends on keeping our accidents and claims to a minimum. This is everyone's responsibility!

FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of Norris Counts, chair of the conference Board of Trustees, and members of the Board I am happy to give the 1999 report of the Board of Trustees.

The Conference Board of Trustees met four times in 1999 to perform the duties and responsibilities for the care and maintenance of all conference properties.

Our report will share three major projects: (1.) The new Heritage Center; (2) The sewage treatment project related to the Life Enrichment Center and the Warren W. Willis Camp; (3) The remodeling and renovation of the Methodist Building.

I. The Heritage Center -- The Annual Conference meeting June 1-5, 1999 approved a motion to allow the trustees to begin construction of the Heritage Center when cash and pledges equaled the cost of construction had been received. The motion allowed for a four-year loan to cover the four-year pledge period. At this present time we have received cash and pledges of approximately \$400,000. We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Barney Barnett for their pledge of \$225,000, a gift of \$25,000 in memory of Charles T. Thrift, a gift of \$25,000 from the T. H. Norton Family; a pledge of \$25,000 to honor Bishop Charlene Kammerer. We also wish to thank individuals and churches who have paid or pledged \$500 making up the extra \$100,000.

We believe every church in Florida can invest just \$500 over a four-year period to help make possible this significant building to house our heritage and treasures. Please encourage your local church to send in their pledge if they have not done so.

We have one room available to be named in honor or memory of a special person for a gift of \$25,000. Please speak to Nell Thrift or Bob Barber concerning this. Also take a moment to visit our Florida Historical display. You can view the drawing of the new building and see the list of churches and donors to our project.

II. The Department of Environmental Protection found that our sewage system at the Warren W. Willis Camp and Life Enrichment Center was in severe violation of code and set a deadline to close both the Life Enrichment Center and Warren W. Willis Camp if we did not comply by the summer. The Board of Trustees meeting October 28, 1998 voted to allow the project to begin immediately and funds to cover cost would be borrowed from the Florida United Methodist Development Fund and paid back at the rate of \$50,000.00 per year from the camp budget. The project is designed to meet both present and anticipated requirements.

Our camp director, Michel D'Annecy, reports as of this month that the work is now in process of being completed and in fact the DEP has given us a three month extension or the LEC and camp would be closed at this time.

This project is placing a tremendous strain on our camp budget. We would be so happy if someone or several persons would make a gift to our camp to help take care of their emergency situation.

III. Re-modeling of the Methodist Building -- Again last year the Annual Conference voted \$1.4 million dollars to re-model the Methodist Building. There are many needs within our building which need our attention. However, due to the financial needs of the conference at this time the trustees have voted to postpone the major plan of re-modeling of the building.

Instead we have formed a committee of all the heads of departments in the building who meet monthly to discuss the feasibility of changes in the building. The trustees have requested that no more than \$200,000 of the \$1.4 million be used and this shall be used as the trustee budget will allow. This amount may still be honored over a short period of time and will be used only on review of the Heads of Department Committee and Board of Trustees.

Some priorities, which have been discussed, include:

1. Emergency repair of the air conditioner, emergency repair of the phone system, and emergency repair of the computer system.
2. Cleaning of duct wall that is causing an allergy reaction to employees.
3. Replacing worn out carpeting where we must repair with duct tape to prevent accidents.
4. Space re-adjustments as staff needs and changes are reported.
5. Special needs related to Episcopal Office.

As a member of the Board of Trustees I commend them for their careful handling of the funds available and the sensitivity they have shown to re-consider their plans in light of needs with our Conference.

While we do not ask for a vote at this time on any of these matters we simply ask for your continued support and prayers as your servants continue to fulfill their responsibilities as your Board of Trustees.

Robert R. Barber for the Conference Board of Trustees

COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

BETHUNE COOKMAN COLLEGE

Bethune-Cookman College is blessed to report another banner year in enrollment, fund-raising, academic recognition, athletic championships and Spiritual growth and enhancement.

Our college experienced its highest enrollment in its history, reaching 2,558 students. Approximately 26 foreign countries are represented in our student body including Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Serbia, Canada, Africa, South America and from the Asian Continent, especially China, India and Australia.

The successful banner also waves in Bethune-Cookman's fund raising. Our dedicated Development Office staff succeeded in achieving the designation of one of five finalists for a nationwide competitive grant in the amount of \$1,690,000 from the Kresge Foundation. The purpose of this award is to improve and enhance our college's fund-raising strategies.

Academically, we are pleased to report that the ten-year review by a visitation team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools ended with a strong commendation rarely given. Other units such as Hospitality Management, Teacher Education, Medical Technology and Nursing also remain accredited by their respective Professional Associations. The college's nursing program has been rejuvenated by its occupancy in a new building designated for nursing education only.

Athletically, we are celebrating the following championships: Women's softball, golf, baseball, tennis and women's track. Our head coach has been named "Coach of the Year" for two consecutive years.

The spiritual life of the college continues to be blessed by the leadership of our college Chaplain, the Reverend Michael A. Frazier, Sr. In addition to a campus-wide crusade featuring our Episcopal Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson, in a three-day and night revival, the emphasis on Bible Study and Prayer groups continues in our residence halls.

We remain very grateful for the continued support and prayers that are provided Bethune-Cookman throughout the Florida Conference. We look forward to the time when the Florida annual Conference will meet on our campus and experience the college's warm hospitality and genuine Christian devotion.

Oswald P. Bronson, President

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dean's Report to the Florida Annual Conference - Spring 2000

Candler School of Theology savors its mission to educate faithful and creative leaders for the many ways in which we are supported in this effort by churches and individuals across the life of the church. The prayers, service, and gifts of many sustain and inspire us.

In fall 1999, Candler enrolled 535 students. The entering class of 202 was drawn from a pool of 605 applicants, a record high for the second year in a row. The student body reflects the school's commitment to educating church leaders. (Of our new M.Div. Students, 77% will seek ordination.) Among our M.Div. graduates in 1998-99, 65% were preparing for parish ministry. This contrasts with the national average of 49%. Other students anticipate ministry as chaplains, educators, or social justice workers.

New and added scholarship funds from the Cannon, Pitts, Garrett, Quenelle, and Sherman bequests deepen our ties to the church. Due to these funds, Candler awarded scholarships covering 90% or more of tuition to half of the entering M.Div. class. The Ministerial Education Fund continues to be a major source of support and encouragement to the faculty and students. Our appreciation for this

commitment on the part of the church to the financial stability of its seminaries is profound. The costs of theological education however, continue to rise. For this reason, we continue to seek scholarship support for students in an effort to limit the funds they must borrow for their theological education.

The new Contextual Education program is now in its second year. It engages students in practices of theological and ministry formation grounded in Wesleyan tradition. A \$1.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment provides funds to try new approaches and to train the faculty and pastors, and other community leaders to teach in this program.

Candler shares with Columbia Theological Seminary and Interdenominational Theological Center another \$2.5 million grant for a project called "Faith and the City." This cooperative venture is designed to equip pastors and other church leaders for leadership in public life.

Candler professors serve the churches in many ways. They produce several books each year for use in congregations. Last year they preached, gave lectures, taught in Sunday schools, and led workshops more than 575 times in the congregations across the nation.

New faculty members add new strength to the teaching and scholarship of the school. In fall 1999, Mary Elizabeth Moore, a national leader in Christian religious education with wide experience in the United Methodist Church, joined the faculty as the director of the Program for Women in Theology and Ministry. Michael Joseph Brown, whose research interests have centered on prayer in the early church, became assistant professor of New Testament. Timothy Sandoval became a visiting assistant instructor in Old Testament.

Jong Chun Park, a Candler alumnus and professor at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, joined us for the fall semester as visiting professor of systematic theology.

Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu of South Africa, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, remained with us a second year, teaching courses and lecturing as the William R. Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Theology.

Pitts Theology Library is the second-largest theological library in North America. With 490,000 volumes, including 94,000 in Special Collections, it attracts scholars from around the world. A range of educational programs and the World Wide Web enhances the accessibility of the library's resources.

Community life is full and richly varied with leadership from students, faculty and staff. Three weekly informal conversations on theology, prayer group and Bible studies, and panel discussions on spiritual, ethical, theological and practical subjects through the year enliven our time together.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve Candler School of Theology as its interim dean this year. From the perspective of this office I have become even more aware of the deep commitment of people across the church to theological education generally and to Candler specifically. I have been humbled by the generosity of spirit I have encountered and resources we have received to ensure effective and faithful leaders of the church into the future.

Charles R. Foster , Interim Dean and Professor of Religion and Education

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The Divinity School of Duke University continues to prepare faithful, effective leadership for the church through its distinguished academic and field programs for clergy and lay education.

The largest initiative undertaken during the 1999-2000 year was planning for the launch of The Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life. The institute, which is based at the Divinity School, seeks to improve care at the end of life through interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching and public outreach. The school's new Theology and Medicine Program complements the institute, and includes a partnership with the Duke School of Nursing to provide three new graduate programs for nurses who

will provide care within their faith communities. The first students will enter in fall 2000. Other new programs include a local urban ministry project, the planning and funding for a major program for youth exploring Christian vocation, and an intensive leadership education initiative for church ministry.

Student enrollment for 1999-2000 was 468 full-time with 54 percent men and 46 percent women, including an ethnic minority enrollment of 16 percent. They came from 30 states and 10 foreign countries with degrees from 311 colleges and universities. Thirty-six denominations were represented. Sixty percent of the students were United Methodist. Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics represent the other largest groups.

Peter Storey, former leader of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and past-president of the South African Council of Churches, joined the faculty as professor of the practice of Christian ministry. Daphne C. Wiggins, previously on the faculty of Texas Christian University, was appointed assistant professor of congregational studies. Carolyn Lucas was named to the new position of chaplain of the Divinity School. New members appointed to the Board of Visitors are Michael H. Browder, Leesburg, Va.; Eric A. Law, Berkley, Mich.; Nancy Aikens Rich, Redding, Conn.; G. Austin Triggs Jr., Nashville, Tenn.; and James W. Ummer, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The public announcement of The Campaign for Duke generated great enthusiasm and the momentum is strong for achieving the Divinity School's \$35 million goal by 2003. Highest priorities are for endowed scholarships and professorships. Graduates and friends joined with foundations and churches to contribute a record \$7.8 million in support during fiscal 1998-99. For the second consecutive year the faculty, staff, National Alumni Council and Board of Visitors of the Divinity School achieved 100 percent donor participation.

Respectfully submitted by L. Gregory Jones, Dean

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Over 1700 students experienced Florida Southern College's commitment to a personal, well-rounded college education in 1999-2000. This year's new student class featured more international transfer students; an increase in the number of out of state students; and an increase in male enrollment in the freshman class. Florida Southern's freshman class totaled 22% Methodist.

Florida Southern continued to be recognized by several publications such as *U.S. News & World Report*. This was the fourth year FSC was listed as one of the top five best values in Southern Regional Liberal Arts Colleges, moving into the fourth place in that category. Florida Southern was the only Florida school listed in this category. To achieve this ranking, colleges must be in the top quartile of schools in academic reputation and have an affordable cost and significant aid.

The college announced the conclusion of its history-making, record-setting capital campaign – a campaign that exceeded its goal of \$50 million to raise \$59,577,396 for capital improvements and increased endowment. Not only was FSC Campaign the most ambitious fundraising campaign ever in the college's 115 – year history, but it was also the largest for any non-profit in the Lakeland/Polk County area. The five-year campaign was successfully completed in four years through the gifts of trustees, alumni, faculty/staff, friends of the college, State of Florida and community members.

Construction was completed on the four million-dollar-addition to the Robert A. Davis Performing Arts Center. The addition houses individual practice rooms, faculty studios, and two large rehearsal spaces serving large instrumental and choral groups.

Work was begun on the college's oldest building on campus, Edge Hall. Built in 1922 as the first building on the Lakeland campus, it will be totally renovated to better serve the needs of the college's education and religion departments.

The rehabilitation of Frank Lloyd Wright's Annie Pfeiffer Chapel was completed this year. The ten million-dollar rehabilitation of the Polk County Science Building continued on campus with expected

completion in September 2000. The work, part of the successful Capital Campaign, provided state of the art science equipment within the Frank Lloyd Wright design structure.

The State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the division of Historic Preservation continued to be supportive of such projects as the rehabilitation of the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings.

Students have had the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers including Beverly Wolff, who left a brilliant career in concert opera in 1981, to have an equal career at Florida Southern College. Artist in residence at the college, Ms. Wolff has been recognized internationally for her teaching talent. She was honored as the college's 66th Honorary Chancellor, speaking to the students about their environmental destiny. The Florida Lecture Series also continued on campus bringing the subjects of such things as cracker culture, civil rights and Florida literature. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Outback Steakhouse, Inc., Chris Sullivan was the latest speaker to appear on the campus as part of the Crockoft Forum of Free Enterprise which provides students with an excellent insight in the realities and challenges of corporate American and the free enterprise system.

For the 1999-2000 school year, the Advancing-the-Flame Matching Scholarship program provided \$195,790 in scholarships for 103 Florida Southern College students. Established during the 1997-98 school year, the scholarship program celebrates the partnership between the United Methodist Church and Florida Southern College by offering matching scholarships of up to 1,000 for U.M. students attending FSC. This year, 54 Florida Conference U.M. churches and five from other states contributed \$109,130 for students with FSC matching & \$87,660 of those funds.

Currently 40 students are receiving full-time Christian Service Grants with twelve of those being pre-ministerial. Twenty-eight students will be going into some other form of Christian service.

Serving as the College's Chaplain is the Reverend Brenda K. Lewis, the first female chaplain in the college's history. Extracurricular religious activities continue to thrive under the chaplain's leadership.

The annual Church Christmas Gala concert by the Music Department brought over 1,650 United Methodist from all across the state for a joyful prelude to the Christmas season.

In its 115th year as a United Methodist campus, Florida Southern College continues to be true to its mission: to stimulate Judeo-Christian values and ideals, cultivate the development of the whole person, promote an atmosphere of international and inter cultural understanding to encourage responsible citizenship, and prepare students for meaningful lives and vocations.

Thomas L. Reuschling, President

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

United Theological Seminary, formed in 1954 through the merger of Union Biblical Seminary (1871) and Evangelical School of Theology (1905), now represents 129 years of service in theological education. In addition to the main campus at Dayton, Ohio, United includes an extension campus (fully accredited to offer the M.Div. degree) at Buffalo, New York, and two M. Div. course offering sites in Morgantown and Charleston, West Virginia. The seminary also offers the Doctor of Ministry degree and continuing education programs at The Theological Center in Naples, Florida.

Significant leadership changes have taken place on all of United's campuses, as it reorganizes to meet the challenges of theological formation in the 21st century. Central to its new leadership has been the election of the Rev. Dr. G. Edwin Zeiders as the seventh president of United, effective Jan. 1, 2000. Dr. Zeiders, a member of the class of 1973, is well known among United Methodists, having served as a District Superintendent and most recently, as Director of the Council on Ministries of the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference. President Zeiders has already secured seminary and trustee support for the ten-point *President's Initiative*, which focuses on reorganizing the seminary around its core values and mission. Central to this purpose is the formation of a more inclusive Leadership Team, strengthening judicatory connections, establishing better fiscal management and

fund raising, and developing a concrete Five Year Plan to implement the institution's Master Plan, adopted earlier. Other leadership changes and initiatives include the following:

UTS/Dayton Campus

- With the second (!) retirement of Dean Emeritus Newell Wert, Dr. Kendall K. McCabe was installed as Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Formerly Professor of Worship and Homiletics, Dr. McCabe has begun the process of a major curriculum revision under the theme, *The Four Pillars of Theological Education (Proclamation, Formation, Cultivation, and Implementation)*, which will be part of a comprehensive institutional self-study for the Association of Theological Schools.
- With the resignation of Dean Ramga, who became treasurer of Christian Theological Seminary (his home denomination), the position of Vice President for Administration and Treasurer was filled by Richard DeLon, past chief financial officer for the Miami Valley Transit Authority in Dayton. Mr. DeLon has been working with staff and Leadership Team to improve student services and to upgrade the physical plant, including working on a revised funding structure and construction schedule for three new apartment buildings.
- With the resignation of Albert Hurd, Sara Blair was hired as Director of the Library. Dr. Blair is currently working on a funding proposal to bring electronic cataloging to the library's substantial holdings.
- With the retirement of Paul Tofte, the position of Director of Information Technology was filled by Dale Brown, a UTS alumni and clergy member of the West Ohio Conference. Rev. Brown has focused on providing and encouraging better utilization of campus technology resources.
- With the retirement of Donna Wert after 25 years of service, the position of Registrar was filled by Martha Anderson, former Administrative Assistant to the Dean.
- With the re-retirement of Thomas Tatham, Associate Vice President for Community Relations, Dorla Morgan assumed the responsibilities of publications and special events.

UTS/Buffalo Campus

- Central to United's commitment to develop the Buffalo campus with a range of degree and non-degree programs and support services, Dr. David G. Meade was hired as the full-time Director of UTS/Buffalo. A New Testament scholar, teacher, pastor, and recent Chair of the WNY Board of Ordained Ministry, Dr Meade serves as chief academic and administrative officer for the campus. Highlights of the year include the securing of Conference Advance Special Status through the WNY Conference, and the successful completion of the last accreditation review process with the Association of Theological Schools. The seminary is now accredited by the University Senate of the UMC, the Association of Theological Schools and the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities to offer the full Master of Divinity degree at the Buffalo campus. The first cohort of UTS/Buffalo students graduates this May.
- Dr. Jo Anne Brocklehurst was hired as Coordinator of Contextual Education. Dr. Brocklehurst has her masters and doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Boston Seminary. She oversees United's contextual education program, and is active in developing judicatory relations and opportunities for clergy and lay education.
- Sheila Truesdell was hired as Administrative Assistant for the campus. A Diaconal Minister of the United Methodist Church, with certification in Christian Education, Ms Truesdell also serves as the WNY Conference Resource Director. Her campus responsibilities center on student services and program support.
- Linda Deeks, Librarian for the Houghton College West Seneca campus (where UTS/Buffalo is located), was contracted as part-time librarian for United as well. Besides providing services to students and faculty, Ms. Deeks oversees a major expansion of library holdings through a grant from the Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation.

UTS/Florida Course Offering Sites

- Reflecting United's commitment to strengthen its ties and services with the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Kathleen L. Kircher, Dean of Continuing Education and In-Context Programs, has now established residence in Naples. The seminary, in affiliation with The Theological Center in Naples, offers the Doctor of Ministry degree and continuing education programs for clergy and laity. The administrative office of the seminary and the center is currently located at First United

Methodist Church. The office will be permanently situated on the new campus of North Naples United Methodist Church, beginning in Summer 2000.

UTS/West Virginia Course Offering Sites

- The In-Context Master of Divinity degree program situated in West Virginia, begun in 1995, utilizes the library, classrooms and faculty resources of the University of Charleston and the University of Morgantown/Ruby Memorial Hospital. Approximately 2/3 of the courses for this degree program are offered at the main campus with 1/3 of the courses at the West Virginia course offering sites. Susie Echols, a Deacon in the United Methodist Church, serves as WV Program and Contextual Education Coordinator. The first cohort of students graduated in May 1999. The mission of United is to prepare Christ-centered leaders for the church of the twenty-first century through experiences of faith in Jesus Christ, study in the biblical tradition, and the practice of ministry.

G. Edwin Zeiders, President

RELATED AGENCIES

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME 1999 - Tossed About Before The Rain Under The Sheltering Tree 91 Years of Ministry to Children and Youth

The mission of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is to create an atmosphere which enables children and families with special needs to experience God's love and care as presented in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Combining Christian influence with a healing, caring, therapeutic community, the Home provides a continuum of highly specialized services designed to strengthen individual and family life.

The year 1999 found us planning toward our second century of care, "Under The Sheltering Tree." Through a dedicated Board of Trustees and many extra planning hours for staff as well, we worked with new programs to better serve our youth and families and we struggled with financial issues that have plagued us for years.

Hard decisions were made and program cuts were initiated to see us through a stormy period in our history. The Board and staff agreed that we could not sacrifice quality of care for quantity and therefore, closed two cottages while sufficient funds were raised to open them. While closed, volunteers worked to rebuild kitchens, do necessary repairs and paint the interiors so that the cottages would be ready for use.

A song written expressly for and about our ministry expresses, not only the feelings the children, youth and families experience in their lives as they come to us, but also our corporate ministry as we see more and increasingly difficult cases with which to minister.

The first verse is, indeed, meaningful to us this year...

*Sometimes the water is so deep and wide.
There seems no way to reach the other side.
Tossed about before the wind.
It seems no use to try again.
Is there no shelter from the storm?*

Sometimes it does seem hard to go on...

*But on the shore line there grows a tree
with branches wide and with roots so deep.
No matter how the winds may blow,
there is a healing place to go.
Yes, there's shelter from the storm*

Love flows through the branches there,
miracles are the fruit it bears
and hope rains down and fills the air
Under the Sheltering Tree.

You have provided the shelter and the operating funds to keep this vital ministry alive and growing !
As we prepare for our second century of care under the sheltering trees of this campus and our
ministry to children, youth and families we plan to evolve our theme of the Sheltering Tree.

Nineteen Ninety-nine was truly a milestone year in that through special gifts, bequests and through
the continued prayerful assistance of the local churches in the Florida Conference and especially our
donors we were able to begin relying more on our church connection than ever before! Now we must
continue that great effort as we maintain program while building for the future.

During 1999, Our Fifth Sunday giving from local churches and friends of the Home allowed us to
minister to children, youth and families. The local church goal for giving in 2000 is \$8.50 per member
and is set for \$9.00 in 2001. This represents a minimum goal of what is actually needed. We deeply
appreciate the local churches and individuals who exceed their commitment to children and thereby
meet and exceed this goal. Without this assistance the Home would be experiencing financial strain.
We request the historic plan be continued whereby on each Fifth Sunday and on Christmas Sunday,
the church school offering and the undesignated offering (loose plate) received in Sunday worship
services be remitted directly, along with special donations and gifts, to the Florida United Methodist
Children's Home.

We begin, where our children, youth and families begin - with the storms of life. Most of our children,
youth and families feel that their problems are insurmountable, that they are being tossed about by
forces beyond their control. Here, at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, we seek to assist
families know that their problems can be overcome, they can survive the storm winds, rains and
water. Like the hymn, "Stand By Me" they pray:

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.

In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.
When I've done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,
Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.

David McEntire, Chairperson Board of Trustees
Alexander C. Carmichel IV, President – Senior Pastor

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Trustees
Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.

We have audited the statement of financial position of Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. as of December 31, 1999 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.'s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. at December 31, 1999, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated February 1, 2000 on our consideration of the Organization's internal control structure and a report dated February 1, 2000 on its compliance with laws and regulations.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards for the year ended December 31, 1999 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

February 1, 2000

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

(1) Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Organization

Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. (the "Home") was incorporated in 1908 as a not-for-profit corporation. The purpose of the Home is to care for children who otherwise cannot be provided for. The Home is governed by a Board of Trustees which are Florida Methodist Church members or clergy. Nominations for membership come from the Board and are approved by the Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

(b) Contributions Receivable

Contributions receivable represent amounts collected after the beginning of the next fiscal year, applicable to the prior fiscal year.

(c) Contributions

The Home reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor restricted contributions, whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period, are reported as unrestricted support. The majority of contributions originate either from United Methodist laity or from United Methodist churches in the State of Florida.

The Home reports gifts of land, buildings and equipment as unrestricted support unless explicit donor stipulations specify how the donated assets must be used. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash or other assets that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are reported as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, the Home reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service.

(d) Land, Buildings, and Equipment

Land, buildings, and equipment acquisitions are recorded at cost when purchased, or at fair market value at date of gift when donated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred.

(e) Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are presented on the accrual basis and represent the financial position and results of operations of the Home.

The Home has adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations." This statement establishes standards for financial reporting by not-for-profit organizations. The statement requires financial statements to be prepared on an entity wide basis, to focus on the organization as a whole and to present balances and transactions according to the existences or absence

of donor-imposed restrictions. This has been accomplished by aggregating all funds into one set of financial statements and classifying fund balances and transactions into three classes of net assets – permanently restricted, temporarily restricted or unrestricted as follows:

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted amounts will become either unrestricted or permanently restricted when the conditions of the temporary restrictions are met. Temporarily restricted assets consist of amounts held in the designated fund for the construction or purchase of buildings or equipment and amounts held in the scholarship education fund which principal and income is used for the education of qualified candidates in the Home.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

General endowment net assets are subject to restrictions of gift instruments requiring that the principal be invested in perpetuity. Annually, a portion of the income is approved by the Board for use in the Home's operations.

Annuity fund net assets represent resources contributed to the Home where specified amounts are to be paid to the donor while living. Any funds remaining at the death of the donor revert to the use of the Home, primarily being designated for transfer to the general endowment fund.

Campus education net assets are subject to restrictions of gift instrument requiring that the principal be invested in perpetuity. The income is available to provide college scholarships for former residents of the Home.

Unrestricted Net Assets

Net assets not subject to donor-imposed stipulations. The Home reports donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period as unrestricted support.

(f) Income Taxes

The Home is exempt from federal income taxes under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(g) Donated Goods and Services

Significant non-cash asset contributions are recorded at fair market value when received. No amounts have been recorded in the financial statements for contributed services. There is not objective basis for measuring the fair market value of services provided by volunteers to program or fund raising activities, and such services did not require specialized skills.

(h) Investments

Investments are carried at current market value in the accompanying financial statements. Current value is described primarily by reference to market quotations. Certain investments which do not have readily determinable current market values are carried at cost.

(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of cash flows, the Home considers highly liquid investments in demand deposit and money market accounts to be cash equivalents.

(j) Concentrations of Credit and Market Risk

The Home has its operating funds maintained in an overnight sweep account and, therefore, maintains a zero balance in its bank checking account. The funds are protected by specific U.S. Government securities that have been pledged as collateral for these deposits. The Home has no exposure to loss for having deposits in banks in excess of the insurance provided.

The Home receives a large portion of its support by and through churches in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. That continued association and support is necessary for the Home to operate.

(k) Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs, fund-raising and other activities of the Home have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the activities benefited.

(l) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(2) Land, Building, and Equipment

A summary of land, buildings, and equipment follows:

Land	\$ 630,438
Land improvements	1,110,211
Buildings	8,019,630
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	3,433,852
Vehicles	750,558
Construction in progress	-
	<hr/>
	13,944,689
Less accumulated depreciation	<hr/>
	7,265,211
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,679,478

(3) Investments

Investment balances consist of the following:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market</u>
Debt	2,727,593	2,630,968
Equities	4,961,168	8,217,362
Money market funds	2,324,011	2,324,011
Other	245,303	253,437
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 10,258,075	13,425,778

The unrealized appreciation on investments recorded in the financial statements amounted to \$3,167,703. Custodial and investment advisory/management fees amounting to \$81,620 have been netted against gains on investments in the accompanying statement of activities.

(4) Pension Plans

The Home has a defined contribution pension plan in effect for non-ministerial employees, which is presently being funded at ten percent of eligible employees' compensation. To be eligible, employees must have been employed for at least six months and be at least twenty-two years old. Vesting begins after two years of employment, with employees becoming fully vested upon completion of six years of service. The ministers are participating in a defined contribution plan and a deferred annuity program administered by the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church. Total pension expense was \$137,365 and \$40,911 for non-ministerial employees and ministers, respectively.

(5) Annuity Payment Liability

Contributions received by the Home under irrevocable split-interest agreements are recorded at their fair value when received. An annuity payment liability for charitable gift annuity contracts has been established equal to the present value expected future payments to each annuitant as determined from contract payment schedules using current life expectancies. Contribution revenue is recognized for the difference between the fair value of the assets received and the liability incurred. Total assets associated with split-interest agreements included within the annuity fund amount to approximately \$4,000,000 at December 31, 1999.

(6) Restricted Assets

Restricted assets of the Home consist of the following funds at December 31, 1999:

	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>
Scholarship Education Fund	\$ 1,061,009	-
General Endowment Fund	-	5,945,593
Scholarship Endowment Fund	-	249,406
Campus Education Fund	-	577,660
Designated Fund	1,159,003	-
Annuity Fund	-	2,400,113
	<u>\$ 2,220,012</u>	<u>9,172,772</u>

During the year ended December 31, 1999, approximately \$550,000 was transferred from the annuity fund to the general endowment fund.

(7) Line of Credit Agreement

During 1999, the Home entered into a revolving line of credit agreement subject to total borrowings of \$100,000. Interest only is payable monthly at prime plus two percent with principal due on demand. There were no borrowings under this agreement as of Dec. 31, 1999.

(8) Prior Period Adjustment

The balance of permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 1998 has been adjusted to appropriately reflect the Home's annuity payment liability at that date. The annuity payment liability represents the present value of expected future payments to all annuitants in accordance with the underlying contractual terms of the agreements. The effect of the adjustment was to decrease permanently restricted net assets and increase annuity payment liability by \$1,399,769.

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

Your Florida United Methodist Credit Union's field of membership includes ministers, elected lay members of annual and district conferences, members of boards and agencies of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, employees of Florida United Methodist Churches and Institutions of the Florida Conference, **members of Florida Conference United Methodist Churches**, employees of the Florida United Methodist Credit Union, immediate family members of a primary member including parents, children, spouses, surviving spouses or any other relative by blood or marriage or adoption even though such members do not reside in the same household with a member; and the incorporated churches of the Florida United Methodist Conference.

What all of this means is that if you are reading this report you are more than likely eligible to join our Florida United Methodist Credit Union. And once you join the credit union any member of your family, regardless of geographic location, may join and take advantage of all the services of the Florida United Methodist Credit Union. We can offer you competitive rates on regular savings accounts which are insured up to \$100,000 per account by NCUA, an agency of the federal government, free checking accounts with no minimum balance requirement and no limit to the number of checks you can write, low-interest loans for your financing needs, including a credit card, and access to your accounts through a network of ATM and Shared Service facilities. We can also make consumer loans to your church if you are in need of a corporate credit card, new office equipment, a van, sound equipment, new chancel furnishings, etc.

You can visit us on our web site at www.unitedmethodistcu.com and apply for a loan online and get an answer to your application within minutes, research information on new and used cars, get quotes on auto insurance, and go shopping and use your low-rate MasterCard credit card to pay for your purchases. Our site also offers informative articles that are updated weekly for the benefit of our members.

We invite you to call us at 1-800-282-8011 ext 145 for a membership application or e-mail us at FLUMCU-Beierle@worldnet.att.net. Come help us grow by telling your family and fellow United Methodist about our credit union. We think you will like our personal, friendly service.

Robert T. Standifer, Chairman
Joan E. Beierle, President

THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.

The Florida United Methodist Development Fund, Inc. was established in 1976. The Fund is registered with the State of Florida Division of Securities as an Issuer-Dealer in a limited security.

The Florida United Methodist Development Fund's purpose is to assist the Annual Conference in its church development needs. The Fund receives investments from individuals, churches and church organizations, and it issues to the investor a Certificate of Participation (redeemable on a "demand" basis) upon which it pays interest. The interest rate, 5.75% as of April 1, 2000, is set quarterly by the Board of Directors. From the accumulation of these investments, the Fund makes first mortgage loans to churches of the Conference for new building construction and major renovations. The Fund can loan up to 5% of the amount invested in The Fund, and the maximum term is fifteen (15) years. The interest rate for loans, 7.75% as of April 1, 2000, is adjusted annually to 2.0% above the rate being paid to investors in The Fund.

The minimum investment is \$100.00. Interest is paid on March 31 and September 30 of each year. As of March 31, 2000, investments totaled \$27,155,313. Funds not yet loaned are deposited only in Certificates of Deposit and U.S. Government obligations. The Fund has a capital reserve of \$1,500,000 which serves as security for the investors' deposits.

The membership of this corporation are the members of the Board of Directors of The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. The Board of Directors are elected for a term of four years, and service is limited to eight consecutive years.

For a copy of the Offering Circular or for a copy of the Loan Guidelines, please contact The Florida United Methodist Development Fund, Inc., at Post Office Box 3767, Lakeland, Florida 33802.

Steven J. Beres, Board Chairperson
Thomas W. Marston, President

THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.

The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. was organized under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the State of Florida on July 19, 1966. Its purpose is to facilitate charitable giving to churches, institutions, boards or agencies of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. As such, the Foundation serves as a channel in handling of gifts to United Methodist institutions through charitable estate planning opportunities.

The Foundation is legally authorized to serve as trustee in the administration of charitable trusts created for the benefit of any United Methodist institution, local church or church organization. It is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Members of the corporation are the lay and clergy members of the Florida Annual Conference. The Board of Directors is elected by the Conference upon nomination by the Conference Committee on Nominations. Directors are elected to a term of three years, and service is restricted to nine consecutive years.

Officers of The Foundation are available, without fee, to assist local churches in establishing a Permanent Endowment Fund and Committee and in creating their own planned giving programs. Additionally, Foundation staff are available, without fee, to present workshops on wills and charitable estate planning on behalf of local churches, districts or other church related agencies.

Additionally, officers of The Foundation are always available, without fee to provide information, on a confidential basis, regarding opportunities whereby personal asset accumulations may be used to benefit the individual and the ministries and churches of The United Methodist Church. Information can be provided to individuals regarding the variety of charitable estate planning vehicles. These vehicles include wills, revocable or living charitable trusts, life insurance policies, gift annuities and gifts of appreciated property.

The Florida United Methodist Foundation will serve as Trustee in the management of revocable or irrevocable charitable trusts established to benefit the church or its related institutions. Trustee services include the professional management of trust asset, record keeping and reporting, accounting and the regular payment of income to the donor or other beneficiaries. The instructions of the donor(s) are faithfully observed. A small fee will be assessed in order to cover administrative expenses.

Through an Investment Management Agreement, The Foundation will invest local church, district and conference endowment funds or other permanent funds. Once an appropriate investment strategy is determined by The Foundation and the investing unit the funds are placed under professional management. A small fee is assessed in order to cover administrative expenses. As of December 31, 1999, The Foundation managed assets of over \$63,100,000 (Fair Market Value) in these trusts and money management agreements.

The Foundation provides Charitable Gift Annuities to individuals who wish to give a meaningful charitable gift to their church and yet also retain the security of regular income payments over their lifetime, or over the lifetime of a loved one. The Foundation assesses a small administrative fee for this service on value of the original gift; however, this fee does not diminish the value of the gift

annuity to the annuitant. As of December 31, 1999, The Foundation managed over \$1,596,141 (Fair Market Value) in gift annuities.

On a short-term basis, The Foundation invests building and other designated funds received from local churches, the districts, the conference and other church related organizations in The Sharing Plan. From these funds, loans are made to the conference, districts and local churches. The investing unit receives a higher rate of interest than customarily is paid for short-term deposits and at the same time keeps its money working in the church. Through the years, borrowers have saved thousands of dollars because of the lower interest rates on their loans. As of December 31, 1999, \$2,867,758 was invested in The Sharing Plan.

Randolph J. Rush, Board Chairperson
Thomas W. Marston, President

Independent Audits for The Florida United Methodist Development Fund, Inc. and The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. follow on the following pages.

FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM

We at The Foundation for Evangelism continue to be in partnership with The Florida Annual Conference in supporting Operation Evangelization and its director Roger Swanson. The Foundation has been invited by Bishop Henderson and the cabinet to assist the Florida Conference by having a series of District Banquets to help raise funds for evangelism ministries in the conference and beyond through the AC-70 program. Three of the best known ministries of The Foundation are the publication and distribution of *Forward*, the only journal in United Methodism devoted exclusively to evangelism; the Denman Awards given to clergy and laity each year at annual conferences across the nation, and the naming of the Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church.

Of the eleven ministries of The Foundation, the most ambitious ministry is the funding of the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism at Methodist related seminaries. At present, The Foundation funds professorships in the United States at Boston, Duke, Garrett-Evangelical, The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Saint Paul, Wesley, Drew, and Claremont. There are two overseas professorships funded by The Foundation: one at our United Methodist Seminary in Reutlingen, Germany and one at Africa University. In the fall of 2000, we will support a professor of evangelism at the Orlando campus of Asbury Seminary.

The Foundation for Evangelism was organized in 1949 because of the deep commitment and concern of the late Dr. Harry Denman. He believed that Methodism is inherently evangelistic, but the command of Jesus Christ to "go make disciples" must be held up constantly before the church. This is what The Foundation for Evangelism strives to accomplish.

The Foundation for Evangelism is an independent organization with an elected Board of Trustees consisting of thirty laypersons from the five jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church, and three ex-officio clergy members. The President is retired Bishop Ernest A. Fitzgerald, and its Executive Vice President is a layman, Paul R. Ervin, Jr. Both are accountable to the Board of Trustees for management of all activities of The Foundation.

The Foundation for Evangelism is an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship and is approved to solicit gifts within the denomination. The Foundation receives no funds from the general church but dedicates its resources to the work of promoting evangelism in The United Methodist Church. The address of The Foundation for Evangelism is P.O. Box 985, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, 28745. For more information about The Foundation, call (800) 737-8333, or visit our website at www.evangelize.org. Please visit our display in the corridor of The Lakeland Center.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Jimmie Crook, Resident Staff Minister

FLORIDA CONFERENCE KOINONIA

We, the undersigned, reviewed the 1999 finance of the Florida Conference Koinonia. We feel the accounts are accurate. Rev. Richard Gantz should be congratulated on excellent documentation and accurate bookkeeping.

Dr. Warren Langer
Rev. Jesse Baker

FLORIDA CONFERENCE KOINONIA Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

Cash on Deposit, December 31, 1998	
Checking Account, First Union Nat'l Bank	\$11,111.00
Certificate of Deposit, First Union Nat'l Bank	15,096.00

Certificate of Deposit, SouthTrust Bank	16,355.00	
Florida United Methodist Foundation:		
Managed Fund	245,734.00	
Sharing Account	<u>11,343.00</u>	<u>\$299,639.00</u>
Cash Receipts		
Mortuary Calls	\$29,646.00	
Annual Dues	1,984.00	
Membership Dues	8.00	
Donations	85.00	
Interest Income – First Union	36.80	
Interest Income – SouthTrust Bank, C.D.	833.30	
Interest Income – First Union, C.D.	857.57	
Interest Income – Washington Mutual, C.D.	646.08	
Florida United Methodist Foundation:		
Interest Income/Capital Gains - Managed Fund	53,732.49	
Interest Income – Sharing Account	<u>440.46</u>	
	\$88,269.70	<u>\$387,908.70</u>
Cash Disbursements:		
Total of Payments to 12 Beneficiaries at		
Death of Member or Spouse	\$29,940.00	
Postage, Printing, Supplies	2,569.02	
Treasurer's Honorarium	2,400.00	
Secretary	400.00	
Audit and Miscellaneous	833.64	<u>\$36,142.66</u>
Income in Excess of Disbursement:		<u>\$52,127.04</u>
Cash on Deposit, December 31, 1999:		
Checking Account, First Union Nat'l Bank	6,728.43	
Certificate of Deposit, First Union Nat'l Bank	15,953.57	
Certificate of Deposit, Washington Mutual Bank	17,833.92	
Florida United Methodist Foundation:		
Managed Fund	299,466.39	
Sharing Account	11,801.50	
TOTAL ASSETS 12/31/99		<u>\$351,783.31</u>

FLORIDA CONFERENCE KOINONIA

Membership Status December 31, 1999

Total Membership, January 1, 1999	565
Additions – New Members	<u>4</u>
Total Additions for 1999	4
Total with 199 Additions/Corrections	<u>569</u>
Members removed from membership:	
By death	10
For non-payment	1
By request	2
Total Removed for 1999	<u>13</u>
Total membership, December 31, 1999	<u>556</u>
Recap of Membership	

Active Clergy Members	286
Retired Clergy Members	<u>267</u>
Total	553
Contributing Members without Benefit	<u>3</u>
Total Membership, December 31, 1999	556
Total Spouse Members	496
Members on Disability	5

Dues structure and payments due at death of member or Spouse is summarized as follows as of January 1, 2000:

	<u>Annual Dues</u>	<u>Mortuary Fees</u>
Full Conference Member	\$5.00	\$5.00/call
Minimum Salary Member	\$5.00	4.00/call
Retired Member	1.00	5.00/call
Probationary Member	1.00	2.00/call
		(first 4 years)
Disabled Member	0.00	0.00
Spouse of Member	1.00	0.00

The Florida Conference Koinonia is an affiliated agency of the United Methodist Church. The Koinonia was set up to render assistance in the form of a beneficiary payment upon the death of a participating member. The funds for operation are received periodically as mortuary calls are requested by the Treasurer from members who are pastors of United Methodist Churches in the area covered by the Florida Annual Conference. Disbursements are made from the Fund for operating expenses and for death benefits payable to designated beneficiaries of the members. All cash is held by the Florida Conference Koinonia in checking and interest bearing accounts with the Florida United Methodist Foundation and local banks.

Accounting Basis

The Organization's policy is to prepare its financial statements on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, certain revenues and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred.

Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets are available for the various programs and administration of this Organization.

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW
Feeding the hungry in Florida
Call 407-650-1956 for information

Purpose of Programs: To feed the hungry in the central Florida and statewide area while preventing food waste. Biblical concept of gleaning (Leviticus 19:9-10). Easy Mission Project. Get Involved.

Concept of Programs: Millions of pounds of nutritious but unmarketable produce are left in FL fields and orchards after harvest. SoSA programs save this fresh produce and distributes it directly to Food Banks and dozens of feeding agencies in the state. These programs also provide an opportunity for low income individuals to help feed themselves. Over 2,500 Florida volunteers help make these programs work. Produce is simply gathered up or "gleaned" after farmers and growers have completed their harvest.

What has been accomplished ?

- Over 1.6 million pounds of food at a program cost of just 3¢ per pound just last year!
- Food Banks and feeding agencies in central Florida and across the state have benefited
- Each agency receives the food at no cost helping to improve *their* efficiency and effectiveness
- Over 1200% growth in Gleaning Network since start-up!!
- We've increased food distribution while decreasing overall cost per pound!!
- Network has encountered tremendous growth
- The number of agencies receiving donated produce has grown each year -- helps them stretch tight budgets
- Fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste is being used instead to feed hungry Floridians
- Simple, cost effective and extremely successful - it just makes sense
- Gleaning is fun, easy to do and something people of nearly all ages can do
- Volunteer growth has sky rocketed as Floridians learn about these simple and effective programs
- 1999 surpassed the 2,500 volunteer mark
- Volunteers come from church groups of all denominations and faiths, civic clubs, scout troops, college campus groups and other organizations
- Low cost, High Impact Mission, easily done in several hours, tangible results are immediate

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Report to Annual Conferences - Calendar Year 1999

As SEJAC closes 11 years of ministry continued growth is evident in service, as well as in mission clarity, leadership and fiscal strength. We celebrate the leadership of Gordon Goodgame who retired as Executive Director on December 31, 1999 and we look forward to new leadership as we close the final year in the quadrennium.

We rejoice in the support of the Annual Conferences in the many aspects of SEJAC ministry. Of particular joy is the support of The Mission and Ministry Fund that reached an 86% collection ratio during 1999 as compared to 84% during 1998. This fund provided \$1,587,079 for support of the Jurisdictional office, Junaluska capital funds, Ministry use, and support of the seven Jurisdictional Agencies. The feasibility study for the Capital Funds initiative was very encouraging and SEJAC is now in the silent phase of this project and plans to begin a public campaign during 2000.

Ministry Division:

The *Division* celebrates 11,726 persons involved in ministry events during 1999. Of great celebration is 5,734 youth involved in programs as compared to 2,727 in 1988. *Lay Ministry* continues to touch lives and help grow persons spiritually in the jurisdiction. They report contact with 16,108 persons outside Junaluska and 2,304 persons on the grounds of Junaluska. *Communications* continues to reach persons in new and creative ways both in the quarterly printed news magazine (16,000 each time) and with the www.sejac-umc.org web site. The Church Cast Ministry now has 10 videos for web viewing and The Nicodemus Project has 10 online courses available with many more in the offering. The web site reports an average of 19,035 hits per day in the various sites. *Outreach and Advocacy* continues to foster communications and be a spokesperson for the Racial/Ethnic population in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. The *Korean Methodist Church* reports serving 56 churches in the Jurisdiction, and SEJAC is working with North Georgia Conference to secure leadership for Hispanic ministries. The staff continues to work on Strengthening The Black Church for the 21st Century and the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty. The challenge for the next year for this division will be to sharpen mission focus and secure new leadership with a programming portfolio.

Agencies:

- Gulfside Assembly-- Reports 4,998 visitors during 1999 and has begun a visioning process for use of their remaining beautiful property for a Multi Cultural Complex. Finance and Field Services are completing a feasibility study for a capital campaign of \$3.5 million.
- Hinton Rural Life Center -- Rendered 54 training or consultative events in 10 Annual Conferences during 1999 with a contact of 1,200 persons. Their volunteer ministry continues to grow with over 1,300 participants during 1999. They continue to have property improvements

and have just completed the purchase of 19.5 A of adjoining property which has been paid for with donated funds.

- SEJANAM – Had a leadership change during 1999 from Bob Mangum to Ken Locklear. They continue to focus on strengthening Native American Churches. Since 1995 they have raised over \$38,500 and sent a work team each year in outreach to Bolivia. Great things happen when Native American communities see themselves in mission.
- SEMAR – Bob Pitzer retired after more than 30 years service to this ministry and Vergil L. Daugherty III has assumed leadership during 1999. Activities for 2000 include the first Walk to Emmaus for the Deaf, construction of the first group home for Native Americans in The United Methodist Church, creation of additional conference agencies to serve developmentally disabled persons and continued consulting and resource development.
- United Methodist Volunteers in Mission – Also experienced a leadership change during 1999 when Nick Elliott replaced Walter A. Whitehurst. They report 683 teams in 1998 with 11,506 team members who spent \$8,067,321 and served in 40 countries.
- Intentional Growth Center – Reports another significant year marked by record attendance, continuance of proven programs, and several exciting new endeavors. During 1999 they had 4,147 participants in 42 events. Dr. Jim Warren has also informed the Board of his intention to retire during 2000.
- Archives and History – Continues to serve as the repository for history and the research center for the Jurisdiction. They also maintain an excellent museum which had 4,576 annual guests and they participated in the confirmation training for 1,408 confirmands.

Junaluska Division:

Significant property and plant improvements were made during 1999 as follows: *The Rose Walk* – a joint effort of SEJAC and The Associates together spent \$359,261 to stabilize the shore and beautify the walkway; *Bridge over the Dam* – a joint effort of the Junaluska property owners and SEJAC have committed \$447,600 to replace the bridge which will be re-opened March 2, 2000; SEJAC spent \$785,343 to renovate the *Apartments* from Missional Funds and Maintenance Reserves; The *Terrace lobby*, common areas, and meeting rooms were refurbished at a cost of \$249,396 from the maintenance reserve funds; *Lambuth Center section* sleeping rooms were refurbished at a cost of \$258,406 from maintenance reserve funds, the east and west wings will be completed before the summer of 2000; energy conservation has begun on the *Terrace and Lambuth* which will cost \$333,413 and is expected to result in annual energy savings of \$68,328.

Lake Junaluska experienced a decline in the number of guest nights during 1999 (100,240 in 1999 compared to 112,194 in 1998). This is only the third decline in 10 years of history but is a concern. Marketing efforts have been intensified, intentional hospitality ministry has been expanded, and new programming is being pursued in order to reverse this trend.

The residential community continues to grow with the addition of 24 new homes and 8 new condos under construction. A new residential services shop was completed for this staff during 1999 thus completing the separation of the property management staff from other Junaluska properties staff. The rapid growth of the community have dictated a need for a new covenant of rules and regulations and architectural standards to be completed during 2000.

SEJAC continues to strive to meet its mission:

The mission of SEJAC is to be God's agent to work with the Annual Conferences in equipping persons and providing ministries in developing Christian Disciples who strengthen the Body of Christ and transform the world.

C. David Snipes, Interim Executive Director

RESOLUTIONS

[Only those Resolutions approved by the conference are printed herein.
They are printed in their amended form.]

A CALL FOR ACTION FOR CONFERENCE INSURANCE COUNSELING COVERAGE (Referred to Self-Insurance Committee)

WHEREAS the conference insurance program does cover church preschools, day cares and their employees as part of the conference liability insurance program,

WHEREAS ministers do not only provide spiritual counseling but marriage counseling, pre-marital counseling, parental guidance, etc.,

WHEREAS ministers ordained as elders are required to have counseling training which goes beyond spiritual guidance.

WHEREAS the shortage of elders is increasing the workload of elders requiring them to seek assistance from others in fulfilling various tasks,

WHEREAS members and friends of a local United Methodist Church expect guidance from the church in regards to marriage problems, parenting issues, etc.,

WHEREAS the Methodist movement has traditionally been concerned about the well-being of the entire person including spiritual, physical, emotional and mental,

WHEREAS the number of churches offering and expanding counseling ministries is increasing,

WHEREAS there has not been clearly defined definitions by the state or federal courts to what is Christian and what is secular counseling,

WHEREAS ministers and other church employees may be perceived as counseling on behalf of the church even in the most informal situations in which advice is being shared,

WHEREAS the state of Florida now has a licensing and training process which enables churches to identify those with the proper training,

Be it resolved that the Florida Annual Conference Property/Causality Self-Insurance Committee takes immediate steps to provide liability coverage to all employees of churches who are properly accredited by the United Methodist Church or the State of Florida for counseling and the programs which are developed by the accredited counseling staff and accepted as part of the ministry of any local United Methodist Church that is part of the Florida Annual Conference. Any additional cost would be absorbed by adjustment in the premiums sent to the local churches.

The Leadership Council of Sanlando United Methodist Church
Longwood, Florida, Orlando District, Florida Annual Conference

RESOLUTION

We, the Administrative Council of the First United Methodist Church of Titusville, Florida, on behalf of the general membership of this church, do resolve that monies derived from apportionments collected and forwarded to the Florida Annual Conference NOT be used for political purposes, neither for nor against the continued fight for the custody of Elian Gonzalez. Further, we feel that it is inappropriate for the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society to be the conduit and distributor of funds collected at the request of the Cuban Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

Rev. Rod McClarnon, Pastor
Mrs. Deborah Smith, Lay Leader
Mr. Wayne Finger, Chair, Administrative Council

**RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF CORAL WAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
REGARDING THE USE OF EITHER THE NAME OR THE FUNDS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

WHEREAS, Coral Way United Methodist Church of Miami Florida ("Coral Way") has faithfully maintained the discipline and principles of the United Methodist Church for over 30 years;

WHEREAS, Coral Way has worked to maintain unity in its congregation, in the face of situations where either individuals or agencies within the United Methodist Church have communicated positions on politically or socially controversial issues on behalf of the United Methodist Church (such as was the case when Mr. Thom White Wolf Fassett, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, spoke regarding financial assistance for Mr. Juan Miguel Gonzalez, father of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban refugee); and

WHEREAS, Coral Way believes that the communication of positions regarding politically or socially controversial issues on behalf of the United Methodist Church has a significantly negative impact on the church's ability to meet its primary objective: that of clearly and credibly proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ;

THEREFORE, Coral Way submits the following resolution for adoption by the Florida Annual Conference:

RESOLVED, by the Florida Annual Conference, that all general agencies of the United Methodist Church are requested to make clear, in all statements and or application of funds which are politically or socially controversial, that said agencies speak and act only for themselves, and not for the United Methodist Church.

RESOLUTION

Sponsored by Mascotte United Methodist Church, Mascotte, Florida

WHEREAS God spoke these words saying,
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

WHEREAS, All of God's commandments are broken every day of the week right in our own living room whether it be by radio, video or television.

WHEREAS, Our children can be exposed to violence, sex, thievery and lies at any time during the day or night.

WHEREAS, One picture says a thousand words, with many of our children left alone while their parents work, they are free to watch and learn whatever interests them and all children are curious.

WHEREAS, We as parents, grandparents or anyone that has been put in charge of watching, protecting and loving these children, can teach them to follow the moral path that will lead home to be with our heavenly Father.

WHEREAS, This country was founded on freedom, and one of the freedoms that is always brought forth is freedom of speech and is most always used when someone wants to use the artistic creative talent that God has blessed them with to stretch the moral boundaries of God's laws.

WHEREAS, The main reason this country was founded was freedom of religion where we as Christians can worship God where, when and how we choose and because of this freedom no one

has a right to put our beliefs down, but we know that many of our rights as Christians have been taken away such as prayer in school or displaying God's name in any way out in the public eye; and

WHEREAS There are laws against prostitution, drugs, theft and speeding on our highways but it seems there are no laws governing the entertainment business leaving a wide space for them to see what else they can get away with at the expense of our children; and

Be it further resolved, that the first year of the new millennium be dedicated for the children and we ask that local congregations, districts and the Annual Conference to do whatever it may take to protect them and to show them that God loves them and that he is with them always.

**RESOLUTION
CONCERNING SEPARATE APPORTIONMENT OF
WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES**

As the 2000 General Conference legislative action was taken which grants authority to Annual Conference to separate World Service from Conference Benevolences in our apportionment system by action of the Conference Committee on Finance & Administration. In the past the two have been linked, with local churches being denied the option to allocate their apportionment between the two categories. In 2000, 42.5% of the combined apportionment went to World Service. Conference Benevolences includes the following areas: Conference Council on Ministries, Conference Board of Higher Education, and Conference Church Development and Redevelopment. To separate, the following resolution is submitted to the Annual Conference by the Conference Council on Ministry, acting through its Executive Committee:

RESOLVED, that the Conference Comm. on Finance & Administration is directed to separate World Service and Conference Benevolences apportionments, commencing January 1, 2001.

Submitted by Florida Conference Council on Ministries
Through its Executive Committee, William A. Walker II, Council Director

**RESOLUTION
THE ALABAMA-FLORIDA LAWSUIT AGAINST
THE DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR**

WHEREAS, land purchases have been on the rise by Indian nations during this past year, and

WHEREAS, following the purchase the tribe would request the U.S. government to take the land into "TRUST" making it a part of the reservation, and

WHEREAS, last year U.S. Interior Sect., Bruce Babbitt issued rules that would allow tribes to apply directly to the dept. of the interior to build casinos, and

WHEREAS, the Seminoles applied directly for a variety of licenses, and Florida's Attorney General, Bob Butterworth, sued to block sect. babbitt from granting them, and

WHEREAS, a "Legal ruling that favored the tribes would supercede many state and local laws, although other legal tests could be mounted," and

WHEREAS, the voices of Floridians are clearly needed throughout these proceedings to both encourage the Atty. Gen. And make known to the Sect. Of Interior that Florida's voters by a large majority DO NOT WANT CASINOS, and

WHEREAS, Indian nations functioning under tribal law within the states do not adhere to state laws, and are indeed, nations within a nation or nations within a state, totally different in structure and purpose, sometimes in great contrast to the other, and

LET IT THEREFORE BE KNOWN THAT, THIS Annual Conference of the Florida United Methodist Church, meeting in the Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida, May 30-June 2, 2000, would urge all its delegates to write, fax or call the President of the United States, Atty. Gen., the Sect. Of Interior and Gov. Jeb Bush their approval of the action taken by the Atty. Gen. Along with a letter to each of the Annual Conference secretary stating the same.

Gov. Bush – 850-488-2272
FAX 850-922-4292
Home Pg. <http://www.state.fl.us/eog/>

ATTY. GEN. 850-487-1963
Fax 850-487-2564
Home Pg. <http://legal.firn.edu/>

Bruce Babbitt
PH. 1-202-208-6087
Ph/Fax 863-676-0394

Fl. Coord. Nat'l Coalition Against
Legalized Gambling
Sect. Of the Interior
Rev. Tom Gray, Dir

Submitted by Verna K. Echols, Lakeland District Delegate

**RESOLUTION
TO OVERCOME PREJUDICE AND VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY**

WHEREAS images of hatred and violence fill our newspapers and televisions almost daily:

Students at Columbine High School killed by other students who had been marginalized;

Hundreds of federal employees killed in Oklahoma City, bombed by disaffected Americans who saw the federal government as their enemy;

Billy Jack Gathier, a gay man burned to death in Alabama, victim of a hate crime;
Won-joon Yoon, a Korean student victim of a two-state shooting spree targeting Jews, Blacks and Asians, killed in front of the Korean United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Indiana;

A Jewish Synagogue in California and Black churches in Texas, bombed by racially motivated perpetrators;

Women in our communities, stalked and murdered, often victims of domestic violence;

WHEREAS Florida has more than 30 hate groups – the second largest number in the United States;

WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that attitudes formed from prejudice, ignorance and fear often lead to hate crimes, i.e., action, including violence, against individuals and groups of people based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS Holy Scripture says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love God because God first loved us. If someone says, I love God, and hates his or her sister or brother, whom they have seen, how can she or he love God, whom they have not seen? And this commandment we have from God, that the one who loves God loves his or her sister and brother also."(1 John 4:18-21)

WHEREAS Response, the official magazine of United Methodist Women, devoted its February, 1999 issue to understanding and confronting hate in our church and society and called on us in our words and deeds to teach our children, younger people and each other Jesus' message of love of all our brothers and sisters;

WHEREAS a resolution on global racism passed by the 1996 United Methodist General Conference states that United Methodists will work "in coalition with secular groups to monitor and actively combat the activities of hate groups, extremist groups and militia groups in the United States and other parts of the world;" and

WHEREAS the 2000 United Methodist General Conference passed two resolutions renewing our church's stand "against hate crimes in any form and in any place" and calling us to end intolerance and discrimination based on "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation...;"

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Annual Conference in the year 2000 condemns dehumanizing language and acts of violence directed against any individual or group based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation; and commits to eradicate ignorance and fear in our society through educating church members that silence equals complicity with hate, supporting legislation that protects the civil rights of all persons, and collaborating with local civic, ecumenical and diverse grass roots organizations to create joint strategies and actions to address hate crimes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Annual Conference in response to the call of the 2000 General Conference shall direct Church and Society Ministry Team to develop financial resources

and develop a specific plan which will enable local churches to respond to hate group activities: develop support groups for persons active in anti-racism strategies and for persons ministering to victims of hate crimes.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Smith, Clergy Delegate, Retired
David Carefoot, Clergy Delegate, Lake Worth United Methodist Church
Sharon Kelts, Lay Delegate, Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church
Benita Crow, Lay Delegate, St. John's on the Lake First United Methodist
Marta Burke, Clergy Delegate, First United Methodist Church of South Miami
Vicki Walker, Clergy Delegate, Hyde Park United Methodist Church
Terry Dewis, Lay Delegate, Miami District
Morrell S. Robinson, Clergy Delegate, Retired
Meredith McMillan, Clergy Delegate, Rader Memorial United Methodist Church
Esther Robinson, Clergy Delegate, Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church

**RESOLUTION
FLORIDA CONFERENCE ACTS ON "DIOXIN-FREE FUTURE"**

WHEREAS: The severity of the health threat from dioxins, particularly in terms of breast, testicular and prostate cancer, was recognized in a resolution, "A Dioxin-Free Future," adopted by the 1996 United Methodist General Conference;

WHEREAS: More than a million new cases of cancer are diagnosed each year, and the World Health Organization believes up to 80 percent of all cancer cases are due to environmental factors;

WHEREAS: In its 1994 report entitled The Scientific Reassessment of Dioxin, the environmental Protection Agency concluded that dioxin compounds cause several types of cancer;

WHEREAS: Exposure to toxic chemicals such as dioxin is widely suspected to be related to The increasing rates of cancer and to increasing reproductive problems such as low sperm count and deformed reproductive organs in the United States and elsewhere;

WHEREAS: Dioxin acts like a powerful and persistent hormone that is capable of producing lasting effects at very low doses;

WHEREAS: The pulp and paper industry is one of the three major sources of dioxin, which can be formed during the process of bleaching pulp and paper with chlorine;

WHEREAS: The directors of Women's Division voted in October, 1997, that the Women's Division would begin to model environmental responsibility with respect to contamination, and to do this, the Division will use chlorine-free paper for all its copying and publishing needs, switch to chlorine-free products wherever possible in all its offices and facilities and encourage United Methodist Women and the rest of the General Board of Global Ministries to do likewise; and

WHEREAS: There is an ever-increasing interest in the Florida Conference to be environmentally responsible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Florida Annual Conference encourage the use of chlorine-free paper for its copying and publishing needs, chlorine-free products such as paper towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies in all of its facilities, and encourage district facilities, local churches and all United Methodists in the Conference to do the same.

Submitted by the Church and Society Ministry Team
Unanimously approved by the CCOM, January 31, 2000

**RESOLUTION
CHURCHES AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS: The consequences of climate change affect human health by increased deaths in heat waves, loss of life in floods and the emergence and reemergence of infectious diseases such as cholera, malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever and hantavirus,

WHEREAS: Climate change causes great societal costs from impacts of El Nino, from increased frequency of severe weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes, and from sea level rise;

WHEREAS: Climate change has been accelerated by human activities, most importantly by the burning of fossil fuels to produce energy used for transportation, manufacturing, heating, cooling and generation of electricity;

WHEREAS: "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24: 1a);

WHEREAS: Human beings are called to care for the Lord's earth and all that is in it (Genesis 2:15 and 6:19 – 7:3);

WHEREAS: Energy conservation would reduce the growth and demand for resource Utilization; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage the churches in the Conference to implement a use/demand efficiency program system provided by a local electric utility company or a similar program provided by another power company, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be mailed to local church Trustees and finance committees, using funds from the Church and Society Ministry Team Task Force Pool.

Submitted by the Church and Society Ministry Team
Unanimously Approved by the CCOM, January 31, 2000