

Part III

AWARDS, REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

AWARDS

EVANGELISM AWARDS

DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD

LAY: Jerry Frey, Aloma UMC, Orlando

CLERGY: E. Dale Locke, Community of Hope UMC, Loxahatchee

The Denman Evangelism Award is presented annually to a United Methodist lay and clergyperson in each annual conference for outstanding work in Christian Evangelism. This award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, distinguished lay evangelist whom Dr. Billy Graham called “my mentor in Evangelism.” The awards are made possible by The Foundation for Evangelism, which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman.

The 2005 Denman Awards recipients in the Florida Conference are Jerry Frey and The Rev. E. Dale Locke. Nominations were solicited and received by the Office of Congregational Transformation, after which a committee selected the recipients. Following are excerpts from their nomination information.

Jerry Frey:

Jerry Frey has a passion for the lost. It is his heartbeat and the compass that directs his life at church, within his family and throughout his working career. Jerry heads up many of the outreach ministries at Aloma UMC. He was the pioneer of our door-to-door outreach team called SURF (Share your Faith). Over the past five years, Jerry has taken over 150 people into our local community using various evangelistic strategies and tools. He is equally comfortable sharing his faith through a gentle servant evangelism approach or a more confrontive “Evangelism Explosion” style. He has led many seeker sensitive outreach events through Aloma UMC. Evangelism is what Jerry is compelled to do.

Jerry is committed to assimilating people into the life of the church and on the journey of discipleship. The lives of many at Aloma have been impacted for Christ and the Kingdom through Jerry’s faithfulness. He ensures that evangelism remains top of Aloma’s agenda, and realizes that the Christ-like way to lead people is through serving them. Jerry has made it a discipline to go on at least one mission trip a year, often two. For the past several years, Jerry has been a team member and team leader on the Celebrate Jesus Mission team. His leadership roles have seen him serving, consulting and leading many other United Methodist congregations in Florida into evangelism.

Jerry always has a fresh word from the Lord – whether it is from his diligent study of the scripture, the intimacy of his prayer life or the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The constant freshness of Jerry’s faith demonstrates the vitality of his relationship with Christ.

E. Dale Locke:

Dale Locke is a humble and gifted leader. He releases others for ministry, keeping everyone focused on the mission of reaching new people for Christ. There are hundreds of families with Christ in their

lives because of Dale and the church he leads. The church is loving, serving, tithing, mission oriented, other oriented, and dedicated to reaching new people for Christ. Dale is all of these things, and they are all of these things because of what Dale witnesses and lives and teaches. Dale Locke has been the tool in God's hand as God created a Community of Hope.

If there is a flaw in Dale – it is that he works too hard, too long, and he wants every goal to be met last week. Of the Fruit of the Spirit, Dale embodies all but patience. Dale is impatient – but he is impatient for the gospel. Dale has a holy impatience for reaching others for Christ, last week, this week, and next week.

Jerry Frey and E. Dale Locke now join the distinguish group of Florida Denman recipients:

Year	Clergy	Lay
1983	A. Bradford Dinsmore, Jr.	Larry Keltner
1984	E. Wayne Curry	Robert McClintock
1985	T. Newton Wise	Jody Moxley
1986	Jack C. Kelley	James Ruth
1987	C.L. (Spotty) Spottswood	Denzil (Denny) Clarke
1988	B. Hugh Lake	John Calleja
1989	James L. McKinon	Wilma C. Luechetefeld
1990	Samuel C. Ceizert	Joe I. Lively Jr.
1991	Herbert L. Bowdoin	Kenneth L. DeHaven
1992	Dan G. Johnson	Betty Wagner
1993	Edward Murfin	Jim Flores
1994	John M. Brackman	Mabel Chapman Thomas
1995	Robert C. Brown	George Dickinson
1996	Wayne D. Wiatt	Lois L. Dwight
1997	Fred Bonsteel	Everett Kennedy
1998	Gee Sprague	Fred Scarbrough
1999	William Baldwin	no one
2000	no one	no one
2001	Joe MacLaren	Judy Stamps
2002	Jorge Acevedo	Karen Taylor
2003	Douglas Kokx	Brittany Cott
2004	Jocelyn Jean Baptist Adhemar	Rafael Ortega
2005	E. Dale Locke	Jerry Frey

GRINDHEIM-SIMS AWARD**Awarded to: Rev. Wayne C. Stone, Christ UMC, Sanford**

The Grindheim-Sims Award, established by Dr. Rose Sims, honors the memory and ministry of Oscar Grindheim and James Sims, Sr., two important men in her life and that of her husband, James, Jr.

The Grindheim-Sims Award is given annually to the pastor of the small membership church who has distinguished him/herself through efforts in evangelization and church growth. Criteria for the award are two: the ratio of persons received on profession of faith to beginning of year membership and performance in eleven ministry areas specified in the founding charter for the award. The final selection is based eighty percent on the ratio and 20 percent on performance in the ministry areas.

The recipient this year is the Rev. Wayne C. Stone, pastor of Christ UMC, Sanford in the Orlando District. With a membership in January of 2003 of 29, they have added 10 persons on profession of faith. Worship attendance stands at 53, or 136% of their membership. There is excitement in the membership for the task of winning people to Christ. As they put it, "We finally have a grasp on what it means to be the church and we are just getting started." They have a 50% retention rate for visitors. This is related to the very intentional program of visitor follow up done by the Evangelism and Outreach Committee. Six people with the gift of hospitality and administration, make sure the visitors get 4 contacts within the first week.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARDS**FRANCES ASBURY AWARD****Awarded to Jana Hart**

The Francis Asbury Award is given annually to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to United Methodist ministries in higher education. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry invites each annual conference to honor one recipient with this prestigious life-time achievement award. The Florida Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is delighted to present the 2005 Francis Asbury Award to Jana Hart.

Jana Hart came to the Florida Annual Conference as Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry in 1997. Prior to coming to the Conference, she was the Wesley House Director at Stetson University in Deland for five years. As Executive Director of the BHECM, Jana worked with many people passionate about college students to create a new free standing Board for Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the Florida Conference. Her main focus was to organize the eight campus Ministry units and two colleges so that ministry could be facilitated on the 10 campuses they served. During her seven years as Director, Jana created many resources including a Local Unit Board Member Handbook to assist Campus Minister's in their development of a Board.

Jana Hart's effort over the past seven years has made the ministry to our college campuses stronger and more effective. It was because of her efforts that we will see many new leaders come from our Campus Ministry Units in the future.

REPORTS

TRANSITION TASK FORCE REPORT

Deborah A. McLeod

Last year, when the Florida Annual Conference adopted “Connecting for Transformation,” you empowered the Cabinet to accomplish the formation of nine new districts. A Transition Task Force of the Cabinet was formed to address the details of transition. We have planned for:

- Mergers of corporations
- Location of district offices
- Leadership team to structure mission of the District
- Division of assets

We have planned for all these details, and more, and the transition is well underway.

When God looks down from heaven at the Florida Annual Conference, I don't believe God sees 14 districts, or even 9 districts, but one mission field and one people of God reaching out to those in darkness.

Transition Policies and Procedures

In June 2004, The Florida Annual Conference adopted "Connected for Transformation," a new way of ordering the life and functions of the Annual Conference. We are well underway in our transition. What follows is a description of these functions, including some of the policies and procedures for our Annual Conference and District Operations.

District Structure and District Committees:

Members of the District Committee on Leadership (Nominations) of the fourteen 2004 districts have been meeting with members of the District Committee on Leadership (Nominations) of their neighboring districts as they nominate leaders for the district offices and committees of the new districts. Those District Committee on Leadership members who worship at churches within the geographic boundaries of the new district, are gathering to nominate their new leadership.

There will be some overlap of responsibilities in our transition year. The newly elected District Leadership Council, which assumes its responsibilities as of July 1, 2005, will begin meeting as a "provisional" Leadership Council as of January 2005.

What Boards and Committees will the new District have?

Each of the nine new districts shall have the following Boards and Committees:

- District Leadership Council - serves as the Committee on Superintendency according to ¶663 of The Book of Discipline, 2000; Finance Committee, and Leadership Committee
- District Committee on Leadership (Nominations)
- District Committee on New Church Development (formerly called a "Board of Missions")
- District Board of Church Location and Building (*May be included in the functions of the District Committee on New Church Development*)
- District Housing Committee
- District Committee on Ministry
- District Committee on Congregational Transformation. (*may be included in the functions of the District Committee on New Church Development*)

- Additional boards and committees, as needed, to care for ministry unique to a district.

The District Committees on Leadership shall nominate the District Leadership Council, to be elected at a District Organizing Event in the Fall of 2004. In the Spring of 2005, the District Committees on Leadership shall nominate members of the other district boards and committees to be elected by the Annual Conference. (The exception is the District Committee on Ministry whose members are nominated annually by the district superintendent in consultation with the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, The Book of Discipline, 2000, ¶660.1.) These names are to be forwarded to Jessica Michel and Anne Burkholder no later than March 30, 2005. Each District Superintendent has worksheets available to help with the work of the District Committee on Leadership (Nominations). These worksheets further explain disciplinary requirements and the options districts have in combining the work of some of the committees.

Where will the District Office be located?

The Leadership Council of the new district will make the decision, in consultation with the district superintendent of the new district and the bishop and cabinet, on the location of the district office and district parsonage. District Leadership Councils may recommend that the date for relocation to a relatively central location be postponed until a successor D.S. is appointed.

Incorporation and Property Matters

All fourteen districts are coming to an end, as of June 30, 2005, and nine new districts will be created as of July 1, 2005. The pre-2005 districts will be legally merged into one of the nine new districts with property adjustments to take place both before and after merger. In order to care for matters of incorporation and property in a consistent and efficient manner, The Florida Annual Conference has engaged one law firm to care for all legal matters related to the old and new districts. The Conference Treasurer is working with each District Office and our attorney to identify all property and assets belonging to each of the current 14 districts.

Purchase or Lease of District Office Space & Purchase of District Parsonage

In districts where relocation of the District Office and/or Parsonage is needed, the "provisional" Leadership Council of the new district shall take responsibility for purchasing or leasing office space and the purchasing of a parsonage. They shall work in cooperation with the District Boards of Trustees prior to July 1, 2005, when they assume the task of Trustees.

The Sale of District Office and District Parsonage Properties

The District Boards of Trustees of each of the 14 former districts, upon recommendation from the "provisional" Leadership Council of the new district, shall be responsible for the sale of properties, some of which may be sold prior to June 2005, and some of which may be sold after June 2005. The Leadership Council will take responsibility for disposition of properties after July 1, 2005. In the case of a building owned by a district on land owned by a local church, the District Board of Trustees will be responsible for determining the selling price of that building to the local church.

Distribution of District Owned Technology, Office Equipment, and Furniture

The Boards of Trustees of each of the 14 dissolving districts shall care for the distribution or sale of technology, office equipment, furniture and other materials belonging to the district, giving primary consideration to the needs of its succeeding district(s), and secondary consideration to the needs of local churches. The District Boards of Trustees will be permitted to negotiate lease terminations, to

give or sell technology, office equipment, furniture and materials to the succeeding district, or local churches and missions, as it deems appropriate.

Division of District Assets

The liquid assets of the dissolving districts shall be divided among their new district(s) using a formula based on the 2005 fair share apportionment decimal.

Indebtedness of District Properties

The indebtedness of mission congregations and mission projects that are the responsibility of the former districts shall be transferred to the new district within which the mission or ministry is located.

Proceeds from Sale of District Office and/or Parsonage

The proceeds from the sale of district offices and parsonages in each of the dissolving districts shall be divided among their new district(s) using a formula based on the 2005 fair share apportionment decimal.

Distribution of Mission Properties, New Church Start Properties, and Vacant Land

Mission properties, new church start properties, and vacant land owned by districts will be distributed to the new district in which the property is located. District Boards of Missions are asked to meet no later than the Spring of 2005 to disclose, in detail, commitments made to missions and new church starts and to negotiate any transfer of funds to the new district for which a commitment has been made. Any properties whose proceeds are designated for a particular mission/new church start would be given (properties or proceeds) to the district in which the mission or new church start is to be located.

Designated Funds

Designated funds of the dissolving districts shall be evaluated by the pre July 1, 2005 District Board of Trustees or the District Finance Committee, where applicable, and make recommendation to the bishop and cabinet for the appropriate location of designated funds.

District Operations:

Standardization of Administrative & Financial Tasks

There shall be a standardization of the basic administrative and financial tasks for all districts, including:

- Financial accounting software (by January 2006)
- The adoption of a uniform basic chart of accounts, to which other accounts may also be added (by January 2006)
- Standardized method of receiving District Apportionments (beginning January 2005)
- The District audits (by January 2007, for the audit/review of 2006). The conference selected auditors would work together to standardize the audit for each district.

Standardization of Employee Benefits and Policies

There shall be a standardization of benefits and policies for district staff, including

- Health insurance for full time employees, unless otherwise covered
- Participation in the United Methodist Pension program for all full time employees
- Uniform personnel policy for full time and part time employees (Conference and Episcopal office policy)

- Salaries would not be uniform. Salaries would be based on factors such as years of experience, geography/cost of living.

District Payroll

Districts are encouraged to use the Conference staff for District payroll (including district staff and mission/new church start staff).

Office Hours & Holiday Schedule

There shall be relatively uniform District Office Hours in order to facilitate conference wide communication. District Offices shall be open approximately the same days and hours that the Episcopal Office and the Conference Office are open, with some minor flexibility. The same holiday schedule would be adopted. These hours are currently, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each District will post its office hours on the Conference and District web sites.

The Role of the District Superintendent:

Evolving Role

The District Superintendent who has responsibility for 75-95 churches, will function differently than the District Superintendent who had responsibility for 40-70 churches. The District Superintendent will focus on the leading the district in vision for ministry and transformation. Much of the operational function of the district will be accomplished in new ways. The annual Charge Conferences will become cluster events, or will be structured differently. The District Boards and Committees will take more active leadership in their areas of responsibilities. The District Superintendent will not be a member of the Board of Directors of every Advance Special and Ministry Project within the bounds of the district. The role of the District Superintendent will be evolving as the Annual Conference lives into Connected for Transformation. The cabinet has committed to securing training from an appropriate coach on the changing Role of the DS.

Pastor Consultations

District Superintendents will consult in January and February of each year with pastors who designate "move" or "either" on their "Preference For My Next Appointment" forms, and those pastors whose churches have requested a change of appointment. District Superintendents may have consultations with other clergy at other times during the year, not necessarily during the appointment season. Extension ministers, Deacons in Full Connection, and others who secure their own employment and are then appointed by the bishop, will take responsibility for keeping in touch with the District Superintendent, as needed.

District Office Lay Employees Severance

District Office Lay Employees who fulfill their duties through June 30, 2005, shall be granted one week salary and pension, where applicable, for each full year of service, with a minimum of one month salary. Health Insurance, where applicable, shall extend for one month more than the salary benefit. Severance salary and benefits are to be paid by the district in which the staff person was employed. (Salary and benefit payment may be transferred to the Conference Treasurer's Office for these districts beginning in 2005).

District Office Lay Employee Farewell.

The Committee on District Superintendency may plan a farewell function of their choice for District Office lay employees who are finishing their service to the district(s) on June 30, 2004. Tokens of

appreciation and a fond farewell are encouraged. There shall be no "love offering" solicited from churches or individuals.

District Office Lay Employee Employment Transition

Districts shall permit Lay Employees whose positions are being terminated due to relocation or dissolution of district(s) be given district time to work on their resumes and attend interviews, related to the securing of employment.

District Superintendent Farewell

The Committee on District Superintendency may plan a farewell function of their choice for District Superintendents who are finishing their work, or changing regions. Tokens of appreciation and a fond farewell are encouraged. There shall be no "love offering" solicited from churches or individuals.

Boards of Missions to Negotiate Property & Assets

Boards of Missions of old and new districts are to meet no later than March 2005

To disclose commitments, and to share plans. Boards of Missions shall discuss the financial commitments they have made to missions and new church starts and consider whether some earmarked funds should be transferred to the new district from the old district to fulfill the financial commitments made. We recommend that old and new districts be permitted to negotiate the transfer of funds. Otherwise, assets will be distributed on the basis of the 2005 fair share apportionment formula.

Builders' Clubs

The Florida United Methodist Foundation will review the functions of Builder's Clubs and make recommendations on how these entities might be developed for better service.

THE CONFERENCE TABLE

In this third year of the Conference Table, 2004-05, the previously planned table events were postponed until next year. This decision was made for two reasons: 1) the Conference was already going through enough transition in light of the approval of the proposals that had been made the previous year, and 2) the stress from the Hurricane Season left folks with little energy to address new ideas and planning.

In their place, a different kind of Conference Table was held on Saturday, February 26, 2005, at University Carillon United Methodist Church, to bring people up-to-date and to have the opportunity to discuss and raise and answer questions about one aspect of the forthcoming changes related to last year's "Connecting for Transformation proposal:" The decision to group churches into clusters. The report of this session follows these introductory remarks.

Next year we will focus on the first two of the remaining four topics we are committed to address: 1) Constructive strategies for addressing conflict in local churches, 2) Conversation around the vision and needs of Campus Ministries, 3) The need for engaging in more faithful ways of Social Witness, and 4) The development of more effective training for Lay Leadership in the Conference.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE ON
CLUSTERS AS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF
CONNECTING CONGREGATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION

February 26, 2005

This session of the Conference Table met at University Carillon United Methodist Church in Orlando, on February 26, 2005. Its goal was to create a setting in which candid, open conversation could take place about the clustering of congregations, a strategy of the conference that will begin following this year's Annual Conference session and be fully implemented by November of this year.

The session began with a devotional by the Rev. Jim Harnish based on Luke 10.38ff, the Mary and Martha story that emphasized the importance of balancing our very full life of "active" care, listening, and participation in the world with waiting and listening for God. He lifted up the story from the pamphlet, "Fire in Coventry" that tells the story of the building of the new cathedral in Coventry, England, following the destruction of its ancient, historic structure during World War II. The essential question that emerged during the process of preparing for the consecration of the new cathedral building was "What would it mean for us to become a consecrated people?" The word that came at the beginning of the process was to gather together and wait.

The devotional was followed by a theological statement offered by Bishop Whitaker, who shaped his comments out of our Trinitarian understanding of God. The logic that follows our understanding of God emerges in Wesley's view that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Thus, it then follows that there is no such thing as a solitary Church. Clusters, according to Bishop Whitaker, are intended to provide a vital web of interactive relationships that will result in a new way of being the Church. This is not just a strategy to increase effectiveness in churches.

The Bishop's statement was then followed with a power-point presentation by the Rev. Wayne Curry and Ms. Janet Kelley that offered an overview of the clusters. This material came out of the work of a Cluster Advisory Committee that included these persons: Dwayne Craig, Wayne Curry, Ann Lee Earnshaw, Russ Graves, Jim Harnish, Jack Jackson, Janet Kelley, Candace Lewis, Tita Parham, Catherine Fluck-Price, Edwin Santos, Jeff Stiggins, Kendall Taylor, and Bill Walker.

The information presented through the power-point is available on the conference website at www.flumc.org. It included the definition and purpose of clusters and cluster teams, how they will be formed and who will participate, what is expected of cluster team participants and what will happen at cluster team meetings, and how cluster leaders will be selected and function. It concluded with a time table for implementation and a statement of expectations regarding what would result from cluster relationships. After a time for clarifying questions led by Conference Lay Leader, Bill Walker, discussion around a number of issues and concerns ensued. This part of the session ended with a written survey of participants that sought a response regarding the clarity of the proposal.

The rest of the session focused on clarifying and discussing critical issues, led by Anne Burkholder. Out of the morning sessions and the survey, the following issues emerged as needing additional attention from the committee and Cabinet before instituting the clusters in the new districts:

1) The importance of clarifying the definitions of "cluster" and "cluster teams." It was clear from the discussion that confusion continued regarding the definitions of these terms. The lack of clarity emerged as a factor in other concerns that had been voiced such as the role of extension

ministers and whether or not meetings of the cluster team would be “open” or “closed.” To clarify this first point, it was important to understand that the “cluster” is the group of churches and ministries (for example, an outreach ministry,) not the group of persons who make up the “cluster team” of leaders from each of the churches.

2) The importance of clarifying the spiritual rather than the programmatic emphasis in clustering. Many were very quick to jump to questions about what the clusters and cluster teams would be “doing” rather than about what God is calling the cluster to become and then do. Energetic conversation and good suggestions came from the groups: 1) Provide several models for helping the teams get started with building relationships and shaping a covenant with each other, 2) Focus on building fellowship through worship, Bible Study, and prayer, 3) Use the traditional Wesleyan questions with each other, 4) View the way of working with the congregations as that of “leaven” in the dough, 5) Reclaim our biblical understanding of “fruitfulness” not as acts that produce, but in terms of the Fruit of the Spirit as described by the apostle Paul in Galatians 5.

3) The issue of “representation” in both the clustering of the churches and the selection of persons to be on the teams. This issue arose in various forms, described in the following dichotomies: a) The small versus large church, with the generalizations being made that large churches tend to be concerned that small churches will just want access to their resources and small churches being fearful that they would be “swallowed up” by large churches or that this was a hidden tactic to do away with small churches; b) Urban versus rural, with an emphasis on clashing histories and cultures; and c) Clergy versus lay leadership in the teams. While admitting as a group that lingering trust issues underlie these concerns in our conference, it was clear that if the basis for clustering is truly the building of spiritual relationships, then these issues would become less significant. There was neither a sense of clarity about the process for shaping the clusters, nor a consensus regarding the balance between the number of laity and clergy in the team.

4) Concerns about motivating churches and pastors and holding them accountable for non-compliance. Deep concern was expressed about the resistance of “lone ranger” pastors “high apathy” churches. Recommendations ranged from instituting a district evaluation to creating an environment of “joyous anticipation” by encouraging folks to get excited about opportunities to gather as the People of Faith and holding each other accountable for their participation.

These issues have been referred back to the Cluster Advisory Committee and Cabinet as they continue to work toward the implementation of the clusters in the coming year. There are no additional recommendations being brought to the Annual Conference.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Greetings Brothers and Sisters! Who could have ever imagined the ways in which the work of the Florida Conference would change in response to the decisions made at last year’s Annual Conference session at Bethune-Cookman College! Who could ever have imagined the way our lives and work would change following the assault of three hurricanes upon us last summer! This past year has been shaped directly by these two unique events in the history of the Florida Conference.

Prior to launching into the main body of my report, I must begin by expressing my deeply felt appreciation to the pastors and laity of our churches and ministries who suffered from and responded to

the hurricane disasters with such grace, boldness, and generosity of time, resources, and money. You are true heroes both in your suffering and in your giving to those who received your care during the emergency and relief stages of the disaster response. To those of you who continue to struggle through the recovery phase with establishing what I call “a new sense of normalcy” through re-building and re-directing of your lives, we honor your pain and frustration in the face of the difficulties.

It is important that we, who were less effected, continue to encourage and support these, our brothers and sisters, through the long and arduous process of rebuilding their lives, churches, and communities. It is our responsibility to walk beside them through this long haul! It is our responsibility to partner with the re-building ministries and to continuing helping as volunteers and in our giving to the needs still unmet in the communities and churches.

We as a conference have also been the beneficiary of the support of the global United Methodist Church through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Through the leadership of the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, the domestic disaster response coordinator and his team of consultants and volunteers we have received extensive support, training, and dollars. By annual conference we will be able to announce the total UMCOR financial support for our long-term recovery.

It is our responsibility to learn from our experiences of last summer as we prepare for the coming season, and to improve our preparation and our responses in every way possible! The report on our response for this past year, needs for the coming year, and changes to our preparation and planning are on the website and in a handout included in your welcome packet.

What is “Connectional Ministries?” Defined in Paragraph 607 of the 2004 Discipline, Connectional Ministries is the “web” of responsibilities and relationships throughout the conference that are required for being a faithful Church in the 21st century. These are the responsibilities: (1) To envision the ministries necessary to live out the mission of the church..., (2) To create and nurture relationships and connections among local, district, conference, and general church ministries, (3) To provide encouragement, coordination, and support for the ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness...for the transformation of the world, (4) To ensure the alignment of the total resources of the annual conference to its mission, (5) To develop and strengthen ethnic ministries..., and (6) To provide for advocacy and monitoring to ensure that the church is consistent with its stated values.

This year my responsibilities have focused on implementing the decisions made last year to eliminate the Conference Council on Ministries and establish the Conference Equipping Network. The Conference Equipping Network is not an agency, board or council in and of itself. It is the inter-working relationships among all of the task teams and ministry groups, boards, and committees of the conference. The components of the Conference Equipping Network include the Conference Table and the Leadership Connection, along with the task teams, ministry groups, and other boards, agencies, and committees that will network together to create important opportunities and to solve the problems that prevent the fulfillment of our vision and mission. Extraordinary time and effort have gone into the task of ensuring a thorough transition to the CEN. Ms. Lynette Fields, the Chairperson of the Council on Ministries, and the Rev. Jim Rosenberg, its Vice Chairperson, have provided sensitive and qualitative leadership to this process. I am deeply grateful for their guidance, attention to detail, and ability to hold the large and minute picture in view – all at the same time! Additional information regarding this transition is found in the report that follows and in the Standing Rules Committee report.

This year we have also welcomed the establishment of the new Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries. This change was also one of the results of the Conference Table last year. This group has led us through a process of hiring a new Director of Camps and Retreat Ministries, the Rev. David Berkey. David is a tremendous addition to our conference staff and brings wonderful gifts of leadership, visioning, and management to this very important realm of ministry. He is accompanied by his wife, Melinda, who also brings gifts for ministry in urban and justice ministries, retreat leadership, and camping ministry. Rev. Berkey is now leading the Board through a process of Master Planning for our ministries and facilities that will be presented to the Annual Conference in 2006. Welcome David and Melinda to our conference family!

A new focus, just underway, is a re-visioning of the Communications work of the Conference. Communications has often been viewed as merely a support system for programming. In this day and age, however, Communications must be understood much more fully as both ministry in its own right and integral to everything that we do. In light of this shift, the decision has been made to move the Communications office back to the Lakeland campus and to re-think the emphases and needs of our conference. We are also re-establishing the Commission on Communications to help us re-vision this important part of our life and work.

We continue to expand our commitment to Global Mission as the “third leg of our mission/ministry stool” along with New Church Development and Congregational Transformation. Adding to our relationship with the Cuban Methodist Church, we have embarked on an expansion of our partnership with the East Angola Conference. As an extension of the ministry initiated through the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty “Hope for the Children of Africa” emphasis, our East Angola partnership offers us the opportunity to truly embrace our calling to embody the Body of Christ as a global Church. In addition, negotiations with the Haiti District of the Caribbean Methodist Church continue as we discuss the possibilities of a Florida-Haiti Covenant.

I would like to conclude by sharing a word with you about your conference staff. Over the past several years, significant changes have taken place that can best be described as a “fundamental change in the culture” of our conference work-life. With the formation of a clear vision and mission for the conference, we who give leadership to the staff have been able to establish expectations and benchmarks for them in new and creative ways. We take very seriously, that we are called to embody the “vital connection” mentioned in the mission statement! In addition, we are also being shaped by the core values of servanthood, innovation, cultural relevance, quality, and friendliness. We are committed to and driven by the notion that God and the Church deserve our excellence as embodied by these core values. These changes have been very difficult for some, but very liberating for many others of our staff. I personally believe that this has resulted in a new and renewed passion for and clarity about our work!

I want to extend a personal word of thanks to all of our staff for rising to the demands and needs of a very difficult and complicated year marked by disasters, change, and upheaval. We are clear that much of this will continue! But, we are also clear that it will serve the greater good of the conference as we seek to be faithful servants, acting as a vital connection in God’s transformation of the world. I am extremely proud of them all – for their grace in the midst of the struggles and for their willingness to embrace the journey as a united team.

Always In Pursuit of the Vision,
Dr. Anne L. Burkholder, Director of Connectional Ministries.

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES
And
THE CONFERENCE EQUIPPING NETWORK

“See, I am making all things new...”

Revelation 21.5

This Annual Conference marks the end of a two year process of prayer, discernment, conversation, decision-making, new planning, and plain hard work regarding changes that were believed needed in the Conference Council on Ministries; and now, it marks the beginning of a new era as we move into our new “structure” given the name, the “Conference Equipping Network.” Last year, the Annual Conference approved a Conference Table recommendation to “eliminate the Conference Council on Ministries and replace it with a new organization called the ‘Conference Equipping Network.’” This year was set aside for the arduous task of planning and implementing changes and assuring that all requirements of the new 2004 Discipline were still covered in the work of the Conference. It has been important, but very unglamorous work to produce policies, procedures, and Standing Rules in preparation for the new efforts that are before us!

The intent of the change in structure was threefold: 1) To move the conference away from an environment that simply maintained ongoing programs that no longer met important needs to an environment that encourages innovation and response to the new trends and problems we are facing in our churches and society, 2) To move away from a structure that takes a long time to make decisions and plans to a structure that facilitates planning and quick response, and 3) To move away from a system that projects funding needs a year a half before funds are available to one that is based on actual funds available.

The emerging structure, as defined in the Standing Rules Committee Report (Please refer to Standing Rules Paragraphs 402-405 for more detail.) is as follows: 1) The Leadership Connection of fifteen persons, with a minimum of six laity, that will gather seven times a year for the purpose of determining the trends and needs of the state of Florida and the Conference in order to better fulfill the vision and mission of the Conference. 2) Two kinds of tasks teams will be overseen by the Leadership Connection, Standing Task Teams and Focused Task Teams. Standing Task Teams have a clearly defined task that is necessary to the vital connection, that is repeated on a yearly basis. An example is the Camp Ministry Task Team that plans the curriculum for Summer Camp every year. Focused Task Teams will have a clear task to be completed once, and then evaluated as to whether or not work remains for them to fulfill. An example of this is the Older Adult Ministries Task Team that sponsored a highly successful conference-wide training event this winter. 3) Then there are the Ministry Groups. These are groups, such as the Outreach Ministries or Hispanic Ministries that are drawn together because of a shared passion for a particular type of ministry or because of a shared affinity with each other.

Very special attention was taken to insure that Disciplinary requirements are being fulfilled by the new and continuing structures. The list of Disciplinary requirements and in what conference “equivalent structure” they are being fulfilled is found in the Standing Rules, Paragraph 401.

As experimentation progressed with these changes we discovered very quickly that the intent to create a more flexible and accountable approach to the use of conference dollars is being fulfilled. The year, 2004, ended without a deficit, and this year, 2005, appears to be functioning well with a 10% decrease in its budget. This has been, however, a year of transition as we continued to eliminate

certain old-style expenses. So 2005 and 2006 will be the true test years. Time will tell if the proposal is on track or not!

The following proposals come from the Conference Council on Ministries:

RECOMMENDATION #1: To renew the “Statement of Covenant Relationship” with Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.

Rationale: The Statement of Covenant Relationship requires an official quadrennial renewal between the Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. and the Florida Annual Conference. The Directors of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. are confirmed by the Annual Conference. The Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. assists the Conference with fulfilling the Disciplinary mandate to be involved with persons with disabilities.

The substantive text of the statement is as follows:

“...Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. commits itself to the following:

- (1) The ongoing development of programs and services in response to the needs of persons with developmental disabilities in the tradition of ministry in The United Methodist Church.
- (2) Establishment of independent living facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.
- (3) The education of local church persons as to the needs and opportunities for ministry with persons with developmental disabilities.
- (4) Cooperating in the development of ministries offered by the local church for persons with developmental disabilities.
- (5) The regular reporting of activities of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. to The Florida Conference Global Mission Committee.

Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. further affirms the following:

- (1) Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. cannot and will not attempt to obligate the Florida Conference on any matters and will not hold out to any individual or group that the Florida Conference has responsibilities for the actions of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
- (2) Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. acting through its directors, officers, staff and employees has sole responsibility for the contracts, operations, and financial or other obligations of the Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. activities, facilities, and services. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. is not an agent of the Florida Conference. ...

...The Florida Conference commits itself to the following:

- (1) Cooperative efforts in developing programs for persons with developmental disabilities by, with, and for the local church.
- (2) Establishment and review for continuation of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc., as an advance special of the Florida Conference.
- (3) Prayerful consideration and support of the ministry of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
- (4) Permit Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship.

The Florida Conference further affirms the following:

- (1) The Florida Conference does not assume legal responsibility for contracts, operations, or for financial or other obligations of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.

(2) Any financial contributions by the Conference for Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. and the forms of such support are subject to the determination of the annual conference from time to time. ...”

RECOMMENDATION #2 To affirm the work of the African American Comprehensive Plan Composition Team and to be prepared to receive to its final proposal at the 2006 Annual Conference.

Rationale: The ad-hoc African American Comprehensive Plan Composition Team began its work following the series of hearings focusing on Ethnic Local Church Concerns that ended last year. (*TEAM MEMBERS: John Beasley, Margaret Kartwe-Bradley, Newton Williams, Moses Johnson, James Mitchell, Eddie Murphy, Jr., Florence Howell, Robert Dell, Willie Bailey, Altheria Lenon, Anna Faye Thomas, Geraldine W. McClellan, Kevin James, Zion Djatar.*) This team has worked hard and has been encouraged by conference staff to re-shape it in light of learning from other comprehensive plans. This next year will also give the team time to enlist support from the Board of Discipleship. A Summary Draft of the plan is included below for your perusal.

A Call for an African American Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan for African Americans in the Florida Conference will be recommended to the Florida Annual conference at its next session, Year 2006. A Comprehensive Plan for African Americans is urgent in the light of the recent cataclysmic trends of declination in membership, leadership, churches and effectiveness. The most recent statistical inside trends listed below provides a severing view of our current state.

Trends:

1. The African American population in the United Methodist Church is about 420,000 members (Information given at SEJ Multi-Cultural Convocation “Reconciliation With Love and Understanding,” Atlanta, Georgia, August 21-23, 2003.)
2. There are about 2,500 African American churches in the United Methodist Church (Information given at the SEJ Multi-Cultural Convocation.)
3. The Florida Annual Conference has a population of 10,368 African American Members (inclusive of inactive), 81 Churches and 115 ministers (included are retired and supply pastors.) The largest membership church has 1,041 members and the smallest membership church has 9 members. The district with the largest concentration of African American churches is Gainesville with a total of 31 churches and three districts with 1 African American church: Ft. Myers, Lakeland and Tallahassee. The ministerial make up of the Annual Conference: 22 elders, 4 probationary members, 4 associate members, and 7 full-time local pastors, 13 part-time local pastors, 11 retired pastors and 54 supply pastors.
4. Other comments on “Inside Trends”: (A) Most African American Congregations are unhealthy. (B) Most African American churches are located in communities that are “dying.” (C) The need for change and renewal in many aspects of the life of the church is apparent. (D) We believe that if the United Methodist African American Church wants to continue providing a prophetic voice in times of injustice and pastoral presence in times of crisis, we need to embrace a new vision and mission. (E) We are at a point where people or local churches do not see us as viable as we once were. The question today is how does the African American church bring a new generation into understanding what the church is and how they can be effectively involved in it?

Mission: To share God's love and Christ's message, growing the church through discipleship, worship, teaching, service, and outreach.

Goal 1: Worship - African Americans providing a variety of Worship and Christian Education opportunities.

Goal 2: Discipleship - To share God's love and Christ's message with those not actively involved in the faith community whereby they may be drawn into a relationship with Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19), and to provide a means whereby youth and adults are nurtured through confirmation, new member orientation, and other small groups.

Goal 3: Community Awareness - To increase the community awareness of our churches by providing educational opportunities and awareness workshops that will foster a closer relationship with the community.

Goal 4: Youth/Young Adult Ministries - To improve or begin ministries that will provide a dynamic program that will attract, involve and retain African American youth through high school, and to develop and maintain a dynamic program that will attract, involve, and retain young adults.

Goal 5: Ministerial Recruitment - To develop strategies to identify and recruit qualified African American clergy across conference lines.

Goal 6: Facilities Enhancement - Develop a plan to renovate current and future needs of African American churches, parsonages and other properties.

Goal 7: Creative Financing - To provide an avenue by which the African American local church can become more financially sound. It is also our desire to make available the kind of financial resources that is needed for the ministry of the church.

Goal 8: Accountability: Clergy/Laity - To provide an atmosphere for African American clergy that will allow them to be answerable to their call and effectiveness in ministry, and to provide training, small group settings and other learning modules to equip the laity.

Final Thoughts: This document represents the beginning steps in an ongoing process in strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. We believe this document will take further analysis, assessment, and evaluation to discern the future needs of the Black Church in areas that we have mentioned. Although this Comprehensive Plan is directed at the African American constituency it is intended to be a gift to the denomination for hope, healing, and wholeness. We are indebted to the work and witness of countless others, who over the years have kept the hope and vision of racial justice and the strengthening of the African American United Methodist Churches before us as a conference. The unflinching commitment of our Episcopal Leader Bishop Timothy Whitaker, the cabinet, clergy and laity alike makes this truthful examination of the predominantly African American United Methodist Churches in the Florida Conference essential in the work for meaningful change and fruition. To move our Comprehensive Plan from analysis to prescription we seek a coalition of conscience with transformed vision of revitalization that presents an approach that is both spiritual and tactical in solving our problems of historical proportion, while endeavoring in all our efforts to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We invite all the people who are committed to a willingness to wrestle with the cultural, racial, and economic complexities of

becoming inclusive in context, relationships, structures, leadership and economics. We seek to regard the dignity of all people and see this initiative as an instrument of the

The following additions to the process of completing the plan were approved:

- That there is inclusion of input from the nine geographical districts
- That there is a clear provision for the inclusion of Black Methodists for Church Renewal leadership in the planning process
- That we acknowledge and include the emphases of the national initiative of “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century”
- That this plan includes a study of the dwindling presence of African American leadership in the Florida Annual Conference
- That this plan includes a comparative study of the trends and lengths of terms of African American Appointments.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

With the conclusion of the work of the Conference Council on Ministries, a new way of working together will begin. The Leadership Connection, elected at this annual conference will gather for its annual retreat in August to begin the discernment process for determining the new emphases that need to be addressed by the conference, its churches and ministries.

The Leadership Connection will draw together task teams of persons who share common passions, interests, and concerns. These will be persons who are committed enough to a particular issue to invest their time and energy and resources in helping to solve, lift up, seek answers and strategies, and spread the word to others about their learning, so that the whole conference can benefit from what they have discovered. The Leadership Connection will be responsible for holding a task team accountable for staying focused on their purpose, their use of funds, their inclusiveness, and the results of their work.

This new way of identifying issues and making decisions about how to focus the ministry of the conference is intended to insure that our energy and resources are spent on relevant and important matters rather than on maintaining institutional structures that no longer meet our needs or lead us forward into the new questions that await us in this rapidly changing world.

The following is included, for information only, to give the Annual Conference a better understanding of task teams and the method for their establishment and dissolution. These three items, the “Definition of a Task Team,” the “Task Team Tool Kit,” and the “Task Team Application” comprise the packet that will be received by persons called to work as a part of a task team.

Definition of a Task Team

What is a Task Team? A Task Team is made up of volunteer persons passionate about a particular ministry. The Task Team is focused on a specific, measurable, achievable and time-specific ministry. A Task Team’s ministry is designed to serve the conference as a whole rather than a specific church or churches or district. Task Teams are either self-initiating (initiated by an individual or group) or called into existence by the Leadership Connection. Task Teams are accountable to the Florida Conference vision and mission.

How are “Self –Initiated Task Teams” formed? First, an individual or group develops an idea for a ministry. The initiator obtains a “Task Team Tool Kit” (see below). The initiator finds other individuals who are passionate about the same ministry or need. The Task Team works through the process in the Tool Kit.

“Leadership Connection-initiated Task Teams” are formed when The Leadership Connection identifies a need in the Florida Conference. The Leadership Connection calls persons who are passionate about ministry to meet the identified need. The called persons meet to brainstorm and identify a ministry to meet the identified need. The called persons obtain a “Task Team Tool Kit.” The called persons find other individuals who are passionate about the same ministry or need. The Task Team works through the process in the Tool Kit.

Task Team Tool Kit

- 1) The proposed ministry must:
 - a) Be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-specific (SMART)
 - b) Serve the entire Florida Conference or a broad (conference-wide) constituency
 - c) Be accountable and in-line with the Florida Conference Vision and Mission
- 2) The initiator identifies other persons passionate about the ministry.
- 3) The initiator identifies other groups — if any — that are currently doing this ministry. Groups may be part of the Florida Conference, general church or outside the church. (For example, the BICAP committee works through Florida Impact for its advocacy work, rather than doing its own advocacy structure.)
- 4) The Proposed Task Team holds a visioning meeting to brainstorm and focus the ministry. This meeting should be held virtually (online) if possible. Staff assistance will be available to facilitate the visioning process.
- 5) The Task Team will relate to the Leadership Connection as follows:
 - a) The Leadership Connection calls Task Teams into existence, either through its own research and identified need or the work of an individual or group
 - b) The Leadership Connection will coach Proposed Task Teams through the application process.
 - c) The Leadership Connection approves requests for funding from its own resources (Task Teams are encouraged to seek funding beyond the conference). Funding requests will be considered and approved twice each year: once in the Spring and once in the Fall
 - d) The Leadership Connection will review the progress of Task Teams through a regular reporting process and hold the Task Team accountable for meeting its specified goals
 - e) The Leadership Connection will evaluate the Task Team on its continued adherence to the Task Team definition and SMART criteria.
 - f) The Leadership Connection will support Task Teams by providing non-monetary resources, advice and connection to other groups, ministries, boards and agencies throughout the Florida Conference and the United Methodist connection
 - g) The Leadership Connection will dissolve Task Teams once they have met their stated goals or no longer fit within the Task Team definition
- 6) The Proposed Task Team will apply to the Leadership Connection.

Task Team Application

- 1) What will the proposed ministry accomplish and whom will it serve? (Limit to >200 words.
- 2) How was the need for the proposed ministry determined? Include in your answer specific justification for the need.
- 3) How does the proposed ministry fit in with the Florida Conference Vision and Mission?
- 4) Why is it best for the proposed ministry to be done at the conference level (rather than at the district, local-church or individual level)?
- 5) List the members of the Proposed Task Team, their gifts for being a part of the Task Team and how they contribute to the diversity of the Task Team. The Task Team does not have to have a representative from every group of the conference, but should make every effort to ensure the team is diverse. Groups to consider for inclusion include older adults, young adults, youth, clergy and laity, men and women, geography, ethnicity: African-American, Asian-American, Haitian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gift(s)</u>	<u>Diversity</u>

- 6) Provide a detailed timeline for the Task Team and its ministry, including meetings or events that will be scheduled. Include objective measures for assessing the Task Team’s progress.
- 7) Provide a detailed communication plan for the ministry, including how the Task Team will share its purpose, activities and successes with the Florida Conference.
- 8) Provide a detailed budget, including income from planned activities and/or events and outside sources, and expenses related to the ministry, including meetings. Include the following information:
 - a) Total budget
 - i) How much is requested from the Leadership Connection?
 - ii) How much is requested from other sources — including other Task Teams, committees, ministries and/or General Church boards and agencies?
 - b) Funding deadline
 - c) Contact person responsible for receiving and accounting for funds granted
 - d) When budgeting for Task Team meetings, consider the following:
 - i) What is the desired outcome of the meeting?
 - (1) How many and which persons are needed to accomplish the outcome?
 - (2) How much time will be needed to accomplish the outcome?
 - ii) What other meeting options would allow the Task Team to accomplish the outcome?
 - (1) Teleconference
 - (2) E-mail, instant messaging or online chat
 - (3) Other
 - iii) Is there a need for overnight accommodations for anyone?
 - iv) Is there a need for travel reimbursement for anyone?
- 9) Detail what additional resources will be needed to achieve success in the ministry.

REPORTS OF STANDING TASK TEAMS**THE BISHOPS' INITIATIVE ON CHILDREN AND POVERTY (BICAP)****East Angola Partnership and the Children's Harvest**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE YEAR, 2004 - It was such a wonderful experience having Bishop Quipungo to preach during our Annual Conference last year. I think we, as an Annual Conference, certainly had our relationship with East Angola sealed in our hearts. The Annual Conference offerings have been sent to the East Angola conference through the GBGM to help complete the Hope for the Children of Africa School in Malange, to reconstruct the "mother" sanctuary at Quessua, and for the future reconstruction of the Quessua Theological College. Initiatives by the Cabinet and other groups have raised funds for purchasing bicycles for pastors and medicine kits for the Malange clinic.

THE CHILDREN'S HARVEST - The Children's Harvest emerged out of the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty for initiating ministries related to children in Florida and in Angola. Delegates to the Annual Conference sessions participated in a "hands-on" project in 2003, when UMCOR book bags were assembled, and over 3,000 were shipped to the East Angola Conference. In 2004, offerings were sent to promote children's education in Florida. In 2005 20% of the Annual Conference offering will go toward the Children's Harvest emphasis on enhancing children's education in Florida again, when 5,000 backpacks full of school supplies will be delivered to children through our Outreach Ministries. One thousand of these will be assembled at our Annual Conference meeting this year.

ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN IN FLORIDA - Last year we participated in Children's Week in Tallahassee through Florida Impact. Bishops Whitaker and Goodpastor both came to Tallahassee in support of the summer lunch program. Both bishops participated again this year in advocating for children's needs during the legislative session. We will participate annually with Impact and with our Bishop to work on key legislation related to children.

BICAP GRANTS - At our fall meeting, we decided to make only one grant this year for \$15,000 and make it to a cluster group. The cluster must be willing either to do the checklist or use the study guide *Community with Children and the Poor*.

STUDY GUIDE - I want to encourage each local church to download *A Church for All God's Children* checklist at www.umc.org/initiative. The checklist will enable your congregation to reach out to your neighborhood. Also, please go to the Cokesbury display and buy a copy of the congregational study guide *Community with Children and the Poor*. It makes a wonderful Sunday school curriculum, great Wednesday series, a small group study or Lenten series. Please think of ways your church can be more child friendly as we truly become a Church for all God's children.

NEW EAST ANGOLA PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM - The Florida Conference is committed to a long-term partnership with the East Angola Conference and we look forward to coordinating with fellow US conferences and the GBGM-UMCOR in a collaborative effort, which can only strengthen over time for the sake of Jesus Christ and God's mission among us. To facilitate this partnership a new Standing Task Team has been shaped in order to give leadership to this venture. The team's responsibilities will be to articulate, promote, and facilitate the ministry priorities of the East Angola Conference among churches and members of the Florida Conference.

The Quipungos have articulated priorities for ministry support for the building of their Conference. These include (1) The reconstruction of the Quessua Theological College and ongoing reconstruction of the Quessua Complex in order to facilitate clergy and lay education in the conference, (2) The Health of Children and Families through support for clinic construction, training of village health promoters, specifically by sending a team of three Brazilian Village Health Promoter trainers to train candidates in East Angola, (3) Support for the training of two young men, Alcides Martins and Francisco Cautama, in English, communication, business, and computers. Eighty percent of the 2005 Annual Conference Offering will go toward the first two goals.

The East Angola Task Team is also exploring other ways of building relationships with our Angolan brothers and sisters. Strengthening in-country communications through HAM radio and assistance with children's Christian and preparatory education are but two.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Children and Poverty initiatives over these past eight years! Let us continue to engage with our brothers and sisters in Christ in deeper and deeper ways!

Pamela A. Cahoon, Chair

CAMP MINISTRY

The summer of 2004 brought over 3,600 students to the Florida United Methodist Camping Ministries where they were challenged to **Join The Uprising!** Jesus, the ultimate revolutionary began this Uprising thousands of years ago, and it continues today to spread through our churches, our schools, and our community. We believe that God touched the hearts of each camper that spent a week with us this summer and that this Holy Revolution will continue to grow as these students share with others the peace and joy that only a life with Christ offers.

Of the 3,600 students that came to camp over 2,200 of them made either a first time commitment or recommitted their lives to Christ while at camp this summer. In addition to that 750 students felt a call into full time Christian Ministry. It is amazing how God works when young people are taken away from their normal environments and put into a setting and surrounded by people where the presence of God is undeniable. Many say that children and youth are the future of the church. We believe that children and youth are the church today at this very moment, and that the relationship they have with Christ is something that all adults can learn from.

Every children's camper that came to camp this summer had the opportunity to make a gift for a child in Cuba. During Spring Break of 2005 those stickers were given out to hundreds of Cuban children who were reminded that God loves them, and who now know that there are children in America who are praying for them. What a powerful example, the unconditional love of a child!

The Camp Ministry Team feels extremely blessed to be a part of the way that God is shaping and changing the lives of not only the campers that attend Summer Camp each year, but also the ways that the 90 Team Members are being touched by God while they spend 11 weeks in service to the Kingdom. Many of the team members are influencing the lives of others on their campuses, through their participation in Wesley Foundations, or by volunteering at local United Methodist Churches.

The over 275 Adult Faculty that come and spend part of their summer at the camp continues to be an incredible blessing to the campers and the Leadership Team. The role that the Adult Faculty plays at camp is an invaluable one. The adult faculty teach small groups, and build relationships with campers that can be taken home and cultivated in the local church.

We believe that the Church is called to be in ministry to all people. What a blessing that we can spend our time, talents, gifts, and service sharing Jesus with the children and youth of our conference.

CUBA/FLORIDA COVENANT

BRIEF HISTORY

Cuban Methodism started in Cuba, at the end of the 1800s, when the Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South commissioned two Cuban Methodist pastors in Key West to return to Cuba and open a mission in Havana.

In the early 1900s, Florida missionaries began to expand the work of Revs. Enrique Someillan and Aurelio Silveira by starting churches and missions in Cuba. It became evident that the destiny of Cuba Methodism was linked to the destiny of Florida Methodism. Methodism in Cuba came under the Florida Annual Conference as Florida Bishops Moore, Short, Branscomb, and Henley provided supportive leadership. Rev. Angel Fuster was elected posthumously as the first Cuban Bishop. Rev. Armando Rodriguez was the first active Bishop of the autonomous Cuban Conference. Bishop Armando Rodriguez provided leadership and growth in the Cuba Methodist Church through the late 80's. By the end of 1961, all Florida missionaries and Cuban pastors had left the Island. Ninety-five percent of the ordained Cuban clergy found sanctuary in the U.S., mostly in Florida.

In 1994, when Bishop Joel Ajo was the Cuba Bishop, Bishop Hughes met with Cuban church leaders and became interested in reviving the relationship between the Cuba and the Florida Methodist churches. In 1996 a Task Force convened to draft a Cuba-Florida Covenant with the support of Bishop Cornelius Henderson. In 1997, this document was ratified at both Conferences (Cuba and Florida) by Bishop Henderson and then Cuba Bishop Gustavo Cruz. Rev. Ricardo Pereira was elected Bishop in 1999. Since then, Florida districts have entered in partnership with Cuba districts. Florida churches have become sister churches with churches in Cuba. Bishop Timothy Whitaker has visited Cuba Methodist churches twice throughout the Island.

Through Bishop Pereira's visionary leadership, fifteen (15) new churches were added at the 2004 Cuba Annual Conference with a total of 212 churches. Each one supports and ministers to between 6 to 20 house missions in the nearby fields, numbering over 500 throughout the Island. The membership in the Cuban conference has doubled since 1996. Bishop Pereira was re-elected at the Cuba Methodist Church IX General Conference on March 19 '03. His vision continues to be: Discipleship, Spiritual Formation, Worship and Service.

The Florida Conference Cuba/Florida Task Force met twice this year in April and December at the Leesburg Life Enrichment Center for two-day meetings. Coordinators from 13 out of 14 districts were represented under the leadership of Rev. Jacquie Leveron. The Covenant Caravan Guidelines may be followed by going to the website www.flumc.org under Mission Ministries/Cuba-Florida Covenant.

There were 31 caravans that traveled to Cuba from Florida Methodist churches through the Cuba/Florida Covenant. These caravans were composed of teams of several church members, each team traveling to their respective sister churches. These caravans went, early in the year, to represent Florida churches in their sister district conferences. The rest of the caravans went in the summer, fall, and winter to carry on the purpose of the covenant of strengthening relationships through, personally, sharing Christ's love. Also many Florida churches invited Cuban pastors and laity to their sister churches in Florida, giving them an opportunity to experience our style of worship, and our churches' hospitality. Travelers bring back the joy experienced during revivals in their sister churches where, as they say, "the Holy Spirit showed up and blessings flowed". The impact of this interchange is reflected in testimonies of those returning, expressing their experiences as a "banner of love" between both churches.

The Global Mission Conference Table encouraged many churches that do not have sister relationships with a Cuban Methodist Church to engage in a mission ministry through the Cuba/Florida Covenant - one of eight Conference Initiatives- to move in the right direction. Florida District Coordinators are laboring in Christ's love to get 100% of churches in this relationship.

The Covenant Task Force is facing a new challenge in 2005 in restructuring the district relationships as the Florida districts are reduced to 9, without disrupting any of the established relations.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

There have not been many visits from Cuban pastors and laity because of difficulties in getting clearance to enter the United States. Many invitations for visitors from Cuba extended by Florida churches are still pending to be approved. In November, the Cuba government enacted a law that prohibited the use of American dollars in Cuba. Travelers have had to exchange the dollars for convertible pesos (CUC) at a 10% charge.

Assistance for pastors and lay members has been given through support of the FLET program.

The Mission Studies/Cuba course has been offered at different locations and has contributed to sharing information about Cuba and the Covenant with all Florida UMC members.

Miami/Fort Myers - Holguin Norte- Out of 18 churches in the Cuba district, 15 have joint relationships with both Florida districts. A total of 25 Florida churches have sister relationships with Holguin Norte churches. Three (3) caravans traveled to their sister district, taking many needed medicines. The sister church was able to attend to a visiting pastor's eye problem with successful surgery before he left.

Jacksonville/Havana - All of the Havana district churches have a sister relationship with a Jacksonville church. Three caravans went to their sister churches and many plans are being made with the District Superintendent to strengthen these relationships.

Deland/Isle of Youth- Deland is starting to develop these relationships with Isle of Youth churches. They have 3 sister churches and one caravan went this year.

St Petersburg/ Matanzas – There are 15 sister relationships between the 2 districts, out of 26 total churches in Matanzas. Six (6) caravans visited sister churches this year.

Tallahassee/Gainesville-Central/Cienfuegos - Tallahassee has 23 sister churches in these 2 districts, out of a total of 32. Three (3) caravans went to visit their sister churches, joining in special celebrations and experiences great revival. Letters and photos continue to flow back & forth.

Orlando-Melbourne/Holguin Tunas – Melbourne has sent 3 caravans to their sister churches, and have 15 sister relationships out of 32 total Cuba churches. There was no activity from Orlando.

Tampa- Leesburg/Sierra Maestra &Santiago/Guantánamo – Tampa sent 5 caravans (total 14 persons) to the sister districts, including both District Conferences. There are 21 church relationships, out of 31 total sister churches in Cuba. Correspondence and news coming from the sister churches express their caring for each other and keeps the relationship alive. There are 2 big temple still under construction, one in Santiago and one in Niquero. There has been no activity from Leesburg.

Lakeland, Sarasota/Agramontino- There are 15 sister churches in Agramontino. These relationships are shared jointly by both Florida districts. Lakeland sent one caravan. No activity from the Sarasota district.

Broward/Palm Beach/Pinar del Rio – There were 6 caravans from this district. This district has 13 sister churches in Cuba, out of a total of 22 churches in Pinar del Rio district.

The transition from 14 to 9 districts has resulted in the need to realign the eleven Cuban districts with our new ones. The realignment listed below has been developed with the following assumptions: (1) All local churches in the Florida Annual Conference with active sister church relationships in Cuba shall retain those relationships. (2) Some existing Florida Conference districts will be divided into too many new districts in July. This means keeping their existing Florida district relationships will be next to impossible. (3) Any solution brought forth will not be perfect, but will be workable. (4) The Cuba-Florida Team has worked to insure that current relationships can be continued through the following arrangement:

1. North West - Central and Cienfuegos Districts
2. North Central - Central and Cienfuegos Districts
3. North East - Havana District
4. Gulf Central - Matanzas District
5. East Central - Holguin-Tunas & Isle of Youth Districts
6. Atlantic Central - Holguin-Tunas & Isle of Youth Districts
7. South Central - Sierra Maestra-Santiago, Guantánamo, and Agramontino Districts
8. South West - Holguin Norte & Pinar del Rio Districts
9. South East - Holguin Norte & Pinar del Rio Districts

Renee Masvidal Kincaid, Secretary

DISASTER RESPONSE AND 2004 STORM RECOVERY **Reflections by David Harris, Conference Disaster Coordinator**

In last year's Annual Report we painted a picture of a disaster that had occurred in the past year and asked the questions, "What would you do?" The report surely did not spark a rush to find and read the Conference Disaster Plan! In the past we felt fairly comfortable when it came to disaster response issues.

When I wrote the report last year I lived in Brevard County. The residents of that county felt that there was a natural barrier that protected them from hurricanes, "Why else would the Space Center have been built in this area that would otherwise have been a hurricane prone location?" My new appointment last year was in Arcadia, Florida, a place that has not experienced any form of hurricane in over 40 years. They, too, were very comfortable when it came to disaster relief.

Well, I don't think that any Florida resident will ever feel that comfortable again. What a difference last summer's hurricane season has made in our lives and in our understanding of ministry.

The understatement of the year is that this past year we made some transitions in disaster response! Although there was a massive amount of work ahead for this team, I think we have many more positive things to say than we have negative. There were some major difficulties adjusting when the second and third hurricanes slammed into our coast. Given the paths of the storms, those who had helped respond to Charley became survivors of Frances and then Jeanne! It was the first time the conference offices were out of power for an extended period of time (during Jeanne!) It seemed like we were moving supplies back and forth as quickly as possible, but to some it was not quick enough. Although there were snags, I believe that we were one of the most effective disaster relief groups in the mad scramble.

There will always be issues when we have disasters of this scale. Disasters are by definition, chaotic, complicated, difficult, painful, and messy. Supplies did not reach their destination as quickly as we would have hoped, money did not flow as we expected, there were ongoing changes in structure and staff, and most of this happened while the fury of storms were ravaging our coasts.

We have learned a number of things this year. First, district disaster coordinators need to have county disaster coordinators in order to work more effectively with EOCs – county based emergency/disaster coordination offices. Second, pastoral support is critical for those on the front lines, a support that needs to be present immediately and for the long term – Shade and Fresh Water continues to offer tremendous support to clergy “in the trenches.” Third, we realized the importance of the connection. We were able to respond quickly during the emergency phase, only when churches closely surrounding the hit areas responded immediately. Fourth, we have to have a little more structure in place to handle the large disasters. Our recovery center may end up having a larger and longer role than initially planned. Fifth, we need to have consultants who can immediately interface with churches to help them in making the right connections and structure a program that they can work with – UMCOR provided these persons for us. Sixth, we recognized that relationships with other groups who operate in disasters, established prior to a disaster, are critical. The relationships made over the past ten months with so many different relief groups must remain strong for the future. Seventh, we recognized how human we are. There are no white stallions that will arrive and save the day. It is only by the work of very imperfect people that we respond in times of disaster. And finally, we have realized how significant ministry is during a disaster. This is truly the work of the church. We cannot turn a deaf ear when our community cries out in the midst of such suffering.

Our prayer is that we will be much more prepared this year. We are in the midst of revising our Disaster Response Plan and of scheduling new training events. But I also pray that we will continue to recognize our total dependence upon the Lord in these times of disaster and that we will not be afraid to reach out to others when we ourselves are in need.

2004 Summer Storm Recovery

OVERVIEW - The conference established a Storm Recovery Center immediately following Hurricane Charley to assist disaster survivors. This center is in the Conference Center in Lakeland and has been the hub for assigning over 500 volunteer teams from 32 states who have donated over 1,000,000 man hours to help individuals and families in affected counties (as of March 2005). The

Storm Center serves as a central location for communication with District Disaster Coordinators and Case Managers. This toll-free number, 1-800-282-8011, ex. 149, is manned by volunteers and staff. During the relief phase, Storm Recovery Center volunteers received phone calls from individuals and teams who called to volunteer their time, trucks and materials. Storm Center volunteers matched work teams and their skills with people and situations that are identified by District Disaster Coordinators, Case Managers and local churches. District Disaster Coordinators and district teams worked to identify individuals and communities that needed our help.

TRAINING - The Florida Conference has received assistance and expertise from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in setting up training sessions. Areas of training that are available include: (1) Case Management: UMCOR consultants have provided training for over 200 individuals who desire to volunteer their time to assist individuals and families in need. Volunteer case managers will be available to work with Long Term Recovery Committees and staff case managers. (2) Spiritual and Emotional Care: Workshops entitled, "Calming After the Storm" have been attended by over 200 volunteers and pastors. These workshops are available as requested. (3) Congregational and Pastoral Care Workshops and Retreats: available upon request.

GOAL - The goal of the Storm Recovery Ministry is to work cooperatively with local Long Term Recovery Committees in your communities by: (1) Providing case management, training and supervision in areas where our help is needed and requested.; (2) Receiving and coordinating volunteer work team assignments; (3) Identifying re-build situations where volunteer work teams are needed; (4) Overseeing construction rebuilds and new builds and assist with procurement of materials, funding, and technical supervision; (5) Scheduling training and workshops; (6) Working cooperatively and collaboratively with other agencies and organizations in Long Term Recovery.

A full, up-to-date report is being provided to Annual Conference members in the Welcome Packet.

David Harris, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator
Marilyn Swanson, Project Director, Storm Recovery

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual Formation – that is what each of us and the church is about, isn't it? John Wesley called it sanctification; some people say "becoming a New Creature in Christ." Our Team has adopted the definition used by Robert Mulholland in "Invitation to a Journey – A Roadmap for Spiritual Formation." Mulholland says, "Spiritual formation is the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others."

With our focus on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and this definition of Spiritual Formation, and an awareness of the challenges we, our churches, and the Conference face, our team intends to carry the mantle of making spiritual formation a part of the DNA of our Annual Conference. We come to this year, building on a history of spiritual formation in the Conference which manifested itself in a variety of ways.

Our Team is carrying out our mission with the Annual Conference, local churches and individuals who hunger to grow closer to the Heart of God.

With the Conference: Team members have prepared worship experiences for the initial meeting of the Board of Lay Ministry and are working with the Conference Lay Leader in preparing a Spirit-led meeting at Annual Conference. Individual members are leading the opening worship at each Healthy Church Academy session. We sponsor the Prayer Chapel at Annual Conference and the Prayer Labyrinth at the Life Enrichment Center.

For the local church: We offer “Journey of Discipleship Matrix – What Do You Do After They Say ‘Yes’ to Jesus?” It delineates different steps in faith development and materials/experiences that are most appropriate for that stage. (Available at Spiritual Formation Team booth in Ministry Expo)

For the many individuals who are thirsty for the Living Water that Jesus Christ has promised us, our team sponsors: (1) Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation (a week in the spring,) (2) Monthly, affordable one-day (10:30 – 3:30) Formation Gatherings on specific topics, (3) Information about Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Directors, and (4) Encouragement of individuals to attend the Walk to Emmaus.

It is our plan to begin a Spiritual Formation Network in the Fall – a listing on our web page of different spiritual formation events around the state AND a listing of resource people available to lead workshops, retreats, etc. We’ll be glad to hear from you regarding this.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Spiritual Formation Team Booth in the Ministry Expo during Conference.

Visit our webpage www.flumcspiritualformation.org.

Contact: Martha Clark, Team Coordinator, shieldsandmartha@verizon.net

Carol Sue Hutchinson, Staff Liaison, chutchinson@flumc.org

REPORTS OF FOCUSED TASK TEAMS

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The members of the Health and Wholeness Focused Task Team wish to thank the Annual Conference for the support it has shown during this year of transition. While the Health and Wholeness Committee has always been interested in congregational wellness as expressed Scripturally (wholeness of body, mind and spirit), the committee found itself unable to be entirely relevant to the local congregation. This new Focused Task Team approach seems to be enabling more local church connections to be made on a needs based continuum.

Having met in September of 2004, the Task Team voted to do an all-church survey. Surveys were sent to churches with questions regarding already existing health and wholeness ministries, and in what ways the Task Team could assist in enabling or providing resources for new ministries. Over 225 results were returned and tabulated. The major focus from the churches, were in the areas of sharing what other congregations are doing, providing resources for establishing new ministries and assisting with securing funds to begin new ministries.

At the January meeting it was decided to build a discussion board onto the Conference web site, through which local churches could share ideas and support each other laterally. We should have this online by this Spring.

The other areas of ministry continue: Parish Nursing, Deaf and Disabled Ministries and Camp Pioneer as well as Hepatitis C education.

The eight Methodist Related Institutions which have received 1/8th of the 20% of the Golden Cross offering, will now be required to do a mini grant application by May 1 of each ensuing year. This will inform the Conference of how the funds were utilized by these institutions. Our next meeting is scheduled during Conference at the UMB.

Ginny Percy, Chair

EVANGELISM AND IGNITING MINISTRY

THE PROCESS - In July Rev. Timothy Ehrlich was in conversation with Jackie Vaughn from the Igniting Ministry office about a grant application for the Tampa District. It came up in conversation that the Igniting Ministry office would love to sponsor a media campaign for the entire state of Florida. Tim approached Kendall Taylor about the idea of applying for a matching grant from Igniting Ministry, on behalf of the Annual Conference, for a TV advertising campaign. Kendall told Tim that this was a task for a focused task team, and gave Tim a list of names of people who might be interested in forming such a group.

Tim contacted everyone on the list Kendall gave him and came up with three interested people, including Tita Parham, Bill Fackler, and John Edl. An initial meeting was held in August in which it was agreed in principle to continue; Tim and Tita were given the task of coming up with a plan. A second meeting was held in September. After consideration of the costs of a statewide media campaign (in excess of \$200,000) an initial plan was agreed to:

1. Coordinate funding for matching grants for two of the 9 districts at a time on a rotating basis, twice a year so that each District will have benefited from a TV advertising campaign within three years.
2. In the times between TV campaigns the districts will also be supported in Igniting Ministry efforts.
3. Obtain district IM representatives from each district to carry the effort forward among the churches in their district and to support with resources those churches seeking help in evangelism and Igniting Ministry.
4. Carry out a marketing plan to reach each church and let them know what IM can do for their church.

The task group requested a meeting with Bishop Whitaker to share our plans and gain his input and support. This meeting was held in Lakeland in October and Bishop Whitaker supported the effort in principle but requested that the group meet with his Cabinet to gain their support. This meeting was held in November. The Cabinet approved the plan with the proviso that some districts will not be able to support the effort financially.

The task group met after the meeting with the Cabinet and determined the following course of action:

1. Tim was given the task of drawing up a job description for the district representatives. This was completed in February.

2. Tita was given the job of contacting existing IM district representatives to see if they are interested in continuing on in that role and if not contacting the District Superintendents to get help in finding an IM representative for each district.

Our plans for the year ahead are:

1. Hold an initial meeting with the district representatives and brainstorm about what shape this effort should take as we go forward. Attempt to reach consensus.
2. Hold a second meeting in which consensus is presented and a plan of action will be mapped out.
3. Complete application for first set of matching grants.
4. Continue to meet with District Reps to help facilitate and support their efforts.

Tim Ehrlich, Chair

FLORIDA CONFERENCE IGNITING MINISTRY AWARDS

To become a Welcoming Congregation churches must fill out a form---a check list---that shows the welcoming-type activities done at the church. Each item has a point value. To be a Welcoming Congregation churches need to score a certain number of points. The church sends the form to the Igniting Ministry office at UCom and UCom awards the recognition with a plaque on which the church can add a sticker for each subsequent year it is recognized as a Welcoming Congregation.

WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

Edgewater UMC, Port Charlotte
 Cutler Ridge UMC, Miami
 Avondale UMC, Jacksonville (Triple-certified, Model Welcomer)
 First UMC, Cape Coral
 First, UMC, Okeechobee
 First UMC, Titusville
 Hyde Park UMC, Tampa
 Port Charlotte UMC, Port Charlotte
 St. Andrew's UMC, Brandon
 Good Shepherd UMC, Jacksonville
 First, UMC, Port Orange
 Cason UMC, Delray Beach
 Allendale UMC, St. Petersburg
 Davie UMC, Davie
 First UMC, Homosassa
 First UMC, Tavares
 First UMC, Gainesville
 Ocala West UMC, Ocala
 Tice UMC, Fort Myers
 Oak Crest UMC, Jacksonville
 St. Paul UMC, Jacksonville, (Triple-certified, Model Welcomer)
 St. James UMC, Tampa
 Vamo UMC, Sarasota
 Southside UMC, Jacksonville
 Flagler Beach UMC, Flagler Beach

To get a matching grant, a church has to show it has developed a good media plan with definite media buys in its area. The Igniting Ministry office at UMCCom agrees to match whatever the church/district/group of churches agrees to raise. The total amount provides the funds for the media buy---the advertising the church or group of churches buys in their area. It's so they can place IM ads in their area to coincide with the national media buy done through the IM office at UMCCom.

MATCHING GRANTS

2004 Recipients	FLIGHT
First UMC Sarasota	Lent
Hernando UMC	Lent
St. Petersburg District	School
Tampa District	School
2003 Recipients	FLIGHT
First UMC Sarasota	Lent
Tampa Area Cluster	Lent
2002 Recipients	FLIGHT
Tampa Area Cluster	Lent, School

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

“TAPESTRY” - A new day has dawned for older adults in the Florida Conference, and it was welcomed in during a three-day conference at New Covenant UMC in The Villages February 1-3. Named “Tapestry,” the conference wove together younger and older United Methodists with a passion for older adult ministry into a body armed with knowledge and hope for a better future. The future may be unknown, but how to get there is becoming clearer. Participants at Tapestry were introduced to the Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr., Director of the Center for Aging and Older Adult Ministry, GBOD, from Nashville, who dispelled the myths of aging and addressed generational differences and spiritual issues of older adults. He tooled participants to be able to design an older adult ministry in their local churches and provided ministry models as a place to start.

AGEISM - Bishop Timothy Whitaker opened the conference, having paved the way with his concerns about ageism in the Florida Conference in an e-review article. With nearly half of Americans age 65 years and older describing the present as the best years of their lives, it is important that the Church be part of that positive influence. Older adults are defined by AARP as those over 50 years of age. This means US, not them!

RESOURCING OTHERS - Hosted by the fledgling Older Adult Ministries Task Team, Tapestry was the culmination of 18 months’ vision and planning. Not content to rest there, plans are in the works for a national conference in Florida in 2007. The task team is working on developing a standard format for district resource teams. These teams will be equipped to train local church leaders with the information needed to institute or invigorate older adult ministries that recognize the passions, gifts, and talents older adults have to share with the Church.

LEADERSHIP - The Task Team involves representatives from each of the new nine districts. We are searching for representatives with passion and vision to be available in the northern and southern reaches of the Conference. Especially needed are those able to teach and equip other churches in this vital ministry. To express your interest please contact Nancy Metz, who has assumed the role of Older Adult Task Team Chair for the Conference with co-chairs Warren Langer from Sun City Center UMC and Gary Bullock from New Covenant UMC. Nancy, a member of Hope UMC, is pursuing a degree in gerontology and represented Florida at the Older Adult Symposium sponsored by the GBOD in 2003.

Nancy Metz, Chair

REFUGEE MINISTRIES

Florida receives the greatest number of refugees second only to California. These “strangers in our midst” harvest and process the food we eat, clean the hotels where we stay, and maintain the lawns of many of our homes and businesses. Many are “illegal aliens” or undocumented workers. The presence of refugees is controversial and much misinformation surrounds them. Why would people leave their countries, their language and culture, often risking their lives to get to the United States?

Since time immemorial, there have always been refugees. According to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees report, there were 20.6 million refugees throughout the world in 2003.

The Florida Conference Refugee Ministries provides spiritual support and direct services through local congregations and outreach ministries to refugees and immigrants. They are supported by United Methodist Committee on Relief grants and conference advance specials.

The Conference Refugee Ministries Team is being trained by Justice for our Neighbors, a refugee ministry with UMCOR to create three Immigration and Legal Service Centers for persons seeking asylum in keeping within US Immigration laws. They will be located in:

1. The Central Florida - Orlando area
2. The Tampa Bay Area - Tampa and St. Petersburg
3. The South Florida - Dade and Brevard Counties

This is a wonderful opportunity for Florida United Methodist people and all people of faith to serve as volunteers and provide services as we live out the biblical mandate, “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” Deuteronomy 10:19 (NRSV).

Judith Pierre Okerson, Chair

REPORTS OF MINISTRY GROUPS**HAITIAN COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

We do thank God for His sustaining grace, care, and provision over the past year. God is good all the time and all the time God is good. The ministry of the Haitian Committee continues to be vital for the United Methodist Church.

TWO NEW BOUKANS/MISSIONS – Orlando and Boynton Beach. The Haitian Mission in Orlando under the leadership of Past. Vetus Valmyr and with the help of the Rev. Jeff Stiggins, district superintendent of the Orlando District, had been granted the full occupancy of the church building. Brother Valmyr is a full time local Pastor now. Thanks be unto God! Brother Toussaint, from the Orlando district, had been approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry as a local pastor, too. The Avon Park Haitian Mission had known an exceeding growth over the past year. We thank God for the leadership of Pastor Luc Joseph. The Mission in Fort Myers, which leader is Max Pierre is meeting at Wesley Chapel, a very big facility. It is great to have Haitians worshipping there. The Mission has about 60 members. Max Pierre is a very committed and dedicated leader. The work is moving forward in Naples with the Haitian Mission there. Pastor Wilbert Blanc is leading that mission in a worship experience of great move to the Holy Spirit. Wilbert Blanc is taking Seminary classes in Asbury. The Haitian National network of which Rev. Joanes Martin is the president had its great event on August where the Haitian missions and churches enjoyed worship services, teaching Bible classes, workshops of a great style. The spirit of the Lord was felt. Also in attendance were the district Superintendent, the Rev Debbie McLeod of the Broward Palm Beach District – the soon to be DS of the great SE district and the Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Charles E Weaver. Different revivals had been held in many Haitian churches and missions. A great number of people had been touched, renewed, and made new commitment to their Lord. Leadership training had been taken place in few of the churches and missions. God had granted us with fine leaders, evangelists, preachers, pastors, and teachers of the Word for the expansion of God's kingdom. Glory to His name!

CHARTERED MISSIONS - The South Dade and the Hallandale Haitian United Methodist Missions will be chartered soon. We hope to move forward with that great giant step by the grace of God through the year 2005 or early 2006.

SOUTH DADE HAITIAN MISSION will soon be having a new home. The Church will relocate to the Leisure City property. The Director of the New Church Development, Mont Duncan, came with an evaluation sheet and saw the site was fit for the new Church building and construction. The Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Miami District has endorsed and boosted the plan. The vision of South Dade is to have a diverse congregation, new ministries, outreach, and a learning center in a way that we continue to proclaim Christ till He comes.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA HAITIAN MINISTRY CELEBRATION - All the Haitian Missions and Churches will gather together to celebrate their first 25 years of ministry in the United Methodist Church. That event will take place at the Grace Haitian United Methodist Church – the first chartered Church in the Haitian ministry. The date of the event is scheduled on September 10, 2006.

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE - In August 2005, Ms. Charline Pierre will be going to Atlanta, Candler University, to pursue her studies in the Ministry. Congratulations to her.

METHODIST CONFERENCE IN HAITI - The Committee had sent two representatives or delegates, Rev. Tamara Isidore and Charline Pierre to attend the Methodist Conference in Haiti.

CONCERNS - Wabasso, formerly Vero Beach, was in a situation where the Mission was not growing. The DS, Michael C. Oliver of the Melbourne District, requested that a supervisor, Pastor Joanes Martin, be assigned to help around. Unfortunately, the local pastor Charles Mompremier, refused to comply with the DS request and chose to work alone. The BOMCE had made the decision to terminate Charles Mompremier, and Pastor Joanes, along with a lay leader, will take over. We claim your prayers on behalf of this Mission.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

TRANSLATION – (1) 2/3 of the Discipline has been translated into French and constitutes a great asset to the Haitian community. The Haitian Committee is working with the United Methodist Publishing House to have the book of Discipline printed in the years ahead. (2) Develop a priority list of products that the Committee wants The United Methodist Publishing House to publish into French and Creole. (3) Suggest a strategic marketing plan for reaching the greatest number of UMC Haitian Church leaders and their congregations. (4) Identify UMC resources being used in churches and missions such as: (Sunday School, Discipleship, worship, outreach, children and youth).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - To coordinate the work of the Florida Conference Haitian Committee On Ministry, the executive committee expressed the need for an office of coordination that will relate to the work of its ministry. Our goals for the years ahead are as followed: (1) Mission development (Increasing the number of congregations by 20 in the seven years). (2) Leadership Training and program throughout the conference. (3) Plan of development for self-sufficient, self-supporting, chartered, and vital congregations. (4) Continue relationship with the Methodist Church of Haiti through the Haiti-Florida Covenant. A task team had been formed to shepherd the document through the process of approval through the CCOM/CEN during the 2006 Annual Conference.

FORMS AND TRANSLATION ON-LINE - The Haitian Committee On Ministry met and discussed the issue of on line forms and translation. The Haitian Committee on Ministry makes the following recommendations: (1) Each Haitian UM congregation will elect at least one mature and trustworthy youth/young adult to the SPRC, and to care for the online SPRC consultation and report forms. (2) The Committee respectfully requests that the conference make a Creole version of the SPRC Consultations and Preference forms beginning in December 2005. The questions are to be in Creole. Answers will be in English. The secretary of the SPRC will make the committee responses in English. (3) Haitian Pastors will assist each other, or utilize friendships with other nearby churches, or the resources of the District Office to respond to all other forms, in English.

WORDS OF THANKS - Haiti Catastrophe. While memory remains gratitude will continue. The Haitian Community does say thanks to the Florida Conference and the Churches which have been so responsive to the needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters during the big catastrophe in Gonaives. Your devotedness and love say it all.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who have labored together with me in the vineyard of the Lord to promote God's kingdom. Thanks to Bishop Whitaker, the District Superintendents, the Extended Ministers, Clergy and Lay for their input in the building up of the Haitian Ministry in Florida. Special thanks to Debbie and Keith who are so dedicated to the Haitian work in all its facets. To all my Haitian brothers and sisters, I say thanks to you for your advice, thoughts, prayers, and support in this great task which is laid upon me. God bless!

Montreuil F. Milord, Chair

HISPANIC MINISTRIES

Peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year has been one of many challenges and blessings for the Hispanic/ Latin ministry in our Conference. God has given us the opportunity to solidify and help our voice be heard in the different levels of the conference. We celebrated the new appointment, from our Bishop, of Rev. Antonio Fernández as a District Superintendent in the Tallahassee area. For us, this demonstrates the commitment of our Bishop to inclusiveness inside the structure. We also recognize the job done by Rev. Aldo Martin, 6 excellent years of work that opened doors and blazed trails for the Latin leaders of this conference. The assembly elected a new executive team and also recognized the great job of the last executive team. Thanks to Rev. Magali Borbón, for her job and effort during the last quarter.

One achievement to celebrate was a workshop for the district coordinators with the participation of Mont Duncan, Kendall Taylor and Anne Burkholder. We encouraged the coordinators to discuss their job descriptions with their District Superintendents and try to develop a job vision in each district. This will help mobilize the districts in new ways. Thanks to all of you for your support and to try to implement the National Hispanic Plan among each one of your districts.

The area of education has also been very active in the past year celebrating several workshops. A workshop for Sunday Bible school teachers was celebrated which is going to continue this year. We celebrated a workshop for facilitators for the Module 1 of the National Hispanic Plan, resulting in a team now available to provide the modules in different parts of our Conference. We thank the Board of Discipleship, National Hispanic Office as well as our Conference for providing the resources in order to celebrate this. Thanks to Leticia Zulon because without her help and cooperation will be impossible organize activities of this magnitude.

We also celebrate the participation of the first group organized in charge of the design and development of the Spiritual Formation Academy. Hildeliza Ordaz, Diógenes Hernández, Leticia Zulón, Josué Guevara, Icel Rodríguez, Rinaldo Hernández y Millie Rivera attended this marvelous experience, and we hope this year they can participate again. I invite them to start forming the work group to initiate the plans of the Academy in our Conference.

The Academy of Healthy Churches is another way in which we can be better integrated in the structure of our Conference. We give thanks to Rev. Larry Rankin, who is the Dean of the Academy and Rev. Kendall Taylor for making us part of this important project in our Conference. We invite you to refer to our WEB page in order to be informed of our itinerary of the courses that will be taught by Hispanic professors in Spanish.

Congratulations to this Assembly for the excellent job they did on our Constitution. I believe that this kind of document also provides clearness to the future of the Hispanic ministries in our Conference. I encourage that the Constitution Document as well as the Historic Document will be placed in our WEB page for all to acknowledge them.

Congratulations, also, to the Family Camp team for their extraordinary job during the past year. You are very committed and work hard for the success of the Camp. You achieved it! The Family Camp is the most attended Hispanic event. I encourage the team to continue with their fantastic job and to explore the development of a youth and children camp.

The Congregational Mobilization process continues providing the opportunity to our Hispanic churches to enter into a transformation process. This program along with Natural Church Development is the one that our Conference has available for our congregations to use as a way of transformation. We give thanks to the Lord for these resources, and for all the mentors and coaches of the process, who along with the pastors and lay are committed to the effectiveness of our congregations.

The advent retreats have been also an event in which we have noticed a growth. During the past advent retreat, the north and the south gathered celebrating a musical concert, which provided many blessings. Here we confirmed the great talent that we have in our Hispanic community. We want to continue developing this model of concert and hope that for next year, more churches will join us.

The radio programs “New Life in Christ” in the south and “The Upper Room” in the north are two great ways to hear the voice of the United Methodist people in the state of Florida. Thanks to Rev. Antonio Fernández for his many years of commitment with the south area program and we give our support to Rev. Rinaldo for the coordination of the program “New Life in Christ” in Miami. We also want to express our gratitude to the clergy team that coordinates the radio program in the north area; Rev. José A. Carrión, Rev. Gary Garay, Rev. Jaime Faberlle, Rev. Millie Rivera and Rev. Lydia Solís. We also call other areas to take initiative like this that has been strengthening our ministry.

Another area that has been working hard is the communication, we thanks our brother Francisco Montes for his excellent performance. Due to his great effort, we can count with our own Internet site, www.MinisteriosHispanosFL.org, Metohispano publication and promotions that are of great value in our task.

An area that has also been very active is the youth area coordinated by Pastor Juan Marcos Garay. Thanks to his regular attendance to all the meetings of the Conference Camp Ministry team, I know that you are a great asset and represent our needs well. I encourage whoever can extend their hand and assist this team, Juan Marcos needs it and I believe this year we have to be more assertive in order to develop and implement a youth program that provide space for them to express their ideas and feel part of this ministry.

Currently we have a Conference translation team. I want to express my gratitude to Icel Rodríguez for her assistance and coordination. Each Conference office that has materials to translate to Spanish, can use this team in order to have some materials ready for our Hispanic population. Also, thanks to this team, we can translate simultaneously in our Annual Conference.

We have another major achievement to celebrate from this past year! Due to the combined efforts of our office with the office of the Executive Director of the Board of Ministries, David Dodge, and Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta Georgia, a Spanish language Course of Study School for Local Pastors will begin in our Conference in 2006. We will use the facilities of the LEC in Leesburg to hold this school with our own professors and resources. Also this office has requested us to promote the grant every quarter for each pastor to take his or her continuum education studies. If you have not asked this quarter for this grant, please call this office to ask for the requisites.

This New Year comes with new challenges. The work of Hispanic Ministries is becoming more closely aligned with the offices of New Church Development and Congregational Transformation. The responsibilities of Edwin Santos are expanding to include work with congregational development with other ethnic groups in the conference. This new challenge will be in addition to his work with the Commission of Religion and Race and the Council of Ethnic Diversit. Edwin has been working with the Conferential Committee of Haitian Ministries, the development of the African American Comprehensive Plan, and the Cuba - Florida Covenant. Because of these new responsibilities, we need the Assembly's Executive committee and the district coordinators will take a more assertive role in the development of our vision in order to function as a work team. We also ask for your ideas and suggestions to improve what we have been implementing in the last years.

May the Almighty Lord continue guiding and strengthening us in this daily journey of commitment in our Conference! May the grace and the peace of our Lord the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will be with us.

Rini Hernandez, President
Edwin Santos, Director

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Your Outreach Ministries are undergoing a great deal of change as we all live into our new Conference structure. With our nine new districts, each outreach ministry is looking at their structure. Most are enlarging their geographic boundaries to be involved with congregations in the new area or are working with the outreach ministry already there to see how they will be in ministry together.

The Outreach Ministries have been very appreciative of the BICAP Children's Harvest during Annual Conference. The book bags and school supplies have been a huge blessing for children. New Testaments in the book bags this past year was a wonderful added bonus.

As is the case most years, we had to say good bye to several executive directors and welcomed several new ones. At our meeting last fall, we welcomed a new ministry, Grace Place of Golden Gate Fort Myers district. The Global Mission Steering Committee gave final approval in December. The application process is lengthy and many local approvals are needed.

The Community Outreach Agency of the North Florida District mission is to encourage the churches of the Jacksonville District to develop both local and global outreach ministries by consulting with the local church and community leadership through sharing their dreams and vision. We seek to empower local church outreach projects by soliciting grants and leveraging contributions.

The education of the churches of this District compels us to reach out to those who need a voice of advocacy. There is a real and vital call to outreach evidenced among our District churches as we journey in the name of Christ, towards need-based service to our brothers and sisters who live in our communities.

Halifax Urban Ministries (HUM) responds to the emergency assistance needs of individuals and families with rent, utility, and food assistance. HUM provides emergency shelter for individuals and families at risk of domestic violence and homelessness. HUM on Wheels is a mobile program, taking food assistance to more remote parts of Volusia and Flagler counties. We unite over 100 faith groups in active services for homeless men, women, and children. Last year, HUM provided 81,500 hot meals and 10,100 "feed-a-family" food packages.

Christians Reaching Out to Society partners with congregations to witness to God's love in tangible ways. C.R.O.S. agreed to expand when asked to do long term hurricane recovery in our new district and work directly in Indiantown. Our pantries were hard hit during the hurricanes. Immediately following the storms, we helped three churches start feeding programs and assisted the Area Agency on Aging to feed older adults trapped in high-rises with no electricity. Our gleaning network is doing well. Our summer camp program saw 27 campers make first-time commitments to Christ.

South Florida Urban Ministries (formerly Miami Urban Ministries) partners with local churches to create ministries of compassion and justice in the communities of southeast Florida. Ministries that are high priority in 2005-2006 focus on developing children and youth, alleviating hunger, and stimulating economic development. In 2004, more than 11,000 individuals were served through church-based food pantries, Thanksgiving meal deliveries, after school tutoring programs, summer VBS programs, youth camp, and micro-business skills training.

Wesley House Family Services provides services and programs that promote the safety, well-being and development of children by educating and supporting Monroe County families. The highest priority this past year focused on the needs of foster children and the child care needs of low-income, working families, particularly households headed by women. During the past service year, Wesley House offered child care financial support for 1,430 children; operated two child care centers in Key West; recruited, trained and supported a network of 35 foster homes with a capacity for 65 foster children; offered the Healthy Families intensive home intervention visiting program for 88 new parents; and provided Neighborhood Center in-home counseling, education and parenting classes to 180 families with 339 children.

Grace Place provides programs to enrich the lives of at-risk children and low income families, meeting their needs for educational assistance, supervision of children after school and during the summer, youth development programs, English language classes, and parent education. Grace Place was established in June 2004 through the collaboration of a Naples area cluster of churches and is already serving 80 to 100 families monthly. Grace Place programs intentionally share Christ in both word and deed through devotions, Christian lessons, VBS activities, prayer, and resources.

Tampa Urban Ministries has coordinated Bible-based math/science camp for inner city children. The after school program, YMCA Teen Success program is intact. Jim Wilson has been very important in coordinating the Children's Harvest book bag program. Jim has left to work on tsunami disaster relief. Tampa is making decisions about their future structure.

The Health Church Initiative Outreach Ministry works to resource churches for developing outreach ministries and works to network congregations for shared mission ministry. Churches work together to serve homeless families, new immigrants, and children being raised in poverty. Healthy Church Initiative has helped coordinate disaster response through the fall and will be rebuilding homes for at least one year in the long-term recovery effort.

United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast seeks to make the church visible and Christ's love tangible to persons facing adversity in their lives. Over 12,000 persons annually are touched through education, service and advocacy programs and projects with local churches. This is accomplished through the Children of The World Preschool-a multi-cultural and multi-lingual school, Transportation Ministry, Street Ministry a feeding ministry with the homeless, Family Support Services, Families Learning Together-English as a second language, After-School Tutorial Programs, Citizenship Classes, Computer Technology Center, Homeless Outreach Support-Ditty Bags, Food Pantry, Health and Wholeness-Parish Nurse Programs and Transformation Workshops for local churches, and Church in The Community Initiatives and grants that assist, equip and support local congregations to be in ministry to their community.

United Methodist Cooperative Ministries in Madison successfully partners with local churches for our 55 Plus program focusing on seniors. With a grant, we pay utilities and rent to keep families with children in their homes. Our Thrift Shop is serving people in need of clothes, household goods, and appliances. Through local church congregations, we are reaching out with our Blanket Ministry. Our Brown Bag Ministry partners with Second Harvest to feed seniors 60 and over with low incomes. UMCM built and manages the new Conference Disaster Response Supply Depot located in Madison.

Each outreach ministry serves as an advocate around health and human services needs. We often are the ones who can speak with the clearest voices because so much of our funding comes from the church. Our voice can have authority and is very trusted. The funding the outreach ministries receive from the Annual Conference generates millions of dollars of services for those in poverty.

If we as a group can offer help to your congregation, please contact us. If you are not working with an Outreach Ministry in your area, please give them a call. The needs and issues are far bigger than any one church, but together we can make an incredible impact making God's love real.

Pam Cahoon, Chair

SHADE AND FRESH WATER “A Space for Grace”

“To provide a transformative sanctuary for individuals and their families who are professionally associated with the church for the restoration of body, mind and spirit toward more abundant living”

Shade and Fresh Water advocates for the health of the clergy family. In the three years of development, it has grown to provide for individuals and their families through six areas of care.

RESTORATIVE RETREATS IN HEALING SPACES WITH COMPANIONS - Six clergy couples or clergy persons have participated in week long restorative retreats in this Conference year, using various healing spaces throughout the Conference. Companions, or spiritual friends, have been with these individuals to assist in providing a healing environment for reflection, rest, good eating, exercise, prayer and worship together. Spiritual Directors or Therapists have been available as requested. These retreats prompt the development of preventative strategies for self-care in the midst of the demands of church service. Individuals can plan these retreats privately by making contact with Shade and Fresh Water.

RELOCATION WORKSHOPS - Four Relocation Workshops were held in the Spring of 2004. Ten participants had the opportunity to discuss the various aspects of moving, accommodating the family to the moves and knowing what services are available in the Conference and in the community to make the move as easy on the family as possible. Information is provided through Shade and Fresh Water for these annual events. These events are led by a clergy person who has done extensive study of the effects of relocation on the clergy family.

CLERGY KIDS ACTIVITIES - Clergy Kids Camp was held for the fifth year at the Youth Camp in Leesburg. 168 parents, youth and leaders participated together. These children and youth look forward to this event, along with their parents! The Clergy Kids Beach Party was held in Daytona Beach during Annual Conference with 90 in attendance. These activities have been enthusiastically promoted through the children served, as they find support through moves and changes in their clergy family. The Ministerial Relief Board provided a Grant for the support of the Camp this year.

DIVORCE RECOVERY - Shade and Fresh Water provides annual retreats for a small group of clergy spouses or clergy who are going through divorce. These retreats offer a unique healing environment to consider the impact of divorce on the clergy family in the midst of serving the church. The clergy family finds itself facing personal and congregational concerns that are not faced by other family units in our society. Through this intimate setting, individuals have the opportunity to reflect and pray together for their concerns and the concerns of the church. These events are conducted by a professional facilitator.

EXTREME SHADE - Clergy children face divorce in their homes with factors that are not the same as those peers that are also going through divorce in their homes. Extreme Shade offers a two week small-group experience of physical activity, group building and reflection in the backwaters and mountains of North Carolina. Four youth participated in the pilot project this year. This event is offered each summer with the trained facilitation of two clergy persons.

DISASTER RESPONSE SUPPORT - In the aftermath of three Hurricanes in Florida, clergy family support was essential. Through the Disaster Response Funding, "Safe and Protected Space" retreats have been conducted for those individuals and couples who have been through the destruction and restorative processes in their churches. 25 individuals have participated in five retreats this Annual Conference year. These four day retreats have provided an opportunity for rest, loosely structured time for reflection and group process, and the sharing of worship. The intention upon leaving is to have a strategy for self-care that will make it possible for the clergy families to maintain their commitment in service to their church, but also to maintain their commitment to wellness and health. Retired clergy persons have been used to provide ministerial support for the time that the clergy family is on retreat. Sometimes this collaboration has continued as the retired minister has maintained contact with that clergy person in the midst of ministry.

Shade and Fresh Water is financially supported by Gifts and Memorials given in memory of a family member. The Board hopes that clergy families will consider supporting this work that helps the health and welfare of our Conference Clergy Family. At this Annual Conference there will be a decision made as to whether Shade and Fresh Water will be considered a Conference Advance Special.

A website is available for further information at www.shadeandfreshwater.org We continue to follow God's leading in prayer, to be sensitive to God's servants in the church. We welcome your participation. Dr. Trudy Corry Rankin is the Program Coordinator, 863-682-2810.

Trudy Rankin, Coordinator

CONFERENCE EQUIPPING NETWORK SUMMARY BUDGET

	2003	2004	2005	Propos'd 2006
Ministries				
Emerging Ministries	0	50,000	141,799	130,000
Camp Ministry Team	226,400	126,400	113,700	113,700
Mission Steering Committee	253,090	235,690	32,300	-
Outreach Ministries	0	0	152,901	144,902
Disaster Response	50,000	50,000	0	-
Church and Society	44,390	34,000	0	-
Discipleship	32,000	29,000	0	-
Health and Wholeness	16,400	15,200	0	-
Spiritual Leaders	45,250	44,700	0	-
Young Adult Ministry	10,000	0	0	-
Youth Ministry	26,500	26,500	0	-
Camp Facilities	100,000	80,000	59,000	-
Communications	130,000	98,735	88,500	60,000
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	30,000	30,000	0	-
Contingency Reserve	60,000	72,000	72,800	70,000
Services				
Hispanic Ministry	63,000	74,250	66,800	70,000
Translation				9,000
Meetings/AC/CT/LC	0	0	0	61,000
Scholarships	0	50,000	45,000	65,000
Cultivation/Education/Resources	0	0	0	12,000
Connectional Relationships	0	0	0	5,000
Total Ministries & Services	1,087,030	1,016,475	772,800	740,602
Administration	49,000	53,500	69,530	75,846
Compensation/Benefits	808,000	866,500	900,470	932,495
Total Administration/Staff	857,000	920,000	970,000	1,008,341
Miscellaneous				
Int on Leesburg Sewage Plant	40,000	0	0	-
Total	1,984,030	1,936,475	1,742,800	1,748,943

REPORTS OF MISSION/MINISTRY PRIORITIES**NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
NEW CHURCH START BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2006**

Pastoral Compensation for New Churches: The Annual Conference will provide the Denominational Average Compensation (D.A.C.) plus health insurance and pension to districts/churches for clergy compensation for new churches within each district on the following basis: first 12 months, 86%; second 12 months, 56%; third 12 months, 26%. The D.A.C. for 2006 will be \$52,394 (\$41,915 salary and \$10,479 housing). Health insurance is estimated at \$10,800 and MPP/CPP at \$6,287. The maximum possible compensation for 2006 is estimated to be \$59,754 at 86%, \$38,910 at 56% and \$18,065 at 26%.

Financial Assistance to Districts launching new missions: Districts that launch new missions will receive assistance in the amount of \$15,000 a year for a maximum of three (3) years to help with facilities, supplies, programs, part-time pastoral support and other costs.

2006 Support for New Churches and Missions

AC	81,532
EC	68,609
GC	35,089
NC	33,808
NE	102,621
NW	129,784
SC	147,221
SE	93,357
SW	167,454
Block Grant	50,000

TOTAL SUPPORT FOR NEW CHURCHES AND MISSIONS \$909,476

New ministries to be launched in 2006:

BP – SE	Royal Palm Beach – m/s
DL – EC	Seville Hispanic Mission
FM – SW	Naples - m/d
JA – NE	Lake Asbury
LE – EC	Clermont –m/d
LE – GC	Spring Hill – m/d
LE – NE	Center Hill Hispanic Mission
ME – AC	Indian River City – m/d
ME – AC	Cocoa
TL – NW	Quincy Hispanic Mission
TL – NW	Greensboro Hispanic Mission
TL – NW	Monticello Hispanic Mission
TL – NW	Live Oak Hispanic Mission
TM – SC	Brandon Multi-cultural Mission
TM – SC	Van Dyke, Tampa – 2 nd Site

New ministries to be launched in 2005:

- FM Grace, Cape Coral – 3rd Site: Polaris
- JA Good Shepherd, Jacksonville – restart
- JA Korean Mission
- LA Wesley Memorial Hispanic Mission
- LA Haitian Mission, Avon Park
- ME Palm Bay Haitian Mission
- ME Palm Bay Hispanic Mission
- MI Florida City Hispanic Community of Faith
- MI The Studio, Miami
- OR Peace, Orlando – 2nd Site
- OR St. Luke's, Orlando – 2nd Site: Horizons West
- OR University Carillon – 2nd Site: Avalon
- SR Slavic Christian Fellowship Mission, Venice
- SR Arcadia Hispanic Mission
- SR Myakka City Hispanic Mission
- BP Tabernacle of Refuge, N. Lauderdale

New ministries launched in June 2004:

- FM Open Door, Estero
- FM Grace, Cape Coral at Olga Ft. Myers Shores
- JA Harmony, Jacksonville
- MI Shalom Community, Miami
- TL Watermark, Tallahassee
- SR Church of Life, Apollo Beach

New ministries launched in 2003:

- DL Hispanic, Deltona
- GN Celebration, Gainesville
- JA Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Beach
- JA OakLeaf, Jacksonville
- LE Nueva Vida, Ocala
- ME First Haitian, Ft. Pierce
- SP First Hispanic, Clearwater
- SP Hope (Second Campus), Port Richey
- SP Hope of Glory, St. Petersburg
- TM Vietnamese, Tampa

Training and Testing for Clergy/Laity interested in/appointed to new church starts: Pastors/Laity who have been nominated by their district superintendent, screened by the executive director of new church development and approved by the Cabinet, will be tested and will participate in the Healthy Church Academy and/or the six day School of Congregational Development.

Funding: \$25,000

Contract with Percept: To provide demographic data necessary for making new church start decisions. This information is available to any group within the Annual Conference through the Office of New Church Development. By the Conference being a client of Percept, Percept services to local churches such as Ministry Area Profile are available at discounted prices.

Funding: \$15,000

Meetings of Committee: The Committee meets in January, June and October to conduct the business of new church development. There will be seventeen (17) members of the committee.

Funding: \$ 7,000

TOTAL NEW CHURCH START NEED \$956,476

SELF- FUNDED \$119,476

RECOGNITION OF NEWLY CHARTERED CHURCH OF THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church ~ Certificate of Organization

The Shepherd's Community United Methodist Church of Lakeland, Florida, having been only constituted according to the provisions of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, is hereby welcomed into the fellowship of The United Methodist Church to share its privileges and its obligations in the proclamation of the Christian faith and the extension of the Kingdom of God.

Given under our hands on behalf of the Florida Annual Conference this 14th day of November in the year of our Lord 2004. Signed: Timothy W. Whitaker, Bishop; Kenneth L. Minton, Secretary

OFFICE OF CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Allow me to reflect on the last 2 ½ years I have spent as Director of Congregational Transformation. I have been calling attention to the "elephant" in the room, describing what that elephant looks like, and offering alternatives and some help in exiting the "elephant."

Clearly the "elephant" is our failure as a conference to effectively make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ. There are some bright exceptions, but about 85% of our congregations are in decline. Here is a quick review of how we are different in March, 2005 as compared to September, 2002, and some of the plans for the future.

Common Language/ Common Culture

Transformation language and culture is taking hold. We are getting better at seeing and understanding what we are as an institution versus who we should be as the Church of Jesus Christ. Diagnosis is an essential part of the healing process, and we have begun to understand the Congregational Category System which gives us the five categories describing congregational ministry health. We are able to objectively survey and measure congregational health indicating that a congregation is in one of three categories, transforming, maintaining, or dying. The other two, beginning and reproducing, are not measured by the survey, but are clearly identifiable by congregational circumstances. A beginning

congregation is a new church start in its first few years. A reproducing one is in process of creating a new faith community using one of several models. The usage of category language is increasing, even among people who do not welcome or trust the evaluation inherent in the category system. The category system is functioning to raise the mission of the church to consciousness among congregational leaders. The results vary from denial to passionate embrace of the implicit mission with commitment to change congregational life so that it aligns with and accomplishes the mission. This survey and the summarized results from 2003 and 2004 are available on the Conference Web site.

There are approximately 90 churches engaged in an intentional transformation process, nearly all of them using Natural Church Development with a coach. Interest in transformation continues to grow as more and more churches explore what transformation could mean to them and their communities. We are getting smarter and better at training, coaching, teaching, and leading the process. Churches are invited to access the many resources available on the Web site as well as consult with the Office of Congregational Transformation, and they do. We must understand, however, that NCD is only one of the tools available to us. Not all churches are ready for transformation. Many need other kinds of help before the NCD process can be effective and assistance must be readily available for those in need. We are developing that process and team now. There is more to come in this regard.

Spiritual Formation

Transformation will not occur unless the congregation and its leaders are growing spiritually. To say it another way, a congregation is currently producing the kind of ministry the spirituality of the congregation will allow. If it is to grow in health the leaders and the congregation must grow in their spiritual health. While the responsibility for such growth is shared among many people and organizations the OCT makes resources for this available to churches, encouraging them in their spiritual journey. This spring we released a 3 session study of the book of Ephesians entitled "*Spiritual Formation: Making Disciples for the 21st Century*" by Dr. Steven Harper of Asbury Seminary. It is available for purchase in DVD and VHS formats on the Conference Web site. We will continue to publicize material from many sources as well as what we choose to produce. There are two other print-based Bible studies available on our Web site.

Healthy Church Academy

We have learned that transformation is the result of prayerfully discerning God's purpose (mission) and organizing life around accomplishing that purpose (mission.) We find mostly that neither clergy nor laity are skilled in the things necessary to transform a congregation. So we have created the Healthy Church Academy whose sole purpose is to equip laity and clergy with the vision, knowledge, and skills needed to lead their congregation to effective fulfillment of God's mission of making disciples. This essentially means that these congregations will over time change from an inward focused ministry, primarily taking care of members' wants and needs, to a blend of outward and inward focus, with the outward focus and the attendant experiences energizing the congregation's life. Interestingly, members find fulfillment in meeting the needs of many people in the community. They change from consumers to missionaries. The Academy is funded by participants. Classes are scheduled with laity accessibility in mind, both in timing and location. See the Web site for information. Click on the HCA "banner."

The Committee on Congregational Transformation

The Conference Committee is shaping the transformational efforts of our Conference. They are working on a Marketing plan to reach churches that have not yet learned of the need for transformation or have not embraced a plan for it.

They have also undertaken the task of helping design the District Congregational Transformation Teams which will be required under our new 9 district structure. These Teams will be very proactive in preparing churches for transformation. They will invite, teach encourage and resource local churches in the same ways as the Conference Office of Congregational Transformation does, only much more grass roots in character. We are decentralizing our efforts.

They are a seedbed of new ideas and encouragement for congregational transformation. Many of our members are certified NCD coaches.

Coaching - a part of the Conference culture

In the last year we have learned through training of coaches for NCD how important coaching is to developing skills and leadership capacity in many other arenas. It is our intent to raise the level of awareness of the power of coaching to equip us for ministry, and to create the expectation that we all will be involved in coaching, both as a coach and as one who is being coached, a real coaching culture.

NCD – we have over 50 trained NCD Coaches nearly all of which are assigned to help a local church with transformation.

Cluster Leaders – While the OCT is not responsible for Cluster Leader selection and training, we have prepared trainers who will train Cluster Leaders in coaching.

Category Survey – movement from 2003 to 2004

We have processed the results of the Category Surveys from 2003 and 2004. Initial conclusions from the analysis of the 426 congregations who submitted surveys in both years is that there is a slight improvement in congregational health. We look forward to broader participation in the future. We are beginning to get statistical handles on our progress. This will allow us to adjust what we do in ministry because we will have a measure of its effectiveness. More specifics can be found on the Web site.

Churches in NCD – analysis of “minimum factors”

The Natural Church Development process assumes a congregation has a clear vision of what God wants them to do. Given that, NCD offers a five part process of Relating, Reflecting, Refocusing, Resourcing, and Review. Important to the process is the NCD Survey, a comprehensive 91 question Survey taken by 30 intentionally selected people in the congregation augmented by a 71 question survey taken by the pastor. The Survey yields scores on the Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Congregation. The Eight have been identified statistically in the analysis of over 40,000 congregations all over the world and of most denominations. The planning and implementation phases (Reflecting, Refocusing, Resourcing) of the NCD process focus on the “minimum factor” that is the one characteristic on which the congregation scored lowest on the survey. Each cycle of the NCD process is about developing a plan for improving the congregation’s functioning in the “minimum factor” area of its life.

While there is no most common minimum factor, several vie for this place: Empowering Leadership, Passionate Spirituality, Functional Structures and Inspiring Worship.

We are just now moving into the second year of local church involvement in NCD so we don't really know yet how they may have improved in Survey scores the second time they took it. The few that we do have show significant improvement.

Churches using other means of transformation

A few churches are choosing to transform using alternative methods. Some of the choices are the Incubator model, and consultations with nationally known consultants who have developed their own unique transformation plan.

Emphases for the remainder of 2005 and 2006

- Local Church Transformation Support – leadership development/training
- Conference-wide Training Events - we will sponsor events that meet manifest needs
- Training and Support of Coaches
- Research & Development/Networking consultants who have expertise in various areas
- Developing Spiritual Formation Resources for the Annual Conference
- Website Development as a part of our marketing plan
- Healthy Church Academy - development and support

I am honored and privileged to serve the Lord and this Conference.
With high hopes and expectations,

Kendall M. Taylor, Executive Director

DISCONTINUING SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS OF THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE

Kendall Taylor: Bishop Whitaker and delegates to the Annual Conference, the Committee on Congregational Transformation has as one of its responsibilities to present for your action recommendations concerning relocation, merger and discontinuation of local churches. There are no recommendations concerning relocation or merger. There are eight recommendations for discontinuation.

The recommendations we bring this year come by several different paths. Peace, Miami; and Lockhart, Orlando; are discontinuing voluntarily. The recommendations for Highland, Tampa; Woodlands, Tamarac; Lakeview and Lakeview Hispanic, Miami; were initiated by their Superintendents, following the procedures of the Discipline ¶ 2548.2 & ¶ 213. These deal with assessment of ability to fulfill the mission of making disciples. Harris Temple, Tampa and Venus have voted to discontinue as a church in order to become missions. Harris Temple is becoming a mission with it's neighbor Keeney Chapel UMC. Venus will function as a mission in its rural Highlands County setting. Its strength and resources better fit mission status than chartered church status.

I certify that disciplinary requirements for discontinuation were followed, that all property and assets will be transferred to other United Methodist entities, that the remaining members have been or will be transferred to churches of their choices; that the Cabinet has voted concurrence with the

discontinuation of these congregations, and that the Committee on Congregational Transformation has confirmed the recommendations for these congregations to discontinue. May I recommend that we vote on discontinuing each church after I read a brief history?

(BISHOP'S REPLY)

After reading of the histories and the votes, we will enter into a service of thanksgiving and remembrance for each of these three churches.

**Peace UMC in the Miami District
Dr. E Keith Ewing, Superintendent**

Peace Methodist Church was organized in February 1961 under the leadership of the Reverend A.L. Stevenson, a retired minister from another conference. Within a year a church building had been completed. The Reverend Ray Boegen was appointed pastor in 1962.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Peace UMC, effective, August 15, 2004? The motion to discontinue was approved.

**Lockhart UMC in the Orlando District
Dr. Jeffrey Stiggins , Superintendent**

Lockhart traces its origin to 1912, when the village of Lockhart was the center of a lumber mill business. Families of some of the mill workers met for prayers and worship in their homes. Bruce Caldwell held the first preaching services and led in organizing the church as part of the Apopka Charge. W.G. Strickland was the first pastor.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Lockhart UMC, effective July 1, 2005? The motion to discontinue was approved.

**Venus UMC in the Sarasota District
Dr. David Herman, Superintendent**

Under the leadership of The Reverend J. W. Wyrick five members joined to form Robbins Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Venus in 1927. A tent meeting soon brought in more members, and within two years a building was erected. Known for a while as Glades Mission, the church then served through the years as Venus.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Venus UMC, Effective June 5, 2005? The motion to discontinue was approved.

**Harris Temple UMC in the Tampa District
Dr Albert Blomquist, Superintendent**

Harris Temple was organized in 1962 as Progress Village Methodist Church in the Florida Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. The first minister was Roosevelt Dell, Jr.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Harris Temple UMC, effective December 31, 2004? The motion to discontinue was approved.

Highland UMC in the Tampa District
Dr Albert Blomquist, Superintendent

In 1904 the Reverend C.C. Cecil, known as the City Evangelist, organized four Sunday schools in the city of Tampa, calling them Life Line Mission Stations. Station Number Four was a wood-frame tabernacle on Euclid Avenue. In 1905 the Reverend C.H. Summers was appointed to the missions, and during his pastorate the Euclid congregation built a new tabernacle on Highland Avenue. Eventually two bungalows served as home to the church, which was known as the Twin Bungalow Church until a new building was constructed.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Highland UMC, effective July 1, 2005? The motion to discontinue was approved.

Woodlands UMC, Tamarac, in the Broward Palm Beach District
The Rev Debbie McLeod, Superintendent

In 1970 the Reverend John Springer was appointed to five acres of land in West Broward with the dream of establishing a new church in Tamarac. A parsonage was purchased in the Woodlands section. On September 27, despite a hurricane watch, fourteen people gathered in the garage, which had been converted into a chapel, for the first worship service of the new church. Services continued to be held there until a building was completed in 1972 and Woodlands Methodist Church began in earnest its ministry to a growing area.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation, of **Woodlands UMC** effective June 5, 2005? The motion to discontinue was approved.

Lakeview Hispanic UMC in the Miami District
Dr. E Keith Ewing, Superintendent

After holding classes in Spanish in the Lakeview Church for several years, the Lakeview Hispanic congregation was organized in 1969, with Jose Ramon Morales as pastor. It became part of the North Miami United Methodist Action Center, helping the community through refugee work, donations of food and clothing, and vocational rehabilitation. Through the years it has continued to share facilities with Lakeview.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Lakeview Hispanic UMC, effective June 5, 2005? The motion to discontinue was approved.

Lakeview UMC in the Miami District
Dr. E Keith Ewing, Superintendent

In 1962 Floral Park and Central Boulevard Methodist churches merged and formed a new church known as Lakeview, with the Reverend J. Barclay Jackson as pastor. Within a few years a new education building and sanctuary were completed. In 1979 Lakewood was selected as a model

church for the Churches in Transition program in recognition of its commitment to a changing neighborhood. It fostered the formation of both a Hispanic and a Haitian congregation.

Bishop, will you ask the Conference to approve discontinuation of Lakeview UMC, effective June 5, 2005? (vote) (**did not prevail, congregation continues**)

A TIME OF WORSHIP

Scripture: (Kendall Taylor)

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

Hymn: Christ For the World We Sing

UMH 568

Bishop Whitaker: These eight 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. Disciples of Jesus Christ have been raised in each of these congregations. Outreach missions have been supported. Lives have been changed. Children and youth have come to have a personal relationship with Jesus. But over time, some of these communities of faith have lost the vision of making disciples; others have a diminished capacity. So today we celebrate their past. We thank God for all that they have done to strengthen the Kingdom of God.

In dying these some of these congregations are providing resurrection and new life for other congregations through transfer of members and resources, and so they will live in the future. Others are redefining their life as a mission.

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. Keep this centered in your mind, heart and spirit!

We declare that Woodlands, Lakeview Hispanic, Peace, Lockhart, Venus, Harris Temple, and Highlands are no longer United Methodist churches and are now discontinued. Pray for the unfolding new ministries that shall issue from the missions that Venus and Harris Temple have become.

Let us pray.

Adapted From The United Methodist Book Of Worship

GLOBAL MISSION STEERING COMMITTEE

The Conference Mission Steering Committee met in July and December to explore and establish strategies for educating and resourcing in the new structure of the Conference. First the committee is to be known as the Conference Global Mission Ministry Steering Committee. The United Methodist Book of Discipline Paragraph 121–124 gives the Church the mandate for Global Mission. Paragraph 632 defines the Conference Global Mission Committee and its responsibilities.

A manual “Pathways to Mission” was prepared and presented to the 2004 Annual Conference Delegates. Pathways is a tool of extensive information to encourage the local congregation to fulfill the mission statement and the Biblical mandate of the Florida Conference. The Global Mission Wheel, the Concentric Circle, outlined by Worship with “Christ Over All” as the center of the four quadrants sets the standard for healthy mission partnerships in all areas of the conference and beyond. Web pages are being prepared and will soon be available for local congregations to implement the Global Mission Wheel for every conference Mission Initiative by: Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Disciplines; Biblical Theological Foundation, Mission Education; Partnerships, Hospitality; Action, Creative Energy in Being the mission as a life style and Doing the mission through compassion, love, grace, forgiveness, empowerment, justice, mercy and peace. The Pathways to Mission manual can also be accessed through the conference web page www.flumc.org/pathways_to_mission. The eight Conference Mission Initiatives are: (1) BICAP-Florida/Angola Partnership and Florida Children (2) Cuba/Florida Covenant (3) Haiti/Florida Covenant (in progress) (4) United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) (5) Florida Outreach Ministries (6) Florida Disaster Response (7) Missionaries and Advance Specials (Support of General Church Mission Ministries) (8) Refugee Ministries.

Education for all congregations (men, women, children, and youth), laity and clergy are encouraged by use of printed and web information, School of Christian Mission, Missionary speakers, and interpretation. It is our continuous prayer that every congregation will strive to be an active participant in all phases of the Conference Mission as set forth in Pathway to Mission and transforming the Florida Conference to be transformed into missionary churches, practicing the disciplines of mission evangelization.

Annie Woods, Chair

CONFERENCE ADVANCE MISSION SPECIALS

(Descriptions are found in the “Whose Mission Is It? Mission Opportunities” booklet.)

1. Alfalit International, Inc. (Florida Programs only)
2. Branches Ministry (Miami)
3. Carver Heights Ministry (Leesburg)
4. Celebrate Jesus, Inc.
5. Council on Ethnic Diversity (*formerly ELCC*)
6. Cuba/Florida Covenant
7. Florida Council of Churches
8. Florida Storm Recovery – 2004 Storms
9. Florida UM Children’s Home, Enterprise
10. Gainesville District Ministry Resource Training Center (Gainesville)
11. Goodwill Industries in Florida
12. Habitat for Humanity Projects in Florida

13. Haitian Committee on Ministry
14. Haitian-Hispanic Ministry Fund
15. Haitian Ministry, Church & Community Worker (Miami)
16. Jim Russo Prison Ministry
17. Migrant Ministry Projects:
 - a. Immokalee Neighborhood Service Project
 - b. National Farm Worker Ministry
18. Outreach Ministries
 - a. Broward Coalition On Poverty
 - b. Christians Reaching Out To Society, Inc
 - c. Community Outreach Agency
 - d. Grace Place, Inc.
 - e. Halifax Urban Ministries
 - f. Healthy Church Initiative, Church & Community Worker
 - g. South Florida Urban Ministries
 - h. Southeast District Haitian Ministries
 - i. Tampa Urban Ministries
 - j. United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast
 - k. United Methodist Cooperative Ministry of Madison County
 - l. Wesley House Family Services, Inc.
19. Refugee Ministries
20. Shade and Fresh Water Ministries
21. Society of St. Andrew
22. Tampa United Methodist Centers
23. The Shepherd's Way, Ft. Lauderdale
24. United Methodist Disaster Response
25. United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM)
26. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
27. Winsome Spirit Ministries

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY 2006 Budget Proposal

Your Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is a Mission of the Florida Annual Conference to students in colleges and universities throughout the State of Florida. Our Board is comprised of lay representatives, clergy representatives and campus ministers who are clergy or laity. These persons are committed to the work of making disciples and developing leadership in the United Methodist Church. Some of our greatest resources and gifts for the future church lay in the work and ministry of our Wesley Foundation Directors and their student leaders.

In 2005 and 2006, we are developing a new campus ministry at Gulf Coast University, Changing the model of ministry in two of our Campus Ministry units and hiring a full time Executive Director in order to more effectively accomplish our mission.

Rev. John E. Denmark, BHECM Chairperson

VISION STATEMENT: Higher Education and Campus Ministry is the United Methodist Church at work on Florida's college and university campuses, raising up a new generation of Christian leaders.

MISSION STATEMENT:

- Higher Education and Campus Ministry is developing Christian Disciples on Florida's college and university campuses by:
- Calling students into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Training them to become servant leaders
- Sending them out to serve God through the local church
- Encouraging the development of Christian community
- Affirming and supporting the relationship between the Florida Annual Conference and Florida's United Methodist-related institutions of higher education: Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Southern College

CAMPUS MINISTRY UNITS:

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee

Campus Ministry Center at FAMU, Wesley Foundation

Budget Request: \$130,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 56%

The purpose of FAMU Campus Ministry is to provide ministry opportunities to over 14,000 students, faculty and staff. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, part-time support staff salary, campus ministry programs, and property maintenance (parsonage property value \$90,000.00; Wesley Foundation property value \$180,000.00) FAMU campus ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, Church-related vocational counseling, weekly worship service, student and faculty discussion format luncheons, Bible studies, leadership training, spiritual formation encounters, evangelism outreach, retreats, mission opportunities, seminary interviews, small group fellowships, educational scholarships and fellowship activities.

Florida State University, Tallahassee

Wesley Foundation

Budget Request: \$160,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 54%

FSU Wesley Foundation is dedicated to bringing the Gospel to Florida State University's 42,300 students, faculty and staff. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salary, staff intern program, campus ministry programs, as well as building maintenance on the Wesley Foundation, Chapel, and parsonage (Wesley Foundation and Chapel property value \$2,400,000.00; parsonage value \$150,000.00) FSU Wesley campus ministry programs include: freshmen outreach program, student internships, pastoral counseling/care, weekly traditional worship service, weekly praise and worship service, Bible studies, fellowship dinners, campus evangelism, prayer ministry, mission trips, small groups, Church-related vocational counseling, community service opportunities, Upper Room residential student staff, praise band, prayer garden, drama team, and fellowship activities.

University of Florida, Gainesville

University United Methodist Church and Student Center

Budget Request: \$113,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 69%

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 61,500 students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding Gainesville community. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salaries, student center ministry programs, property maintenance of church, student center and parsonage (Church property value \$3,300,000.00; 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.

University of Miami, Coral Gables

Wesley Foundation

Budget Request: \$135,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 55%

University of Miami Wesley Foundation is offering Christ to the more than 12,500 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 \$197,000.00) Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, 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, DeLand

Wesley Foundation

Budget Request: \$75,800.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 53%

The Wesley House at Stetson University is dedicated to sharing, deepening and enriching the Christian faith of Stetson's 3,100 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, Orlando

Wesley Foundation

Budget Request: \$106,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 36%

The Wesley Foundation seeks to minister to the 42,000 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 \$111,000.00) UCF ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, Bible studies, small groups, small group leadership training program, international and local 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, Tampa
 Crosswinds – USF Wesley Foundation
 Budget Request: \$80,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 70%

The Crosswinds campus ministry has the opportunity to reach the University of South Florida's 43,000 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, small groups, prayer teams, Bible study, mission trips, evangelism outreach, service projects, residential staff team, Church-related vocational counseling and fellowship activities.

University of North Florida, Jacksonville
 Access College Student Ministry – Crossroads UMC
 Budget Request: \$20,000.00

Percentage of Total Campus Ministry Budget Funded by FAC Apportionments: 21%

Access is a church-based college student ministry which provides worship opportunities for over 13,000 students, faculty and staff at the University of North Florida. The budget request will provide funding for the following: College student ministry staff salaries and benefits, and ministry programs. Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, Access contemporary worship services, Bible studies, student leadership training, music ministry, small group ministry, and mission trips.

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers
 Budget Request: \$8,500.00

The requested funds will allow the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry in cooperation with the Fort Myers District, to give grant assistance to the new campus outreach to Florida Gulf Coast University. The Campus Ministry program will be run by a newly launched local United Methodist congregation.

Grant Money
 Budget Request: \$5,000.00

All campus ministries may apply for grants of up to \$500.00 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, 2005, and they are required to have matching funds.

Florida United Methodist Student Movement - Student Conferences
 Budget Request: \$9,000.00

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 Florida United Methodist campus ministries and local church congregations the opportunity to grow spiritually, share programming ideas, and enlarge their circle of Christian peers.

Campus Ministry Staff Intern Grants

Budget Request: \$5,000.00

This Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry Staff Intern 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.

CAMPUS MINISTRY EVALUATION/EFFECTIVENESS CRITERIA

Campus Ministry Units and Campus Ministry Executive Directors are evaluated annually by the Conference Board of Higher Education and their local Board of Directors; requirements include detailed program, financial, and personnel reports. Campus ministries are also now required to file a "Discipleship Report" every other month, which outlines activities and attendance. Ministries are evaluated by the standards set forth in the BHECM document "Criteria for an Effective Campus Ministry". BHECM assessment teams now travel to each campus ministry once per quadrennium for comprehensive on-site reviews.

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 considers it essential to continue financial support of our two Florida Annual Conference United Methodist-related colleges: Bethune- Cookman College and Florida Southern College.

Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach

Budget Request: \$100,000.00

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

Florida Southern College, Lakeland

Budget Request: \$360,000.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry moves forward to fulfill its Vision and Mission to reach college students with the message of Jesus Christ; they believe it is imperative that the Executive Director be full time and in full connection with the ministries of the Conference Office. To this end, the Board believes it is necessary to extend the job of the Executive Director from part time (20 hours) to a full time position with benefits and to move the job, which previously resided in Orlando, to the Lakeland Conference Office.

Salaries and Benefits \$80,325.00

(Also included is the Administrative Assistant that is shared with the Youth Department)

BHECM ADMINISTRATION:

Short Term Goals:

- To conduct yearly evaluations of campus ministries for the quality of their performance, the integrity of their mission, fiscal responsibility/annual financial audits, and their response to the missional goals of the United Methodist Church.
- To provide young adult ministry resources to local United Methodist Churches, including a local church young adult ministry resource handbook
- To facilitate stronger district interest, leadership and support in the districts where our campus ministry units are located
- To focus on providing campus ministers with new resources and continuing education events to enrich their professional development; including an annual campus minister's retreat.
- To promote the United Methodist Student Day Offering, The Black College Fund, and scholarship and loan opportunities for United Methodist students. The BHECM will administer scholarship funds rebated from the General Church.
- To provide local campus ministry boards of directors with a board training handbook, and assist with board orientation events.
- To continue publication of our bi-annual BHECM Florida Conference Newsletter, this provides resources for local churches and persons in ministry to collegians.
- To conduct a yearly property management survey for each campus ministry building under our guardianship and report our findings to the Florida Annual Conference Trustees.
- To present to the Council on Finance and Administration the financial needs for adequate support of the colleges, Wesley Foundations, and ecumenical ministries related to the Annual Conference for apportionment to the churches within the conference.
- To provide financial and leadership development support for the United Methodist Student Movement Florida Conference Leadership Team

Long Term Goals:

- To conduct extensive on-site visitations and evaluations of campus ministry units twice each quadrennium, including detailed interviews with students, local board of directors, university faculty, and Wesley Foundation staff. Assessment teams will be comprised of BHECM members.
- To continue building a network of young adult ministries on college campuses by encouraging and resourcing local church congregations to reach out to campuses not currently served by a Wesley Foundation.
- To find creative ways to strengthen the relationship between the Florida Annual Conference and our United Methodist related colleges, Bethune Cookman College and Florida Southern College.
- To interpret systematically to the conference, districts, and all local churches the conference programs of campus ministry and United Methodist-related colleges, encouraging their support and participation.
- To study current and developing trends in campus ministry for the creation of new ministry models.

Administration: \$20,500.00

Property Maintenance \$60,000.00 (12 properties – Total value \$8,261,000.00)

Contingency \$10,000.00

Wesley Foundations are the leading-edge expression of United Methodist belief in action, in the lives of young believers. Our desire is that their faith established today will stand firm tomorrow.

TOTAL BOARD OF HECM FUNDING REQUEST FOR 2006: \$1,479,500

DISCIPLINARY PRIORITIES

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The commission continues to work toward the establishment of the Florida United Methodist Heritage Center to house the archives collection. Collaboration with Florida Southern College now seems to be the best avenue to pursue.

The archives continue to be housed in a small room in the Roux Library at Florida Southern, as well as in another college facility and a commercial storage space.

Bishop J. Lloyd Knox recently made a gift to the archives of some of his papers, including notebooks of his Episcopal trips abroad. In the past year the archives has answered approximately one hundred requests for information and research from churches and individuals.

At Annual Conference in 2004 the commission presented a commemorative bust of John Wesley to each of the fourteen newly ordained deacons and elders. The busts were given in memory of Jamie Parramore and in honor of Vernon Parramore, who served as co-chairs of the commission from 1996 to 2000. In addition, the ordinands received copies of Robert M. Temple's history of the conference, *Florida Flame*, as well as cards giving the chain of their ordinations back to Thomas Coke.

The Florida Conference Historical Society held its fourteenth annual banquet during the 2004 Annual Conference, with Dr. Sheila Flemming, history professor and dean the Social Sciences Department at Bethune-Cookman College, as the speaker. She told of the life of the founder of the college, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, and the profound influence she had on young lives and on the establishment of civil rights for people of color all over the world.

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 General Commission on Archives and History. Nell Thrift, archivist, is chairperson of the SEJ Commission and member of the General Commission.

This year's SEJ Historical Society annual meeting, with the theme *Methodism in Charleston: From John Wesley to Civil Rights*, will be held July 12-15 in Charleston, South Carolina. This gathering

offers Florida Methodists a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our heritage and to enjoy the fellowship of the group.

During Annual Conference those who are celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordinations will be recognized:

Ordained Deacon 1955

Robert R. Barber

Lawrence W. Coles

Donald W. Coughenour

Edward L. Dinkins, Jr.

Edward H. Griffith

E. Jay Halter

Leo S. Lacy

G. Odell Miley

H. Donald Mizell

Laverne Proctor

Arthur A. Reppenhagen, Jr.

Donald L. Richardson

James E. Ridgway

John V. Whitehead

Ordained Deacon 1980

John F. Barham

Robert B. Bushong

Brent E. Byerman

John B. Hill

Teresa L. Hill

Miriam Haynes Holland

Thomas A. Hughes

Geraldine W. McClellan

W. David McEntire

Alfred M. McGowan

John R. Myers

Kenneth V. Vickery

Churches celebrating anniversaries will also be recognized:

175 years (1830): Madison; Pisgah

150 years (1855): Cedar Key; Ellzey; Providence, Windsor

125 years (1880): Bowling Green; First, Citra; First, DeLand; Inverness; Matecumbe; Mt. Dora; Tavares; Oak Grove, Tampa

100 years (1905): First, Boynton Beach; Kathleen; McCabe, St. Petersburg

50 years (1955): Asbury, Bartow; DeBary; Highlands, Jacksonville; Norland, Miami; Olympia Heights, Miami; Azalea Park, Orlando; Forest Hills, Tampa

25 years (1980): Tuskawilla, Casselberry; Palm Coast; Sun City Center

Banners from the anniversary churches will displayed in the arena during the conference session.

M. McCoy Gibbs, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The United Methodist Church has made great strides in advancing the status and role of women. Inclusive language is encouraged in our churches, meetings and here at Annual Conference. Increasing numbers of women are being ordained, appointed to committees, and elected as officers of churches in positions traditionally held by our brothers. The 2000 Book of Discipline affirms that “women and men to be equal in every aspect of their common life. We therefore urge that every effort be made to eliminate sex-role stereotypes in activity and portrayal of family life and in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society.” (para. 162) What

disturbs us, however, is that in 2005 we continue to encounter obstacles which prevent us from functioning toward God's realm of wholeness and inclusion. Women continue to be stereotyped and thereby encouraged to assume roles which are by tradition "safe" and correct for them. Although inclusive language is encouraged throughout our organization, there continues to be a need for structural inclusiveness. This requires more than just changing our language; it requires changing our attitudes as to what roles women may serve in building the church. Throughout the conference Commission for the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) plans on bringing to you "spot interviews" which we hope will raise the awareness of preconceived ideas our own communities has regarding a woman's place in church.

Finally, God places great value to all his children and has instilled in each of us certain gifts, talents and skills for service in His Kingdom. By former resolution of the General Conference*, it was resolved that the value on people serving in God's Kingdom needs to be recognized by paying them a fair, living wage. In this session we will request the Annual Conference to survey the staff salaries of Florida's 100 largest churches to determine whether this resolution is being honored.

The United Methodist Church's MOTO is "open heart, open minds, open doors". We believe in order for doors of equality to be open for all God's children, we must first change the hearts and the preconceived ideas of which sex shall serve him and how. When the heart is changed, the mind will follow and doors will open for everyone to serve God as He sees fit.

*The Book of Resolutions, #208 Pathways to Economic Justice," and #217 "Living Wage Model".

Peggy Garcia, Chair

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I prepare this first report by me as your conference lay leader. I am deeply honored by the opportunity to serve the people called United Methodist in this position for these four years.

This work is begun on the shoulders of very able leaders who precede me, and I am daily reminded of their devoted work and sacrifice. One of my goals is to do honor to their labors. May my labors be worthy!

As a conference, we are in a time of great transition. Someone has coined a metaphor for work like ours as: "Like rebuilding the jail without losing any of the inmates!" Indeed, great is the task before us, and there are few models to emulate. I am thankful for significant work! We are people of faith in God, and we know beyond all doubt that faithfulness through honoring God will be quite sufficient for our needs. That principle is at the heart of our journey together in these days. Maintaining the core values of our faith will see us through the present challenges to a better tomorrow. I am reminded that hope is not a gift for the future; it is a gift for today, about the future. I enjoy a warm and collegial relationship with our bishop, and we are fortunate that he has been appointed to us as our bishop. It is a joy for me to work with him in the common cause we share and I am confident and trusting of him and his work. Thus, I find myself quite encouraged on several fronts.

Although some of our work with laity is stressed, leaders in those areas are confidently re-examining strategy, turning to prayer, reflection and conferencing to seek God's guidance as to present actions that will bring a brighter future. I am particularly proud of our United Methodist Men in this regard. As methods so very successful in reaching men in earlier times have become less effective today, our UMM leadership is busy exploring what will prove effective today. They are clear that what they are about is taking the good news to men who do not have it in their hearts and minds and inviting them into a life with Jesus, not simply perpetuate past strategies. Mission effectiveness has become their watchword.

Our United Methodist Women have re-claimed their relationship with our own college, Florida Southern College, by returning to the campus for their annual mission study week. Dr. Anne Kerr, a United Methodist who is the new president of Florida Southern, has earnestly sought that return just as the UMW leadership sought to "make it happen." This is a very affirming act, and helps both FSC and the UMW claim a collaborative approach that is very helpful to mission effectiveness for both institutions.

Not all laity are aware of our special relationship with two institutions of higher learning. The Florida Conference of the UMC owns Florida Southern College, with campuses in Lakeland and Orlando. Our conference annually elects persons to the board of trustees of that institution. We have a principal steward responsibility for the organization, financial and spiritual health of this important educational institution, and I expect to lead us into fresh ways of meeting that responsibility. The conference lay leader is an *ex-officio* member of that board with voice and vote, as is our bishop.

Bethune-Cookman College, in Daytona Beach, is among the leading colleges owned by the entire denomination, and to which our conference has a direct relationship and several trustees are active clergy or laity within our conference, including the conference lay leader and bishop, both of whom likewise serve *ex-officio*. As with FSC, Bethune-Cookman College has a new and very effective female leader as president. Dr. Trudy Kibbe Reed has a bold and exciting vision for the college about which I am very excited to relate, in that it upholds the values that underlie a disciplined Christian life. As I attend the board meetings and otherwise interact the presidents of these two institutions, I speak for and in behalf of our conference laity, and ask for your counsel as I do so.

During the past year the work of preparing laity leadership to aid our denomination and take direct responsibility for key parts of lay development in the faith and in leadership has been underway. I am very positive about the caliber and attitude of those District Leaders of Laity who are coming forward to serve Christ and the church as we move to the new nine districts. All of our laity may look forward to heightened communication and clarity about their role in the building of the Kingdom though their commitment to Christ as members of The United Methodist Church in our conference. These District Leaders of Laity will be working directly with congregation leaders in the coming months, in a far more intensive manner than has been our custom.

Our Lay Speaking Ministry is vital to our future. If you are among those not fully aware of this ministry and its role in the development of disciples of Jesus, I suggest you learn more. The easiest way to do so is through the Lay Speaking Ministry pages of the Laity Matters portion of the conference website, www.flumc.org. You will be hearing more and more about the role of this ministry in developing us all.

Your counsel to your leadership, both clergy and lay, is critical to our collective effectiveness of mission, and is welcome, invited and encouraged

Bill Walker, Conference Lay Leader

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES

Lay Speakers witness to their Christian faith by leading, caring and communicating. Lay Speakers serve in and through their local churches in a variety of ways, and each year renew their commitment to train purposefully, and to serve purposefully

As Directors, our goal is to equip the laity to fulfill their leadership, nurturing and witnessing responsibilities that affirm the work of Jesus Christ. Several times each year our District Directors offer both the Basic Course for new Lay Speakers and Advanced Courses for Certified Lay Speakers. The Basic course is now available in Spanish, Creole, Korean, and Vietnamese, and advanced courses are available in Spanish.

At the Convocation of Conference and District Directors held at Nashville in January of 2005, two new Advanced Courses were introduced--“Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts”, and “Lay Speakers are Accountable Disciples”. These two courses, and three others, will be offered at the Conference Leadership Training event at the Life Enrichment Center, this fall, on August 19-21. Five courses were also offered at that event in August 2004, and it was well attended in spite of the storms. Four courses were offered by the SEJ at Lake Junaluska in July, 2004, and one LSM course was taught at the Congress on Evangelism in January 2005.

One Advanced LSM course is now available on-line from Cokesbury Academy. The course—“Lay Speakers Lead Small Groups” is an interactive course and proved helpful to people who are unable to attend the regular classes because of their work schedule.

As our Districts will soon be larger, we plan to have one or more Associate Directors in different geographic areas of each District to help the Director. When the Director retires, one of the Associate Directors will assume the responsibility of Director, assuring us continuity of leadership.

With God’s guidance and help, and through the work of our dedicated District Directors and teachers, the number of Lay Speakers in our Conference is growing rapidly—providing strong, knowledgeable and dedicated lay leaders who are well prepared and motivated to do God’s work in both church and community.

Gayle Hogan, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Celebrate the Joys of Mission!

*“Sing to the Lord, all the world! Worship the Lord with joy;
come before Him with happy songs! Psalm 100: 1-2 (TEV)*

United Methodist Women from all over the Florida Conference gathered together on Saturday, October 23, 2004 to celebrate the many joys that are associated with being in Mission. Specifically, we celebrated 135 years of women organized for mission. We celebrated our organization, which began from a small humble beginning, to an organization that reaches around the world. We celebrated that we are women of various cultures, ethnicity, and religious backgrounds. We celebrated that through the Lord, we are working for the same mission – hand in hand and heart to heart as we strive to improve the lives of women, children and youth around the world, in our neighborhoods and in our local churches. We also celebrated that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has declared “In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women” (The Book of Discipline 2004, Paragraph 256.5). We celebrated our past but also looked forward to our future with anticipated joy. The members of the Florida Conference United Methodist Women approved a 2005 Florida Conference Pledge To Mission in the amount of \$705,000 and approved a total budget of \$998,410.

The Florida Conference Mission Team has continued to carry out the Purpose of our organization, which is “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.” We have encouraged United Methodist Women to participate at all levels of the church and to be well informed. We have worked on better communications through GENESIS, the official Florida Conference United Methodist Women’s publication. We have also maintained a website for information about our conference events. We encourage you to review our website at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/flaconferenceumw/>. We have also asked our members to participate in the Bishop’s Conference Table events, in the Florida Annual Conference, and in the transition from 14 to 9 districts. We are dedicated to making this transition as smooth as possible and to continuing our strength of having well trained, dedicated District and Conference Officers.

Since the Florida Annual Conference met in 2004, the Conference Executive Committee attended the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission, at Huntington College in Montgomery, Alabama. Conference officers received their counterpart officer training updates and attended Mission Study classes, which prepared them to conduct the School of Christian Mission in the Florida Conference. Study Group Leaders also received training and certification to enable them to teach in the Florida Conference School of Christian Mission.

In July, the United Methodist Women held the Florida Conference School of Christian Mission at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. The theme was “Reaching Out” based on the scripture from Matthew 28: 19-20: “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you, and I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” The Mission Studies were Concerning Prayer, Cuba, and Public Education. The children studied Cuba and the youth studied both Public Education and Prayer. Everyone enjoyed a Cuban Celebration with a Cuban Praise Team

from the Miami District. District Officers participated in officer updates and all adults participated in worship and educational sessions.

Due to the extensive damage of the hurricanes at the Life Enrichment Center at Leesburg, the Spiritual Life Retreat had to be cancelled. The Prayer Chain was very active during this time and members were encouraged to reach out to those in their communities, who needed basic help. As an out-pouring of love, members from all over the conference generously provided various UMCOR kits needed for the emergencies statewide.

We are pleased to announce that this year we are returning to Florida Southern College for the School of Christian Mission. The School will be held July 19-22, 2005 and July 22-24, 2005 for the Weekend School. The Mission Studies for 2005 are: Children of the Bible, Public Education, and India/Pakistan. Additional information and registration forms will be posted on our website at www.gbgm-umc.org/flaconferenceumw/. We want to extend to each of you (women, men, children and youth) a special invitation to attend the School of Christian Mission. On Friday afternoon between the week and weekend session of the School we will have special computer training by our Technology Team. Participants of the School are asked to bring all types of UMCOR and Disaster Relief kits. Please refer to **GENESIS** for details.

You are encouraged to attend our Spiritual Life Retreat September 9-11, 2005 at the Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg. The theme for the weekend event is "Great Expectations". The Spiritual Leader is Sandra Ruby, retired staff of Women's Division. The Bible references are from Hebrews 12:1 and Corinthians 15:58. During the retreat there will be gathering times for teens. We hope you will especially invite and provide scholarships and transportation to teens and younger women. Free child care will be made available on site. Registration information will be on the website and in **GENESIS**.

The theme for the Conference Annual Meeting will be "A Time For Change". The meeting will be held on October 22, 2005 at Florida Southern College, Lakeland. The Key Note Speaker will be Genie Banks. Registration information will be mailed to all local unit presidents and all conference and district officers in early September.

We continue the legacy of women organized for Mission to all but especially to women, children and youth. We continue to celebrate the joy of giving our funds for the mission work of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In the calendar year of 2004 the Florida Conference United Methodist Women gave \$696,372.70 undesignated for missions plus over \$65,000 designated for missions. Praise the Lord for His Blessings!

In His Service, Gail Christy-Jones, President

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Greetings in the strong & sweet Name of Jesus from the new 2005 conference officers of UMM. Let me first express my thanks to John Dowell and all prior officers for their leadership, service and dedication to Jesus Christ.

In 2004 we celebrated 57 years of Men's Retreats and 28 years of Couples Retreats. We have just completed the 29th Annual Spiritual Retreats for Couples. We are prepared for the 58th year of Men's Retreats in October. The spiritual retreats are where lives are changed by the person of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Please stop by the UMM booth to pick up information about the 2005 Fall Men's Retreats, the 2006 Couples Retreats and the new promotional DVD. I would encourage men and couples that if you have not been able to attend a retreat, give us a try. May I also ask for your help in promoting and supporting the Leesburg Men's and Couples Retreats.

With the new districts we want to encourage local churches to get a fresh start with UMM by chartering men's fellowships in your local church. Any of the newly elected conference officers are ready and willing to come to your local church or District meeting to assist and encourage a MENS Ministry in the local church or district. So let me encourage you to start an UM Men's group even with small numbers.

We want to sound the alarm that it is time to do more than meet and eat. We must go to where the people are in order to win them to Jesus and make disciples. A favorite speaker at the retreats once said if you want to pick oranges you must go to the orange grove, the oranges will not come to you. If we want to reach the unchurched for Jesus Christ we need to go to the people. We can no longer expect people to come rushing through the doors of the church. We need to get outside the four walls of the church to reach men.

It is important to make note that in 2005 we will have reached an amount of \$477,109 in ministry scholarships since 1977. We have a large number of men and women in pulpits in the Florida Conference today that have benefited from a UM MEN'S scholarship.

We also continue our support of the Children's Home, the Jim Russo Prison Ministry, the Scouts and most recently the Tsunami Relief Fund. We have had a great past but we can not live in the past. The scripture tells us that today is the day of salvation, so today is the day of OPPORTUNITY.

Looking forward to seeing you at a Men's or Couples Retreat.

Jesus Is Lord ~ Rodney Akers, President

MINISTRY OF THE ORDAINED**DIVISION OF MINISTRY****BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

Some time ago, the Florida Conference began encouraging its churches to participate in a process of evaluation of their overall ministry effectiveness using the Natural Church Development Program. This program lays out eight quality characteristics that are found in healthy, thriving church systems. One of those characteristics is referred to as empowering leadership. The point is made that the leadership within the local church is a foundational element in the development of healthy, vital, disciple-making churches. The Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is charged with the responsibility of making sure that the leadership available to churches in the Florida Conference, both ordained and lay, is fully equipped to lead its churches in vital, fruitful ministry in the 21st century. This responsibility involves a whole range of functions from helping people to discern the call of God in their lives, to mentoring, shaping, encouraging and eventually approving people to serve the church as leaders set apart for ministry in the church and the world. Over the past nine years the Board has made incredible strides in finding new and creative ways to continue to fulfill this function within the life of the Annual Conference. From the complete reorganization of the Board of Ordained Ministry in 1996 under the incredible leadership of Debbie McLeod to the establishment of several new programs for growth and accountability under the visionary leadership of Bob Bushong, the Board has greatly enhanced its ability to help shape, equip and encourage those who have been called to fulltime service in the church and the community.

The Residents in Ministry Program for those in their probationary period in the Annual Conference is in its second quadrennium of operation. This program of study, accountability and encouragement is an important component in our ability to help individuals negotiate their first years of ministry within the conference and grow in their pastoral identity. We are continuing to fine-tune this program in order to best serve our probationary members. We are incredibly grateful to Carmen Johns for her faithful service in helping to design and implement our current Residents in Ministry program. We are also grateful to all those who are currently serving in this area of the ministry as mentors, retreat leaders and team members.

The Personal Growth team is currently evaluating new forms of personality and psychological assessment that will enable us to better tailor our work with candidates to the individual needs of the candidate.

The Theology Team held its first Theology Weekend to help candidates in their growth and preparation for evaluation in this area of the process. This weekend brought candidates together with members of the Board, our own Bishop and several members of the Asbury Seminary community for presentations and discussion related to key theological themes.

The Proclamation Team is currently evaluating new methods for the presentation of materials from candidates seeking Deacon Orders. With those seeking the order of Deacon serving in a variety of contexts the team is trying to create a variety of options for presenting the candidate's work in this area for evaluation.

The Leadership Team, new to the board's process in 2000, continues to develop and hone its function and place within the overall evaluation process. The Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is unique in including the subject of leadership among the areas of reflection and evaluation. We feel strongly that this will greatly benefit our churches in helping to raise the issue and value of leadership in the local church from the beginning point of ministry.

Wayne Wiatt, currently serving as Chair of the Order of Elders and Linda Mobley, serving as Chair of the Order of Deacons, along with Michael Moore serving as Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members are working on new ways to provide ongoing encouragement, support and accountability for clergy in all areas of ministry.

The Board provides district-wide training around the Conference for both candidacy mentors and for District Committees on Ordained Ministry. Under the diligent work of Carole Rooks, the Board is seeking to bring uniformity across districts in District Committees on Ordained Ministry and in mentor training. A handbook, which describes the makeup and responsibilities of the District Committees, is in its final stages, as are final preparations for the process of restructuring District Committees due to changes in our conference structure.

The Florida Conference also has the incredible opportunity of hosting the next denominational Exploration Event in November 2006 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Jacksonville. This event provides an opportunity for those sensing a call to ministry to explore that call further. The Florida Conference will be working with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in hosting this event, providing logistical services and small group leaders.

Overall applications submitted to the board in 2004 were down from 2003. Out of 14 applications submitted for licensing as local pastor, 11 were approved for full time status. Three applications were submitted for commissioning as probationary deacon with 2 receiving recommendations. There were 33 applications for commissioning as probationary elders and 16 were approved. The board received 16 applications for full connection and elder's orders and 4 were approved.

The Board could not accomplish this work without the significant investment in time and energy of clergy and laity across the conference. Our work is also supported and enhanced by the work of even more clergy and laity serving on District Committees on Ordained Ministry and serving as candidacy mentors and contingency mentors. We are also incredibly dependent and grateful to the work of Winnie Dean, Administrative Assistant and to David Dodge, Executive Director, the Division of Ministry. Working together, our goal is to serve Jesus Christ by providing the very best of called and committed spiritual leadership to the churches and extension ministry of the Annual Conference. We covet your prayers and support and we are always open to feedback concerning ways to improve our work and process.

Annette S. Pendergrass
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDED FOR ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION****ARTHUR P. MCCLELLAN, JR.**

Age 45; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Elder.

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS MCNEILL

Age 35; married; Harvard Divinity School; Broward Palm Beach District; Candidate for Elder.

JEFFREY YOUNG OGLESBY

Age 41; married; Asbury Theological Seminary, Gainesville District; Candidate for Elder.

ELIZABETH L. OUELLETTE

Age 45; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Elder.

RECOMMENDED FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP**DAVID ALLEN, JR.**

Age 29; married; Gammon; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

WILLIE JAMES BAILEY

Age 61; single; Columbia; Miami District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

HEIDI C. BENDER

Age 58; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Sarasota District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

KANDACE LYNN BROOKS

Age 45; single; Asbury Theological Seminary; Gainesville District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

BRITT WILLIAM GILMORE

Age 29; married; Duke Divinity School; Orlando District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

TAMARA DIAL GRAY

Age 38; married; Duke Divinity School; Ft. Myers District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

CHRISTINE ALLEN HOLDEN

Age 32; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

MATTHEW GLENN HUNTER

Age 34; married; Duke Divinity School; Orlando District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

RICHARD DOUGLAS LANDON, JR.

Age 40; married; Candler School of Theology; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

JOHN KEVIN LEGG

Age 37; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; St. Petersburg District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

DAVID EDWARD MULLINS

Age 27; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tampa District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

ANDREW MICHAEL OLIVER

Age 24; married; Duke Divinity School; Melbourne District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

MARTHA ANN O'REILLY

Age 58; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Jacksonville District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

DENNIS ROSS ROEBUCK

Age 58; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tampa District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

LOUIS JULNER TELCY

Age 32; single; Duke Divinity School; Lakeland District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

JAMES J. THERRELL, JR.

Age 30; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Orlando District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

KIMBERLY COLLEEN UCHIMURA

Age 46; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tampa District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

MATTHEW WILLIAM WALLIS

Age 34; married; Asbury Theological Seminary; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

RECOMMENDED FOR LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING:

BARRY DOUGLAS BAHR

FRED MAX TAYLOR

SUSAN SCHMIDT BLAIR

THOMAS TOUSSAINT

DEBORAH ANNE CASANZIO

BRANDON MONTGOMERY WISE

HOWARD ROBERT GRIMMENG

RONALD CLEO HUBBARD

RAY SIMPSON HUGHES, JR.

BENTON MARCOS WARNER

MANGUEIRA

IRA STEVEN NOLIN

STEVE BLANE POLK

STANLEY WAYNE POSEY

VINCENT LEON PRICE

HUNG BO SIM

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 2004, 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:

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 the Licensing 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.

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.

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.

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.

Distribution of MEF receipts is 90% for students and 10% for continuing education.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
1 Ministerial Education Fund:		
2 Apportioned to local church	1,301,712	1,352,699
Received from local churches	984,623	1,084,233
75% of MEF apportionment monies received are sent on to the General Church for Seminary students		
3 Total sent to General Church	737,479	815,397
25% of MEF apportionment monies received are kept in the Florida Conference for student aid and Continuing Education		
4 Total Florida Conference Funds available	247,144	268,836
5 For Student aid (90% of retained funds)	222,430	294,952
6 For Continuing Ed (10% of retained funds)	24,714	26,884
Student Aid:		
7 Amount available from prior years	356,466	414,735
8 Received from other sources (non-Apportionment)	----	9,464
9 Current Year Allocation	222,430	241,952
10 Disbursed for students	(164,161)	(154,735)
11 Available for future use	<u>414,735</u>	<u>511,416</u>
Continuing Education:		
12 Amount available from prior years	37,075	31,898
13 Received from other sources (non-Apportionment)	---	4,701
14 Current Year Allocation	24,714	26,884
15 Disbursed for Continuing Education	(29,891)	(36,538)
16 Available for future use	<u>31,898</u>	<u>26,945</u>

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Service and Commitment. These are two very important words to the members of your Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (CBOPHB). We strive diligently to serve the needs of the lay and clergy members of the Florida Conference. In addition, no one who has attended the meetings, seminars, summits, and workshops of this Board's work can have anything but the highest regard for the commitment of our membership. I am proud of this Board's work in seeking to understand the extremely complex issues related to the pension program, the health insurance program and other programs which fall within our responsibilities. We would be lost without the able assistance of David Dodge; Executive Director Division of Ministry and Randy Casey-Rutland, Treasurer. In addition we want to thank Boyd Acklin, Assistant Treasurer for his help with the health insurance portion of our work. We also need to thank Winnie Dean, Jenny DiLorenzo, Becky Cockroft, and Janice Updegraff for their tireless help making sure that reports are ready and forms complete. I also want to thank Barbara Pearce, Vice Chair, who does such a wonderful job monitoring the Health Insurance programs. Finally I want to thank Barbara Riddle who has done an outstanding job in her first year as Chair of the Preacher's Relief Board. The Conference is indebted to all of these for their *service and commitment*.

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) is made up of 7 lay women, 7 lay men and 7 clergy. We are also assisted by the Conference staff. I am extremely grateful for the contribution that each member has made. We also receive help from AON Consulting and from the employees of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

This year, in order to explain some modifications to our health insurance plan we held over 20 workshops around the Conference. A debt of gratitude is due to Barbara Pearce who helped lead all but one or two of these workshops and also to Ron Coleman of the GBOPHB who lead the discussion in all of them.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a new framework for our Conference pension program that reflects recent legislation passed at General Conference. This program would constitute a third layer of our pension program and it is called the Clergy Retirement Security Program or CRSP (affectionately spoken of as "Crisp"). It begins effective January 1, 2007. As stated in materials that have been mailed out already, the CRSP pension plan has two components: 1) a defined benefit component calculated as 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation in effect at the time of retirement multiplied by the years of credited service, and 2) a defined contribution component that is comprised of an annual contribution equal to 3% of the clergyperson's compensation, plus any accumulated investment earnings or losses. The sum of these two components is the total "core" benefit payable upon retirement for service on or after 1/1/07. This new program also contains a program designed to move toward greater equity among all church workers including lay employees. Legislation passed states, "The Pastor-Parish (Staff-Parish) Relations Committee shall recommend that the church council provide 100 percent vested pension benefits of at least 3% of compensation for lay employees who are:

- 1) at least 21 years of age,
- 2) have at least one year of permanent service, and
- 3) work at least 1,040 hours per year (20 hours per week)."

All churches, and church employees, lay and clergy are urged to prepare for 2007 by learning the details of CRSP. We anticipate that a series of workshops may be needed to answer questions about this new pension framework.

This new program means that a clergy person could have as many as three layers to their total pension benefit:

- 1) pre-1982 service using the Past Service Rate multiplied times the number of years served during this period;
- 2) 1982 through 2006: the MPP and PIP programs;
- 3) the new layer or CRSP that begins 1/1/07.

Let's look at data relevant to the pre-1982 Past Service Rate. The Past Service Rate for those with retirement credits for years prior to 1982 are as follows:

The Florida Conference Average Compensation (CAC) projection for 2006 is \$58,984. The Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) is \$52,394.

In light of these statistics, the CBOPHB submits for approval the following reports:

Report I – Past Service Rate

The CBOPHB recommends that the Past Service Rate for 2006 be set at \$649 or 1.10% of the CAC. The Conference is seeking to maintain the PSR at 1.1% of the CAC. This would mean an increase in the PSR of 2005 of 1.7%.

This would leave this portion of our pension in a fully funded status with funding of \$100,003,813 and projected liabilities of \$84,492,288. These actuarial projections assume a 7% interest rate. The Florida Conference continues to monitor carefully the funding status of our pension plan.

Report II – Special Grants

The CBOPHB recommends special grants for: Richard Johnston, William Johnston, Walter Mc Mullen, Deborah Parsons, and Donald Rock.

The CBOPHB recommends continued special grants for former lay employees of the Florida Annual Conference: Janet Hardin, Elizabeth Hogan, Eugene Hogan, Clara Spencer, and Mary Winslow.

Report III – Apportionment Recommendation for 2006.

The CBPHB recommends the Apportionment for Pension and Health Benefits Programs, amounts that are required to meet the needs of the pension and health benefits programs of the annual conference according to Paragraph 1507 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church – 2000, include the health insurance supplement and the funding for the reduction of retirees health insurance unfunded liability. The health insurance supplement currently is included in the Conference Clergy Support apportionment. The Apportionment for Pension and Health Benefits would be apportioned to the local churches by a formula determined by the conference Council of Finance and Administration and would include the current policy of prior claim on unpaid amounts by the local church for the following years.

The CBPHB recommends the following amounts with referral to the Council of Finance and Administration as necessary to fund the Apportionment for the Pension and Health Benefits Programs for 2006:

APPORTIONMENT FOR PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAMS:

Retiree Health Insurance Supplement	\$1,529,820
Comprehensive Pension Program (CPP)	1,500,000
Special Grants	80,000
Pensions Support	<u>\$10,000</u>
 TOTAL	 \$3,119,820

Report IV - Housing/Rental Allowance Resolution

Relating to Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Incapacitated 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 incapacitated ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and incapacitated 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 incapacitated 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 2006 be and is hereby designated as a housing/rental allowance for each retired and incapacitated 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 incapacitated ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or placed on incapacity 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 incapacitated 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 that 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.

The CBOPHB also brings the following motion to the Annual Conference:

In cases where deacons in full connection and probationary deacons are employed and appointed to local churches and other entities of the Annual Conference for which the Annual Conference has pension responsibility, the Florida Annual Conference shall be the Plan Sponsor for deacons and probationary deacons for the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).

The CBOPHB continues to monitor our employee benefit programs with an eye to adding or expanding programs to better serve our members and also keeping costs from escalating out of control. This is indeed a challenge to us but one that we feel is part of our mission as a church. Fortunately we feel we have able assistance in this task from our insurance company representatives, from AON Consulting, from the GBOPHB, and from our own Executive Director and Treasurer. The working relationship that has evolved between these parties over the years is a pleasure to be a part of.

Scott Allan Baker, Chairperson

**Florida Annual Conference
Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Statement of Financial Position**

Assets	As of 12/31/2002	As of 12/31/2003	As of 12/31/2004
Conference Endowment Fund	4,884	2	-
Deposit Service Account	20,368,952	22,629,831	25,521,587
Past Service Funding Account (PSFA)	15,767,580	-	-
Conference Superannuate Endowment Fund	122,571	120,443	148,384
Total invested with GBOPHB	\$ 36,263,987	\$ 22,750,276	\$ 25,669,971
Pension and Benefits invested at FUMF		646,537	1,100,811
Rate Stabilization Fund (at FUMF)	-	-	-
Cash in transit	428,564	330,212	(521,751)
Total Net Assets at close of year	\$ 36,692,551	\$ 23,727,025	\$ 26,249,031
Income			
MRPF/PPP apportionments received	52,173	16,628	6,993
Clergy Support apportionments received	1,339,200	1,227,139	1,517,000
Defined Benefit Adjustments	-	163	35,572
Printing Establishment Fund	-	11,980	-
United Methodist Publishing House	18,848	19,177	16,813
Chartered Fund	128	684	21
Interest Income (in all GBOPHB accounts)	835,765	36,539	983,409
General Superannuate Endowment Fund distrib.	7,973	8,766	28,517
MPP arrearages income from churches	-	278	9,998
FUMF interest income	7,835	7,001	28,372
Total Income	\$ 2,261,923	\$ 1,328,355	\$ 2,626,695
Expenditures			
BPP Premiums	-	-	-
CPP Premiums	1,414,253	1,469,902	1,504,487
Miscellaneous	11,940	16,310	37,440
Past Service Funding Account adjustments (from PSFA)	406,777	-	-
Funding years of service rate change (from PSFA)	950,696	-	-
Special Grants	39,130	73,453	78,058
Clergy Health Insurance	937,574	180,380	720,164
Pension Support	10,036	10,095	7,270
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,770,407	\$ 1,750,140	\$ 2,347,419
Market gain(loss) on investments in GBOPHB	\$ (1,364,912)	\$ 3,223,839	\$ 2,242,730
Accounting Adjustment at GBOPHB	\$ -	\$ (15,767,580)	\$ -
Net increase (decrease) in assets	\$ (2,873,396)	\$ (12,965,526)	\$ 2,522,006

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INCAPACITY

The Florida Annual Conference provides incapacity benefits through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). For Benefit Year 2006 and beyond, the Incapacity Benefit will equal 70% of Plan Compensation capped at 200% of the DAC. The minimum Incapacity Benefit will be 40% of the DAC. These benefits are also coordinated with Social Security benefits. As the DAC increases the CPP 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 Incapacity has approved continuing incapacity benefits for the Conference Year 2005-2006 for the following persons: Michael Bozeman, Thomas P. Ettinger, Pamela Feeser, Carol E. Green, Albert Hicks, S. Dwight McQueen, Delbert King, Carlo Sevilla, Michael Shirley, Robert L. Sterner and Thomas Weber. We ask that you keep these persons and their families in your prayers.

Scott Allan Baker, Chairperson

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS (CBOPHB) INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The calendar year 2004 was a year of great change for health benefits for Clergy and Lay Employees. The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (Evanston, IL) made carrier changes and pharmacy benefits manager changes to be effective January, 2005. Your CBOPHB had a long and intense renewal with the General Board, finally negotiating a Plan of Benefits that was felt would work well for Florida Clergy and Lay Employees, while helping to contain costs for all involved – Participants and Local Churches. A series of Workshops (21 in Florida and 1 in North Carolina) were held to provide details on Plan changes and/or improvements. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (EPO, a PPO-type plan of benefits) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida/Health Options, Inc. (HMO) are the carriers for Actives, with Medco managing the pharmacy benefit for both Plans.

As a result of these negotiations and selection of Plans offered, the Florida Conference was able to offset and reduce expected rate increases, had the former Plan Designs remained in place. The current Plan Designs, coupled with pharmacy discounts, are expected to help control health care costs.

There are other methods to help control health care costs, but this will require all Participants to embrace the “Health as Wholeness in Mission” (HAWIM) concept. There has been a great deal of data developed recently that point to the many benefits of HAWIM and why it is necessary to take better care of ourselves. It is our hope that Clergy and Congregations will partner together in this concept. Your Board will be providing information on the many tools available to help achieve this goal, whether it is modifying diet, adding exercise to daily routines, helping to reduce stress*, or other simple behavior modifications that will improve our overall health.

*Clergy have a 75% higher likelihood to develop a stress-related condition than the average population, per General Board of PHB. Let’s work together to change that statistic!

Annual Conference for 2004 ratified a 5-year plan for Clergy Cost Sharing and approved that all clergy would share in the cost of their health care. In addition, the tiers for Participant + 1 and

Family would be combined to pay identical amounts of cost sharing. Here is an overview of that schedule:

Schedule Approved at Annual Conference 2004

Year	Local Church	Clergy
2005	84%	16%
2006	83%	17%
2007	82%	18%
2008	81%	19%
2009	80%	20%

In 2005, that resulted in a monthly blended rate of \$750; participant cost of \$60; participant plus 1 or participant plus family cost of \$155. Rates for 2006 will not be known until the last quarter of 2005.

Other action by the 2004 Annual Conference directed that a Supplemental Fund would be established to assist Clergy who experienced a financial hardship from their required portion of the Clergy Cost Sharing. The Supplemental Fund would be administered by the Preachers Relief Board, could receive contributions from Clergy, Lay and other sources, but would be for the benefit of Clergy only. The Supplemental Fund has been established as directed and is ready to receive contributions. Clergy and Congregations are informed of this Supplemental Fund through this Report and asked to support it financially so that resources would be available to Clergy for the prescribed purpose of this Fund. Contributions should be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer and marked as "Clergy Health Insurance Supplemental Fund".

The CBOPHB is conducting an RFP (Request for Proposal) to help measure the cost and benefits of current Plans being administered by General Board of PHB against the available market place. In past years, the claims and loss ratio of the Florida Conference would not have made this a desirable account. However, 2004 had a very favorable year. Responses to the RFP will be evaluated for appropriateness to Clergy and Lay Employees.

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) makes the following recommendations:

- a. The CBOPHB is authorized to make decisions relating to benefits and offerings of coverage for the Florida Conference. These decisions will be made after extensive study, research and evaluation, and consultation with industry experts, actuaries, consultants and other resources available at the time.
- b. The Florida Annual Conference budget for 2006 for retiree medical and life insurance shall be set at \$ 1,529,820, which represents a 3% increase over 2005 funding.
- 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 firm of AON Consulting shall continue to serve as Agent of Record for the Life Insurance Program.

Controlling health care costs is a denominational as well as a national issue. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits continue to closely monitor all facets of the health benefits program for Clergy, Lay Employees and other covered Participants. The Board is actively engaged and continues to work on your behalf. Steps taken for this year (carrier changes, vendor changes,

negotiated premiums, health and wholeness programs, etc) should help us navigate into the future with a solid benefits program with quality controls in place for cost containment. While we cannot predict the future, having a good health benefits program will help us manage our healthcare, cover unexpected emergencies and long term situations.

Barbara Pearce, Vice-Chairperson

PREACHERS RELIEF BOARD

TRUSTEES OF THE PREACHER'S RELIEF BOARD 2004-2008:

CLERGY: Barbara Riddle, Scott Baker, Duncan Gray, Ted Sauter, Pat Turner-Sharpton, Charles Lever, and David Juliano. LAY: John Long, Kathy Moore, Katy Black, Barbara Pearce, W. Pearson Cannon, and Donald Odom. Ex Officio: David Dodge, Ransom Casey-Rutland, and the Rev. Paul Morris.

PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR THE 2004-2008 QUADRENNIUM:

President, Barbara Riddle
Vice-President, John Long
Secretary, Kathy Moore
Treasurer, Ransom Casey-Rutland

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT: The Rev. Paul Morris reports that we have nineteen properties and two of them are currently vacant. All our homes are in good repair and are covered by the Conference property insurance. Value of all properties as listed on the tax rolls is \$865,616. The Preacher's Relief Board is deeply indebted to the Rev. Paul Morris who administers our retirement housing. Retiring clergy interested in housing should contact either Rev. Morris or Rev. David Dodge. Our condolences go out to Paul on the loss of his precious wife, Ann, who worked timelessly with the Board.

RETIRING CLERGY: The Preacher's Relief Board will assist with moving expenses for retiring clergy at the Annual Conference who are on minimum salary. The Preacher's Relief Board hosts the annual retirement luncheon at the Annual Conference. Clergy retiring at this Annual Conference will be the guests of The Preacher's Relief Board.

NECESSITOUS CASES: The Preacher's Relief Board was able to assist several families in the calendar year 2004. Those clergy persons who find themselves in difficulty can petition for relief from The Preacher's Relief Board by calling the Rev. David Dodge in the Division of Ministry. All queries are taken seriously and kept in the strictest confidence.

OTHER MATTERS: A gift of \$2,000 was made to the Association of Retired Clergy in the Florida Annual Conference to assist with scholarships to their annual gathering. Requests for these scholarships should be made at the time of the application and to the Association of Retired Clergy in the Florida Annual conference.

\$4,000 was awarded to the Clergy Kids Retreat for the purpose of scholarships and expenses.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Preacher's Relief Board operating budget for 2005 was set at \$143,200.

Four hundred, eleven thousand dollars (\$411,000) was moved from established and static accounts to the Florida United Methodist Foundation in expectation of increased earnings from interest, and to assist the Foundation in its ministry to the Florida Annual Conference.

Churches, Clergy, and other organizations wishing to donate to the Preacher's Relief Board can designate their funds through the Conference Treasurer's Office. Individuals wishing to donate homes or property should consult with Rev. David Dodge.

IN GRATITUDE: The Preacher's Relief Board is grateful to David Dodge and Randy Casey-Rutland, the Conference Treasurer, who serve ex-officio on the board. We extend a very special "Thank You" to Winnie Dean in the Division of Ministry for her stable assistance throughout the year.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams Riddle, Chair, Preachers Relief Board

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The Commission on Equitable Compensation exists for the purpose of assisting churches who are in need of financial support in funding clergy compensation on a short term basis. It is our goal to see transformation come through the implementation of new vision by making disciples for Jesus Christ. The Commission's purpose is to provide short term grants that assist in this process of making disciples. These grants are designed to help churches continue in full time ministry as they envision their future, thus helping them to return to a self supporting status. It is our prayer as a commission, that we can be both a facilitator and an encourager in the ministry of churches in need of short term financial assistance.

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?
 - a) All full-time pastors who are not excluded in Section 2.
 - b) Student Pastors - maximum allowable \$3,700 from Equitable Compensation Funds with total salary not to exceed \$8,000.
 - c) Ministers serving those pastoral assignments of more than 125 members with an average attendance of 100 (effective 7/1/06, until then, the guideline shall remain at 55) in worship. If the attendance figures drop over a three year period, consideration will be given to the church becoming part of a circuit or part-time, if the church wants to remain eligible for Equitable Compensation funding. The exceptions are student appointments.
2. Who is not eligible for minimum salary support?
 - a) All pastors who are retired.

- b) 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.
 - c) Congregations with less than 100 in average worship attendance.
 - d) Ministers on Leave of Absence.
 - e) Associate Pastors.
 - f) Any ordained conference member not under pastoral appointment.
 - g) Those who are appointed from other Annual Conferences under Disciplinary appointment of 346.1 and 346.2.
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 November 1st and April 1st. The application must include:
 - a) The November 1st application requires the signature of the Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.
 - b) A Vision and Mission statement as envisioned by the whole body of the church.
 - c) A Written Ministry Plan for implementing the Vision and Mission statement into the life of the church.
 - d) A Treasurers report, including all assets, for the current year to date status of the financial condition of the church.
 - e) A request for funds by the Charge Conference and the signature of the District Superintendent.
 - f) The April 1st application (if not submitted the previous November must include all of the above requirements) may be completed by the District Superintendent and submitted to the Conference office.
 - g) All congregations receiving Equitable Compensation Grants must renew their application by the April 1st deadline. Please use the application form found at www.flumc.org and note on the application "A Request for Renewal" for the current funding year.
 5. Additional support, up to \$2000, is available for "Missional Congregations." Chartered churches with documented outreach to the poor, through service and evangelism may also apply for "Missional" support, with the approval of the District Superintendent. The church must also be receiving an Equitable Compensation grant in order to be eligible for this additional support.
 6. Before a church is granted salary support, the church must conduct, or agree to conduct, a Stewardship Commitment plan.
 7. The maximum allowable salary support is \$5,000 per year.
 8. 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.

9. Churches whose salary support is at “the minimum” may apply for assistance with utilities, health insurance, or moving expenses, or from the Haitian Hispanic Ministers Fund.
10. 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.
11. Churches/missions may receive the requested assistance for up to five (5) 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.
12. Any funds granted to those churches approved, will first have to pay any outstanding balances owed to the Florida Conference. Those items that must be paid in full include: Health Insurance premiums, Property and Casualty premiums, Pension premiums, Workers Compensation premiums and “The Clergy Support” line item from apportionments. The approved funds from the grant will be used to pay the balances of any outstanding debit and the balance of the funds will come to the church.
13. Reimbursement Accounts: Charges receiving Equitable Compensation Funds may establish a reimbursement account up to \$2000.
14. Salary reduction for pension purposes: Clergy receiving Equitable Compensation funds may designate a portion of their compensation to the “Before Tax” contribution for the pension program.

MINIMUM SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Full Connection with M. Div. or Equiv.	\$32,000	\$33,000
Probationary Members with M. Div.	\$31,000	\$31,500
Local Pastor with M. Div.	\$30,500	\$31,000
Associate Members	\$30,000	\$30,500
FT Local Pastor with two or more years of Course of Study	\$29,800	\$30,000
FT Local Pastor with less than than two years of Course of Study	\$29,200	\$29,500

Additional Equitable Compensation Information and Requirements

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 Congregations:

1. 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, to determine if each Missional situation in the district meets the guidelines.
2. The Equitable Compensation Commission may provide amounts up to \$2,000 for missional support, and an additional \$2,000 may be granted for Haitian and Hispanic congregations in exceptional circumstances. Request for salary support from Equitable Compensation Commission for Missional situations shall be made by November 1st and April 1st and shall accompany the Equitable Compensation Request form.
3. Eligibility for extended missional support. A mission must meet the following criteria to receive extended support and will be annually reviewed to determine continued compliance until they are able to establish independence. Chartered congregations are not eligible.
 - a. Provide evidence that the mission has a vision statement, rooted in the Great Commission, which actually functions to shape the decisions about deployment of people and financial resources in ministry.
 - b. Provide evidence that the pastor exerts effective leadership in casting and realizing the vision.
 - c. Provide evidence of the mission's effectiveness in making and growing disciples.
 - (1) The mission makes a number of new disciples (first time professions of faith or "restorations") at least equal to 10% of its average worship attendance.
 - (2) The mission has a system of nurturing discipleship for all persons, long time Christians and newly professed ones.
 - (3) The mission carries out a consistent program of teaching the "stewardship" dimension of discipleship including sacrificial proportionate giving by all disciples.
 - d. The mission has a worship average attendance of at least 125, or grew in attendance in the past 12 months at a rate that would project reaching 125 in no more than 5 years.
 - e. Provide evidence that the mission is taking responsibility for a greater and greater percentage of its total expenditures. The goal is financial independence in some reasonable time frame.

Transforming Congregations:

Congregations which are in need of transformation, according to the Conference's definition adopted in 2003, may receive a grant of no more than \$10,000 per year for up to five years, if they cannot afford the salary of available pastors with the requisite transformational skills and leadership ability. The Cabinet will follow these guidelines in making appointments according to "fit" and will use funds from the Commission to supplement salaries if needed to achieve the "fit."

1. The congregation has a vision statement that actually functions to shape decisions about deployment of people and financial resources.
2. The vision is rooted in the Great Commission.
3. The projected pastor is committed to stay at the church for at least 6 years.
4. The congregation wants "transformation" for missional rather than for survival reasons. They understand the need they have for transformation and agree to cooperate in transforming with the pastor appointed to lead.

5. The leaders of the congregation are committed to transforming. They have an understanding of what transformation is, what it is going to cost in terms of sacrifice and fundamental change in congregational life, and how long this will take.
6. The church is willing to re-evaluate its leadership structures and put leaders in place who are willing to implement the changes that transformation requires in the church's ministry context.
7. The church will enter the NCD transformation process using a coach certified and assigned by the Office of Congregational Transformation. The Congregation must have taken the NCD Assessment with the results shared with the Office of Congregational Transformation. An alternative process may be chosen with the approval of the District Superintendent and the Office of Congregational Transformation.
8. A church in transformation, while experiencing fundamental and often painful change, is still a part of the UM connection. Some churches undergoing transformation may have difficulty fulfilling the following responsibilities (i.e. connectional giving, pension and health insurance contributions for pastor, property insurance, workers compensation premiums.)
 - *In order to receive help from the Commission on Equitable Compensation the church will affirm these as responsibilities they intend to fulfill. If the church has been unable to fulfill these responsibilities they will develop a covenant, signed by the "Leadership Team" and carry out a plan to reach annual fulfillment within 5 years. The process of transformation may temporarily cause a reduction in the number of people participating in the life of the church and a reduction in financial strength. In this situation temporary accommodation can be arranged, without lessening the church's long term commitment to fulfill their connectional responsibilities.
9. The Superintendent recommends the church for this program in partnership with the Office of Congregational Transformation
10. Such grants will be available after all equitable compensation grants are considered.

Utilities, Health Insurance, Moving Expenses:

The Equitable Compensation Commission recommends that each local church pay the Pastor's utilities and the group hospitalization premium. In hardship situations pastors may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for \$720 in utility payments not covered by the local church. The Equitable Compensation Commission will pay up to \$5000 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 \$500 or 75% of the total cost if not paid by the local church.

Parsonage Fund:

This fund is intended for the purchase and upgrading of 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. The funds, if granted, will be paid upon the submission of receipts for the work completed to the parsonage, or the proof of a mortgage.

2006 Budget Request

The Council on Finance and Administration is requested to appropriate \$400,000 for the Equitable Compensation Commission for the fiscal year 2005. The Conference Treasurer shall remit funds to the District Superintendents and or the church as certified by the Executive Director of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

	2005	2006
Equitable Salaries	\$ 97,300	\$97,300
Transformation Grants	\$ 50,000	\$50,000
Longevity	\$ 12,000	\$12,000
Missional	\$ 53,500	\$53,500
Haitian/Hispanic	\$ 26,590	\$26,590
Pensions	\$ 24,164	\$24,164
Utilities and Moving	\$ 11,960	\$11,960
Health Insurance	\$ 85,200	\$85,200
Parsonage Fund	\$ 36,100	\$36,100
Workers Compensation	\$ 1,686	\$1,686
Administration	\$ 1,500	\$1,500
Grand Total	\$ 400,000	\$400,000

Respectfully Submitted By:
 David K. Rawls, Chairperson
 David A. Dodge, Executive Director

THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) and other Conference leaders say Thank You! Gifts received in the Conference office for all connectional offerings, apportionments, advance specials and other gifts totaled over \$22,000,000 last year (see attached chart). Your giving helped advance the cause of Christ and further the mission of the Church in Florida and around the world. Thank you for your generous response to God's call and presence.

Some may look back on 2004 and remember a year when four hurricanes ravaged the state. However, the financial records will mark 2004 as one of our best years in recent times:

- Giving to conference and denominational apportionments totaled \$16,380,000, an increase of more than \$1,100,000 over 2003.
- The percentage of apportionments given was 87.6% compared with 84.5% in 2003 and well above the recent five-year average.
- The churches in the Fort Myers District, one of the areas most severely damaged by the hurricanes, gave more than 100% of their 2004 apportionments – something few districts have accomplished. This is a remarkable achievement.
- Giving to hurricane storm recovery exceeded \$850,000.
- Giving to the UMCOR tsunami relief (at the end of 2004 and in early 2005) totaled more than \$830,000.

- We celebrate satisfaction of the mortgage on 19 acres of land purchased in 2002 adjacent to the Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg. We give thanks to First UMC Lakeland and to many other churches, groups and individuals whose gifts enabled us to pay off this mortgage early.

The increase in apportionment giving, the elimination of the mortgage, and continued careful financial management means that the Conference is in healthier financial condition going into 2005 than it has been in a number of years.

CF&A has worked diligently to prepare the 2006 budget and 11 financial recommendations, soliciting input from all committees, agencies and groups who are stakeholders in the budget. We do not take conference-level budget decisions lightly. These decisions reflect our collective priorities and mutual expectations. Our overriding principles for decision making are twofold:

1. Align our resources with the vision and mission of the Annual Conference, and
2. Be financially prudent in light of our current situation and recent trends.

CF&A is united with the Bishop and Cabinet in stressing the importance of every church supporting our connectional ministry by giving 100%. We strive to work with all congregations to move steadily closer to full support of the United Methodist Church in Florida and across the globe. We urge every church to embrace good stewardship as an important discipline of the Christian life and a key component of a healthy church. That discipline should express itself in a practical, positive, helpful and biblical stewardship program that will better enable church members to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

About two-thirds of our Annual Conference budget is dedicated to (1) supporting our larger mission and vision through the General Church and (2) supporting the clergy who provide leadership for Florida Conference churches. The remaining one-third of our budget funds our Conference life and ministry. Altogether, our apportionments help nurture our covenant relationship by underwriting many important ministries, including:

- summer camp for children and youth
- health insurance for retired clergy,
- death and disability insurance for active clergy,
- starting new churches,
- training people to lead their church in transformation,
- the Annual Conference event,
- ministry on college campuses, and
- Conference service and administration.

In short, these monies fund the programs, administration, benefits, ministry and mission that are an essential part of our United Methodist life and work together.

The recommended 2006 budget is a 2.3% increase over 2005. We believe that is a prudent, responsible and ministry supporting increase. The “Connecting for Transformation” redistricting proposal, approved by the 2004 session of Annual Conference, takes effect on July 1, 2005. The 2006 budget recommendations reflect this change. Premiums for clergy health insurance and for property & casualty insurance are set later in the year and depend on loss ratios, market conditions and other factors. District mission and church extension apportionment and other district-level apportionments are set by the districts later in the year.

Recommendation Highlights:

- Recommendation #5, calculation of the District Work Fund, is new, following direction of the 2004 Annual Conference.
- There is a change in recommendation #4 to carry forward unpaid Episcopal Fund apportionment in accordance with the Discipline.
- CF&A continues to give its strong support to the formula for calculating District Superintendent salaries that was approved at the 2004 Annual Conference. This formula – setting DS salary as the average of the highest 25 salaries paid to pastors serving in churches that gave 100% of their apportionments – prudently reflects the high value our Connectional Church places on the office of the District Superintendent. This formula will encourage strong leadership while maintaining fiscal balance.

After much prayer and hard work, the Council on Finance and Administration offers the following budget and financial recommendations for 2006. CF&A believes this budget appropriately balances our mission and ministry obligations and expectations with our financial and membership realities. We ask you to support these recommendations. Together, as one church in many places, we can accomplish what no individual congregation could do alone.

Dan G. Johnson, President

Bishop Whitaker
Statement in Support of the Formula for Setting
District Superintendent Salary

The formula for setting the salaries of District Superintendents was adopted by CFA in 2004 upon recommendation by the Bishop after a study of the policies of other annual conferences and consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration.

The study revealed that nearly all annual conferences have a formula for setting the salaries of District Superintendents, and the common feature of the formula is the salaries are based upon an average of the highest salaries of pastors in the annual conference.

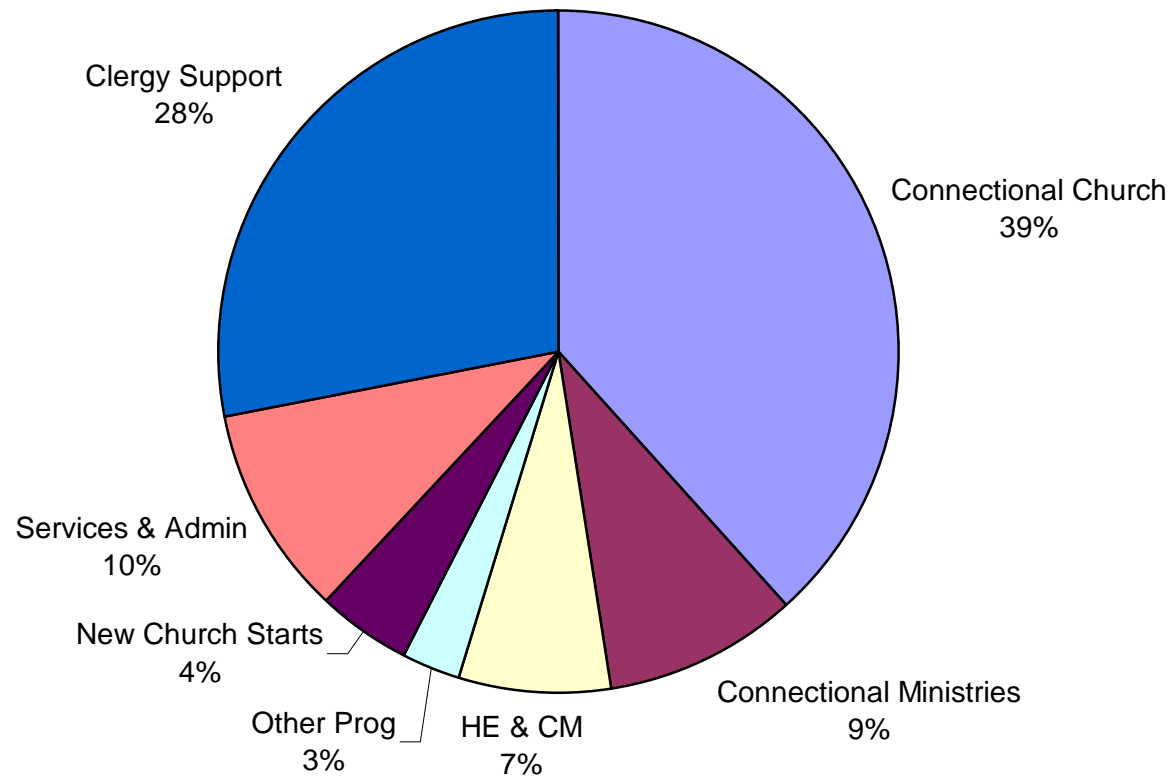
The formula adopted by CFA is designed for two purposes: to create peerage in compensation among the District Superintendents and the pastors of the largest congregations as appropriate to the supervisory role of the office of District Superintendent; and to build an incentive in the conference system to enhance connectional giving by congregations.

CFA will review the formula annually as necessary to assess the various implications of using the formula, including the financial implications.

GIFTS, SPECIAL OFFERINGS, AND APPORTIONMENTS
RECEIVED FROM FLORIDA CONFERENCE CHURCHES
THROUGH THE CONFERENCE TREASURER'S OFFICE

AREA OF GIVING	AMOUNT RECEIVED IN 2004
GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS	
Human Relations Day	\$ 10,648
One Great Hour of Sharing	93,216
Native American Ministries Sunday	8,907
United Methodist Student Day	11,210
World Communion Sunday	19,964
Peace with Justice Sunday	6,908
National Advance Specials (all)	89,071
UMCOR Advance Special	360,869
World Advance Specials (all)	\$214,267
TOTAL	\$815,060
OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS	
United Methodist Children's Home	\$912,211
Hurricane and Storm Recovery	860,588
Conference Advance Specials (all)	327,461
Other special gifts (various)	388,560
TOTAL	\$2,488,820
FLORIDA CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS	
Clergy Support	\$5,434,353
Conference Benevolences	3,012,385
Conference Services and Administration	1,675,782
New Church Starts	640,072
TOTAL	\$10,762,592
DISTRICT APPORTIONMENTS	
District work fund (all 14 combined)	\$1,480,045
District Missions and Church Extension(all 14 combined)	1,172,796
TOTAL	\$2,652,841
CONNECTIONAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS	
World Service	\$2,722,938
General Administration	262,018
Episcopal Fund	731,176
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	82,367
Ministerial Education Fund	1,084,233
Black College Fund	432,975
Africa University Fund	101,856
SEJ Jurisdictional Fund	200,141
TOTAL	\$5,617,704
GRAND TOTAL RECEIVED IN 2004	\$22,337,017

2006 Apportionments
\$19, 241,020



Florida Conference 2006 budget detail

	2004 Budget	2005 Budget	2006 Budget	2005- 2006 Dollar Change	2005- 2006 Percent Change	Portion of 2006 Total Budget	Comments
(1) Connectional Church							
(2) World Service	3,331,036	3,635,122	3,729,447	94,325	2.6%	19.4%	
(3) Ministerial Education Fund	1,352,705	1,352,637	1,347,809	-4,828	-0.4%	7.2%	
(4) Black College Fund	539,468	541,533	537,598	-3,935	-0.7%	2.9%	
(5) Africa University Fund	120,718	124,381	120,340	-4,041	-3.2%	0.7%	
(6) Episcopal Fund	794,721	941,307	950,663	9,356	1.0%	5.0%	
(7) General Administration Fund	317,338	318,967	327,587	8,620	2.7%	1.7%	
(8) Interdenominational Coop	101,404	106,470	104,755	-1,715	-1.6%	0.6%	
(9) Jurisdictional Conference	248,158	268,011	248,158	-19,853	-7.4%	1.4%	
(10) Total Connectional Church	6,805,548	7,288,428	7,366,357	77,929	1.1%	38.7%	
(11)							
(12) Connectional Ministries							
(13) Church & Society	34,000	via grants					consolidated in items below
(14) Discipleship	29,000	via grants					consolidated in items below
(15) Health & Wholeness	15,200	via grants					consolidated in items below
(16) Young Adult Ministry	0	via grants					consolidated in items below
(17) Youth Ministry	26,500	via grants					consolidated in items below
(18) Ethnic Local Church (ELCC)	30,000	via grants					consolidated in items below
(19) Learning for Spiritual Leaders	44,700	via grants					consolidated in items below
(20) Disaster Prep & Relief	50,000	via grants					consolidated in items below
(21) Camp Scholarships	50,000	45,000		-45,000			consolidated in items below
(22) Hispanic Ministry	74,250	66,800		-66,800			consolidated in items below
(23) Missions	235,690	212,000		212,000			consolidated in items below
(24) Leesburg sewage plant loan	0	0		0			Paid off in 2003
(25) Camp Facilities	80,000	59,000	0	-59,000	-100.0%	0.0%	Moved to BCRM below

2005 Journal of the Florida Annual Conference

	2004 Budget	2005 Budget	2006 Budget	2005- 2006 Dollar Change	2005- 2006 Percent Change	Portion of 2006 Total Budget	Comments
(1) Services			222,000	222,000		1.2%	
(2) Outreach Ministries Subsidy			144,902	144,902		0.8%	
(3) Camps Ministry Subsidy	126,400	113,700	113,700	0	0.0%	0.6%	
(4) Communications	98,725	88,500	60,000	-28,500	-32.2%	0.3%	
(5) Emerging Ministries	50,000	115,000	130,000	15,000	13.0%	0.7%	
(6) Staff Compensation	920,000	970,000	932,495	-37,505	-3.9%	4.8%	
(7) Administration			75,846	75,846		0.4%	
(8) Contingency	72,000	72,800	70,000	-2,800	-3.8%	0.4%	
(9) Total CEN (formerly CCOM)	1,936,465	1,742,800	1,748,943	6,143	0.4%	9.1%	net change inc new BCRM is +4%
(10)							
(11) Higher Ed & Campus Min							
(12) Campus Ministries	756,000	756,000	779,000	23,000	3.0%	4.0%	
(13) Colleges	460,000	460,000	460,000	0	0.0%	2.4%	
(14) Salaries and Admin	116,500	116,500	182,500	66,000	56.7%	0.9%	
(15) Total HE & CM	1,332,500	1,332,500	1,421,500	89,000	6.7%	7.4%	
(16)							
(17) Other Programs							
(18) Congregational Transform	168,000	177,000	222,300	45,300	25.6%	1.2%	
(19) Board of Camps & Ret Min	0	0	265,000	265,000	N/A	1.4%	no new money, moved from other places
(20) Status and Role of Women	3,783	500	1,000	500	100.0%	0.0%	
(21) Religion and Race	12,005	10,800	12,000	1,200	11.1%	0.1%	
(22) Christian Unity & Interrel.	13,000	11,700	11,700	0	0.0%	0.1%	
(23) Archives and History	10,780	10,780	14,000	3,220	29.9%	0.1%	
(24) Board of Lay Ministry	20,600	18,500	18,500	0	0.0%	0.1%	
(25) Counseling Network	27,759	0	0	0	N/A	0.0%	closed in 2004
(26) Total Other Programs	255,927	229,280	544,500	315,220	137.5%	2.8%	
(27)							
(28) Total Conf Benevolences	3,524,892	3,304,580	3,714,943	410,363	12.4%	19.3%	Total of CM+Higher Ed+other

2005 Journal of the Florida Annual Conference

	2004 Budget	2005 Budget	2006 Budget	2005- 2006 Dollar Change	2005- 2006 Percent Change	Portion of 2006 Total Budget	Comments
(1) CFCD - New Church Starts							
(2) New Church Starts	775,000	754,463	837,000	82,537	10.9%	4.4%	
(3) Total New Church Starts	775,000	754,463	837,000	82,537	10.9%	4.4%	
(4)							
(5)							
(6) Conference Services and Administration							
(7) Administrative Committees	16,900	16,000	15,000	-1,000	-6.3%	0.1%	
(8) Annual Conf Admin	19,000	33,000	35,000	2,000	6.1%	0.2%	
(9) Annual Conf Session	153,000	125,300	134,000	8,700	6.9%	0.7%	
(10) General Services	413,000	410,800	510,000	99,200	24.1%	2.7%	
(11) Information Technology	153,000	129,500	132,000	2,500	1.9%	0.7%	
(12) Board of Trustees	287,500	277,000	286,000	9,000	3.2%	1.5%	
(13) Capital Replacement Fund	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	-100.0%	0.0%	Moved to BCRM in Conf Benev
(14) Conf Development (FUMF)	163,800	150,000	100,000	-50,000	-33.3%	0.5%	
(15) CF&A/Financial Services	459,800	491,500	463,300	-28,200	-5.7%	2.4%	net change with HA/HR is +4.8%
(16) Health Admin/HR	0	64,000	118,800	54,800	85.6%	0.6%	net change with FS is +4.8%
(17) Contingency	105,000	110,000	115,000	5,000	4.5%	0.6%	
(18) Total CSA	1,971,000	2,007,100	1,909,100	-98,000	-4.9%	9.9%	
(19)							
(20)							
(21) Clergy Support							
(22) CPP	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,500,000	50,000	3.4%	7.8%	
(23) MRPF & BPP & other	0	0	0	0			
(24) Special Grants	48,000	75,000	80,000	5,000	6.7%	0.4%	
(25) Pensions Support	19,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%	0.1%	
(26) Ret Clergy Health Ins Plan	1,442,000	1,485,260	1,529,820	44,560	3.0%	8.0%	increase by 3% per year
(27) Board of Pensions	25,000	22,500	19,500	-3,000	-13.3%	0.1%	
(28) Joint Com on Incapacity	75,000	76,000	76,000	0	0.0%	0.4%	

2006 Budget Summary
As Recommended by Action of CF&A

	2004 Budget	2005 Budget	2006 Budget
(1) Total Connectional Church	6,805,548	7,288,428	7,366,357
(2)			
(3) CM, Higher Ed & Other			
(4) Total Connectional Ministries	1,936,465	1,742,800	1,748,943
(5) Total HE & CM	1,332,500	1,332,500	1,421,500
(6) Total Other Programs	255,927	229,280	544,500
(7)			
(8) Total Conf Benevolences	3,524,892	3,304,580	3,714,943
(9)			
(10) Total New Church Starts	775,000	754,463	837,000
(11)			
(12) Total Conf Services & Admin	1,971,000	2,007,100	1,909,100
(13)			
(14) Total Clergy Support	5,615,500	5,461,460	5,413,620
(15)			
(16) Fla Conference Budget	11,886,392	11,527,603	11,874,663
(17)			
(18)			
(19) Total Conf Budget	18,691,940	18,816,031	19,241,020
(20)			
(21) dollar change from prior year	660,405	124,091	424,989
(22) percent change from prior year	3.7%	0.7%	2.3%

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Recommendations for 2006

Recommendation No. 1

It is recommended that the 2006 salary for each district superintendent be set as the average of the top 25 salaries in 2004 of pastors serving Florida Conference churches that paid 100% of their 2004 apportionments. For 2006 this formula results in a salary of \$87,450. Pension and other benefits would be paid accordingly.

It is further recommended that each district superintendent be reimbursed for business expenses, including business travel at the IRS allowable business rate (for 2005 this is 40.5 cents per mile). This includes the cost of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in the district, out of the district, and for cabinet purposes. The estimated amount necessary to cover these reimbursed business expenses shall be included in the conference budget. In keeping with the spirit of good stewardship, expenses are to be kept to a minimum.

Recommendation No. 2

It is recommended that the mileage allowance for all persons traveling by automobile for conference meetings be set at IRS allowable business rate (for 2005 this is 40.5 cents per mile) plus tolls. Actual expenses for travel by other means will be reimbursed up to, but not exceeding, the above mileage rate. The per diem for conference meetings shall be an amount equal to the cost charged at the Leesburg Life Enrichment Center. In clearly unusual, hardship situations, the president of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), in consultation with the conference treasurer, will have authority to adjust these amounts. To qualify for per diem and travel expenses, members of the agencies must be present for the entire meeting, unless excused for emergency reasons by the chairperson.

Persons authorized to represent the conference in an official capacity in meetings beyond conference bounds may be reimbursed for actual expenses. Prior approval from the conference treasurer is required to be eligible for reimbursement. The group requesting approval must also indicate which fund will be used for reimbursement. In keeping with the spirit of good stewardship, expenses are to be kept to a minimum.

To maximize resources of both time and money, conference groups should meet only when necessary to accomplish Conference business. Whenever possible, groups are also encouraged to schedule meetings in conjunction with other Conference events. Appreciation is expressed to those involved in conference business who pay all or part of their expenses to assist in reducing conference expenses.

Recommendation No. 3

Housing allowances, when provided to employees of conference institutions and groups, should be based on the prevailing rental rate in the area in which the staff member is located. Professional staff occupying conference-owned parsonages will be responsible for stewardship of the parsonages in accordance with the Florida Annual Conference Parsonage Guidelines as published in the 2004 Conference Journal and/or as amended.

Recommendation No. 4

It is recommended that the fair share formula be used to determine the local church apportionment for all Conference and General Church budget areas. The fair share formula is based on the following items as reported in the most recent year-end statistical report compiled by the conference statistician:

- Pastor & Associate Compensation
- Deacon & Diaconal Compensation
- Other Staff Compensation
- Current Expenses for Program
- Current Operating Expenses

The total amount spent in each local church on these items is divided by the total amount spent on these items for all conference churches. This calculation determines each local church's fair share percentage or "decimal." This decimal is then multiplied by the amount approved for each area in the conference budget to determine the amount each local church is asked to give.

Each district is asked to ensure that the total amount apportioned to the churches in that district is fully paid. Each district may decide how the apportionments within the district will be shared by the churches in order to achieve the 100 percent goal.

Any Clergy Support apportionment and Episcopal Fund apportionment not fully funded by a church shall be carried forward to the next year and added to that church's apportionment.

Apportionments should be given in full and on a timely basis. Local churches are encouraged to give 10 percent of each apportionment item per month during the first 10 months of the year.

Recommendation No. 5

It is recommended that the District Work Fund apportionment be calculated using the same formula for all churches in every district throughout the Conference, based on the compensation paid to the church's pastor(s). The Cabinet and CF&A working together shall establish a percentage to use in this formula (for 2005 it is 5.4%) so that district-level mission, ministry and administration are adequately funded, in keeping with the spirit of good stewardship.

Recommendation No. 6

It is recommended that expenditure of funds shall be in accordance with the Discipline and the Conference Standing Rules. No agency, individual or group may obligate conference funds in excess of anticipated income. Amendments to a budget to accommodate pressing needs must be proposed to CF&A for consideration within the context of available funds and other conference priorities. See particularly Standing Rule 418.f and 418.1.

Recommendation No. 7

It is recommended that any board, agency or other entity seeking funding in the 2007 conference budget submit their budget requests to the conference treasurer by January 13, 2006, unless an exception is made by the CF&A executive committee. Groups that have designated or other funds available to them will provide that information when submitting their budget requests.

Each group's budget request must be in the format and include the information requested by CF&A. The budget request must include line item explanation of the amounts requested and show the signature of the chairperson or secretary of the group. All budget requests must conform to the standing rules, especially rule 418.g pertaining to zero-based budgeting.

Recommendation No. 8

It is recommended that the following Conference-wide fund raising appeals be approved: General Conference Advance Specials, The Florida United Methodist Children's Home Fifth Sunday appeal, and the Conference Development Office appeals through the Florida United Methodist Foundation.

Recommendation No. 9

It is recommended that The Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to negotiate favorable rates for and to establish a loan or line of credit (secured or unsecured) not to exceed \$1 million (\$1,000,000). In the event of a financial shortfall this loan or line of credit would be used to manage cash flow needs for operations of the Conference. Any use of this loan or line of credit shall be reported to the Annual Conference upon its next meeting. No such loan or line of credit was used in 2004.

Recommendation No. 10

It is recommended that the Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Bishop, be empowered to act on financial matters between sessions of the Annual Conference. Such actions shall be reported to the Annual Conference upon its next meeting. No such action was taken during 2004.

Recommendation No. 11

It is recommended that the 2006 Conference budget and apportionments as described in the worksheet entitled "2006 Budget Summary as Recommended by Action of CF&A" be adopted.

Dan G. Johnson, President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE, INC.

The Conference Trustees are responsible for all Conference owned real property. This includes about 17.5 million dollars worth of land, buildings, facilities, vehicles, and equipment, such as:

- Warren W. Willis Youth Camp
- Life Enrichment Center
- Lake Asbury Retreat Center
- South Florida Camp-LaBelle
- Conference Center Building
- Episcopal Office Building
- Episcopal Residence
- 12 Higher Education & Campus Ministry buildings and parsonages
- 1 Conference staff parsonage in Lakeland
- Various vehicles and equipment
- Conference owned cemeteries and other land

Recent Action

- Worked in cooperation with the new Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries and made various improvements at the Warren W Willis camp and the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg.
- Worked in cooperation with the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus ministry made various improvements to several campus ministry facilities.
- Met at different locations around the Conference to stay informed about Conference owned facilities.
- Paid off the mortgage (early) on the 19 acres of land adjacent to the Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg. Thanks to all who contributed to pay off this debt, especially to Leland McKeown for his tireless fund-raising efforts and to First UMC, Lakeland, for their generous gift.

Heritage Center: The Conference Trustees, working with others, continue to pursue efforts to allow us to establish a Heritage Center as approved by the 2003 session of Annual Conference.

Requested 2006 Budget:

- \$286,000 for Trustees.
- Recommend that funds previously budgeted for the Conference Capital Replacement fund be budgeted for and controlled by the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries.

Mary Alice Massey, President

FLORIDA CONFERENCE
RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
 riskmanagement@flumc.org
 1-800-282-8011, ext. 137 and 144

Coverage and Service Summary

- **Property:**
 - Replacement cost coverage
 - Contents
 - Building Ordinance
 - Windstorm and Hail
 - Sinkhole
 - Flood (all zones)
 - Fine Art & Stained Glass
- **Liability:**
 - General Liability including “Athletic Participation”
 - Clergy Professional & Counseling Liability
 - Automobile Liability
 - Director’s & Officer’s Liability
 - Employment Practices Liability
 - Errors & Omission Liability
 - Employment Practices Liability (EPL)
 - Volunteer Construction Projects Liability

- Loss of Business Income/Tuition/Extra Expense
- Sexual Misconduct
- Crime/Dishonesty (bonding)
- Special Events coverage (on and off premises)
- Church Daycare & Nursery School Liability
- Activities Accident coverage (Daycare, Youth, Volunteers)
- Automobile Accident and Physical Damage coverage available
- Hired Car Physical Damage (Rental Car coverage)
- Non-Owned & Hired Liability (Rental Car coverage)
- Foreign Travel coverage available.

This list highlights some of the features of the Florida Conference United Methodist property and casualty insurance plan. This is for illustrative purposes only. The controlling terms and conditions are contained in the official insurance documents and policy. If there are any conflicts between the information here and the terms of the policy, the terms of the insurance policy shall control.

For more information or questions contact the Conference Risk Management office or go to the Conference Risk Management Website at <http://www.flumc.org>, click on the link “Conference Insurance” and the sub-link “Risk Management.”

**RISK MANAGEMENT
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Question	Answer
1. What do I do if I have a claim or an incident has occurred that may lead to a claim?	Refer to the “Claims Contacts” form and report the incident to the appropriate person or contact the Conference Risk Management Office at (800) 282-8011 ext. 137 or at riskmanagement@flumc.org for assistance. Further information and all forms are available on the Florida Conference website (http://www.flumc.org/riskmanage)
2. What do I do if a volunteer or youth, or a nursery, daycare or pre-K child is injured?	Immediately complete and submit the “Accident Medical Claim Form” found on the conference website or call James Greene with AJG at (800) 239-8454 ext. 6814 for assistance.
3. What do I do if a student (grades K-12) is injured?	Immediately call James Greene with AJG at (800) 239-8454 ext. 6814 for assistance.
4. How do I obtain a Certificate of Liability Insurance or and Evidence of Property Insurance?	Complete and submit the “Certificate of Liability Insurance Request Form” or “Evidence of Property Insurance Request Form” found on the Conference website or call the AJG Religious Services Team at (800) 239-8454 for assistance.
5. How do I add or delete a building, land, equipment or other property, or change the value of previously reported property?	Complete and submit the “Property Addition or Deletion Form” found on the Conference website or call the AJG Religious Services Team at (800) 239-8454 for assistance.
6. How do I add or delete a vehicle?	Complete and submit the “Vehicle Addition or Deletion Form” found on the Conference website or call the AJG Religious Services Team at (800) 239-8454 for assistance.
7. How do I add a driver?	Complete and submit the “New Driver Information and Orientation Form” found on the Conference website or call the AJG Religious Services Team at (800) 239-8454 for assistance.
8. What needs to be done if I would like to grant an outside group use of our facilities and/or equipment or engage a contractor to perform services for the church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a Certificate of Liability Insurance from the group indicating that they have an insurance policy in effect with General Liability coverage with at least a \$500,000 limit. • If a contractor is engaged to perform services for the church, Worker’s Compensation coverage and Automobile Liability coverage should also be indicated on the Certificate of Liability Insurance. • Request that the church be named as an additional insured on the group’s or contractor’s policy. • Keep the Certificate of Liability Insurance on file at the church.
9. What needs to be done if a church sponsored trip greater than 500 miles round trip is planned (domestic travel only)?	Complete and submit the “Church Trip Form” found on the Conference website at least ten (10) business days prior to the driver operating a church vehicle or call the AJG Religious Services Team at (800) 239-8454 for assistance.
10. What needs to be done if a church sponsored foreign trip is planned?	Call Nancy Mara at with the United Methodist Insurance Program at (800) 221-8552 at least two (2) weeks prior to departure for information on Liability and Medical coverages.

RISK MANAGEMENT CLAIMS CONTACTS

IMPORTANT: Report all claims immediately. Failure to report claims in a timely manner may result in the claim being denied. Contact the Conference Risk Management office at (800) 282-8011 ext. 137 or at riskmanagement@flumc.org if you have any questions or require assistance.

Type of Claim	Description	Claim Line Phone Numbers
1. Worker's Compensation	On the job injuries to employees.	Call the Worker's Compensation Claim Line at (800) 616-6857. Once a claim has been established call Renee Bryant – Claims Supervisor at (800) 749-3044 ext. 359; Fax: 941-907-7226
2. General Liability	Injury to a non-employee during a church activity or physical damage to the property of others in the care of the church.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
3. Property	Physical damage to church owned property.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
4. Boiler & Machinery	Physical damage to church owned equipment due to mechanical breakdown or power surges.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
5. Crime	Losses resulting from theft, burglary, fraud or employee dishonesty involving money or securities.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
6. Employment Practices	Personal injury to employees resulting from negligent or discriminatory employment practices.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
7. Sexual Abuse	Bodily or personal injury resulting from sexual abuse or misconduct.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
8. Miscellaneous Errors & Omissions	Personal injury to others resulting from the professional conduct of pastors, other church professionals or directors and officers.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
9. Automobile	Physical damage or bodily injury resulting from the use of church owned, rented or borrowed vehicles.	Call the Claim Line at (800) 779-4259. Information from the Claim Line will be sent to a CJW & Associates Account Manager.
10. Activities Accident	Bodily injury to volunteers, youth program participants, and nursery, pre-K and daycare children.	Submit the ACE 2005 Accident Medical Claim Form (see conf website) to the address on the form or contact James Greene at (800) 239-8454 ext. 6814 for assistance.
11. Student Accident	Bodily injury to academic students in grades Kindergarten through 12.	Contact James Greene at (800) 239-8454 ext. 6814 for assistance.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTACTS

	Name/Title/Company	Phone/Fax/Email	Role
R I S K M A N A G E M E N T	Marilyn Swanson Florida Conference UMC – Lakeland	(800) 282-8011 ext 137 (863) 688-5563 ext 137 (863) 688-4595 fax Riskmanagement@flumc.org	For help, general information and questions about any aspect the Conference program.
	Sandy Lovern Risk Management Office Florida Conference UMC – Lakeland	(800) 282-8011 ext 144 (863) 688-5563 ext 144 (863) 688-4595 fax Riskmanagement@flumc.org slovern@flumc.org	For help, general information and questions about any aspect the Conference program.
I N S U R A N C E	David M. Ford, Area Asst. Vice President Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Boca Raton	(800) 239-8454 ext. 6811 (561) 995-6708 fax David_Ford@AJG.com	All questions regarding coverage and information about the Conference program.
	Mickey Shiley, Area Asst. Vice President Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Boca Raton	(800) 239-8454 ext. 6810 (561) 995-6708 fax Mickey_Shiley@AJG.com	All questions regarding policy coverage, general information, property values, new construction, and premium calculation.
	AJG Religious Services Team Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Boca Raton	(800) 239-8454 (561) 995-6708 fax	Certificates of Liability Insurance, Evidences of Property Insurance, driver information, Vehicle ID Cards and general information.
	James Greene, Senior Client Rep Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Boca Raton	(800) 239-8454 ext. 6814 (561) 892-3984 fax James_Greene@ajg.com	General information and questions for Student and Activities Accident coverages and claims.
C L A I M S	Skip Abrams, Claims Manager CJW & Associates – Orlando	(800) 779-4259 ext. 3038 (407) 849-6710 fax	Claims Manager for all claims except Worker’s Compensation and Student and Activities Accident.
	Dan Olive, Property Account Manager CJW & Associates – Orlando	(800) 779-4259 ext. 3064 (407) 849-6710 fax Dolive@cjw-assoc.com	Claims Account Manager for Property, Boiler & Machinery, and Crime claims.
	Barbara Lanni, Liability Account Manager CJW & Associates – Orlando	(800) 779-4259 ext. 3036 (407) 849-6710 fax Blanni@cjw-assoc.com	Claims Account Manager for Liability, Employment Practices, Sexual Abuse and Miscellaneous Errors & Omissions claims.
	Mike McCutcheon, Auto Account Manager CJW & Associates – Orlando	(800) 779-4259 ext. 3048 (407) 849-6710 fax	Claims Account Manager for Automobile claims.
	Renee Bryant, Claims Supervisor, ext. 359 Corina Galante, Claims Adjuster, ext 406 Johns Eastern Company – Sarasota	(800) 749-3044 (941) 907-7226 fax	Claims Managers for Worker’s Compensation claims.

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

The proposed new edition of the Conference's Standing Rules is included as part of this report. Chapter 4, Conference Agencies, and Chapter Six, Rules Governing Districts and District Superintendents, have been completely rewritten to reflect the restructuring of the Annual Conference. Several of the other rules have been amended. The rules have also been completely updated to reflect changes imposed by the 2004 *Discipline*.

The Standing Rules Committee determined that, because the rewrite of the rules is so extensive, it would be extremely confusing to delineate within this new set of rules what language has been added and what language has been deleted. It would also be expensive to print such a document. I invite you to compare these rules with the rules printed in the 2003 *Journal*. I also invite anyone who has questions regarding particular changes to contact me at Shaupjohn@aol.com or at 239-542-4051. If necessary, I will refer you to an agency representative who can better explain why that agency drafted its rules as it did.

It truly took a village to produce these rules. I thank Anne Burkholder for hours and hours of work and scrupulous attention to detail. I thank Rick Neal for the first draft of Chapter 6 and the members of the District Transition Team, Debbie McLeod, Chuck Weaver, Randy Casey-Rutland, and Anne Burkholder for the discussions and complex determinations as to how all this would best fit together. I thank Diana Herchig for bearing with us as we kept pushing our deadline later and later!

I have enjoyed my four-year stint as chair of the Standing Rules Committee, but must admit I'm ready to turn the committee over to the able leadership of Jay Therrell. I thank committee member Lee FerDon for his fine service and dedication over the entire four years. I thank committee members June Edwards and Gary Bullock for the hours spent updating the rules to correspond to the 2004 *Discipline*. I thank committee members Tracy Hunter for her time and words of encouragement and Rocky Walker for his fine proof-reading skills. I am greatly indebted to Conference Secretary and committee member Ken Minton for his enthusiasm, tireless energy, and new ideas.

These rules are a work in progress. They are by no means perfect, but we have worked hard to make sure they are at least updated and accurate. The committee and I have had a good time bringing the rules this far. I thank them for that.

Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Chair

EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT

COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY REPORT

The Episcopacy Committee and indeed the entire Florida Annual Conference are blessed to have Bishop and Mrs. Timothy Whitaker appointed to the Florida Conference for a second quadrennium. Their ministry among us has already begun to bear much fruit as many positive changes have taken place.

Numerous improvements have been made to the Episcopal residence this year including, but not limited to, roof replacement, new picture window and new landscaping. The Whitakers are especially pleased with the landscaping.

Bishop Whitaker continues to give leadership on the Council of Bishops where he serves as the Secretary of the Standing Committee of Teaching Concerns, is Chairperson of the task force for “In Search of Security,” and serves on the Commission on Religion and Race where he is Chairperson of Finance. In addition, Bishop Whitaker occasionally speaks to national groups.

Much of Bishop Whitaker’s focus this year has been implementing the new District structure within the Florida Conference. Transition to this reduced number of Districts is on target and going smoothly. An orientation on “Clustering” will occur at this year’s Annual Conference.

Everyone in the Florida Conference experienced in some degree the trauma and devastation of four hurricanes this past summer. Bishop Whitaker continues to lead our churches through the recovery process.

The Florida Conference has experienced a number of staff changes this past year. Charles (Chuck) Weaver, successor to retired Dr. Keith Ewing, was appointed as the Assistant to the Bishop. Rev. Weaver is gifted for this position and has had a fine first year.

Nancy Trinchitella, Secretary

OUR EXTENDED CONNECTION

BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE

The first ten months of my presidency have been marked by events that have focused on sustaining our founder's legacy of faith, service and scholarship. Our history has been enriched, relationships with friends and supporters have been strengthened, and our image has been enhanced in numerous circles of influence.

I began my administration in celebration of the College's 100th anniversary by launching the Vision Validator Fund. An outpouring of contributions from friends who believe in my vision to sustain an environment in which students, faculty and staff can reach their full human potential are helping to build the endowment fund and provide unrestricted funds for operational expenses. This ongoing campaign is on its way to attracting ten million donors, and has, so far, raised in excess of \$800,000 and growing. This fund is important as it will provide scholarships for very deserving students.

The highlights of my inaugural weekend in January, 2005 included the Centennial Celebration and the unveiling of the statue of our founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. This magnificent structure stands 12-feet tall upon a granite base, centered in the flower-filled Centennial Gardens complete with a tranquil fountain. As you make your summer travel plans, I encourage you to include a visit to Bethune-Cookman College to experience first-hand this remarkable tribute to the legacy of Dr. Bethune, whose life's work positively influenced the lives of thousands of individuals. We will enthusiastically welcome you.

I am thankful for our privileged partnership with the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, which supports our goals of providing a quality Christian educational experience for our students. Since last year's Annual Conference on campus, the Concert Chorale has performed at more than 20 churches in the Florida Annual Conference. Under the leadership of the Reverend Robert Gibbs, the Lay/Clergy Council is working on increasing an endowed scholarship in memory of the group's first chairman, the late Reverend Dr. Kenneth Crossman. Continued accreditation by the University Senate of the Board of Higher Education of the UMC, and financial support from the Black College Fund sustain our efforts.

At the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees, I expressed, on behalf of the entire Bethune-Cookman College family, heartfelt appreciation for many years of devoted service to those trustees whose terms of office had expired; several included representatives from the Florida Annual Conference, namely: The Reverend Dr. M. McCoy Gibbs, Dr. Charles W. Courtoy, Mrs. Kathleen Rydell, and Dr. J. Stanley Marshall, who served effectively as chair for 4 years. Several new members from the ranks of the Florida Annual Conference were welcomed to the Board of Trustees: The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Gibbs, Pastor, First Methodist Church, Lakeland; Mr. Byrd Bonner, Executive Director, GCFA United Methodist Foundation; The Reverend John Wesley Harrington, Sr., Pastor Morrison United Methodist Church, Leesburg; Dr. Kevin M. James, Sr., District Superintendent, Florida Conference. Much appreciation is expressed to Bishop Timothy Whitaker for his continued guidance and service to the Board.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to Trustee and retired UM pastor, the Reverend Dr. Eugene Zimmerman who successfully cultivated resources from his network of United Methodist friends to build much needed residential scholars' houses for 34 students on campus. Dr. Zimmerman's

unwavering commitment to Bethune-Cookman College has greatly contributed to our progress, and we thank Mr. and Mrs. James Pugh, Dr. Zimmerman, Mr. William W. Massey, Jr., and the Kleist Foundation for their funding gifts.

Our academic priorities and our emphasis on values undergird my progress toward establishing an International Institute for Civic Participation and Social Responsibility at Bethune-Cookman College. The institute will provide a forum for our students to work with international leaders to address and resolve disparities in the areas of education, health care, and economic empowerment. We are now engaged in the planning process for the implementation of a master's degree program in civic participation and social responsibility.

In the area of Religious Life, the Reverend Cynthia Wilson will assume the position of College Chaplain on July 1st. Presently, she is working in College Advancement with donor and church relations. Dr. Wilson comes to us from the North Georgia Conference where she was Pastor of Worship, Music and Communications at the Ben Hill UMC. This past March, she served as the worship leader for the Ecumenical Tour in Greece and as guest choral conductor and soloist for the World Council of Churches' Congress on Evangelism. Later this year, she will be the guest lecturer for the UMC International Festival in Copenhagen as she continues to lend her expertise to the new African American Songbook Project with the UM Publishing House Board of Discipleship.

Bethune-Cookman College both depends on the community for support, and takes its role in supporting the community very seriously. To that end, I am continuing to build community bridges that advance Dr. Bethune's legacy of community service in an environment of academic excellence. We have launched the Community Reading Adventure Program in response to parents of local school children seeking tutorial services for their youth. Our students, faculty and staff are volunteering as mentors. They are also working to spread goodwill by volunteering in a wide range of assistance efforts that meet the needs of our local, state, national and international communities.

The successes of our collegiate athletic programs are many, with several of the teams garnering national championships. The Marching Wildcats band continues to be a central, positive image piece for the school. Earlier this spring they brought national attention to the College by appearing on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, a #1 ranked afternoon entertainment show on national television. They also performed in the NASCAR Daytona 500 pre-race show.

As I continue to build a brand identity for the College built on customer service, scholarship, faith and service, you will hear more, in the months ahead, about our visionary Strategic Plan that includes:

- Enhancing academic excellence, inclusive of student retention and graduation rates
- Establishing the International Institute for Civic Participation and Social Responsibility, including a master's degree program.
- Expanding our Continuing Education program through distance learning opportunities.
- Enhancing options for fund raising activities and continuing our emphasis on a value centered learning environment.

Your involvement is the key to our success. We will continue to be blessed through your friendship, prayers and support. Thank you for helping us build on a legacy of faith, scholarship, and service a reality.

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, President

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Its mission is *to educate—through scholarship, teaching and service—faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. These purposes define Candler's role as a school of Emory University and of the United Methodist Church and point to the unique challenges and opportunities we face in leading a national research university in re-discovering what it might mean to relate to a major denomination.

With the full University community, the faculty has undertaken a strategic planning process. This initiative has allowed the opportunity to reflect on Candler's significant commitments to church and society and to envision goals and investments through 2010. Chief among them is a three-phase building project. Plans are underway to construct a new building to house the Pitts Theology Library, classrooms, a teaching chapel, and the University's Ethics Center. Later, Bishops Hall and the Quadrangle building currently housing the Pitts Theology Library will be renovated. You will hear a great deal about this project once architectural designs have been secured. In the interim, know that this effort is long overdue and speaks to Candler's aspirations to secure facilities that will support the strong educational program already in place here.

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-four members hold full-time appointment, and one holds a part-time appointment. An additional seven serve in a part-time or adjunct capacity. Thirty Teaching Supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish programs. In addition, Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as United Methodist bishops in residence, and the Right Reverend Frank K. Allan, recipient of this year's Emory Medal, serves as Anglican bishop in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler working with the Development office.

As is typical, Candler faculty continue to provide leadership in professional societies. This year David Petersen serves as president of the Society for Biblical Literature and Roberta Bondi as President of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. Both gave presidential addresses at the San Antonio AAR/SBL meeting in November. Gail O'Day continues as editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and Ted Brelsford as editor of the *Journal of Religious Education*.

Enrollment stands at 536, with 413 in the Master of Divinity program, 71 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 12 in the Master of Theology program, 7 in the Doctor of Theology program and 33 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The number of students committed to full-time education is up with 80% of students enrolled full-time. The student population is 29% non-white, 7% international, and 52% women. More than 52 denominations are represented with 64% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 38 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Nazarene, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and the Methodist Churches of Brazil, Korea, and the Caribbean.

The United Methodist Church elected three Candler alumni as bishops this summer. Mary Virginia Taylor '75T is now the Episcopal leader of the Columbia area; William Willimon '73DST, of the Birmingham area; and Dick Wills '67T, of the Nashville area. With their election, twenty-one United

Methodist bishops are Candler alums. Willimon and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward have been elected to the Emory Board of Trustees, replacing retiring bishops Robert Fannin and William Morris.

Great things continue to happen with Candler's continuing and church education efforts. Currently, plans are underway for a fall conference on *Music and Worship* (October 9-11, 2005). Information about this and other upcoming events is available at <<http://candler.emory.edu>>.

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, Candler's scholarship program is one of the top in the nation. Last year, 87% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 80% of tuition. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this success. However, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. Your continued support, gifts and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program and a strong start in pastoral ministry for our students.

For more information about Candler, our extraordinary faculty and dedicated students, I hope you will bookmark <<http://candler.emory.edu/>>.

Russell E. Richey, Dean and Professor of Church History

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School prepares students for strong, faithful leadership in the church through a persistent focus on spiritual formation and transforming ministry as well as rigorous academic study.

The school is at the center of Duke University, both physically and historically, and divinity students regularly access and enhance the university's intellectual and material resources. Several programs allow students to pursue joint degrees with other highly regarded schools on campus such as the School of Nursing and the School of Law. A partnership with the nearby University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill allows a joint master of divinity/master of social work degree.

Major construction was completed on the 47,000-square-foot building addition in recent months. It was named The Westbrook Building, honoring the Rev. Hugh Westbrook, a 1970 divinity school graduate who has donated nearly \$20 million to the school in recent years. The addition includes significant new classroom space, the 315-seat Goodson Chapel, a large refectory, and offices for admissions and student life. It also includes offices for the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life, a multi-disciplinary effort begun in 2000 to improve care at all levels for those near death.

The portions of the school formerly known as New Divinity and Old Divinity were renamed The Thomas A. Langford Building, in honor of the professor and dean who later served as Duke University provost. Langford, who died in 2000, was associated with the university for five decades.

The divinity school also was honored to receive a \$6.7 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for *Advancing Pastoral Excellence*, a program bringing the school together with churches and church leaders across the country to promote innovative leadership and excellence in ministry. The effort is the second phase of the successful *Pulpit & Pew: Research on Pastoral Leadership* program, also based at the divinity school.

In the fall of 2004, Duke Divinity enrolled approximately 550 students. The student body continued to be younger, especially among master of divinity candidates. The median age overall for the school was 26. The median age for master of divinity students who entered in the fall of 2004 was about 22 and a half.

Duke Divinity students hailed from 32 states and several foreign countries. Most were from the United Methodist tradition, but more than 30 denominations were represented in the school. The student body was 55 percent male and 45 percent female. Eighteen percent of students were ethnic minorities; 12 percent were African-American.

The Divinity School's Field Education Department had another strong summer of placements. Duke Divinity had 195 students in full-time, formal placements (excluding student pastors and people working in ministry other than field education). This included four students in South Africa, and one each in Uganda, Lithuania, Brazil and Switzerland. The school has another 177 placements for the academic year. As 2005 began we welcomed from Mississippi the Revs. Joey and Connie Shelton, who have joined the school as co-directors of field education and church relations. Most recently, Joey was the pastor of Court Street United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, and Connie has served as executive director of the "United Methodist Hour of Mississippi," a weekly television show.

Also in 2004 Allen Verhey, formerly of Hope College in Michigan, joined our faculty as professor of Christian ethics. He is a leading scholar in both Christian medical ethics and in the relationship of Scripture and Christian ethics.

Several Duke Divinity School faculty members were honored with major fellowships in 2004. Amy Laura Hall, assistant professor of theological ethics, received a Henry Luce III Fellowship in theology; Jay Carter, assistant professor of theology and black church studies, received fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Louisville Institute and the Association of Theological Schools; and Joel Marcus, professor of New Testament and Christian origins, was awarded a fellowship by the National Humanities Center. Faculty publications continued to provide essential resources for a variety of disciplines.

We are thankful for the relationship between this Conference and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry.

To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our Web site at: www.divinity.duke.edu.

Dean L. Gregory Jones

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, President

Gammon Theological Seminary founded in 1883 is one of 13 accredited United Methodist seminaries in The United States. Located at 653 Beckwith Street in Atlanta, it is The United Methodist component of The Interdenominational Theological Center consortium. Gammon was established by The Methodist Episcopal Church in connection with Clark University.

The mission of Gammon Theological Seminary in partnership with The Interdenominational Theological Center is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for The United Methodist Church.

The student body is comprised of 78 United Methodist students who are enrolled in graduate/post graduate degree programs from Africa, Asia and The United States.

The interdisciplinary curriculum offers a holistic educational experience integrating theological studies with preparation for the ministry. 160 courses fall into four major areas of study: Biblical Studies and Languages; Philosophy, Theology, Ethics and History; Persons, Society and Culture; and The Church and Its Mission. A variety of classes, many of which actively engage students in the ecumenical and multicultural environment on campus and in the community beyond; they encounter a preview of the diversity they will discover in serving congregations and communities after graduation.

The alumni of Gammon Theological Seminary serve the community and larger society as bishops, pastors, counselors, professors, government officials, denominational executives, campus ministers, chaplains, college administrators, clinical pastoral counselors, political and community leaders.

Gammon has started a major renovation project at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars to renovate the Gammon Hall Administration and Dormitory facility.

Gammon has embarked upon the twenty-first century with a vision to strengthen its physical plant and to promote financial security for the institution with its fundraising efforts and to increase recruitment of prospective students that will honor its historic mission and embraces its promising future.

Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni & Student Affairs Director

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

It is a great privilege to serve as president of Florida Southern College. Since arriving in June 2004, I have been learning about this distinctive college, its motivated students, extraordinary faculty, dedicated staff, and the supportive community in which we are located. I am committed to maintaining the highest standards for our students' intellectual, spiritual, social, and physical development as we advance the college's reputation for educational excellence to a national level.

Religious life on campus remains an integral part of Florida Southern College. In order to ensure continuing outstanding leadership of campus ministries, we have been greatly blessed to receive a \$1 million commitment from an anonymous donor to endow the Riley and Claire Short Chaplaincy at Florida Southern. This gift will provide in perpetuity the funds to retain a chaplain to lead our student ministries programs. The gift earnings will pay for the salary and benefits of the chaplain, as well as support campus ministry programming as the fund grows. I am exceedingly grateful to this family for their generosity and understanding of the importance of campus ministries to our institution and students.

The Rev. Timothy Wright is achieving great results with our campus ministries, which includes many exciting programs and events. In addition, every Sunday morning Florida Southern provides a worship service led by the chaplain for students, faculty, and staff. The nondenominational service utilizes technology, multimedia, and metaphors from popular culture to present the timeless message of scripture in the language of today's college student.

This year over 70 churches from 13 states funded 115 students in the Advancing the Flame matching gift program. The college is working to reach potential United Methodist students beyond our own Conference by connecting with the Baltimore-Washington Conference and local churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The college's theme of "Celebrating the Connection" is presented in the new Church Relations video that is available to local churches and youth groups. This video highlights FSC's United Methodist roots and its commitment to Christian values through campus ministries, worship, and service. Currently, we have 10 students receiving pre-ministerial grants who plan to pursue careers in ordained ministry and 18 students receiving the Full Time Christian Service grant who plan careers in the church other than ordination.

This summer Florida Southern College is partnering with the Florida Conference Camp Ministry Team to present the first "Christian Leadership Academy." The Academy is a week-long experience held on the FSC campus, which is designed to equip and inspire students to exercise Christian leadership in their churches, communities, schools, and society.

We inaugurated the first annual all-campus community service day. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni worked together to renovate property for Noah's Ark of Central Florida, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with developmental disabilities. The Florida Southern contingent was joined by Noah's Ark clients, and it was a joyous time for all to join hands to improve the facilities for this important organization. A campus barbeque concluded the service day with a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments.

This year, a major initiative resulted in the creation of the Florida Center for Science and Religion at Florida Southern College. The Center will promote the engagement of issues in science and religion throughout central Florida and will sponsor an annual lecture series and symposia on a wide range of topics including stem cell research, evolution, and mental health and wellness. The Center will be co-directed by Dr. Sarah Fletcher Harding, Associate Professor of Religion, and Dr. Nancy Morvillo, Associate Professor of Biology. The Center is being supported by a prestigious grant from the Metanexus Institute on Religion and Science.

The college had its largest class of entering students in the history of the institution this year, which resulted in the second largest overall student enrollment in our history. We added three new master's degree programs: the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), the Master of Education (MEd), and the Master of Science in Nursing. These programs address the urgent need for highly qualified teachers and nurses in Polk County. The advanced nursing degree program is being sponsored by the Lakeland Regional Medical Center. FSC now offers graduate-level degrees in business, education, and nursing.

The Board of Trustees and college community have been engaged in a strategic planning effort to advance Florida Southern College to the next level of excellence. We are working diligently on plans to strengthen the excellence of our academic programs, curriculum, students, faculty, and facilities, while achieving a new level of financial health. This has been an exciting process, resulting in great plans and an affirmation of the history of strength of Florida Southern.

Florida Southern continues its long tradition of excellence, and I am grateful for the strong bond with the United Methodist Church and the Florida United Methodist Conference.

Anne B. Kerr, Ph.D., President

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

*2004----Every Child Deserves a Place Under the Sheltering Tree
97 Years of Ministry to Children and Youth*

Our mission calls us to be a place “Where Children Come First!” Our song reflects the outstretched arms of God through Jesus embracing, Healing and sheltering children, youth and families.

*Every child of God deserves a chance to see just what the Lord created him to be.
But in the storms of life today, sometimes a child can lose his way.
But there's a 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.*

Ever more dedicated to the proposition that ALL Children and Youth Deserve – not just a place - but a safe, healthy, wholesome and nurturing place to live!!

Your Florida United Methodist Children's Home seeks to set the standard for best practice in all we do! Gaining high scores on our re-accreditation visits for both the Council on Accreditation and the EAGLE Accreditation speaks wonders for the commitment our staff has to providing ministry to the children, youth and families we serve.

In 2004 we placed 30 children in adoptive homes, 121 in our licensed Foster Care Homes, cared for 151 children and youth on our campus, and provided support and guidance for 16 young adults as they sought further education. Seventy-six parents/caregivers enrolled in our parenting group classes.

This home is a place where love flows from the Spirit of The Living Lord and manifests itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our Lord, Jesus The Christ.

Our Board of Trustees continues to lead the way as it envisions the future needs of children, youth and the families we serve, the programs that may be needed and the property that must be maintained and developed to sustain and grow this ministry. Using key characteristics of faith-based organizations, our Trustees and The Home's Management Team continue to assess and examine this Home's strengths and weaknesses to seek possibilities for future ministries.

Our priority list of ministry needs developed and approved by our Board and Management Team is being implemented. This list includes:

1. Developing an Endowment Fund of Twenty Million Dollars by 2008.
 - a. Permanent Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2004 is \$ 9,052,028.
 - b. Gift Annuity Fund (after payments) marked for Endowment \$ 1,673,885.
2. We completed a Transitional Living Cottage (#12 Kaebnick Cottage) (older High School Age – preparing for college).
3. Purchasing Land
 - a. In 2004 we purchased one of three parcels needed for future growth.
4. We are in the lengthy process of developing infrastructure for growth
 - a. Interior roads – water – sewage – Retreat area
 - b. Respite Housing for House Parents - Phase One
 - 4 units per quad - 3 quads (12 units) one quad currently being developed
 - c. In process of Relocating Volunteer Camping Area
 - d. In process of Developing and Fencing Recreation Areas

- e. In process of Developing Roads (2400 feet) on Campus
- f. In process of Fencing Adjacent Property
- 5. Providing Respite Housing
 - 4 units per quad - 3 quads (12 units) Phase Two
- 6. Building Cottage #13 campus interior
- 7. Hiring Additional Staff
- 8. Building Cottage #14 campus interior
- 9. Providing Respite Housing
 - 4 units per quad - 3 quads (12 units) Phase Three
- 10. Building Cottage #15 campus interior
- 11. Fencing Lakeshore to Carlton

Finances:

Again, 2004 promised to be a better year than 2003. However, with the market ups and downs and direct gifts for support below previous years, we were hard pressed to meet budget without drawing from community and state sources. While no child has been denied services due to a lack of finances, program and staff have suffered as a result of a very tight budget year in 2004. Our Office of Financial Development seeks to develop new ways to keep you informed of our ministry and program developments. It also seeks to improve and develop new funding streams to support our ministry to children.

In 2005 we will be concentrating on increased visibility and gifts for current operating program, developing planned and estate gifts, as well as some special project gifts designed to assist us with our Centennial Celebration in 2008.

Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation:

We seek to provide good stewardship for that which we have been entrusted to maintain on our campus. Through a designated gift we are able to begin planning for units to house our House Parents and hopefully be able to complete some units in 2005. Our Board is proactive in maintaining the safety of our youth. As we opened the new cottage, we closed one of the older cottages to place fire sprinklers and update space.

Program and Personnel:

The hiring of qualified house parents remains a major concern.

You continue to provide a place where children and youth can experience the hope, shelter and care as they seek to find meaning and purpose in life. Your prayerful support for our operating funds keeps 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 healing and care under the sheltering tree.

In April 2004, Alexander C. Carmichel, IV, was named "The Administrator of The Year" by the United Methodist Association of Healing and Caring Ministries. He and the Board continue to place Children First.

During 2004, The 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 2005 is \$11.00 per member and is set for \$11.50 in 2006. 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.

Our prayer for this Home and for you and your family this year is the hope that through your prayerful support, a child might experience just what the Lord created her/him to be.

Every child of God deserves a chance to see just what the Lord created him to be.

“Touching The Future—One Child At A Time”

Montfort C. Duncan, Jr., Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Alexander C. Carmichel, IV, President – Senior Pastor

**STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND
THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.**

PREAMBLE

The United Methodist Church has a history of Christian responsibility for service to people through the arm of its social welfare agencies, as evidenced in the ministry of this Home.

Since its founding in 1908 by the Florida Methodist Conference, three central values have driven this ministry:

1. God in Jesus Christ proclaims that every human being is of infinite value in God's sight; and therefore, those who know God respect the value of every person.
2. It is the plan of God's creation that human life come forth and receive nurture in families.
3. Children need an atmosphere of love, acceptance and guidance that they may come to know God's purpose and joy.

Out of these values arise our mission and the cooperative ministry between this Home and the Florida United Methodist Conference.

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME MISSION STATEMENT

The Purpose 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 influences with a healing, caring, therapeutic community, the Home provides a continuum of highly specialized services designed to strengthen individual and family life.

PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc., an agency of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, provides Christian nurture to troubled and/or dependent children, youth, and their families through residential facilities and programs. Such facilities and programs include family life education, counseling, child and family advocacy programs, chapel programs, music, health and physical fitness, vocational, a Day Care Program designed to serve families, independent living, higher education and other therapeutic activity, to the end that the worth of the individual shall be affirmed, families shall be assured, and God shall be worshipped and served in our time.

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

“Here we propose, by the help of God and the cooperation of all good people, to found a noble institution for the relief, education and training of destitute, fatherless and motherless children, who may look to us for help.” (From 1908 Journal Florida Annual Conference). Thus began the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. With creation of the United Methodist Church and union with the Sarah Hunt Home came the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. whose not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporate office is located at 51 Main Street, Enterprise, (Volusia County) Florida.

With such a heritage blessed by God, and faithfully supported by God's people, we now seek to clarify and strengthen the relationship between the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. and the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

1. Receive nominations and elect members to the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home, in keeping with the charter and by-laws of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home;
2. Continue to provide benevolent support to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home through channels such as the Fifth Sunday and Christmas offerings, encouraging its people to make special gifts, and be supportive of the Home's programs of planned giving;
3. Make available opportunities and resources for financial support in keeping with the policies of the Council on Finance and Administration and in offering United Methodist Foundation assistance with planned giving;
4. Permit the Florida United Methodist Children's Home to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship;
5. Cooperate with the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in furthering the promotion and interpretation of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home's missions and programs;
6. Communicate with the Florida United Methodist Children's Home any changes in the rules and actions of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference which may affect the Florida United Methodist Children's Home;
7. Receive an annual audited financial report from the Florida United Methodist Children's Home;
8. Maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc., agrees to:

1. Continue its tradition of offering quality services to children, youth and families, to develop innovative concepts to help with their changing needs with guidance from the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church;
2. Submit an annual audited financial report to the Annual Conference;
3. Advise the Annual Conference of any major changes in program or direction;
4. Follow guidelines as approved by the Annual Conference, in matters of funding;
5. Maintain membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;

6. Submit to the Annual Conference for approval any changes in the Florida United Methodist Children's Home's Articles of Incorporation;
7. Furnish an annual report to the Annual Conference;
8. Maintain active relationship with the Conference Global Mission Committee;
9. Provide ex-officio membership on the Board of Trustees for the following: the Bishop of the Florida Conference; the District Superintendent of the district in which the Home is located, and a representative from the Global Mission Committee;
10. Maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

Neither the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc., nor the Annual Conference accepts any legal or financial responsibility for the operations of the other. Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. and the Conference mutually agree to hold each other harmless for any liabilities arising out of their relationship.

This Statement of Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at least once during each quadrennium.

By action of the Board of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc., meeting on June 21, 2005.

Dated: June 27, 2005

Signed: Montfort C. Duncan, Chair

By action of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in session in Lakeland, Florida, June 4, 2005.

Dated: June 27, 2005

Signed: Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker

GEORGIA FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Effective March 1, 2005, The Florida United Methodist Credit Union merged our services into the Georgia Methodist Federal Credit Union to become the new Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union. In 1969, the Florida Annual Conference organized The Florida United Methodist CU as a cooperative financial institution. Our purpose was to help members of the Florida Annual Conference meet their financial goals. We will continue to fulfill that purpose through this union that brings together the best of both Credit Unions, providing our members with a greater variety of services and a stronger financial basis. Local service to our members will continue at our current office, 1140 E McDonald St., Lakeland, FL 33801, under the supervision of Renea Hazelbaker, Branch Manager, and Betty Pierson, Teller. The main office is located at 1991 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA, 30068. There are two Florida United Methodists representing you on the new Board of Directors.

Membership is still available to all clergy and lay members of the United Methodist churches within the bounds of the Florida Annual Conference, including affiliate and associate members. Employees of a United Methodist Church or institution related to the Church, members of its boards or agencies, as well as local Churches can become members. Membership is also open to immediate family members of a primary member, including parents, children, spouses, surviving spouses or any other relative by blood, marriage or adoption even though you may not reside in the same household. We also offer services to the incorporated churches.

ATM card services will continue to allow access to your account through many ATM machines, businesses, and Shared Service facilities (select Credit Unions across Florida and Georgia).

I hope you will check out our services. We are available to answer your questions and serve you through our web site www.gamethfcu.org or by calling us at (863) 688-5563 ext. 145 or toll-free in Florida at 1-800-282-8011 ext. 145. Come grow with us by telling your family and fellow United Methodists about the new, stronger Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union. Encourage your church to check out the value of our services. We think you will like the new services and the familiar, personal care we provide.

Douglas H. Zipperer, Chairman
Duane DeCorte, President

THE FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM and THE FLORIDA AC-70

The Foundation for Evangelism and the Florida Annual Conference continue to be in partnership through the Florida AC-70 for a fourth year. Lay and clergy throughout the conference have pledged funds which will support evangelistic ministries in the Florida Annual Conference and through The Foundation for Evangelism. Initial pledges totaling \$338,000 over a five year period have been made and as of the end of 2004 over two-thirds have been received.

In 2001 Bishop Timothy Whitaker, in consultation with Bishop Richard Looney, President of The Foundation for Evangelism, appointed a Florida AC-70 Committee to receive requests and approve funding of evangelistic ministries in the Florida Conference. This committee is chaired by Dr. David Brazelton; other members include: Laura Berg, Nelida Morales, and Roger Swanson.

The Florida AC-70 Committee has approved grants for the following evangelistic ministries in the conference for the years 2003 and 2004 for a total of \$81,500.00:

1. Congregational Transformation (Conference)
2. Celebrate Jesus, (Conference)
3. Celebrate Jesus (Melbourne District)
4. Crossover Student Ministries (Pine Island UMC)
5. Out of School Youth Ministries (Merrell UMC)
6. Healthy Church Initiative (Orlando District)
7. Bible Outreach Ministry (Good Shepherd UMC)

Funds remain available for evangelistic ministries undertaken by Florida Conference entities as well as by districts and local churches in the conference. Applications are available from: Dr. David Brazelton, Mandarin United Methodist Church, 11270 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32223. The committee is now receiving requests for 2005.

Portions of the AC-70 funds also help to support United Methodist ministries in evangelism sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism. Some of these ministries include: Professors of Evangelism in our seminaries; The Evangelism Network; Discover God's Call; the Denman Evangelism Awards; The Fitzgerald Program for New Church Pastors; and the FORWARD newsletter.

We appreciate the generous support of the people of the Florida Conference. Those persons paying on pledges and any others interested in making a financial commitment to the Florida AC-70 should make checks payable to The Foundation for Evangelism, indicating that it is for the Florida AC-70. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 985, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745.

Thank you for helping our conference and The United Methodist Church carry out our mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Dr. David Brazelton, Chairperson
Florida AC-70 Committee

Dr. Jimmie Crook, Resident Staff Minister
The Foundation for Evangelism

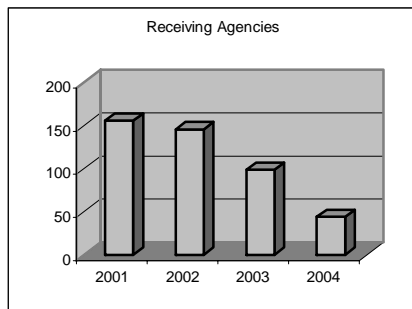
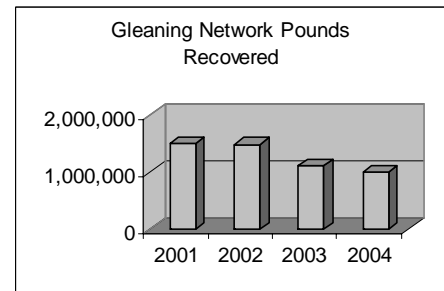
SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW (SoSA)
Feeding the hungry in Florida

Purpose of Programs: To feed the hungry throughout Florida while preventing food waste. Biblical concept of gleaning (Lev 19:9-10). **Dare to Share Jesus in action, not just words.** Easy Mission Project. Get Involved. SoSA is an Advance Special (801600-0) of the UMC and (982225-8) for UMMen.

Concept of Programs: Millions of pounds of nutritious but unmarketable produce are left in Florida 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. Produce is simply gathered up or “gleaned” after farmers and growers have completed their harvest. Easy mission project. Get involved.

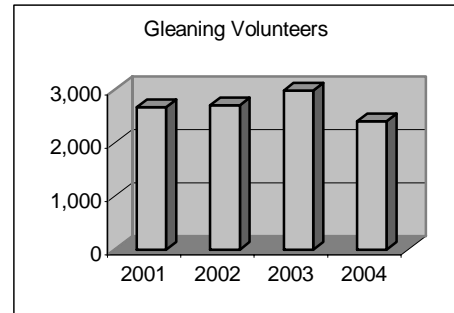
What has been accomplished ?

- Over 1 million pounds of food at a program cost of under 5¢ per pound last year!
- Feeding Agencies 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!! Fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste is being used instead to feed hungry Floridians



- Since beginning in 1995 SoSA’s Gleaning 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 something people of nearly all ages can do; it's fun & easy to do.
- Volunteers come from church groups of all denominations and faiths, civic clubs, scout troops, college campus groups and other organizations. 2004 surpassed the 2,400 volunteer mark.
- Short term mission effort with high impact.
- Begin to live out your faith, come glean with us. **Dare to Share Jesus.** Feed the Hungry in Florida.



To get your church involved contact: Society of St. Andrew 407-650-1956 or 800-806-0756 or P.O. Box 536842, Orlando, FL 32853-6842.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONNECTIONAL TABLE

We continue to celebrate the unique Southeastern Jurisdictional Ministry. Your SEJ staff at Lake Junaluska and the seven agencies (Archives and History, Gulfside Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center, SEMAR, SEJANAM, UMVIM) work diligently to provide annual conference and congregational leaders opportunities for connecting, consulting and training in our three centers and around the jurisdiction. We are determined to offer the best discipleship training and spiritual formation opportunities for all ages.

In July 2004, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council was honored to once again host the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska. It was a pleasure welcoming and serving conference leaders from around the jurisdiction. We appreciate the confidence the delegates gave to the SEJ ministry through supporting our request for funding. We are especially grateful for the special asking of .50 cents per member for the quadrennium designated to the restoration of the Lake Junaluska dam in order to bring it in line with strict North Carolina structure codes. The fund is to be paid over the 2005 – 2008 quadrennium. The overwhelming support was appreciated.

We served over one hundred twenty nine thousand United Methodist during 2001-2004 in our ministry events, Networking Groups and at Lake Junaluska, Gulfside Assembly and Hinton Rural Life Center. Plus we hosted over one hundred fifty thousand at our conference centers. Many lives are being touched for Christ through your jurisdictional ministry.

In December 2004 we welcomed new elected members to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council. During our meeting it was decided to change our operating body to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Connectional Table and to streamline our organization using task groups and less committees. The Junaluska Properties and Services Committee will give leadership guiding our work at Lake Junaluska. Our organizational task group will be joined by four persons from the jurisdiction in order for an intensive study of the jurisdictional organization to be done.

Again I am delighted to report that our Workplace Discipleship Program designed to assist our staff in celebrating their call to ministry and leading us toward being a more inclusive staff continues to be successful. In 2004 we moved from 8% to 13%. Our staff has been diligent with this and I commend each of them for our success.

Great strides are being made toward the capital improvements at Lake Junaluska Assembly. We have seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7.5 million) committed to the campaign. We have one million one hundred thousand dollars committed to the Bethea Welcome Center and we continue to raise money and hope to begin that project in 2006.

We are in the process of renovating fifty (50) of the one hundred (100) rooms at the Terrace Hotel. The remaining rooms will be finished in early 2006. We plan to have the outside of the Terrace painted and new siding installed by this summer.

We are grateful for the leadership of the elected members of the Florida conference. They are:

- Bishop Timothy Whitaker
- Bill Walker
- Anne Burkholder
- John Dowell
- Anna Peacock-Preston

Continue to pray with us as we strive to serve Christ and the work of the United Methodist Church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

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 the 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. The Foundation is registered with the State of Florida Division of Securities as an Issuer-Dealer in a limited security.

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 and staff of The Foundation are available, without fee, to assist local churches in establishing a Permanent Endowment Fund and Committee, in creating their own planned giving programs, and 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 assets; 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 nominal 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, 2004, The Foundation managed assets of over \$64,013,980 (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 an administrative fee for this service; however, this fee does not diminish the value of the gift annuity to the annuitant. As of December 31, 2004, The Foundation managed over \$3,775,553 (Fair Market Value) in gift annuities.

On a short-term basis, the Foundation invests building funds 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, 2004, \$1,592,849 was invested in The Sharing Plan.

On January 1, 2003, The Foundation merged with The Florida United Methodist Development Fund, Inc., which was established in 1976 in response to the larger loan needs of the churches of the Florida Annual Conference. It is now operated as a loan fund within the Foundation.

Florida residents, churches and church organizations can open a Participation Account (redeemable on a "demand" basis) upon which the Foundation pays interest. The Board of Directors sets the interest rate, 3.00% as of January 1, 2005, quarterly. 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 maximum loan term is twenty (20) years, and the maximum single loan amount is 5% of the amount invested in The Fund. The interest rate for loans, 5.00 % as of January 1, 2005, is adjusted quarterly to 2.0% above the rate being paid to investors in The Fund.

The minimum investment is \$100.00. Interest is paid at the end of each calendar quarter. As of December 31, 2004, investments totaled \$66,748,831. 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.

For a copy of the Offering Circular or for a copy of the Loan Guidelines, please contact The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc., at P. O. Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802-3767.

In addition to the responsibilities stated above, the Foundation has undertaken the new responsibilities described below.

The 2003 Annual Conference approved the creation of and funding for a Development Office within the Florida United Methodist Foundation for the purpose of raising capital and endowment funds on an ongoing basis for the Florida Annual Conference. This represented a fundamental change in the way in which the Annual Conference approaches capital fundraising. In the past, the Annual Conference has relied on a series of ad hoc capital campaigns to address specific needs. Under the old approach, outside consulting/fundraising firms were required to manage the campaigns, and there was a tendency to recreate the necessary infrastructure each time a campaign was undertaken.

In addition, the old model of capital fundraising viewed the local church as the primary giving unit. Churches were assigned target fundraising quotas that were essentially quasi-apportionments. This method of capital fundraising proved to be very unpopular and divisive for the Annual Conference.

Under the new approach, the Annual Conference will essentially be in a continuous mode of identifying needs; and identifying, cultivating and developing individual donors who can make significant gifts to the Annual Conference to further its mission and ministry.

Activities and Accomplishments:

The development efforts of the Foundation on behalf of the Annual Conference are focused on establishing and nurturing relationships among those persons who have the potential of making a significant and positive impact on the life of the Annual Conference. That impact may not occur immediately. In fact, establishing and developing those relationships can take from two to five years. The goal is to create and maintain trusting and informed relationships among these persons and the Annual Conference. In particular, the goal is to open a direct horizontal relationship between them and Bishop Whitaker. In 2004 and throughout 2005 we are in the “behind-the-scenes” stage of development – seeking, meeting and informing.

In order to provide a consistent approach to these persons and to provide them with effective information, in 2004, the Foundation:

1. Secured a chairperson for steering committee of the development program.
2. Secured the services of an external consultant to guide our development process.
3. Developed a working list of Steering Committee members.
4. Continued the development of a major donor database – A donor database for the annual conference did not exist when we undertook this campaign. During the year we have reviewed criteria for including a person on the database and begun evaluating the names of those suggested for inclusion in such a database against the criteria. Our goal is to maintain a list of approximately 200 highly qualified potential donors.
5. Began defining, developing and producing videos and other materials to interpret the case statements for each ministry seeking funding. One video has been completed.
6. Established a working relationship with the Conference Communications Director.
7. Activated donor-tracking software.
8. Met with District Superintendents to define the role of the campaign in the districts.
9. Began meeting with clergy leaders to discuss how the campaign will relate to the local churches.

There have been difficulties in gaining clarity about the camping/retreat site and program needs. Therefore, in 2005, we will finalize the case statement for the development effort, assemble the steering committee, finalize promotional materials and actively continue to cultivate qualified donors.

Connectional Giving

The Foundation, in conjunction with the Annual Conference and United Methodist Communications, is conducting a pilot project to enhance connectional giving within the Conference. Throughout 2004, Foundation staff conducted training programs for interpreters of connectional giving in each district. The emphasis during 2005, will be on developing videos and publications that can be used by local churches to “interpret” various ministries and missions supported by connectional giving and to further enhance the connectional giving content on the Foundation web site, www.fumf.org. Monthly emails on a connectional giving topic are available to local churches. Individual interpreters may subscribe to the email service at the Foundation web site.

We are grateful for the trust that the Florida Annual Conference, its districts and agencies and the members and friends of its churches have placed in the Foundation. We will do our utmost to honor that trust.

T. Doyle Perry, Chairperson
Thomas W. Marston, President

WESLEY GROUP HOME MINISTRIES, INC.

Statement of Covenant Relationship (2005)

Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. is a nonprofit, charitable organization, chartered by the state of Florida and operated by a board of directors. Those directors have the legal responsibility for assuring that the corporation and its affairs are in accordance with the laws of the state of Florida relating to not-for-profit corporations. The Wesley Group Home Ministries charter provides that directors be elected by Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. and confirmed by the Florida Conference.

Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. has confirmed its philosophical and missional compatibility with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

In recognition of this compatibility and in a desire for continued mutual support of relationship with The Florida Conference, Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. commits itself to the following:

1. The ongoing development of programs and services in response to the needs of persons with developmental disabilities in the tradition of ministry in The United Methodist Church.
2. Establishment of independent living facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.
3. The education of local church persons as to the needs and opportunities for ministry with persons with developmental disabilities.
4. Cooperating in the development of ministries offered by the local church for persons with developmental disabilities.
5. The regular reporting of activities of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. to The Florida Conference *Global Mission Committee.

Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. further affirms the following:

1. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. cannot and will not attempt to obligate the Florida Conference on any matters and will not hold out to any individual or group that the Florida Conference has responsibility for the actions of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
2. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. acting through its directors, officers, staff and employees has sole responsibility for the contracts, operations, and financial or other obligations of the Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. activities, facilities and services. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. is not an agent of the Florida Conference.

Florida Conference

The Florida Conference, as a fundamental body of The United Methodist Church, has a commitment to serve persons in need of health and welfare ministries. In recognition of the compatibility with the philosophy and mission of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. and in a desire for a continued mutually supportive relationship with Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc., The Florida Conference commits itself to the following:

1. The cooperative efforts in developing programs for persons with developmental disabilities by, with, and for the local church.
2. The establishment and review for continuation of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. as an advance special of the Florida Conference.
3. The prayerful consideration and support of the ministry of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
4. Permit Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship.

The Florida Conference further affirms the following:

1. The Florida Conference does not assume legal responsibility for contracts, operations, or for financial or other obligations of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.
2. Any financial contributions by the conference for Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc. and the forms of such support are subject to the determination of annual conference from time to time.

The Statement of Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at least once during each quadrennium.

By action of the Board of Directors of Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc., meeting on January 20, 2005. Signed: June A. Johns, Chairperson. Amended: May 28, 2005. Signed: June A. Johns, Chairperson

By action of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in session in Lakeland, Florida, May 28, 2005. Signed: Timothy W. Whitaker, Resident Bishop, Florida Annual Conference.

**2004 GENERAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Proposed Constitutional Amendments**

Results of the ballot on June 5, 2005, with 747 members present.

Vote Count <u>Yes</u>	<u>Proposed Constitutional Amendment</u>	Vote Count <u>No</u>
735	The first proposed amendment specifies that a fair and open process shall be utilized for the election of General Conference delegates.	11
707	The second proposed amendment adds home missionaries to the classifications over which General Conference has authority to define and fix powers and duties.	34
735	The third proposed amendment deletes an obsolete phrase that may be appropriately discontinued.	12
709	The fourth proposed amendment would guarantee that the person on the conference mission committee who is responsible for promoting the work of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church is a member of the Annual Conference. Presently, unless elected by their home church, or included under the conference's equalization rule, this person is not a member of the Annual Conference.	35
714	The fifth proposed amendment adds home missionaries under Episcopal appointment to the membership of the Annual Conference.	30
727	The sixth proposed amendment is needed to support the addition of the conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries to the list of lay members of the Annual Conference in Par. 602.4, as passed by General Conference in 2000.	19
727	The seventh proposed amendment provides a definition of clergy members of the Annual Conference.	18
696	The eighth proposed amendment would make possible adoption of enabling legislation for final approval of a Constitutional Amendment by the General Conference at the same General Conference at which the Constitutional Amendment is proposed, and adopted for presentation to Annual Conferences.	47

RESOLUTIONS

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF 2004 GENERAL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church commits our denomination “to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth” (Paragraph 161J);

WHEREAS according to some estimates over one-third of all American women (since 1973) end up undergoing at least one abortion in their lifetimes; and for the majority of aborted women and men, it is their first-born child who is aborted, and for some it is their only child who is aborted;

WHEREAS the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church overwhelmingly voted to recognize that while there exists a legal right to abortion, many people who experience abortion later have significant pain as a result (40857-CS-¶161 adopted as amended 5/5/2004 by 818-33 vote; 40860-CS-R9999 adopted as amended 5/5/2004 by 835-26 vote);

WHEREAS the resultant new paragraph (161K) in The United Methodist Social Principles reads: “*Ministry to Those Who Have Experienced an Abortion*—We urge local pastors to become informed about the symptoms and behaviors associated with post-abortion stress. We further encourage local churches to make available contact information for counseling agencies that offer programs to address post-abortion stress for all seeking help”; and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Social Principles recognizes that “[g]overnmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience” regarding abortion (Paragraph 161J);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Florida Annual Conference hereby calls on its elders, local pastors, deacons, and ministerial candidates to “become informed about the symptoms and behaviors associated with post-abortion stress” and to “make available contact information for counseling agencies that offer programs to address post-abortion stress for all seeking help”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Annual Conference encourages its congregations, pastors, and lay leaders to enter into dialogue with Christ-centered ministries that provide counseling for women—and men—who experience pain because of a past abortion and to prayerfully consider how we may serve such ministries with our moral, spiritual, and material support.

Donald B. Smith

Stephanie L. Smith

Camille Mcdugald

Joseph E. Louise

Rachel E. Louise

Betty Smith

William Smith, Prayer Coordinator at Keystone Heights United Methodist Church