

Part IV

Awards, Reports and Resolutions

AWARDS EDUCATION AWARDS

ALICE W. LOCKMILLER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND CREATIVITY

DASHON L. POLLOCK, Ebenezer United Methodist Church – Miami

Dashon was nominated by one of her former students. She teaches the young children from age 2 to age 7. Dashon makes learning about Christ fun by sharing the Bible story and doing activities to help them remember the story.

Dashon tells the students to go home and tell their parents what they learned and she encourages the kids to tell their friends about Sunday School.

ROBERT RAIKES VOLUNTEER TEACHER AWARD CHILDREN'S TEACHER

ROY & EILEEN SLOAN, First United Methodist Church Lake City

Roy & Eileen teach the 2nd-4th grade Sunday School class. They also teach once a month on a Wednesday afternoon. They have taught Sunday School all their lives.

They encourage their students to care for each other through the special things they do for the children. They challenge the children to be faithful. They were nominated because of their love for children, and their lifelong commitment to helping children grow in Christ.

ADULT TEACHER

ROBERT E. ("BJ") JOHNS, Perrine Peters, Miami

Mr. Johns has been volunteering as the Sunday School teacher for the Searchers class for several years.

"BJ" has a keen eye for matching events of the day and the community with class topics. His biggest single attribute is his continued focus of keeping us ever mindful of the needs and concerns of others.

EVANGELISM AWARD

HARRY DENMAN AWARD

CLERGY:

WILLIAM L. BALDWIN, Beach United Methodist Church Jacksonville Beach

Bill Baldwin is a messenger of God's truth. He brings the Old Testament to life, weaves in the New Testament, and, with God-given vision, puts it into modern day perspective. This inspired leader of Beach United Methodist Church, with his passionate, joyous faith in Christ and his hunger to reach the multitudes with Christ's promise of redemption, is truly a modern day disciple. He is a fisher of people and his hook is salvation.

As pastor, Bill serves his congregation by being sensitive to their needs and fulfilling them with a limitless vision from God. As a citizen of God's world, Bill's outreach has extended beyond the church community boards where he can bring his witness to help alleviate heartache and suffering in the world.

1999 FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD

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 award. The Florida Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is delighted to present the 1999 Francis Asbury Award to **Molly Springfield**. While her service on the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has only been between the years of 1991 and 1999, her service to students and campus ministry has spanned the past sixty-three years. In 1936, as the student Body president of Wesleyan College for Woman, a Methodist college and the oldest chartered college for women in the United States, Molly represented her school at a Methodist Student Movement (MSM) meeting in Athens, Georgia. This meeting helped fuel her lifelong passion for campus ministry. Molly married a Methodist minister and they decided their efforts would best be used in the service of young people. They sought assignment to a Wesley Foundation. At that time no position was available, so her husband enlisted in the Navy to minister to young soldiers. Following World War II, the Wesley Foundation position in Gainesville came open and Molly and Thaxton Springfield began their ministry to the University of Florida. She has been there ever since. During this time, in addition to her extensive work with young people and leadership at the University Church and Student Center, Molly has put five sons through graduate schools in education, medicine and law. Since her husband's death in 1970, her professional life has been spent as the administrator of early childhood education programs with fourteen day care schools throughout Alachua County. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is indebted to Molly Springfield for her leadership, service and dedication to the young people of our state.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

ROGERS P. FAIR PRE-MINISTERIAL AWARD:

Robin Lynne Bauer, Florida Southern College, Lakeland

I am a senior at Florida Southern College. I am a certified candidate for ministry from the Melbourne District. While attending FSC as a Religion major, I have

been very active in various ministries both on and off campus. I have served as president of Theta Chi Beta academic honorary fraternity and Toastmasters International. I also lead a spiritual formation group with ten other pre-ministerial students. I have led a Disciple Bible Study group on campus and preached in chapel on occasion. As a member of Sigma Rho Epsilon, a service honorary fraternity, we have provided food for the homeless and visited the Children's Home. Outside of school I serve on the Leesburg Women's Retreat Committee where we minister to more than 2,000 women each year at four weekend retreats. I have a great passion for the church and the people of the church. I see the 21st century as a hope filled time of growth and renewed foundation for families, communities and the world. Through my work with Homeless and Orphan Outreach, a mission in the Dominican Republic I have seen first hand the difference that Christ can make in the lives of young people who have very few advantages in life. In the fall of 1999 I will begin attending Duke divinity School where I can continue to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become an effective pastor in the next century. It is an honor to be considered for the Rogers P. Fair Award and I thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Rogers P. Fair served 47 years as Chaplain of Bethune-Cookman College. He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity by Bethune-Cookman in 1974 "For outstanding Service to Christian Higher Education and the United Methodist Church as Pastor and Preacher".

POLLY L. COOK CHRISTIAN CONSCIOUSNESS AWARD

Joseph Eichorn, University of Central Florida, Orlando

My entire life I have been blessed with family, friends and a nice place to live. I have always believed that, if we are able, it is our duty to reach out to those in need. God has given us so much and it's for a reason. If we have the ability to help those around us, then we must do all that we can. I have always had more than I needed and I have never given enough. It's easy for me to take what I have for granted and to worry about my own problems instead of the problems of those around me. I try to tell myself that if I don't use what God has given me for His purpose, then I have wasted what he has given me. My goal is to waste as little of what He has given me as possible. I have wasted too much time already.

Ms. Polly Lassiter Cook served as a US2 (under the General Board of Missions) in the Little Rock Conference doing rural work; in local church and student ministry at Arkadelphia, Arkansas; and as a rural worker in the Tallahassee District under the guidance of the Women's Division. In 1962, Ms. Cook was hired as a staff member of Campus Ministry at the University of Miami and served as director following Farley Snell.

EULALIE GINN OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD: (Shared Award)

Celeste Miller, University of Central Florida, Orlando

My first goal is to graduate from the University of Central Florida with a journalism degree, specializing in advertising/public relations with a minor in

Spanish. After that, my degree leaves the door wide open to possibility. I know that I could work in a PR time, in a major corporation or for any number of organization. However, I feel that I should return to the public school system on which my educational foundation were laid. I want to use my public relations skills to promote education in our society. Admittedly, there are negative happenings in the public schools. But for each scandal, there are a hundred positive incidents. For each rumor we hear, there are a hundred athletes exercising their minds and learning skills that will make them successful after school. For each negative news item, there are a hundred bright students achieving their potential. I want to have a hand in highlighting the excellence in our schools. Following graduation, I plan on returning to the Tampa Bay area to work for Pinellas or Hillsborough County Schools. I hope to have a community relations position in the district office. I am also excited about returning to my home church and becoming active in choir and small groups. I am learning valuable skills with the Wesley Foundation that will greatly benefit my church in the future. I live too far away to make any commitment to St. James UMC now, but I am looking forward to the time that I can be more involved there. I'm not sure exactly where I will find my nice, but I hope to; continue leadership in the church and community as a UCF alumnae.

Mary E. (Molly) Akin, Florida State University, Tallahassee

I am a senior majoring in criminology at Florida State University. I am a member of the Wesley Foundation United Methodist Campus Ministry. I currently serve as president of the Program Council and as a member of the Upper Room Staff. It has been my privilege to serve the Lord at the Wesley Foundation this year. I have learned many valuable lessons about leadership in the name of Jesus Christ. The Lord has revamped my thinking about leadership. Needless to say, my life has never been the same since. Over the last two years, the Lord has taught me the true meaning of leadership. For most of my life, I willingly accepted leadership roles. I was administrative, people-oriented, and considered myself to be an effective leader. At the time, it seemed like I had the winning combination for a leader. But, somehow I knew that my leadership style was extremely flawed. One day the Lord showed me that I lead people as if everything is "all about me." I was selfish and prideful. I knew that the Lord was right. I knew that my leadership was not fruitful. I needed to make major changes in my life. After I confronted my pride and selfishness, I felt such a freedom in my life. I no longer wanted to live for myself. I wanted to live a life that was "all bout Jesus". I no longer wanted any glory - I wanted to remain hidden behind the Cross so that He alone could be glorified. I had no desire to lead because I did not want to feel the temptation of self-glorification anymore. But the Lord made it evident that He wanted me in leadership. However, He wanted me to learn how to be a leader His Way! In the spring of 1998, I was selected to serve on both Upper Room Staff and Program Council. After much prayer, I knew this is what God wanted me to do. At first, I was very reluctant to agree to His terms. The President of Program Council is a major position within the ministry. It would be impossible for me to "remain hidden in Him". Little did I know that was all a part of His game

plan. My first days as Program Council President were rough. The Council did not have enough money to fund all the events planned for the fall. Most of our programs were disorganized. It just seems as if nothing was going right. I was doing all I could to make the program work. But I was so weary. I did not have the strength to carry on. I was overcome with such discouragement. I felt very responsible for everything that was happening. But, at the same time, I had no control over any of it. One day I prayed to God, "God, I have no control over this. Please help me". And then I felt the Lord saying, "You better not have control!! This is all about Me, remember?" At that moment I committed my presidency to Jesus and let Him have full control. Jesus wanted to work- I just needed to get out of the way. As I look back at the last semester, tears come to my eyes. Why? The Lord has now taken full control of Program Council and poured out His abundant blessing. All of our events have been extremely successful. There are no major problems. Financially, we have 2-3 times more money that we should this time of year. Also, one of the major projects that we have been working on for over four years is finally underway. The best part is that I know I had nothing to do with it! I have finally found what it takes to be an effective leader. All I ever need is a heart in full surrender to Jesus. It is unbelievable what the Lord will do if we just let Him! "He must increase, I must decrease" John 3:30.

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

REPORTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

"Dare to Share Jesus" is a theme which expresses both the mission of The United Methodist Church, "To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ," and the goal of The Florida Annual Conference to have 400,000 disciples of Jesus Christ by the new Millennium.

"Dare to Share Jesus" is our theme for both 1999 and 2000. The program committee determined that a two-year theme would express clearly that the intent of United Methodists in Florida is to lift Jesus Christ as the central focus of all that we do. To assist each congregation in uniting in this goal, the "Dare to Share Jesus" logo is available to all churches for use on bulletins, letterheads, and all printed materials. The committee encourages each congregation to join in

this effort to focus all United Methodists on the central core of our being: Jesus Christ.

Through careful planning, the various task forces of the program committee are pointing us to varied ways to share Jesus on each day of the conference.

Annual Conference 1999 is designed to allow time for balloting for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences of 2000. The Connectional Process Team, established by the 1996 General Conference, brings a report to us as well as seeking our input. The Conference Council on Ministries will focus our attention on evangelization through a presentation by David Lowes Watson followed by dialogue in a "town hall" format.

We welcome Bishop George Bashore, president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, as our conference preacher. Our conference Lay Leader, Mary Alice Massey, delivers the communion homily at our opening session. Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson preaches the ordination sermon.

Come and join us in our great venture of Sharing Jesus Christ!

E. Keith Ewing

Annual Conference Program Committee Chair

PROCEDURES AND AGENDA REPORT

The following is recommended for approval:

1. The authority for procedure of the 1999 Florida Annual Conference is the following: (a) the 1996 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church; (b) the Standing Rules of the Florida Annual Conference, 1998 Journal; (c) Robert's Rules of Order.
2. An "Order of the Day" is adopted for those times when specific persons are available for presentation to the Annual Conference.
3. The printed program on pages 3 through 7 of the Florida Annual Conference Workbook is recommended to be the agenda for the 1999 Annual Conference.
4. Any member of the Annual Conference who wishes to be recognized shall stand at his or her place and wave the bright colored "Welcome Book." When the bishop recognizes that person, he/she goes to the designated numbered microphone and addresses the conference, giving name, whether lay or clergy, and giving the name of the local church, district or conference organization represented.
5. A written report may be found in the Conference Workbook or Welcome Book for those groups (reporting but) not needing conference action.

James F. Jennings, Agenda Chairperson

FLORIDA CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

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

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

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

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

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

Short term goals of the Discipleship Ministry Team include: Strengthening the current networking groups of worship/arts/music and Christian education; collect names of persons and churches to network in the areas of children/family ministry, adult needs, stewardship, elementary schools in churches; set up task force to gather ideas and draw up a plan for training mentors or consultants in discipleship across the conference, in order to offer help designed for each individual church that requests it; set up task force to explore ways to build unity of purpose across committees and boards. **Medium term goals** of the Discipleship Ministry Team include: launch networking groups for leaders in children/family ministry, adult needs, stewardship, elementary schools in churches; develop curriculum for mentors/consultants in the churches and work with two or three churches to test the program. **Long-term goal** of the Discipleship Ministry Team is to launch a full program of mentors/consultants for local churches.

In 1998, Discipleship Ministries sponsored 24 retreats/workshops with 6,245 total participants from 14 districts; 12 awards for excellence in education and evangelism were presented, 25 scholarships totaling \$4,000 were given for training. In addition, Discipleship Ministry offered administrative/staff support for ministry/programs which may include but not limited to the following: annual conference worship task force, twelve of the above retreats, Operation Evangelization, summer camp, local church training and re-sourcing.

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

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

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

MINISTRY/PROGRAM SUPPORT: Administrative support for meeting costs, postage, copies for all events, taskforces and design teams sponsored by this ministry team..

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Retreats/Workshops - 38%; Awards/Scholarships - 27%; Resources for Specialized Ministries - 25%; Ministry/Program Support - 10%.

Total Discipleship Funding Request for 2000.....\$32,000

CHURCH AND SOCIETY MINISTRY

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

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

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

In 1998, Church and Society supplied resources, both personal and other resources to the Council of Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty; 450 youth and adults participated in the Christian Faith and Human Sexuality weekends; gave 2 scholarships for mission trips; provided financial assistance to the Center

to Prevent Violence; provided grant to AIDS seminar; provided advocacy on the issues of Anti-Casino gambling, Earth Day; farm workers issues; prison ministries and the issues surrounding welfare reform; gave financial assistance to Florida Impact, Florida Council of Churches and Jim Russo Ministries.

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

LOCAL CHURCH/AGENCY GRANTS: The Church and Society will offer grants to encourage local congregations to be in ministry and service to the powerless in all areas that need the arm of justice. We will support ministries generated by local congregations that speak to the community needs in the areas of peace and justice. We will also support ministries generated by local congregations for ministries in local jails. There is a grant to Jim Russo Prison Ministry.

RETREATS AND TASK FORCE RESOURCES: Weekend retreats for youth through Christian Faith and Human Sexuality ministry and for children through the Great To Be Me ministries. Administrative/Staff support for ten issue-focused task forces; a Peace With Justice resource booklet; web site support to stay connected and the Council of Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty.

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES: Administrative staff support for all the task force meetings, design teams for retreats, and total team meetings.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Staying Connected - 25%; Local Church/Agency Grants - 40%; Retreats and Task force Resources - 27%; Supporting the Ministries - 8%.

Total Church and Society Funding Request for 2000\$54,140

MISSION MINISTRY

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

Mission Statement: The Florida Conference Mission ministry will facilitate local congregations, ministries, and individuals through encouragement and education and by providing opportunities to live out the Great Commission as given to us by Jesus Christ when he said: ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been***

given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, NRSV).

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

ADMINISTRATION: Supports the Mission Ministry Team meetings and travel and the Conference Mission office for printing and mailing in support of the ministries.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: Provides educational seminars and network opportunities for small churches and churches in transition. Church development opportunities are found through the Fellowship for Small Membership Churches, Vital Churches in Changing Situations Seminar, Gainesville Group Ministry.

COMMUNICATIONS: Provides the local churches with the means for education and information about mission opportunities and on-going mission projects through print, visual media, and the Internet; for the execution of district training seminars for local church mission leaders, and for covering the expense for itinerating missionaries, and transportation to the annual SEJ Mission conference. Mission communications is covered under these ministries: Cultivation and Education; Mission Communication; Itineration of Mission Speakers, and SEJ Mission Conference.

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

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS MINISTRIES (Formerly Health and Welfare Ministries): Educates, encourages, and advocates local congregations to be accessible to persons in the areas of childcare, older adults, healthcare, and handicapping conditions. This ministry promotes: Golden Cross Sunday, Camp

Pioneer; Deaf Ministry; Disabled Ministry; Health & Wholeness Retreat; National Association of Health and Welfare Ministries; National and SEJ UM Congress of the Deaf; Volunteer Conference Coordinator for the Deaf; Parish Nurse Ministry; Health Related Institutions, and Task Force Meetings.

MISSION INITIATIVES: Provide a means for the Florida Conference to establish, develop, and strengthen relationships between UM churches, districts, UMVIM and travel teams in Florida Conference, the United States, and abroad. These initiatives include the Cuba/Florida Covenant and Scholarships for Africa University.

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

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

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Outreach Ministries - 63%; Ethnic Ministries - 21%; Mission Initiatives - 2%; Mission Communications - 4%; Health and Wholeness Ministries - 5%; Volunteer Ministries - 1%; Church Development - 1%; Ministry/ Program Support - 3%.

Total Mission Funding Request for 2000.....\$309,840

ADVANCE MISSION SPECIALS

The Mission Ministry Team recommends the Advance program (SECOND MILE GIVING to missions) as a part of each local church's benevolence budget. The

main lanes of the Advance are: World Division, National Division, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Conference Advance and District Advance.

Conference Advance Mission Specials

1. Alfalit International, Inc. (Florida Programs only)*; 2. Branches Youth Ministry of Florida City; 3. Madison County Outreach Ministry* Tallahassee District; 4. Church in the Community Program, Childs Park UMC, St. Petersburg; 5. Cooperative Parish Ministry and Group Ministries: Greensboro Project (Tallahassee), Gainesville Group Ministry (Gainesville); 6. Ethnic Local Church Concerns; 7. Cuba/Florida Covenant 8. Florida United Methodist Seminole Ministry; 9. Goodwill Industries in Florida; 10. Habitat for Humanity Projects in Florida; 11. Haitian-Hispanic Ministry Fund; 12. Haitian Committee on Ministry; 13. Jim Russo Prison Ministry; 14. Miami District Haitian Ministry Church and Community Worker; 15. Migrant Ministry Projects: Lee County Mission, Inc.; Wahneta Hispanic Migrant Ministry; National Farm Worker Ministry (Florida); Hardee County Hispanic Ministry; Immokalee Neighborhood Service Project; United Child Care Centers, Inc. (Wahneta and Zolfo Day Care Centers); 16. Partners in Mission - Florida Matching Gifts for Ethnic Minority Local Churches and other churches in need of partnership; 17. Refugee Ministries; 18. Riverside House, Miami; 19. Society of St. Andrew; 20. Tampa United Methodist Centers; 21. United Methodist Disaster Response; 22. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM); 23. Urban Ministries: Halifax Urban Ministries (Daytona Beach), Specialized Urban Ministries (Ft. Lauderdale), Action Ministries Plus, Inc. (Jacksonville), Miami Urban Ministries (Miami), United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast (St. Petersburg) and Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc. (West Palm Beach); 24. Wesley Group Home Ministries, Inc.; 25. Wesley House, Key West.

* Alfalit can only raise Conference Advance Special funds for projects within the Florida Conference.

* Change in name from Church and Community Worker

“THE CUBA/FLORIDA COVENANT IS TWO YEARS YOUNG”
Annual Report of the Cuba/Florida Covenant

The Cuba/Florida Covenant is completing two years of vital interchange between the Florida Conference and the Methodist Church in Cuba. As the reality of the covenant sinks in, districts and churches on both sides of the Florida Straits are reaching out with arms and hearts to renewed friendships and mutual ministry. Here are some of the highlights of the past year and what we look forward for the new year.

Pray for Cuba . . . Pray for Florida. Last year the task forces of the Cuba/Florida Covenant in both conferences reaffirmed that prayer is the greatest force in the universe. It was agreed that each conference is to pray with the other on the third Sunday of May, Pentecost Sunday, also known by worldwide Methodists as Aldersgate Sunday. This spring, the Conference Task Force distributed posters and a letter to all Florida churches urging that each congregation set a time for prayer for Cuba on Aldersgate Sunday, May 23. The Cuban churches have done the same on behalf of their Florida sister and brothers. This will be an annual event, as we nurture each other with spiritual resources, prayer, and fasting.

Cuban Methodists Visit Districts: A number of Florida Districts have received Cuban lay leaders and clergy who itinerated in their respective districts. The response from Florida United Methodists is the deep impact the Cubans have on them, as they share their testimonies as Christians who evangelize and build new missions under difficult conditions. Cuban Methodists were present in a number of district rallies and local churches in the fall, as well as in the winter and spring of 1999.

Florida United Methodists Visit Cuban Districts-: Caravans to Cuba by Florida United Methodists filled the calendar from May, 1998 through April, 1999. Florida United Methodists traveled to Cuba in the greatest numbers since the imposition of the Cuban embargo, all by legal means by both governments! All of the 9 districts in Cuba were visited by goodwill Caravans, and two Florida United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Teams. During the months of January through March, 9 caravans representing 12 Florida districts visited 8 Cuban districts during the celebration the Cuban district conferences. All the teams collected valuable information on individual churches for the purpose of setting up the next phase of the Cuba/Florida Covenant. Churches are choosing each other for partnerships and mutual ministry. For example, DeLand/Jacksonville, Melbourne/Orlando, Tallahassee, St. Petersburg, and West Palm Beach districts are negotiating with their partner Cuban districts, Habana/Isla de la Juventud, Holguin-Tunas, Central, Matanzas, and Pinar del Rio, respectively in order to establish church to church partnerships.

Nevertheless, as all districts organize District Cuba/Florida Task Forces, the exercise of the covenant in all of the Cuban and Florida districts will be built from the grass-roots at the pace that each district chooses to manage.

Cuba Missionary Gathering in 40 Years! Most of the US missionaries left Cuba by late 1960. 17 plus their children came back to Havana at the invitation of the Methodist Church during Thanksgiving week, 1998. The Cubans celebrated 100 years of missionary ministry in Cuba! They expressed their profound appreciation for the sacrifice and commitment of their US sisters and brothers, plus the material and spiritual foundation laid upon the island, which was instrumental for the survival and growth of the church in Cuba today. The

missionaries visited their former churches, and relished the fact that their leaving 40 years ago was not in vain, and that indeed the church was stronger and more vital than when they left it. A source of great joy and fulfillment for all.

The Emmaus Walk movement is now planted in Cuba! Walk number 1 took place last October at the Matanzas Seminary, led by the leaders who went through the Emmaus Walk at Leesburg last January, 1998. Plans are being set for the Walk #2 at Camp Canaan, the new assembly being built by the Cuban Church in the central part of the island.

The Hymnals Arrived in Cuba in February: After 3 1/2 years of delays and disappointing leads, and after 3 months and 10 days in a government customs warehouse, the Spanish language hymnals finally arrived into the hands of the Cuban Church. Bishop Gustavo Cruz wrote announcing the arrival of the hymnals:

"We wish to express our appreciation to you our sisters and brothers of the Florida Conference and for your help and sacrifice, support, preoccupation, and generous collaboration and brotherhood with us in regards to the acquisition of the hymnals. We know that these songs and praises will be a great blessing for the Methodist Church in Cuba. It has been over 40 years since we have been able to acquire such a valuable book!"

Over 9,000 copies of hard and softbound hymnals will be distributed across the 120 station churches and their 200 missions. The hardbound hymnals will be used by the clergy and music leaders while the softbounds will serve the membership.

Your Church Can Get Involved: Contact your district office and district Cuba/Florida Task Force to find out how your district is a partner with a district in Cuba. Organize or join a **Caravan to Cuba** and visit your partner district. Sign on an **UMVIM** to Cuba. For more information contact the Conference Mission Office. Your church can **partner** with a church in Cuba. **Host** a Cuban sister and brother Methodist when they visit your district. Medicines and prescription eyeglasses are in great demand, and can be shipped to Cuba under humanitarian means. Find out how your church can collect and distribute these.

Support the Advance for Cuba: Special offerings can be collected through your local church and sent to specific projects in Cuba based on the expressed needs of the Cuban Church. You may find the list of Advance Specials from Cuba on pp. 102-103 of the **Advance Workbook 1999-2000**. Each local church has a copy.

The Continuation of the Covenant— the Covenant is in your hands, Florida Conference. The initiative for ongoing relationships with partner districts and local churches is up to your initiative. The Conference Mission Office and the

Cuba/Covenant Task Force can assist you in making your ministries with Cuba happen, as you are willing and ready. With God's help we will enrich our spiritual lives, and our churches, and our conferences as we continue to build our ministries for Jesus Christ and His Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, Chair
Maylis de la Fe, Secretary
Florida Conference Cuba/Florida Covenant Task Force

EVENTS MINISTRY

Vision Statement: The Events Ministry Team will provide new opportunities to spiritually energize.

Mission Statement: The Events Ministry Team assists the local church by providing spiritually energizing events, rallies and camps.

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

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

In 1998, Events Ministry sponsored Summer Camp, Video in Worship Workshop at the cancelled Discipleship Weekend and held meetings of a Young Adult Task Force. The total number of participants at Camp was 3589 and over 225 adult volunteers. Over 215 scholarships were given for summer camp totaling over \$20,000. In addition, Events Ministry offered administrative/staff support for ministry/programs which may include (but are not limited to) the following: all of the above events, annual conference planning, local church training and resourcing.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Camp – 96%; Young Adult Initiatives – 2%; Administrative – 2%.

Total Events Funding Request for 2000.....\$232,400

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

VISION STATEMENT: The Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns envisions a church that is pluralistic and inclusive in character and witness through faithful obedience to Jesus Christ.

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

The **long-term goal** of ELCC is to nurture racial and cultural diversity in the Florida Conference by strengthening the congregations and ministries of African, Haitian, Hispanic, Korean, and Native-American local churches and missions. The risk is for ethnic churches to lose their identity, and for the larger church to lose the richness of cultural and spiritual diversity as these churches enter the larger church. The purpose of ELCC is to promote diversity without losing Christian unity in worship, celebration, and song. The **medium-term goal** to the year 2004 is to continue to influence the larger church into becoming culturally inclusive, embracing diversity in worship, leadership style, evangelization, and administration in the local church. The **short-term goal** is to continue to train and equip local church laypersons, youth, children, and pastors to provide ministry to children, youth, and adults in their communities. The ministries outlined below are the means to achieving this goal.

In 1998, Ethnic Local Church Concerns provided partial scholarships for 62 youth to attend leadership training events. ELCC funds also enabled many youth to receive music lessons that will enable them to participate more fully in the music/worship program of the church. In addition, partial scholarships allowed 28 children and youth to participate in conference camping programs.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION WORSHIP SERVICE: This is an intentional way for ethnic churches to make a visible and spiritual contribution to the life of the annual conference session.

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

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

MINISTRY & PROGRAM SUPPORT: Covers the cost of the Committee to meet, as well as postage and printing costs.

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

In 1998, Ethnic Local Church Concerns provided partial scholarships for over 100 persons (more than half of them youth) to attend leadership training events. ELCC funds also enabled 30+ youth to receive music lessons, from professional musicians, that would enable them to participate more fully in the music/worship program of the church. In addition, partial scholarships allowed 28 children and youth to participate in conference camping programs.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Annual Conference Worship Service – 4.6%; Training Events/Camp Scholarships – 75.0%; Local Church Grant Supplement – 6.8%; Promotional Publications – 6.8%; Ministry/Program Support – 6.8%.

Total ELCC Funding Request for 2000.....\$22,000

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

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

Short-term goals of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry include: to continue to provide quality evangelistic and discipleship opportunities for the youth of the local church including; retreats, training events and mission opportunities. Another goal is to continue to use current technology to increase the level and the variety of communication among youth and youth workers. A long-term goal is to provide an event in the year 2000 where youth are equipped to be servant leaders in the millennium. This event will also be offered as an opportunity for spiritual growth to the youth of the SEJ. A secondary long-term goal is to improve the credibility of youth workers within the Florida Conference by promoting educational opportunities and dialogue with other professionals in ministry.

In 1998, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries sponsored 5 retreats/workshops with 6225 total participants. In addition, the Conference

Council on Youth Ministries offered administrative/staff support for ministry/programs which may include (but are not limited to) the following: all of the above events, annual conference planning, local church training and resourcing, Forum '98 (a national UM youth worker training event).

RETREATS/WORKSHOPS: Youth Ministry Spring Training, Conference Youth Event, Crosstrainers, Discipleship Weekend, Forum 98.

Approximate percentage breakdown of budget: Retreats/Workshops – 85%; Administration – 15%.

Total CCYM Funding Request for 2000.\$36,500

LEADER DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

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

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

Goals of the Leader Development Ministries include:

Expand Leader Development offerings by creating a team of consultants able to offer new workshops and broader coverage to local churches and districts.

Conference-wide Leader Development event to highlight key issues, build enthusiasm, and train leaders. Conversations are underway with Leadership Training Network, Net Results, and INJOY to come to Florida for an event in 2000.

Expanded number of workshops to help churches see new methods of ministry, discern God's vision for their work, and organize effectively for the 21st century. Based on works by Tom Bandy and others.

Expanded number of workshops in personal development as a leader, including *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers*, and 12 other workshops based on material from Stephen Covey.

Expanded number of workshops in individual leadership skills such as listening, small group leadership, leading change, claiming leadership, and team building.

Increased use of workshops based on the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator to address areas of leadership effectiveness, communication, prayer and spirituality, and effective congregational work.

Local church consultations, staff training, team building.

Percentage breakdown of budget: Workshops/Training Events - 63.4%; Ministry Support – 28.8%; Equipment/Capital Expenses – 7.8%

Total Leader Development Funding Request for 2000\$10,250

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

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

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

Scriptural Basis: Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life..." John 14:6a

Ongoing goals of Spiritual Formation Ministries include:

Facilitating workshops, retreats and seminars working directly with local congregations, districts and groups, and Train the Trainer events.

Sponsoring *The Christ Path* - A Two-Year Covenant Forum for Spiritual Formation.

Offer retreats featuring outside Spiritual Formation leaders.

Planning toward the *2000 New Year's Eve Celebration* at Leesburg

Initiate *Making Disciples*: Christian Initiation Process for Congregations training events.

Coordinate Prayer Ministries at Annual Conference and sponsor portable Prayer Labyrinth for congregations.

Continue the shoe ministry for needy children, retreat scholarship help and books/resources.

Bring Web Ministries to seekers and Web seminars for congregational training: www.spiritworks.com.

Research and development of new resources including www.firstchurchoftheweb.org.

Continue to build and support a network of Spiritual Formation consultants and resource people to work directly with local congregations.

In 1998 Spiritual Formation Ministries facilitated with local congregations, districts (including District Training Events) and groups 74 workshop/seminar/retreat days in local churches, 10 district events and 83 consultations. (These statistics do not reflect the events facilitated by Spiritual Formation Consultants who work directly with congregations.) Scholarships for retreats were awarded to enrich individuals and faith communities and books were supplied to participants needing financial assistance. In 1998 Rev. Brown preached in numerous congregations in the Florida Conference and traveled over 15,000 miles in 11 districts for the Florida Conference Council on Ministries Office of Spiritual Formation.

Ministries supported by Spiritual Formation Ministries include (but are not limited to) the following: *An Adventure in Healing and Wholeness* training weekends; *Making Disciples* Training, A Christian Initiation Process for Congregations; *Heart to Heart*, A Spiritual Journey for Women; HIV & AIDS Healing Ministries, *Learning to Lead From Your Spiritual Center* Seminars, *SpiritGifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts* training Retreats and Seminars; Spiritual Disciplines for Life Retreats; Twelve Paths to Prayer Retreats; Walking the Prayer Labyrinth; and Write Your Life & Right Your Life Retreats.

Total Spiritual Formation Funding Request for 2000\$45,000

CAMP FACILITIES MINISTRY

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

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

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

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

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

Total Camp Facilities Funding Request for 2000\$143,000

COMMUNICATIONS/RESOURCE CENTER

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

Short-term Goals: Continue to implement existing initiatives, such as "The Florida United Methodist Review" and teleconferencing ministry, while gathering information needed to evaluate the communications effort and develop new initiatives.

Mid-term Goals:

- Conduct a conference-wide communications audit to identify communications issues within the local church, needs of local church communicators, general church issues about which more effective communications to the local church is needed, and other information that will drive future communications initiatives. Research will help identify such things as the development of new communications pieces targeted specifically toward church members.
- Participate in existing training opportunities and events, such as the Discipleship Weekend and Annual Conference Event, to provide communication tips and resources.
- Redevelop "The Florida United Methodist Review."
- Provide basic communication information through print and electronic media, such as the Internet.
- Begin coordinating communications-specific training sessions and workshops and conducting communications consultations on an individual church basis.
- Develop communications pieces targeted toward non-leadership laity, featuring conference news and information on denomination- and conference-wide initiatives.
- Assist with the redevelopment and refinement of the Florida Conference web site.

- Produce materials to explain resources available to local churches through the Conference Council on Ministries

Long-term Goals:

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

1998 Accomplishments:

- Hired a communications coordinator as assistant editor to the conference-wide newspaper and to assist with overall communications initiatives.
- Produced 24 issues of "The Florida United Methodist Review."
- Surveyed "Review" readership to gain input for further development of the publication, achieving a 3.5 percent response rate.
- Began developing training materials and tools to help churches enhance their communications initiatives.
- Began offering communications consultations to local churches.
- Began coordination of a conference-wide communications audit from which all future communications initiatives will stem.
- Assisted with the 1998 Carry the Light Florida Annual Conference Event (produced print materials, assisted with audiovisuals, coordinated video spots, secured media coverage).
- Served on the Operation Evangelization (OP) task force to offer general communications assistance and produced a video featuring local churches and their effective models of evangelism. It was distributed with the Bishop's Fishing Guide to Florida to each lay delegate at the 1998 annual conference event.
- Assisted the conference's Council of Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty task force by offering general communications support and developing materials to promote the initiative and Regional Gatherings.
- Served on the program committee for the 1999 annual conference event to begin coordinating the event and developing theming and logo applications.

- Served on the Task Force for Annual Conference 2000 and helped develop a proposal to redesign and revamp the event.
- Offered teleconferencing services to local churches and served as a host site for United Methodist Communications' Dancing on the Web teleconference.
- Began redeveloping the conference web site, including redesign and evaluation of information, to make the site an effective resource to local churches and the community.
- Served as a member of United Methodist Communications' (UMCom) Program on Giving Advisory Committee to assist UMCom with its initiative to increase giving within the local church.
- Helped coordinate the Southeastern Jurisdiction Fellowship of Communicators and United Methodist Association of Communicators annual meetings in Orlando.

2000 Initiatives: Initiatives of Florida United Methodist Communications may include (but are not limited to) the following:

STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION: Produce the revamped "Florida United Methodist Review;" develop communications pieces targeted toward non-leadership laity distributed directly to laity and through existing communications vehicles; continue to enhance the conference web site by regularly updating the design and information provided (funding to come from Conference Council on Ministries overall budget), create communications tools that educate laity about denomination- and conference-wide initiatives; such as how their monetary gifts are used. (84%)

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH: Provide communications workshops at existing training events, coordinate communications-specific workshops, conduct communications consultations at local churches, develop a communications audit tool local churches can use to evaluate their communications efforts, produce communications pieces offering basic communications tips, begin developing curriculum that may be taught by a team of workshop leaders, develop communications materials that inform churches of the resources available through the Conference Council on Ministries, have an active presence at the annual conference event through a communications display. (10%)

POSITIONING THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY: Support United Methodist Communications' (UMCom) nationwide media campaign to place television spots across the country (funding to come from a variety of sources, such as UMCom grants and conference-wide support), renew subscription for statewide media lists and distribute releases on conference issues/events as they arise, continue to develop and maintain the conference's Internet presence (funding to come from overall Conference Council on Ministries budget). (1%)

MINISTRY/PROGRAM SUPPORT: General photography, travel, training

opportunities, costs related to evaluation of communications initiatives (surveys, focus groups, etc.), communications stationery/business cards, communications team meeting costs. (5%)

Funding Request for 2000\$123,000

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST RESOURCE CENTER

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

Short-term Goals: Continue to update the center's collection of video resources and promote the center's service to local church pastors and church leadership through the Internet and regular mailings.

Mid-term Goals:

- Develop promotional materials to advertise the resources available through the center.
- Purge outdated resources from the existing collection.
- Investigate options for program software to update the center's process of cataloguing materials, loaning resources to churches, invoicing, etc.
- Begin to develop plans for the redesign of the center's physical arrangements.
- Reorganize and reclassify materials for easier access.
- Develop a logo specific to the Resource Center to begin defining its own identity.
- Review loan policies and costs.

Long-term Goals:

- Offer a variety of resources in addition to videos, such as books, training materials and books on tape.
- Renovate the center's space to allow for better display and organization of resources.

1998 Accomplishments:

- Helped conference churches purchase a license from the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation at a discounted rate.
- Recruited an advisory team to assist with development of the center.
- Developed a mission statement for the center.
- Produced a resource selection policy to evaluate materials considered for inclusion in the collection.
- Purchased additional resources.
- Began providing periodic announcements and updates concerning video resources available through the center on the conference web site.

- Included information about the center in the regular Discipleship mailing to local churches.
- Prepared materials to promote the center at the canceled Discipleship Weekend.

2000 Initiatives: Initiatives of Florida United Methodist Resource Center may include (but are not limited to) the following:

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH: Purchase video and non-video resources for inclusion in the center's collection, develop a more cost-effective method of supplying churches with a list of available resources (for example: on disk or on-line as opposed to a print catalog). (58%)

PROMOTION OF THE CENTER: Develop communications tools to promote the center. (14%)

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT : Reorganize resources and renovate facility to upgrade center's effectiveness as a resource to the local church. (14%)

MINISTRY/PROGRAM SUPPORT: Travel, training opportunities, costs related to evaluation of Resource Center resources, stationery/business cards, advisory team meeting costs. (14%)

Funding Request for 2000 *\$7,000

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

Total Communications Funding Request for 2000\$130,000

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES OPERATING BUDGET

	1998 Budget	1998 Expended	1999 Budget	2000 Proposed
Central Services:				
Income	-65,000	-87,437	-70,000	*0
Expenses	108,955	135,063	110,000	*0
TOTAL CENTRAL SERVICES	43,955	47,625	40,000	*0
CCOM Expenses:				
Staff Travel	35,000	36,848	37,000	37,000
Vehicle Maintenance	3,000	3,908	3,000	0
Workers Compensation	5,500	4,700	5,500	6,000
Annual Conference Presentation	3,000	0	3,000	**0

CCOM Meetings	7,000	5,258	6,000	5,000
CCOM Printing, Postage, Supplies	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,147</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL CCOM EXPENSES	56,500	52,861	57,000	49,000

STAFF COMPENSATION & BENEFITS 726,975 595,134 750,255 ***806,260

TOTAL CCOM OPERATING BUDGET 827,430 695,620 847,255 855,260

*Transferred to Print Shop Budget and Building Services Budget.

**This will be covered through Contingency Reserve.

***Includes funding for one additional support staff.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES BUDGET SUMMARY

	1998	1998	1999	2000
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Discipleship Ministry	37,000	16,891	36,000	32,000
Church and Society Ministry	49,140	32,818	57,140	54,140
Mission Ministry	272,440	238,732	274,860	309,840
Events Ministry	220,300	231,973	226,000	232,400
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	18,500	11,856	18,500	22,000
Youth Ministries	39,000	12,965	39,000	36,500
Leader Development Ministries	16,450	11,508	16,000	10,250
Spiritual Formation Ministries	16,950	12,692	29,550	45,000
Camp Facilities Ministry	138,000	158,299	143,000	143,000
Communications Ministry	95,000	63,632	125,000	130,000
Planning and Research Task Force	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>00</u>
Total Ministry Budget	905,780	791,366	965,050	1,015,130
CCOM Operating Budget	827,430	695,620	847,255	855,260
Contingency Reserve	<u>50,000</u>	<u>28,296</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Total CCOM Operating/Admin Budget	877,430	723,916	907,255	915,260
TOTAL	1,783,210	1,515,282	1,872,305	1,930,390

**This will be covered through the CCOM Contingency Reserve.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1

It is recommended that the 2000 salary of each District Superintendent be set at \$70,968, which is an increase of 3.1% (\$2,200) above the 1999 salary. This percentage increase is equal to the percentage by which the 2000 conference average compensation increased over the 1999 conference average compensation.

It is further recommended that each District Superintendent be reimbursed for in-district travel at the IRS allowable rate (1999 – 31 cents per mile) and that the estimated amount necessary to cover that cost (\$142,800) be budgeted in the Conference Service and Administration Fund. This includes the cost of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in district and out of district and for cabinet purposes.

Recommendation No. 2

It is recommended that mileage allowances for all person traveling by automobile for Conference meetings be set at the IRS allowable rate, 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, in consultation with the Conference Treasurer, shall have authority to adjust these amounts. In order 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 who are authorized to represent the Conference in meetings beyond Conference bounds, in an official capacity, may be reimbursed for actual expenses. Prior approval for such representation must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer by the group electing or selecting such person, with designation of the fund from which payment is to be made. In keeping with the spirit of good stewardship, expenses should be kept to a minimum.

Appreciation is expressed to those involved in conference business who pay all or part of the expenses they incur in the interest of reducing conference expenses.

Conference groups are encouraged to meet only when necessary business is to be accomplished and, to further reduce expenses, meet when people in

conjunction with other Conference events that members of the group may also be attending.

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 1980 Conference Journal, page 331.

Recommendation No. 5

It is recommended that the Fair Share formula be used to determine the apportionment of all funds except the Minister's Reserve Pension Fund and Comprehensive Protection Plan (MRPF/CPP). The total of the apportionments to the local churches of a district will be the district apportionment. The district is responsible for the distribution of the apportionments in that amount making where necessary adjustments among the churches of the district in order to achieve 100% payment of the apportioned total in each fund. Local churches are urged to pay apportioned amounts in full and on a timely basis. It is recommended that the apportioned funds be paid on a ten-month basis. The Fair Share formula is based on the following items reported in the statistical tables compiled by the Conference Statistician:

- Column 43/48 Pastor/Associate Salary
- Column 38..... Diaconal Ministers Compensation
- Column 39 Staff Compensation
- Column 37 Current Expenses for Program
- Column 40 Current Operating Expenses

The total of those six columns for each local church is divided by the Conference total of those columns to determine each local church's "decimal". That "decimal" is then multiplied by the total of each apportioned fund to determine each local church's fair share of each fund.

Recommendation No. 6

It is recommended that the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund and Comprehensive Protection Plan (MRPF/CPP) be apportioned to each church separate from the other apportionments, using a percentage formula based on each pastor and associate pastor's salary set for each year.

Because the total amount required for the MRPF/CPP for 2000 is approximately sixty percent (60%) of the amount which would be generated by use of the present chart, it is recommended that the MRPF/CPP apportionment to each local church be sixty percent (60%) of the amount which would result from the use of the present chart which became effective in 1993.

For those pastors and associate pastors appointed during the year, payment on the MRPF/PPP begins on the effective date of the appointment, is computed on the annual salary level and is prorated for the months of service during the fiscal year. A similar adjustment is made if pastoral appointments are changed during the year with an accompanying change in salary or if a position is discontinued during the year.

Recommendation No. 7

All groups which receive funds through the Conference Service and Administration Fund budget shall meet to prepare their budget requests and submit those budget requests to the Conference Treasurer prior to February 1 of each year unless an exception is made by the executive committee of the Council on Finance and Administration. Groups which have designated or other funds available to them shall provide that information when submitting their budget requests.

Each group's budget shall include an explanation of each line item and justification for the amounts requested. The proposed budget must show the signature of the chairperson or secretary of the group and the date of the group's budget planning meeting. All budget requests shall be consistent with the Conference Standing Rule (VI.D) pertaining to the zero-based budgeting.

The Conference Council on Ministries and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry shall submit their annual budget proposals to the Council on Finance and Administration for inclusion in the Conference Benevolence Fund.

Recommendation No. 8

Any expenditure of funds shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Discipline and the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference. No groups shall obligate Conference funds in excess of the anticipated income for its budget. Amendments to a budget to accommodate pressing needs must be proposed to the Council on Finance and Administration for consideration within the context of available funds and other Conference priorities. See particularly Standing Rule VI.C and IX.E.

Recommendation No. 9

It is recommended that the Christian Education Sunday offering be designated for the work of Christian Education in the District and the District Council on Ministries or comparable agency administer the funds raised in each district.

Recommendation No. 10

It is recommended that, as approved by the Annual Conference in 1999, the Council on Finance and Administration be instructed to include an amount of \$100,000 as a Debt Service line item in each annual budget of the Conference Service and Administration Fund to be applied toward payment of the renovation

costs of the Barnett Lodge. The amount to be transferred each year shall be based on the percentage of the total Conference Service and Administration Fund apportionment received from the local churches of the conference.

Morgan Wright, President
Council on Finance and Administration

Recommendation No. 4

The following is recommended as the budget of The Florida Annual Conference for 2000:

	1998 Expended	1998 Budgeted	1999 Budgeted	2000 Recom- mended	% Increase or Decrease
A. World Service	2,102,461	2,474,212	2,516,228	2,579,863	3%
B. Conference Benevolences					
1. Council on Ministries					
Ministry Teams:					
Discipleship	16,891	37,000	36,000	32,000	-11%
Church & Society	32,818	49,140	57,140	54,140	-5%
Missions	238,732	272,440	274,860	309,840	13%
Events	231,973	220,300	226,000	232,400	3%
Subtotal - Ministry Teams	520,414	578,880	594,000	628,380	6%
Committees:					
Camp Facilities Ministries	158,299	138,000	143,000	143,000	0%
Communications Ministries	63,631	95,000	125,000	130,000	4%
Council on Youth Ministry	12,966	39,000	39,000	36,500	-6%
Ethnic Local					
Church Concerns	11,857	18,500	18,500	22,000	19%
Personnel Committee					
Planning & Research Task Force	0	3,000		0	0%
Leader Development					
Ministries	11,508	16,450	16,000	10,250	-36%
Spiritual Formation Ministries	12,691	16,950	29,550	45,000	52%
Subtotal - Committee	270,952	326,900	371,050	386,750	4%
Total Ministry Budget	791,366	905,780	965,050	1,015,130	5%
CCOM Operating Budget	695,620	827,430	847,255	855,260	1%
Contingency Reserve	28,297	50,000	60,000	60,000	0%
Total - Council on Ministries	1,515,283	1,783,210	1,872,305	1,930,390	3%
2. Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry					
Campus Ministry	576,958	679,013	770,244	778,718	1%
Colleges	367,500	525,000	531,000	537,000	1%
Resource Development	21,080	52,500	20,000	20,000	0%
Salaries and Benefits	50,640	63,000	56,000	63,000	13%
Emergency Maintenance	93,172	126,000	126,000	130,000	3%
Property Acquisition	45,740	45,000	16,000	16,000	0%
Administration	9,502	12,600	12,600	13,000	3%

Total - Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	1,164,592	1,503,113	1,531,844	1,557,718	2%
Total - Conference Benevolences	2,679,875	3,286,323	3,404,149	3,488,108	2%
Total - World Service and Conference Benevolences	4,782,336	5,760,535	5,920,377	6,067,971	2%

Receipts on the World Service and Conference Benevolences apportionment during 2000 will be allocated as follows:

World Service	42.51607%
Conference Benevolences	
Council on Ministries	31.81278%
Higher Education and Campus Ministries	<u>25.67115%</u> <u>57.48393%</u>
	<u>Total 100.00000%</u>

Conference Service and Administration Fund

	1998 Expended	1998 Budgeted	1999 Budgeted	2000 Recom- mended	% Increase or Decrease
A. Administration					
1. Area Administration					
Receipts from GCFA			(3,300)	(3,300)	0%
Bishop's Contingency	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	0%
Committee on Episcopacy	709	600	600	600	0%
Episcopal Spouse Travel	3,748	4,000	4,000	4,000	0%
Bishop's Administrative Assistant					
Salaries	92,185	93,202	93,893	105,884	13%
Parsonage Utilities & Telephone	3,347	3,000	3,200	3,200	0%
Employee Benefits	22,604	23,275	23,107	25,137	9%
Staff Travel (Reimbursable Account)					
Office Equipment	1,152	5,000	3,800	3,800	0%
Office Supplies	1,594	3,000	4,000		-100%
Office Utilities	1,405	2,500	2,000		-100%
Postage	1,468	1,200	1,000	5,000	0%
Duplicating	577	1,000	700	1,000	43%
Telephone	907	3,000	1,600	800	-50%
Miscellaneous	2,888	1,823	3,000	3,000	0%
	<u>132,584</u>	<u>143,100</u>	<u>144,100</u>	<u>151,621</u>	<u>5%</u>
2. Episcopal Residence					
Receipts from GCFA	(10,385)	(10,385)	(10,385)	(19,000)	83%
Utilities, Telephone & Security	5,014	4,200	4,200	5,500	31%
Furnishings, Repairs and Contingency	3,669	6,000	7,000	10,000	43%
Pest Control and Lawn Care	3,863	4,800	3,300	4,300	30%
Insurance	0	500	500	500	0%
Subtotal - Episcopal Residence	<u>2,161</u>	<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,615</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>-72%</u>
3. Annual Conference Expenses					
Conference Journal Sales	(1,974)	(3,000)	(3,000)	(2,000)	-33%
Secretary - Expenses	3,416	3,714	1,800	1,800	0%

Secretary - Honorarium	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	17%
Conference Journal	42,195	36,000	36,500	45,000	23%
Conference Workbook	14,204	13,286	13,500	14,500	7%
Subtotal - Annual Conference Expenses	<u>60,841</u>	<u>53,000</u>	<u>51,800</u>	<u>62,800</u>	21%
4. Annual Conference Sessions					
Miscellaneous Income	(1,296)	(500)	(500)	0	-100%
BBQ Income	(6,965)			15,000	
Room Supplement	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0%
Concert	31,935				
Programming/Leadership	4,386	3,500	12,000	12,000	0%
Printing	13,407	7,000	7,500	14,000	87%
Postage, Supplies, Copies	0	1,000	2,000	2,000	0%
Committee Meetings and Hospitality	6,435	500	800	6,000	650%
Child Care	289	500	500	500	0%
Contingency	11,762	2,250	2,250	3,000	33%
BBQ Expenses	17,147			20,000	
Auditorium Rental	22,552	15,130	17,404	21,750	25%
Sound and light				25,000	
TV Video	10,300	7,000	16,000	12,000	-25%
Subtotal - Annual Conference Sessions	<u>113,952</u>	<u>41,380</u>	<u>62,954</u>	<u>136,250</u>	116%
5. Administrative Committees					
Delegation Expenses	6,441	7,500	7,500	7,500	0%
Legal Advisory			2,740	2,600	-5%
Election Procedures			4,000	4,000	0
Nominations	1,569	850	1,200	1,600	33%
Standing Rules	126	400	400	400	0%
Subtotal - Administrative Committees	<u>8,136</u>	<u>8,750</u>	<u>15,840</u>	<u>16,100</u>	2%
6. Board of Lay Ministry					
District Lay Ministries Fund	3,760	4,000	5,000	5,000	0%
Board Work Fund	94	1,100	1,000	0	-100%
SEJ Conference Lay Leader Dues	75	75	75	75	0%
Conference Lay Leader	1,503	3,500	3,500	3,500	0%
Board Secretary		300	300	0	-100%
Lay Speaking	392	1,500	2,000	2,000	0%
Lay Renewal	630	900	2,500	2,500	0%
Lay Leaders/Clergy Workshop		2,000	2,000	2,000	0%
Board Meetings	1,944	5,000	5,000	5,000	0%
Annual Conference Expense			1,000	1,000	0%
Subtotal - Board of Lay Ministry	<u>8,398</u>	<u>18,375</u>	<u>22,375</u>	<u>21,075</u>	-6%
7. Building Operations and Service					
Income	(9,625)	(10,500)	(10,500)	0	-100%
Salaries	32,223	33,500	42,100	0	-100%
Employee Benefits	8,889	7,550	14,384	0	-100%
Telephone	97,684	55,000	90,000	0	-100%
Utilities	42,119	40,000	45,000	0	-100%
Auto Expense	1,884	2,000	1,500	0	-100%
Janitorial Services	7,370			0	*100%

Janitorial Supplies	4,874	3,500	4,000	0	-100%
Hospitality Supplies	271	3,000	4,000	0	-100%
Subtotal - Building Operations and Service	<u>185,689</u>	<u>134,050</u>	<u>190,484</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-100%</u>
8. General Services					
Salaries	55,738	54,600	63,000	0	-100%
Employee Benefits	18,907	18,450	19,655	0	-100%
Mail Room Equipment and Supplies	5,406	5,500	6,500	0	-100%
Subtotal - General Services	<u>80,051</u>	<u>78,550</u>	<u>89,155</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-100%</u>
9. Data Processing Services					
Received from Conference Reserve	(150,000)			0	0%
Salaries	21,057	12,800	63,000	0	-100%
Employee Benefits	4,705	2,640	16,645	0	-100%
Supplies, Maintenance, Etc.	38,592	14,000	14,700	0	-100%
Equipment Upgrade	118,683	12,500	13,125	0	-100%
Subtotal - Data Processing Services	<u>33,037</u>	<u>41,940</u>	<u>107,470</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-100%</u>
10. Building and Office Services					
Income					
Salaries				58,500	0%
Employee Benefits				14,625	0%
Telephone				110,000	0%
a - basic					
b - data services					
c - 800 services					
Computer System Maintenance				60,000	0%
Computer System Upgrades/Expansion				20,000	0%
Janitorial Services				32,400	0%
Janitorial Supplies				5,000	0%
Hospitality Supplies				3,000	0%
Mail Room Equipment & Supplies				5,500	0%
Office Supplies & Equipment				85,000	0%
Total - Building and Office Services				<u>394,025</u>	0%
11. Board of Trustees					
Property Maintenance					
United Methodist Building	31,400	55,000	100,000	176,500	77%
Episcopal Area Office	9,043	6,000	6,000	10,000	67%
Parsonages - Lakeland	17,312	25,000	25,000	25,000	0%
Custodian's House	967	6,000	6,000	6,000	0%
Insurance	30,474	100,000	125,000	40,000	-68%
Property Taxes	1,303			0	0
Administration/Board Expense	1,920	3,000	3,000	2,500	-17%
Maintenance Reserve	25,764	30,000	30,000	30,000	0%
Subtotal - Board of Trustees	<u>118,183</u>	<u>225,000</u>	<u>295,000</u>	<u>290,000</u>	<u>-2%</u>
12. Area Episcopal Office Operating Expenses					
Receivable from GCFA	(3,300)	(3,300)			N/A
Supplies and Equipment (Office Operations)	0	700			N/A
Utilities	6,247	6,000			N/A

Subtotal - Area Episcopal Office Operating Expenses

2,947 3,400

13. Ordained Ministry - Administration

Receipt from Operating Fund	(1,800)			0	
Salaries	112,980	113,600	120,421	123,000	2%
Employee Benefits	31,036	34,980	37,079	38,100	3%
Moving Expenses	1,151			0	
Staff Travel	2,516	3,000	3,500	5,000	43%
Office Equipment	2,585	3,000	3,000	1,300	-57%

Subtotal - Ordained Ministry - Administration

148,468 154,580 164,000 167,400 2%

14. Ordained Ministry - Program

Psychological Consultant	8,025	3,500	7,000	4,500	-36%
Psychological Guidance	1,425	7,000	6,000	8,000	33%
Psychometrist	9,400	7,000	8,000	6,000	-25%
Ordination/Consecration (Conference Dinner)					
	2,805	2,700	2,700	3,000	11%
Campus Visitation	4,877	7,500	7,500	7,500	0%
Scholarships	300	500	1,000	500	-50%
Meetings and Expense	29,725	26,300	26,300	28,000	6%
SEJ Meetings (Training)	3,834	4,700	4,700	5,000	6%
Vocational Exploration	1,220	1,500	1,500	1,500	0%
Office Expense and Contingency	5,694	6,000	8,000	8,000	0%

Subtotal - Ordained Ministry - Program

67,305 66,700 72,700 72,000 -1%

15. Board of Pensions

Meetings	14,412	12,000	14,000	16,000	14%
D/P Programming	650				0%
Retirement Workshop	272	2,000	2,000	2,000	0%

Subtotal - Board of Pensions

15,334 14,000 16,000 18,000 13%

16. Council on Finance and Administration

Management Fee			85,330	90,000	5%
Salaries	168,312	165,342	124,950	157,756	26%
Employee Benefits	46,696	43,090	37,043	46,140	25%
Equipment, Supplies, Postage, Printing, Telephone, Miscellaneous	22,503	26,568	28,100	0	-100%
Audit	37,199	35,000	36,000	41,000	14%
Meetings and Travel	7,127	9,500	7,000	8,000	14%
Computer Upgrade	12,706	10,000	10,500	0	-100%
Data Processing	15,438	20,000		0	0%

Subtotal - Council on Finance and Administration

309,981 309,500 328,923 342,896 4%

17. Counseling Network

FICA				525	0%
Coordinator and Professional Evaluation Fees					
	6,709	6,968	7,495	7,500	0%
Counselor Background Checks	510	1,400	1,400	1,000	-29%
Newsletter and Public Relations	1,529	1,900	2,200	2,500	14%
Office and Committee Expenses	1,379	2,900	3,200	4,400	38%
Continuing Education Event	1,400	2,000	2,000	2,400	20%

Counseling Network Subsidy	4,080	10,000	10,000	10,000	0%
Subtotal - Counseling Network	<u>15,607</u>	<u>25,168</u>	<u>26,295</u>	<u>28,325</u>	8%

18. Planned Giving

Continuing Education					
Staff Travel	4,200	6,000		0	0%
Printing/Supplies	1,050	1,500		0	0%
Legal Services	1,680	2,400		0	0%
Tax Service	350	350		0	0%
Software	<u>2,375</u>	<u>2,375</u>		0	0%
Subtotal - Planned Giving	<u>9,655</u>	<u>12,625</u>		0	0%

Total – Administration	<u>1,312,329</u>	<u>1,335,233</u>	<u>1,591,711</u>	<u>1,307,767</u>	-18%
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19. Operational Evangelization

Income				(25,000)	0%
Salary and Benefits				<u>95,000</u>	0%
Reimbursable Account				48,000	0%
Total - Operation Evangelization				<u>118,000</u>	0%

Ministerial Support

1. District Superintendents

Salaries	994,713	954,828	962,752	993,552	3%
Pension	147,648	143,220	144,413	158,969	10%
Travel Reimbursement	34,674	58,000	58,000	142,800	146%
Cabinet Meetings	38,618	20,000	30,000	0	-100%
Cabinet Expenses	<u>2,647</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	-50%
Subtotal - Ministerial Support	<u>1,218,300</u>	<u>1,181,048</u>	<u>1,205,165</u>	<u>1,300,321</u>	8%

2. Equitable Compensation Fund	300,767	425,000	425,000	425,000	0%
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3. Sustentation Fund	21,470	25,000	25,000	25,000	0%
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Total - Ministerial Support	1,540,537	1,631,048	1,655,165	1,750,321	6%
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Commissions

1. Archives and History

Archivist	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	20%
Meetings, Travel, Office Expenses, Dues, Etc.	2,634	3,300	4,300	3,800	-12%
Archival Supplies	591	1,000	1,000	1,000	0%
Publications	312	200	200	200	0%
Subtotal - Archives and History	8,537	9,500	10,500	11,000	5%

2. Religion and Race

SEJ Training			500	2,600	420%
Travels-Conferences, Meetings, etc.				2,000	0%
Monitoring			500	400	-20%
Inclusiveness Workshop			1,500	0	-100%
UN/Washington Seminar			500	0	-100%
Administration	<u>4,021</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>0</u>	-100%
Subtotal - Religion and Race	<u>4,021</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>	11%

3. Status and Role of Women

COSROW Corner/Luncheon	0	500	500	500	0%
Conference Training and Planning	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	0%

Publications and Mailings	0	360	360	360	0%
Administration	0	500	500	500	0%
Subtotal - Status and Role of Women	0	<u>3,860</u>	<u>3,860</u>	<u>3,860</u>	0%
Total - Commissions	<u>12,558</u>	<u>14,860</u>	<u>18,860</u>	<u>19,860</u>	5%
Health Insurance Supplement	2,050,705	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,300,000	5%
Contingency	28,179	80,000	80,000	80,000	0%
Operating Income Short-Fall	0	500,000	240,405	328,193	37%
Subtotal - Conf Service and Administration Fund	<u>4,944,308</u>	<u>5,761,141</u>	<u>5,786,141</u>	<u>5,786,141</u>	0%
Debt Service*			100,000	100,000	0%
Total - Conf Service and Administration Fund	<u>4,944,308</u>	<u>5,761,141</u>	<u>5,886,141</u>	<u>5,886,141</u>	0%

* The 1994 Annual Conference voted to proceed with the renovation of the Barnett Lodge at the Methodist Camp in Leesburg even though receipts from the Claim the Flame financial campaign were not sufficient at that time to cover the costs. In 1997, the Council on Finance and Administration, the Council on Ministries and the Cabinet jointly recommended that the Council on Finance and Administration be instructed to include an amount of \$100,000 as a Debt Service line item in each annual budget of the Conference Service and Administration Fund to be applied toward payment of the renovation costs of the Barnett Lodge. The amount to be transferred each year shall be based on the percentage of the total Conference Service and Administration Fund apportionment received from the local churches of the Conference.

Total Budget Summary					
	1998	1998	1999	2000	increase
	expended	budgeted	budgeted	recommended	decrease
Connectional Funds					
General Church Funds					
World Service	2,102,461	2,474,212	2,516,228	2,579,863	3%
General Administration	152,364	178,369	184,275	192,158	4%
Episcopal	423,922	461,288	485,066	502,889	4%
Interdenominational Cooperation	50,417	63,012	64,301	66,215	3%
Ministerial Education	860,532	1,063,000	1,103,879	1,151,683	4%
Black College	351,065	425,873	433,366	444,481	3%
Africa University	89,859	98,765	98,924	99,481	1%
Missional Initiatives	40,339	47,012	47,088	47,353	1%
Subtotal – General Church Funds	4,070,959	4,811,531	4,933,127	5,084,123	3%
Jurisdictional Funds					
Jurisdictional Administration	186,837	230,995	230,995	230,995	0%

Total Connectional Funds	4,257,796	5,042,526	5,164,122	5,315,118	3%
Conference Funds					
Conference Benevolences					
Council on Ministries	1,515,283	1,783,210	1,872,305	1,930,390	3%
Higher Ed/Campus Ministries	1,277,270	1,503,113	1,531,844	1,557,718	2%
Conference Service & Admin.	4,947,444	5,761,141	5,861,141	5,886,141	0%
New Church Starts	474,630	552,758	519,227	675,813	30%
Total Conference Benevolences	8,214,627	9,600,222	9,784,517	10,050,062	3%
Total Funds Apportioned on the "Fair Share" Formula (Connectional Plus Benevolences)	12,472,424	14,642,748	14,948,639	15,365,180	3%
Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund					
Comprehensive Protection Plan					
Annual Past Service Deposit	136,014	1136,014	92,014	56,014	-39%
Comprehensive Protection Plan	977,915	980,000	1,029,000	1,062,000	3%
Basic Protection Plan	53,765	50,000	55,000	58,000	5%
Pension Support Fund - MPP	45,264	50,000	50,000	50,000	0%
Special Needs	21,685	60,000	50,000	50,000	0%
Subtotal – MRPF & CPP	1,234,643	1,276,014	1,276,014	1,276,014	0%
Grand Total	13,707,067	15,918,762	16,224,653	16,641,194	3%

**REPORTS: CONFERENCE BOARDS, AGENCIES,
COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History has worked during the past year with the Board of Trustees, the Heritage Center Committee, and the architect on plans for the **Florida United Methodist Heritage Center**. Solicitation of funds is underway for the new facility, to be constructed in Lakeland between the United Methodist Building and the Episcopal Office. We look forward to the day when we will be able to house our archives collection in a suitable environment. In the

meantime, a commercial storage facility has been rented to house materials for which there is no longer room in our present location.

The **Archives** received twenty-five gifts during 1998, including the following: an antique kneeling bench and a Mexican icon willed to the Archives by Charles Penney; Exhorter's License (1883) and License to Preach (1884) for Alexander Gibbons, from Durward McDonell's family; district scrapbooks compiled in 1950 containing pictures of all the churches in the districts and bound volumes of Together magazine (1956-1973) and New World Outlook (1970-1997), from Florida Southern College; bookends made from the old stair rail of Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska that belonged to Eulalie Ginn; a set of general agency histories compiled by the General Commission on Archives and History; and twenty-four local church histories.

In the past year the Archives has answered more than one hundred twenty requests from individuals seeking baptismal records and genealogical information and from churches seeking the names and photographs of ministers who served the church, as well as other historical information.

Biographical files for clergy and prominent lay people in the conference, past and present, have been set up. The commission is establishing a collections policy for the Archives.

We continue our **training of local church historians**, both at District Training Events and at special workshops arranged by our district coordinators. "Memory and Ministry: Caring for Your Church's Heritage," a video produced by the General Commission on Archives and History, is used in the training. The video is also available for local churches and other organizations interested in managing and preserving their records.

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

The **archivist** attended two preservation workshops sponsored by the Southeastern Library Network, as well as a two-day archival workshop at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. She also served as a member of the planning committee for the United Methodist Annual Conferences Archives Survey.

The **Florida Conference Historical Society** held its eighth annual banquet during the 1998 Annual Conference. Mrs. Evelyn Willis presented "The History of the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp," reminiscences of the years she spent at camp with Warren. A newsletter, "Places in Time," edited by Joe Sigler of Trinity Church in Tallahassee, reported on the program. This year's dinner will

highlight the Methodist Protestant Church in Florida. Everyone interested in the heritage of Florida Methodism is encouraged to become a member of the society.

At the 1999 session of the Annual Conference special **seventieth-anniversary recognition** will be accorded Milton H. Wyatt, who was ordained in 1929.

Members of the conference who are celebrating the **twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries** of their ordinations will also be recognized:

Ordained in 1949

Richard E. Blanchard
Owen C. Driskell
William S. Echols
James V. Harvester
Robert R. Lewis
Francis L. Luce
Bishop Ernest W. Newman
R. Eugene Rutland, Jr.
Carl D. Shafer
Gordon H. Strickland

Ordained in 1974

William S. Barnes
R. Paul Bauer
Robert G. Bruce, Jr.
Alexander C. Carmichel IV
Howard E. Chenault
Kenneth W. Cocker
Neo N. Garvin
Robert M. Gibbs
David J. Knapp
Warren D. Langer, Jr.
William G. Larrison
Vincent S. Malkinski
Thomas W. McCloskey
Steven L. Miller
Larry A. Purvis
Barbara Williams Riddle
James R. Rosenberg
John Rutland-Wallis
Pamela A. Stewart

Thirteen **anniversary churches** will be highlighted during the conference session:

175 years (1824): Trinity, Tallahassee
150 years (1849): Manatee, Bradenton
125 years (1874): Conway, Orlando; Emmanuel, Palatka
100 years (1899): Hyde Park, Tampa; Terra Ceia
75 years (1924): First, Hollywood; St. John's, Miami Beach; Allendale, Childs Park, and Wesley Memorial, St. Petersburg
50 years (1949): High Point, Clearwater
25 years (1974): St. Paul's, Ocala

Banners from the anniversary churches will be displayed on the floor of the conference.

Vernon and Jamie Parramore, Charipersons

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

The mission of the Commission on Archives and History is

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

Short-term goals

- To continue the fund-raising campaign for the Florida United Methodist **Heritage Center.**
 - **To establish a collections policy for the Archives.**
 - **To implement an oral history project.**

Medium-term goals

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

On-going goals

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

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

- Attendance at workshops.
- Interest on part of local churches in obtaining information about celebrations, preservation, writing church history, etc.
- Research requests from churches and individuals.
- Gifts given to the Archives.
- Response to displays at UM Building and at Annual Conference.

Criteria used to determine allocation of resources:

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

Results of applying criteria to 1998 work:

- Good attendance at district workshops; good representation of commission at outside meetings and workshops.

- Many requests for information from local churches.
- Fulfillment of more than 120 research requests.
- Receipt of twenty-five gifts for the Archives.
- Good response to displays at UM Building and at Annual Conference.

HERITAGE CENTER AND PRELIMINARY PLANS

CHANCELLOR AND LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chancellor advises the Bishop and the Annual Conference, including District Superintendents, on legal issues as needed. The Legal Advisory Council is a team of attorneys, with at least one located in each District. The members of the Legal Advisory Council are available to advise the District Superintendents in the Districts in which they reside. Ideally, a variety of areas of practice are represented by the members of the Council so that an array of expertise will be available when various questions arise. All serve as volunteers. During the coming year members of the Council will be confirmed and, where needed, new ones selected by the District Superintendent. A meeting of all Council members is desired.

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

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

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

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

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

I. Meetings

Face-to-face meetings, as well as use of the Internet, provide mechanisms for the Council to work as a team.

II. Criteria To Be Applied:

The ability to respond to the needs of the Cabinet is the best indicia of the success of the Legal Advisory Council. In the past the Council has been loosely formed and has not been as effective as it potentially might be. The degree of interaction among Council members will be one of the best barometers for judging effectiveness as well as soliciting comments, formally and informally, from District Superintendents.

In some cases members of the Legal Advisory Council will not be in a position to provide the requisite legal advice because of lack of expertise in a given area. In these events, not anticipated to be many, it will be necessary to consult outside counsel for a fee. The extent to which the expense of outside counsel can be curtailed will be another indicia of the effectiveness of the Legal Advisory Council.

III. Criteria In Determining Allocation of Resources

The small amount of people serving in this position, the infrequency of the need to meet, and the relatively small budget, places the determination of allocation to the discretion of the Chancellor in consultation with the Office of the Conference Treasurer.

IV. Results of Past Years

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

V. Anticipated Expenses for 2000

A. Outside Legal Expense: The Conference Chancellor is not paid for his advice. Members of the Legal Advisory Council are not paid for routine assistance. Occasionally, the issue presented requires specialized assistance in which case counsel must be retained.

Specialized Legal Assistance \$2,500.

B. Contingency for unanticipated meetings/material in connection with the Legal Advisory Council \$ 100.

Total Funding Request for 2000 – \$2600.

Total Budget for 1999. \$ 2750

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

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

Our banquet and meeting at Annual Conference in Lakeland, 1998, was a delightful gathering of members and friends celebrating 30 years as a CEF chapter with candlelight and music. We also celebrated persons newly certified in Christian Education, newly consecrated as Diaconal Ministers, and those transitioning from Diaconal Minister to Deacon in Full Connection. Laura Roy was elected to serve as secretary of our chapter.

Many of our members were asked to serve as leaders at the Discipleship Weekend in September, as well as District representatives of Cokesbury Action Teams. The chapter cancelled its Fall meeting at Discipleship Weekend because of Hurricane Georges. Members continued to serve at other training sessions throughout the state.

Thirty of our members attended the annual CEF Retreat in Leesburg in February to experience "*Opus Days...A Time for Spiritual and Personal Growth*," led by Trudy Rankin. Guided by prayer, scripture, story, reflection, and shared fellowship, we returned ready to serve God more intentionally in our local settings.

Members of our chapter attended a National CEF conference in Chicago in February, which included ecumenical gatherings, numerous workshops, plenaries, and diverse worship experiences. Our chapter nominated Delia Halverson to the National CEF Board of Directors and we celebrate her election to this board.

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

The officers who led our chapter this past year include: Brinda LeBleu – president; David Burkett – vice president of program; Bob Hutchinson – vice president of membership; Laura Roy – secretary; Lois Polstra – treasurer; and Carol Sue Hutchinson as the conference staff representative.

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

CONFERENCE COUNSELING NETWORK

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

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

Goal 1: To provide affordable access to counseling for United Methodist clergy, lay employees and their families. The committee requires Network Counselors to provide a fee break to Florida United Methodist clergy, lay employees and their families.

The committee directs the Coordinator to perform counselor background checks with the FDLE to protect clients and the Annual Conference.

New: The committee will check only new Network Counselors with all others re-checked on a five-year cycle, beginning in 2000. (The Conference Risk Manager recommends this schedule.)

- The committee pays a minimal fee for professional evaluations of Network Counselor applicants. This written evaluation is the final step in the application process.
- New: The committee requests that Network Counselor applicants pay a portion of the fee for their professional evaluation.
- The committee grants Subsidy to qualified clients in counseling with financial need. The Chairperson and Coordinator review Subsidy requests. Client confidentiality is stressed.
- New: The committee raised the Subsidy grant maximum from \$200 to \$300 per person per year beginning in 1999 and continuing into the 2000 budget.

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

- The committee seeks to fulfill this goal by publishing a Newsletter at least twice a year which is sent to all clergy both active and retired, clergy widows and widowers, Directors of Christian Education, musicians, church business administrators, church secretaries, and Network Counselors.
- The committee places a half page ad in the Annual Conference "Welcome Book" to promote the Counseling Network.
- The committee distributes a brochure at events for new clergy, clergy/spouse, church secretaries, etc.
- The committee is emphasizing increased publicity of the Counseling Network. Client confidentiality limits sharing of counseling experiences.

- The committee publishes a Directory of Network Counselors for District Superintendents, Network Counselors, committee members, the United Methodist Children's Home and some staff of the Conference Council on Ministries.
- New: The committee recommends increased distribution of the Directory of Network Counselors in a new format.
- New: The committee plans to provide information for the Conference Web Site concerning the availability of Network Counselors.
- New: The committee is developing an information piece of frequently asked questions about the Counseling Network for distribution at Annual Conference and other opportunities.

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

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

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

- The committee has received reports from Network Counselors indicating that they are contacted by clergy who are in need of some direction in their pastoral counseling.

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

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

Personnel Costs: This includes the Network Coordinator's salary and F.I.C.A. (There are no health insurance or retirement benefits.)

- New: The committee requests a Consultant who is a Network Counselor to attend the committee meetings providing professional consultation and guidance on issues relating to therapists and the Continuing Education

Event. (Network Counselors may not be elected to serve on the committee due to the conflict of interest.)

Administrative Costs: This includes committee expenses and office expenses.

Criteria: The criteria used to determine the success or failure of the Conference Counseling Network is found in the Subsidy requests and the Semi-Annual Reports of Network Counselors.

In 1998, twenty Subsidies were granted to twenty-two people for \$4,080.00. Clergy (active and retired), clergy spouses, clergy children, lay employees and their families were provided grants ranging from \$150.00 to \$200.00 per person. The Semi-Annual Reports of Network Counselors cover the year from November 1, 1997 – October 31, 1998, indicating that 197 clergy and family were seen for 1,303 hours while 63 lay employees and their families were seen for 337 hours.

The Network Counselors saw a total of **260 persons** for **1,640 hours**. Since Network Counselors must reduce their fees, and if the reduction was only \$10.00 less per hour, and sometimes it is more, our clergy and lay employees saved **\$16,400.00!**

Total funding request for 2000 is \$28,325.00.

(Without office expenses, the total is \$26,125.00.)

When you need a professional counselor, who do you call? A Network Counselor! The purpose of the Florida Conference Counseling Network is to provide professional counselors for United Methodist clergy and their families and church lay employees and their families. The Conference Counseling Network Committee serves as an advocate for Network Counselors, where appropriate, thereby supporting the mental health well being of our clergy, lay employees and their families.

Network Counselors, to be included in the Network, are interviewed and evaluated, must provide documentation of professional credentials and agree to reduce their fees. All counselors report their activities for the Network twice a year. The reports do not disclose names of clients, only the numbers of persons assisted with information as to whether clergy or laity. No clients are ever identified by name.

Subsidy assistance is provided where costs for counseling exceed the ability of the client to pay. In 1999 the limit for subsidy has been increased from \$200 to \$300 per client per year. This will better meet the increasing cost of counseling.

Clergy members and church lay staff are encouraged to inquire through their respective District Superintendent's offices, the United Methodist Center receptionist or a member of the Counseling Network Committee, to find a Network Counselor in their area. A listing of the Network Counselors has been

published annually in our Newsletter. This year the Directory of Network Counselors will be printed in a new format and distributed.

The vital service being provided through the Counseling Network is revealed by the following statistics for the reporting period of November 1, 1997-October 31, 1998:

Number of Network Counselors: 77

Number of persons counseled: 262

Number of counseling hours provided: 1,642

Amount of subsidy assistance: \$4,080.00

Estimated amount of savings to clients from fee reduction: \$16,420.00

Genuine appreciation is due to Mrs. Jean J. Vanderslice, who has served the Network as Coordinator through its thirteen years of existence and service.

Leslie M. Avchin, Chairperson

CONTINUING EDUCATION

There is always a need for ministers to lay hold of new theological understanding and paradigms for the work of ministry. One of the ways the Continuing Education Committee encourages ministers to seek new ideas and insights for ministry is by offering local and conference wide events. The School of Ministry, offered each October and the Advanced Minister's Training, continues to be wonderful learning opportunities of dialogue and to engage those who, in various settings of new and emerging ministry.

Many universities, colleges and seminaries offer various conferences, courses, seminars and workshops to help ministers prepare for the challenges of ever-changing congregational work. The Conference office, your District Superintendent and District Committees are valuable sources of information in regard to course offerings both locally and across the country.

For individuals who find it a financial challenge to underwrite some of the costs of continuing education events, the Board of Ordained Ministry can offer some assistance. Each full connection minister may access conference funding in the amount of \$750 per quadrennial period. Ministers filing a request for the first time will be given funds first, those who are seeking funds a second time or more will be considered if monies are available.

Lawrence Q. Barriner, Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON COURTESY

(Written report for the Journal)

The theme of Dare to Share was appropriately emphasized throughout the annual Conference. The worship Committee of Sharon Patch, Jim Rosenberg and Pam Lynn did such a magnificent job. Mark Jaeger once again coordinated the music with inspiration and sensitivity. Songleader Lori Blair helped us to come into "His Presence" with her solos as well as her Spirit led direction. Jarvis Wilson as organist once again had us inspired.

Beginning with the beautiful banners, created by Marilyn and Jim Walker, from His Name Exalted Ministries, and the liturgical dancers from Broadway UMC under the direction of Zulanda Almond the worship services were indeed a blessing to all.

Thanks to Roger Watts and all the ushers for assisting with the many ballots. Many others deserve thanks: Annual Conference program Chair: E. Keith Ewing; Elections Committee Chair: James Harnish; Operation Evangelization Team: Joe MacClaren, Roger Swanson, and Bob Fox; Cokesbury: Gary Thomas and United Methodist Publishing House; Conference Secretary: Carmen Arnett; Agenda Committee: James Jennings; Episcopacy committee: Riley Short; Barbara Odom and the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Patricia Brown helped us keep focus by the Prayer Garden and the Prayer Labyrinth. The music greatly appreciated throughout the conference, especially when ballots were being taken. Grace Haitian Mission reminded us to take "Just a Little Talk with Jesus." Other music throughout the conference was provided by various Praise Teams: Lakeland Chorus, Orlando District Choir, Dr. H. Trall Heitzenrater, the Children's Home, Pathfinders from Roseland, Witness from Killearn, Bethune-Cookman College, Tampa District Choir, Trilogy and others.

Thanks to the interpreters for the Hispanic, Haitian and Korean delegates. Also the signers ministry was appreciated as well as the closed caption ministry.

Thanks to Mary Alice Massey, Conference Lay Leader, and her words of challenge. She reminded us that "All God's people in all places are called to love and serve." Reports by the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth (Conference Council on Youth Ministry), and the report from Lay Renewal reminded us to Dare to Share.

The preaching and inspiration of Bishop Ricardo Periera, Bishop George Bashore, and Dr. David Lowes Watson certainly inspired us and challenged us. For that we give thanks.

We give thanks for the 28 retirees with accumulated ministry of nearly 800 years.

Much thanks to Rev. Geraldine McClellan who inspired and challenged us with the Morning Bible Study.

Other thanks goes to: Jerry Van Dyken, Committee on Resolutions; Charles Courtoy and Paul Butler, Committee on Church Redevelopment; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry; The Conference Trustees (Bob Barber) and their plan for remodeling of the Conference and Episcopal Office (promising no capital fund raising campaign and no new apportionments).

We give thanks for Archives and History area and the recognition of anniversary churches and those clergy celebrating special anniversary years of ministry.

We give thanks for the Service of Remembrance of the 39 that have "outrun us" to our heavenly home.

Also thanks need to go to those appointed to Extension Ministry.

The "Dare to Share" video clips were well done and continued to express the excitement of sharing Jesus. Thanks to Tita Parham. The United Methodist Committee on Communications shared with us video clips for future advertisement: "Not who goes to church, but where our church goes."

We give thanks to James Jennings who has served faithfully as Conference Council Director, and also the faithfulness of secretary Diana Herchig.

Words cannot adequately express thanks for Bill Owens, Masie Hartsfield, and Tom Shafer who did the logistics for the conference. Paradise Sound did a superb job with the sound system, and Good News Television Network did an outstanding job with all the computers, cameras and video work.

Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, much gratitude is indebted to you for your leadership and support.

We give great thanks to God for Bishop Cornelius Henderson who is an inspiration to us all. Bishop Henderson has indeed personified the theme of "Dare to Share." Thanks be to God!

ELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

The 1998 Conference approved the recommendation of the Election Procedures Committee that we enter into *"A Spiritual Journey to General Conference."* We envisioned a prayer-centered process of spiritual discernment in preparation for the election of delegates for the General Conference of 2000. The recommendation was rooted in the following concerns:

1. That we approach the election process with a clear center in prayer.

2. That we create opportunities for groups of clergy and laity to listen to Scripture, share their sense of God's vision for the church, and enter into disciplined prayer for the election process.
3. That we commit ourselves to being open to the call of God upon the lives of people who represent the diversity and strength of the local congregations of the Florida Conference in terms of age, sex, race, ethnic background, geography, theological perspective and experience.
4. That we create clear processes by which the Conference can gather information about nominees without resorting to politically-oriented processes which fail to reflect our trust in the Spirit of God.

The Committee prepared a common guide for gatherings of clergy and laity which included Biblical reflection, personal sharing of our sense of God's vision for the future of our church, and intentional prayer. Although the vision of the Committee for these groups was not fully achieved, the plan declared the expectation that the election process would be centered in prayerful dependence upon the guidance of the Spirit of God.

The Nomination Process

The following nomination process was approved by the 1998 Annual Conference.

Lay Nominations

1. Any person who has been a member of a local church in the Conference for at least two years and has been a member of the United Methodist Church for at least four years is eligible for nomination.
2. A letter and nomination form was sent to each local church in January of 1999.
3. The names, photographs and biographical statements of lay nominees have been published in the Conference Workbook. An alphabetical listing was published in "The Review" and on the Web site.
4. Nominations may be made from the floor at the Lay Orientation session, provided that these persons will have already agreed to serve if elected. Persons nominated in the Lay Orientation session must also provide and distribute copies of a fifty-word biographical statement as requested of all other nominees. All nominees will be introduced at the Lay Orientation session.
5. A time to "Meet Your Nominee" will be scheduled prior to the first ballot. Ribbons will be provided for the name tags of all lay nominees.

Clergy Nominations

Since all clergy members of the Florida Conference in Full Connection are eligible for nomination, no biographical statements were collected or distributed prior to Annual Conference. A post card was included in the clergy registration

packet which is to be returned if that clergy person does not want to be considered for nomination or election.

Nominating Ballot

1. The nominating ballot will be taken at the Lay Orientation and Clergy Executive sessions. Forms will be provided for clergy and lay members to write down the names of nominees, not to exceed the number needed for election as determined by the Secretary of the General Conference (13).
2. From these written ballots, the tellers will prepare a list of up to the 100 clergy and 100 laity receiving the most votes. This list will be put in alphabetical order with no reference to the number of votes received on the Nominating Ballot. Each name will be assigned a number in alphabetical order which will become the number used in the electing ballots. This list will be made available as early as possible prior to the taking of the first electing ballot.

Election Process

Electing Ballots

1. Prior to the taking of each ballot, the Bishop or persons designated by the Bishop will lead the Conference in a time of silent meditation and prayer.
2. Delegates to the Conference will vote by number on computer-sensitive cards, with laity voting for lay delegates and clergy voting for clergy delegates.
3. When the Bishop announces the results of election ballots, the names and numbers of persons elected shall be projected on the screens in preparation for the next ballot.
4. At specific points in the election process the Election Procedures Committee will report to the Conference on the diversity of the elected delegation.

Reserve Delegates

1. Reserve delegates to General Conference will be those elected to Jurisdictional Conference in the order of their election. Reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference will be elected on a single ballot with the seven persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in order of the votes received.

Other Concerns

Scholarship Support

Assuming that there are qualified persons who might be elected to General or Jurisdictional Conference who may need additional financial aid for meals, travel, and lodging beyond the per diem provided, the Committee would invite pledges from local churches who are willing to be partner in this ministry. Pledges would be tendered on call as the need is determined in amounts up to \$250 for General

Conference and \$100 for Jurisdictional Conference. A Scholarship Committee composed of the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the delegation would be asked to determine the need. All funds would be handled through the Conference Treasurer.

Information Distribution

In keeping with the historic principles of the United Methodist Church that each delegate vote their individual beliefs and convictions, and with concern for persons who cannot afford to print and mail election information, we discourage nominees from distributing printed material about themselves unless requested by delegates.

Please join us in prayer that the Spirit of God will be at work within and through us as we search for God's calling in the election of those who will represent us at the General and Jurisdictional Conference.

Elections Procedures Committee

James A. Harnish, Chp.

Mary Alice Massey

Dorothy Collins

Carmen S. Arnett

Jose Bove, Secretary

Kit Carson

Barbara Williams Riddle

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on the Episcopacy acts as a Pastor Parish Relations Committee for the Bishop and those in his office. Our responsibility also includes advising the Conference with regard to the parsonages and to the maintenance of the office building.

We urge the Conference to pray for the complete healing of Bishop Henderson and a special strength to be given to his wife, Dorothy.

We express special gratitude to Dr. E. Keith Ewing for the extra work that has been put upon him during Bishop Henderson's illness. He has done an excellent job in steadying the Conference during these days of concern.

We are also grateful for Bishop and Mrs. Lloyd Knox "coming home" to give us episcopal leadership. Their love for the Lord, His church and this Conference are obvious.

God is great and God is good, and we pray for continued blessings to be upon all those who lead us.

Riley P. Short, Chairperson

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED METHODISTS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP
ARTS
The Florida Chapter**

The Florida Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts is currently the largest and continues to be one of the strongest chapters in the National Fellowship. Each district of the Florida Conference is represented by an elected representative who is to report to the Executive Council which meets annually in October and again at the annual business meeting which is held during the Church Music Workshop each summer. The executive officers for 1999 are Mark Stallings, President; Shelby Fullerton, Past-President; Kathy Evans, President Elect; Luke Nash, Secretary; Michael Coldwell, Treasurer; and Sue Bond, Membership Secretary. Jean Bennett serves as editor of the Quarter Notes, the Florida Chapter newsletter, which is published four times per year.

The purpose of the Florida Chapter is to “promote worship in the Florida Conference, to provide enrichment and training opportunities for musicians, and to encourage the creative use of music and other arts to glorify God.” These goals are implemented throughout the year throughout each district and at the annual Church Music Workshop. Last years Workshop was held at Stetson University in DeLand on July 5 – 10. The clinicians included Donald Bailey, Adult Choral; Marion Smith, Youth Choral; John Horman, Middle School Choral; Kathy Evans, Organ; Alice McDonell, Handbells; Willys Gaines, Dance; and Paul Pollock, worship leader. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Adult workshop, the 37th anniversary of the youth workshop and the 14th anniversary of the middle school workshop.

Participation in the workshop is for all who are interested in music and worship and continues to be one of the most valuable experiences for local church worship leaders, musicians, choir members, and handbell ringers. This year marked the second annual Pastor’s Day concentrating on “Being in Ministry Together.” Each year the Fellowship awards a \$1,500 Grant K. Pulen scholarship to a member of the Florida Conference who plans a career in church music.

Members of the Fellowship are available to be of assistance to worship and music leaders throughout the conference. Membership in the “Fellowship” is open to anyone interested in all aspects of worship and is a valuable resource for anyone in the music industry. All Florida churches are encouraged to participate in this organization. The 1999 Church Music Workshop is scheduled for July 18 – 23 at Eckerd College.

Dr. Mark Stallings, President

THE CONFERENCE HAITIAN COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and our Savior Jesus Christ! As the song writer stated:

*“The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation; By water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her; To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her; And for her life he died.”*

We do thank God for Christian unity and all the blessings that He has bestowed upon us over the past year. We have met difficulties and trials but through it all, we have learned to trust in God as members of the body of Christ.

This past year was a blessed one for us. The Haitian congregations are moving forward and becoming stronger. Congregations are eager to learn about the structure, polity, doctrine, and history of the United Methodist Church.

Last July, through a grant from the Preaching Institute Committee, all the Haitian pastors and six lay leaders from each church had an opportunity to attend a wonderful seminar on LEADERSHIP. It was inspiring and instructive. Three presenters challenged us to strengthen our Haitian congregations. These undertakings were possible through the help of Dr. Charles Courtoy. The Conference Haitian Committee on Ministry gives thanks to Dr. Courtoy who did his best to assist the Haitian congregations to become vital United Methodist Churches.

During this past year we had workshops for pastors and laypersons on EVANGELISM. We do praise and thank almighty God for granting us the privilege of working together in order to build his Kingdom. Thanks be unto God!

We rejoice that one of our Haitian pastors, Jose Saint Louis is in seminary, attending Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. We covet your prayers on his behalf.

We present our congratulations to Revs. Preval Similien Floreal and Jacques Pierre (serving an Anglo congregation) who will be ordained Elders in Full Connection at this Annual Conference session. One way or another God’s hands are upon the Conference Haitian Committee on Ministry. We praise the name of the Master all day long.

The South Dade Haitian congregation under the leadership of Rev. Joanes Martin dedicated their completed sanctuary last March 14th. The mission was housed in a small cement block converted warehouse heavily damaged from hurricane Andrew in 1993. Through the support of funds from UMCOR, the Miami District, and the Florida Conference Development Redevelopment Committee, and the congregation, this achievement is a first for a Florida Conference Haitian congregation—the construction of a new sanctuary! What a

mighty God we serve! God always makes a way when there seems to be no way. Praise the Lord! Amen!

There are now 13 Haitian congregations with 1,357 members throughout the conference.

Next year new missions or "boukan" (fireside gatherings, as known in Haiti) are projected in Fort Lauderdale, and in other locations. Training events for lay men and women are planned, plus youth spiritual retreats to involve youth in ministry, and evangelism training throughout Haitian communities in order to establish new faith communities.

A CONCERN, the Conference Haitian Committee on Ministry continues "to pray without ceasing" for Bishop and Mrs. Henderson for healing and wholeness. We do know that our God is still on the throne of grace. He is the greatest Healer of the world. We are more than sure that the good Lord is in control of all illness. All Haitian congregations continue in prayer.

Our thankfulness goes to all the members of the cabinet and especially to our Bishop who grants us the opportunity and the privilege of serving people through our common bond which is the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

As Calvin W. Laufer once said:

*"We have seen thy glory like a mantle spread;
O'er hill and dale in saffron flame and red;
But in the eyes of men, redeemed and free,
A splendor greater yet while serving thee. Amen!"*

God bless! Sincerely and Shalom,
The Rev. Montruil Fils Milord

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY 2000 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

The BHECM establishes the vision for the Conference's higher education ministry, including the shape and focus of campus ministry units. The Board seeks to clarify, affirm and promote the relationship between the Annual Conference and Florida's United Methodist related institutions Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Southern College.

Campus Ministry Units:

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee

Budget Request: \$84,807.00

The purpose of FAMU Campus Ministry is to provide ministry opportunities to over 12,000 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 parsonage maintenance (property value \$90,000.) 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 out-reach, retreats, mission opportunities, seminary interviews, small groups, educational scholarships and fellowship activities.

Florida State University, Tallahassee

Budget Request: \$134,043.00

FSU Wesley Foundation is dedicated to bringing the Gospel to Florida State University's 37,000 students, faculty and staff. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, support staff salary, 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: student internships, pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, Bible studies, praise night, fellowship dinners, campus evangelism, prayer ministry, mission trips, small group fellowship, Church-related vocational counseling, community service opportunities, Upper Room residential student staff, student choir, praise band, handbell choir and drama group.

University of Florida, Gainesville

Budget Request: \$105,530.00

University United Methodist Church & Student Center is a unique combination of both church and campus ministry student center. Its purpose is to focus on the spiritual needs of the University of Florida's 51,500 students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding Gainesville community. In 1998 this ministry celebrated two landmark anniversaries – the 50th for University Church and the 75th for the Wesley Foundation. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Minister's salary and benefits, church support staff salaries, church and student center ministry programs, property maintenance of church, student center and parsonage (Church property value \$1,826,050.00; parsonage value \$130,000.00.) Ministry programs include: providing pastoral counseling/care for

both church and student center, weekly worship services, Bible study groups, Sunday school classes, retreats, small groups, evangelism outreach, mission trips, community service opportunities, Church-related vocational counseling, Maranatha Choir, handbell choir, Upper Room residential student staff program, leadership training, and fellowship events.

Miami District Campus Ministry

Budget Request: \$123,769.00

Miami District Campus Ministry is offering Christ to the more than 130,000 students who attend the University of Miami, Florida International University and Miami-Dade community college. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, Associate Director's salary, support staff salaries, campus ministry programs, building maintenance for University of Miami Wesley Foundation and parsonage (Foundation property value \$773,000.00; parsonage value \$197,000.) Campus Ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, "The River" weekly worship service, weekly coffee house, bible studies, small groups, mission trips, prayer group, drama group, praise band, community service projects, evangelism outreach, Church-related vocational counseling, Upper Room residential student staff, leadership training, Christian library and fellowship activities.

Stetson University Wesley Foundation, DeLand

Budget Request: \$61,075.00

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

University of Central Florida Wesley Foundation, Orlando

Budget Request: \$56,631.00

The Wesley Foundation seeks to minister to the 28,000 students, faculty and staff of the University of Central Florida. The budget request will provide funding for the following: Campus Minister's salary and benefits, campus ministry programs and parsonage maintenance (parsonage property value \$111,000.) UCF ministry programs include: pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, bible studies, small groups, mission trips, community service projects, coffee house, evangelism outreach, fellowship dinners, Church-related vocational counseling, student leadership training, student intern program and fellowship activities.

University of South Florida – Crosswinds, Tampa

Budget Request: \$61,863.00

During 1998 Crosswinds made the transition from ecumenical ministry to United Methodist Wesley Foundation. This ministry has the opportunity to reach the University of South Florida's 39,000 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.) In its second year of Ministry, Crosswinds plans to include the following programming: pastoral counseling/care, weekly worship service, prayer teams, bible study, mission trips, evangelism outreach, service projects, residential staff team, Church-related vocational counseling and fellowship activities.

Jacksonville Campus Ministry

Budget Request: \$25,000.00

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

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers

Budget Request: \$25,000.00

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

Grant Money

Budget Request: \$50,000.00

Ecumenical ministries are eligible to apply for a grant up to, but not more than the amount received from any other single denomination, including local churches. The grant is not to exceed \$8000.00. All campus ministries may apply for grants of up to \$5000.00 for new ministry programs on the basis of their creativity. The purpose of this program is to stimulate new ministry ideas. The deadline for submitting request for these grants is June 1, 2000, and they are required to have matching funds.

Campus Ministry Development

Budget Request: \$50,000.00

Student Conferences

Budget Request: \$6,000.00

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry sponsors a yearly state-wide United Methodist Student Movement Retreat at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp. There is no substitute for the vitality which comes from intercollegiate relationships among Christian students. This retreat gives students from 11 Florida campuses the opportunity to grow spiritually, share ideas and enlarge their circle of Christian peers.

Campus Ministry Staff Grants

Budget Request: \$30,000

This Wesley Foundation Ministry Staff Grant program assists local units in creating graduate/seminary student staff positions. Ministry staff team members work full-time for the campus ministries and are responsible for raising their own financial support. They dedicate a year of their lives to learning about and experiencing full-time Christian service. Most of these students intend to pursue positions in church-related ministry as a career.

United Methodist Colleges

For over 200 years the United Methodist Church has demonstrated a deep commitment to learning and higher education. We share a rich heritage of quality academics enriched by Christian values. Students at United Methodist colleges receive education and support that are among the best available today. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry proudly recommends continued financial support to our two Florida Conference United Methodist related colleges.

Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach

Budget Request: \$111,000.00

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

Florida Southern College, Lakeland

Budget Request: \$426,000.00

BHECM Administration

Goals of the BHECM include: creating a new process for evaluating the effectiveness of local boards and their campus ministries; visitation of all units by BHECM board member evaluation teams; encouraging new local unit fund-raising programs; promoting the United Methodist Student Day Offering and scholarship and loan opportunities; renewing our focus on fiscal responsibility and accountability by requiring the incorporation of all units and annual financial audits; providing new resources and training opportunity for campus ministers, creating a local board of directors training program; creating a state-wide system to track United Methodist students during their transition from youth group to college campus; implement and review its new property management system; beginning new outreach to community college students by encouraging and resourcing local churches to reach out to nearby campuses not presently served by a United Methodist-related campus ministry.

Administration:

\$ 13,000.00

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 63,000.00
Property Maintenance	\$130,000.00
Contingency	\$ 15,000.00
Resource Development	\$ 20,000.00
Property Acquisition – USF	\$ 16,000.00

Total Funding Request for 2000.....\$1,557,718.00

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
2000 BUDGET**

	1998	1999	2000
	Budget	Budget	Proposed
CAMPUS MINISTRY			
FL A&M, Tallahassee	77,112	79,425	84,807
FSU, Tallahassee	126,349	130,139	134,043
U of FL, Gainesville	99,473	102,457	105,530
Miami District	116,666	120,165	123,769
Stetson, DeLand	57,570	59,297	61,075
U of Central Florida	48,668	50,128	56,631
U of South Florida	58,313	60,062	61,863
Jacksonville District	20,312	20,921	25,000
Florida Gulf Coast U			25,000
Grant Money	50,000	50,000	50,000
UMSM Student Conf.		5,650	5,650
Contingency	18,900	12,000	15,000
Ministry Staff Intern Grants		30,000	30,000
Campus Min. Development		50,000	
TOTAL CAMPUS MIN.	669,013	770,244	778,718
UNITED METHODIST COLLEGES			
Bethune-Cookman	105,000	108,000	111,000
Florida Southern	420,000	423,000	426,000
TOTAL COLLEGES	525,000	531,000	537,000
ADMINISTRATION			
Office Expenses & Meetings	12,600	12,600	13,000
Salaries & Benefits	63,000	56,000	63,000
Property Maintenance	126,000	126,000	130,000
Resource Development	52,500	20,000	20,000
Property Acquisition USF	45,000	16,000	16,000

TOTAL ADMINIS.	299,100	230,600	242,000
TOTAL BUDGET	1,503,113	1,531,844	1,557,718

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HISPANIC COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES

Bishop Cornelius Henderson, Bishop Lloyd Knox, members of the Cabinet, laity and clergy, ladies and gentlemen.

Over 28 churches and missions cooperated fully with Bishop Armando Rodriguez on his request that we help the victims of hurricane Mitch. Every group participated. We raised approximately \$5,800.00 which was used, in part, to send medicines and cash. Thanks to Mr. Mario Rodriguez, Methodist layman from the Hispanic-American United Methodist Church, who arranged for the free transportation of a forty foot ocean container. Our churches provided the food, clothing, medicines, etc. to fill the container. A generator was included that is now in service providing electric power to 13 homes in Tegucigalpa. For this we give God thanks.

With the help of Rev. Aldo Martin, District Superintendent of the Lakeland District and other District Superintendents, we have discovered that there are eleven relatively new Hispanic missions operating in our conference. The leaders are retired Hispanic pastors, bilingual English speaking pastors, and retired lay persons. Our committee has agreed to provide the volunteer staff in order to reach out to these missions. We will work closely with the District Superintendents wherein the missions are located. We will seek help from Rev. William Jones, the new coordinator of the National Hispanic Plan, Rev. Larry Rankin and Linda Standifer from our mission ministry team, Rev. Charles Courtoy of New Church Development, plus volunteer pastors and lay persons who will visit these missions.

Our evangelistic effort is gaining strength; not only do we broadcast by radio from Miami on "Vida Nueva en Cristo," but plans call for radio programs that will emanate from Tampa and the Orlando area. We are hoping to increase our number of training events and special worship programs. Our youth caravans are traveling from Miami to West Palm Beach, Tampa, Naples and Orlando. They include a music ministry.

We have several qualified bilingual pastors and lay persons who would make excellent delegates to the jurisdictional and general conferences. Our hopes and prayers are that this conference will elect a delegation that represents all of the populace.

We thank God for all of the good that is happening and we are very optimistic about the future of the Hispanic ministry. We know that the seeds have been planted and we look forward to a large increase in membership.

In His Service
Gene Rodriguez, President

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

VISION STATEMENT:

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Board of Lay Ministry is to provide opportunities to celebrate, encourage and strengthen the ministry of the laity.

We continue to seek better communication with the local churches through District Events and our District Lay Leaders. We will also seek to model the ministry of the laity by emphasizing their involvement at Annual Conference. It is our long-range goal to provide leadership development opportunities at Annual Conference. In addition, we want to develop a lay leader handbook to be used by local churches. We will continue our efforts to partner with other ministries to avoid duplication of events and maximize our effectiveness.

In 1998 the Board of Lay Ministry joined with Discipleship Ministry Team to sponsor Discipleship Weekend. Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled because of a hurricane. We have increased our support to the Lay Speaking program and Lay Renewal program. Together they involve over five thousand persons in ministry. We also worked with the Elections Procedures Committee to provide assistance for the District Events. The Conference Lay Leader has been involved in the "400,000 by 2000" initiative as well as the restructure of the Annual Conference for 2000 and beyond. In 1999, we will be intentional about training the District Lay Leaders. The laity will play a significant part at Annual Conference in a variety of ways including the Prayer Tent and communion. We will also provide additional financial support for the District Lay Leaders. Once again we will support the Discipleship Weekend. The Conference Lay Leader will continue to represent the laity of the Florida Conference at SEJ and National Association of Lay Leaders.

Criteria

The Board will continue to evaluate each program/event's effectiveness. Determining factors will include number of participants, time involved, costs and duplication of events.

Conference Lay Leader

Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church

As Conference Lay Leader, I seek, with God's help, to represent the laity of this great Conference wherever I am called to serve. This includes many different areas some of which are the Conference Council on Ministries and its Executive Committee; the Annual Conference Programming Committee as well as the Planning Team for the year 2000; the Bishop's initiative on Evangelism, the Conference Nominating Committee; Episcopacy Committees of the Conference and SEJ; Florida Southern College Board Secretary of Bethune-Cookman College Board; Lay Renewal and United Methodist Men. In addition, it is my responsibility to seek new ways for The Board of Lay Ministry to provide opportunities for the laity that will enable them to share the GOOD NEWS or in other words "DARE TO SHARE JESUS."

Once again this year, we will help to sponsor Discipleship Weekend which is to be held in September at the Life Enrichment Center. (Hurricane Georges forced us to cancel last year) This event offers a variety of learning experiences for lay ministry. Dan Johnson, dean of the School of Ministry and I are working to have Thursday at the School of Ministry a day for the laity also. The speaker will be Jim Mellado, from Willow Creek in Chicago. He will speak on "Leading Through Change and Developing Vital Congregations." The Board has also approved the printing of a lay leader manual that we hope will be available by the end of 1999.

The programs of the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Youth continue to provide many opportunities for lay ministry. John Dowell, Anna Woods and Chandler Brickley give excellent leadership to these groups. I had the privilege of attending the UMM Bishop's Invitational in Tallahassee in July, where our own Bishop Henderson brought the house down with his message. What a thrill it was to see hundreds of men from three conferences turned on for Jesus. Plans are being made for a similar event in the summer of 2000. The men's and couples retreats at the LEC continue to provide opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. The UMW, whose emphasis is on mission, is celebrating making their pledge of over \$796,000 to mission this year. They offer many educational opportunities throughout the year and at the School of Christian Mission in July and spiritual opportunities at their retreat in September at the LEC. We are still exploring ways to relate to the youth and their ministries. Two other significant programs are Lay Speaking and Lay Renewal. The Conference Directors of the Lay Speaking Ministries, Glenna Kyker Brayton and Jerry Brayton, have given out-standing leadership not only to the Florida Conference but across the country and especially the Southeastern Jurisdiction. They had a significant role in a national conference at Epworth-by-the-Sea this past year. Jim Goode continues to lead the Lay Renewal program that coordinated twenty-two missions in 1998. Their success is measured by changed lives.

It is a joy to serve on both the Florida Southern College Board and as secretary of the Bethune-Cookman College Board. Both of these schools have been recognized as top values in education but I am most proud of their intentional religious emphasis. Both of these colleges are growing and have capital campaigns underway. They are worthy of your prayers and support. Visit them and see what great things God is doing!

It was my privilege to be actively involved in the planning and leadership for the meeting of National Association of Conference Lay Leaders at Epworth-by-the-Sea in February. To be able to share with other lay leaders across the denomination, has been a great help to me and indirectly the Florida Conference. In addition, I will be helping to lead the prayer and praise service for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Laity Conference in July. One of the highlights of the year had to be my participation in FACE. This was a group of clergy and lay that went to Atlanta for a weekend in June to experience the black church tradition. It was a time of learning and celebration for us all. These things are examples of our connectional system at work.

Finally, I give thanks for all of you, clergy and lay, who continue to support me with your prayers and for the former Conference Lay Leaders who provide support by their prayers and their presence. (As an aside, five Conference Lay Leaders were present at our meeting in January). I am most grateful for the support and prayers of Bishop and Dorothee Henderson; members of the Cabinet, especially Cabinet liaison, Walter Edwards; the Bishop's Administrative Assistant, Keith Ewing; conference administrative assistant, Barbara Holden; Council Director, James Jennings and his assistant Diana Herchig; and the officers, district lay leaders and other members of the Board of Lay Ministry. This is a true partnership in ministry.

Thank you for allowing me to be in ministry among you as the Conference Lay Leader. I ask for your continued support for the ministry of the laity through your prayers.

Mary Alice Massey
Conference Lay Leader

How, then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? Romans: 12-14 .

DARE TO SHARE JESUS!

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 1998, your Board has been able to assist persons up to \$3,000 per year. This help is often crucial for candidates, many of whom give up other careers to enter the ministry. These are the guidelines which the Ministerial Education Fund Committee uses in administering these funds:

1. Ministerial Education Funds (MEF) will be made available to certified candidates who are attending seminary. Local Pastors in Course of Study schools may receive scholarship assistance from MEF, as can persons attending License to Preach School. MEF funds may also be used to provide scholarship assistance to local pastors and deacons, licensed by the Board of Ordained Ministry, who are enrolled in an ACPE-approved CPE program.

2. MEF student aid money will be made available to certified candidates for Diaconal Ministry who are enrolled full-time in a master's degree program. The same MEF repayment process will be used for diaconal ministers coming to Florida from other conferences as is used for ordained ministers. No MEF grants will be used for professional certification.

3. MEF continuing education grants will be made available to Diaconal ministers to help finance their two annual continuing education units on the same basis as such funds are made available to ordained ministers.

4. Certified candidates for diaconal ministry taking the foundational studies shall be entitled to MEF assistance on the same basis as local pastors attending the course of study.

5. Distribution of MEF receipts is 90% for student aid and 10% for continuing education.

1998 Apportionments:	
Apportioned to the local churches	1,063,000
Received from the local churches	<u>860,532</u>
Deficit	<u>202,468</u>

Allocation of 1998 Receipts:		
To General Church for distribution to		
Theological Seminaries (75%)	645,399	
Retained by the Annual Conference (25%)		
For Student Aid (90%)	193,620	
For Continuing Education (10%)	<u>21,119</u>	<u>215,133</u>
		<u>860,532</u>

1998 Summary of Funds Retained by Annual Conference:	
Student Aid:	
Amount available from 1997 and prior years	67,128
Disbursed in 1998 for:	
67 seminary students	
42 local pastors in Course of Study	
23 candidates in License to Preach School	<u>149,378</u>
Unexpended Balance	<82,250>
Plus 1998 allocation	<u>193,620</u>
Available for use in 1999	<u>111,370</u>
Continuing Education:	
Amount available from 1997 and prior years	24,682
Disbursed in 1998	<u>10,125</u>
Unexpended Balance	14,557
Plus 1998 allocation	<u>21,513</u>
Available for use in 1999	<u>36,070</u>

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT

The Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment is pleased to serve the Conference in the vital area within its charge. The Committee is comprised of representatives from each District, although it is not uncommon to have a number of non-member representatives in attendance at the two semi-annual meetings. In addition to lay involvement, the Cabinet is well represented at meetings of the Committee.

The Committee's activity spans several important dimensions. An overview of each will be briefly examined:

I. New Church Starts

All statistics continue to indicate new churches are the primary means of attracting the unchurched and involving them in the life of a faith community. Hence, the mandate is clear. If we are to be true to the Christ's call to make disciples, organizing and launching new churches must continue to occupy a central focus.

Since the last Conference year **four** new churches have been launched. The Lakeland, Tallahassee, Sarasota, and Tampa districts were the locations of each new start. Reports of the inaugural services held at each church reflect the following:

Month	Church	District	Approx Number Attending
February, 1999	Ray of Hope	Tallahassee	275

February, 1999	Crossroads	Tampa	200
March, 1999	Shepherd's Comm.	Lakeland	101
April, 1999	CrossRoads	Sarasota	

The Ray of Hope launch in Tallahassee is significant because it represents the first African American congregation launched in that District and only the second launched by the Conference in **fifteen** years. The reasons for the hiatus are not fully understood but efforts are underway to better understand ways the Conference can be open and attractive to congregations of all races. Among such efforts is *The Bishop's Call To Excellence—Strengthening the African American Church*, a conference and workshop held at Florida Southern in May, 1999.

The Committee has approved the launch of five new churches during the coming year in the following districts - Melbourne, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota and Leesburg - and projects eight new church launches for 2000-2001.

To meet the needs of the new churches, as well as the revitalization efforts and general work of the committee, a budget request of \$675,863, has been submitted. (See request to CF&A). The Conference should take pride and encouragement in the launch of these five congregations as well as the plans to launch eight in 2000-2001.

Dr. Jack Stephenson, pastor of the Anona church in St. Petersburg, continues to help the Committee grasp the important statistical and demographic information. Named The Ruah Project, which continues into its final phase, Dr. Stephenson's work will prove invaluable to both the Committee and the Cabinet as we plan for the future.

Using the information provided by Dr. Stephenson and the data supplied by Percept, the Committee has adopted a Five Year Strategic Plan for church development – new churches and those in the process of redevelopment. You can learn the details of the Five Year Strategic Plan at the display in the Cokesbury Book Store room here at the Conference.

In order to assure sufficient new churches can be launched in the future, the Committee believes it will be necessary to add to the funds which currently provide assistance to new congregations. One method of assuring the money is to invest in the Permanent Endowment Fund established by last year's Annual Conference session. The Committee is working with the Conference Office of Financial Services to make certain people have the opportunity to include church development in their planned giving.

II. Discontinuation Requests

Although starting new churches is much more thrilling and desirable, the time comes when it is in the best interests of all concerned for a local church to

disband and its members become integrated into the life of other congregations. Such is the case with two churches – St. John’s church in Crescent City (DeLand District), and Aldersgate in Fort Lauderdale (West Palm Beach District). In addition, an alternative launch in the Orlando District proved to not be successful and has been discontinued after two years. The District and the Committee have received reports from the pastor and others involved which should help us learn from the experience.

When a church is discontinued, there often may be a sale of land and facilities. Because the Conference, and the District, have typically funded the start of new churches in the past, and likely the two being discontinued, the Committee and the Cabinet have considered how best to apportion the funds from any sale. A resolution approved by the Cabinet and the Committee will be considered by the Conference whereby it is recommended 25% of the proceeds will be deposited into the Conference Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment’s Permanent Endowment Fund, with the remaining 75% being available to the District in which the discontinued church was located. The resolution would be applicable to all closings occurring after January 1, 1999.

III. Church Redevelopment

During the past year the **twenty-one** churches participating in the Pilot Revitalization Project joined together to celebrate the first anniversary of their three year experiment. Much was shared and much was learned from one another. Although some churches are experiencing more success than others, the reports indicate the Pilot Project is succeeding. A number of churches have very encouraging reports with respect to growth, claiming a new vision, and a new life in their congregation.

While much is experienced, much is being learned as the Committee contemplates a second revitalization project to follow the current one. The Committee has clearly heard the cry of churches throughout the Conference asking for assistance in the area of revitalization.

IV. Support Among Ethnic Faith Communities

In August the Committee hosted a Consultation On Launching and Maintaining Faith Communities Among the Marginalized Populations Within the Florida Conference. Approximately twenty-one persons, representing an array of concerns and areas, engaged in meaningful discussion. Topics included an identification of the issues impacting ethnic communities, how current methods do and do not relate, the human and financial resources available to new communities, and laying a foundation for further dialogue.

The Committee and the Florida Annual Conference are grateful for the direction given by the Executive Director of Committee on New Church Development and

Church Redevelopment, Dr. Charles Courtoy. Not surprisingly Dr. Courtoy's efforts within our Conference have been recognized by others across the country. As a result, during the past year our Conference hosted a national meeting of those involved in church development and Dr. Courtoy has been asked to serve in various capacities across our denomination.

The Committee is cognizant of the fact that calling people to follow Jesus Christ is not an option. It is our calling and the call of God to all who take their faith seriously. Consequently, we all serve on THE Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment. May we support one another with our prayers and by our action.

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

NEW CHURCH START BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2000

Pastoral Compensation for new churches: The Annual Conference will provide clergy compensation for new churches up to the Denominational Average Compensation plus health insurance and pension on the following basis: first 12 months, 100%; second 12 months, 65%; third 12 months, 30%. The D. A. C. for 2000 will be \$40,804 (salary, travel and housing). Health insurance is estimated at \$6,000 and MPP/MRPF at \$6,500. The maximum possible compensation for 2000 is estimated to be \$53,304 at 100%, \$34,644 at 65% and \$15,984 at 30%.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>100% COMPENSATION</u>		<u>65% COMPENSATION</u>		<u>30% COMPENSATION</u>	
	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June-Dec</u>
DL					6,660	
FM		31,094				
GN						
JA		31,094				
LA		31,094	14,435			9,324
LE	22,210			20,209	6,660	
ME	22,210			20,209		
MI		31,094				
OR	22,210	31,094		20,209		
SP						
SR	22,210	31,094	14,435	20,209	6,660	9,324
TL			14,435			9,324
TM	22,210	31,094	14,435	20,209		9,324
WP		31,094				
TOTALS	111,050 ◻	248,752 ◻		57,740 ◀	101,045 ◻	19,980 ▶
	37,296 ◀					

TOTAL PASTORAL COMPENSATION \$575,863

(1) Five new churches launched June 1999:

Villages of Lady Lake, Leesburg District
St. Lucie West, Melbourne District
Heathrow, Orlando District
Opsprey, Sarasota District
Lithia/Pinecrest, Tampa District

(2) Eight churches projected for launch June 2000:

Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers District
Julington Creek, Jacksonville District
Eagle Ridge Area, Lakeland District
Hispanic – Miami SW, Miami District
Avalon Park Area, Orlando District
Toledo Blade – Sarasota District
Northwest - Generation Xer focused church, Tampa District
Hispanic – Fort Lauderdale Area, West Palm Beach District

(3) Four new churches launched June 1998:

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

(4) Three churches launched June 1997:

Pine Ridge Fellowship UMC – Deltona, DeLand District
Community of Faith UMC – US 27/SR 192, Leesburg District
Harvest UMC – Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota District

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

Funding: \$10,000

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

1999 Funding: \$20,000

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

Funding: \$12,000

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

Funding: \$ 8,000

Funds for Development of Innovative New Church Starts:

Funding: \$50,000

TOTAL NEW CHURCH START REQUEST \$675,863

**A POLICY FOR USE OF FUNDS DERIVED FROM SALE OF CLOSED,
ABANDONED OR DISCONTINUED LOCAL CHURCHES**

A Policy of the Florida Annual Conference is that proceeds from the sale of land and facilities of any closed, abandoned or discontinued local church shall be used for church development purposes as follows: 25% will be deposited into the Conference Committee on New Church Development and Church Redevelopment's Endowment Fund and 75% will be used by the district in which the closed, abandoned or discontinued local church was located. This policy is to be effective for any church which votes to close after January 1, 1999 or which is closed or discontinued by vote of the Annual Conference after January 1, 1999.

RATIONALE

The reason for this policy is to assure that resources of closed, abandoned and discontinued local churches are invested in church development causes. The deposit of 25% of funds into the Permanent Endowment Fund of the Conference Committee assures the growth of that fund from which grants are made for new church sites and for first unit buildings of new churches. The deposit of 75% of the proceeds with the District enables districts to have funds to meet the demands of their share of church development projects within the district.

DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING

DeLand District:

Montfort C. Duncan, Jr. (C)
Robert Crabill (L); David Hubler (L); William Ottinger (L); Robert Chapman (L);
Collace Green (L); Charles Hassler (L); Jim Davis (L); Dwight McQueen, Jr. (C);
Dana Smith (L)

Fort Myers District:

Larry E. Cook (C)
Victor Willis (C); Estelena Gill (L); David Moore (L); Allen Prather (L); Winnifred
Hoffman (L); Albert L. Tidwell (L); James E. Lake (C); Audrea Anderson(L); Alan
Beckner (L); Diane Tidwell (L)

Gainesville District:

Joe H. Smith (C)
Thomas J. Price, Chair; (C); William Rion (L); Doug Kirk (C); Richard McClellan
(L); James W. Knight (L); Bobby McCallum (L); Eloise Jackson (L); Bob White
(L); S. Austin Peele (L); Tom Mastin (L); Mark Waldorf (L); Jim Bishop (L); Doug
Clewis (C)

Jacksonville District:

Teresa E. Hill (C)

Sarah Osgood (L); Jack Dyer (L); Wendall Hall (L); Cliff Clarkson (L); Sarai Maiselle (C); Chester Plank (C); Sam Eisenberg (L); Barbara Glover (L); Barbara Riddle (C)

Lakeland District:

Aldo O. Martin (C)

Barbara Perriman (L); Bruce Strayer (L); John Hutto (L); Jacques Pierre (C); Phil Griner (L); Sue Hauptert-Johnson (C); Michael Lindsay (L); Hollis Boardman (C); Lerbie Alligood (C); William Gill (L); Ramon Cernuda (L); A. C. Bryant (C); Patricia Steed (C); Nora Ramirez (C); Robert Hornback (C); Robert Siegel (L); Don Williams (L)

Leesburg District:

Walter D. Edwards (C)

East: Daniel R. Jones (C); Cleveland English (C); William S. McCloud (C); David Fiebach (L); Steve Edwards (L); Robert Wright (L); West: Alan L. Beaver (C); Joseph E. Fulford (C); Al McGowan (C); Ernestine Reeder (L); Jim Furco (L); George Erickson (L)

Melbourne District:

W. Ray Finklea (C)

North: Michael D. Cloyd (C); W. Frank Russell (L); Carolyn J. Ott (L); Robert L. Davis (L); Richard P. Chandler (C); Michael T. Shirley (C); Walter O. Weber (C); Richard E. Gantz (C); David W. Herman (C); David Harris (C); South: L. Wilson Berry (L); Michael C. Oliver (C); Robert G. Hobby (L); Carlton M. Applebee, Jr. (L); Bruce Ebert (C); Eva Mae O'Neil (L); Thomas L. Weber (C); Lumen Dial (L); Richard W. Rohrer (C)

Miami District:

Clark Campbell-Evans (C)

Alicia Baro (L); Allan Bly (L); Charles Mitchell (L); Ed Rogers (L); Walter Baggezen (L); Albert G. Blomquist (C); Molly Johnson (L); Rob Parsons (C); Craig Nelson (C); John Archer (L); Mayda Mora (C)

Orlando District:

Robert H. Fox (C)

Keith Taylor (L) Chair; Tom Bledsoe (L); George H. Carlton (C); John Powers (C); Suzanne Acuff (L); Warren D. Langer, Jr. (C); Richard McCree (L); Samuel F. Parvin (C); William Pickett (C); Tony Rey (L)

St. Petersburg District:

Kevin M. James, Sr. (C)

South: Scott Baker (C); Paul Kelly (C); Donna Koontz (L); Frank Reynolds (C); Floyd Waters (C); Peg Wilson (L); North: Russell Bowman (L); Burton Donigan (L); richard Giebner (L); Delbert King (C); Paul Van Dine (c); Jack Taylor (C)

Sarasota District:

John H. Green (C)

Lloyd C. McClelland (C); Douglas S. Pareti (C); Carl L. Jenkins (L); Hugh E. Wrigglesworth (L); Roger Hetteema (L); John H. Ingram (L); Pat Miller (L); Duane Waters (C); Laura Wiggins (L)

Tallahassee District:

Charles E. Weaver (C)

West: John M. Fletcher (C); David G. Hortin (C); Talmadge Harrison (L); Dorothy Binger (L); Linda Yates (L); Carl Hanks (C); Carl Owenby (L); Beverly Santini (L); J.D. Amason (C); Joseph E. Allinder (C); Lloyd Monroe (L); East: Joseph E. Allinder (C); Catherine Norman (L); Joe Worden (L); Logan D. Whalen (C); Nick Godun (C)

Tampa District:

David L. Brazelton (C)

Mark Buell (L); James V. Harvester (C); Mary Handley (L); Carol Perrin (L); Ed Smith (L); Morris Hintzman (C); John Dowell (L); Alene Johnson (L); Russell Adams (L); Bob Zegota (L); Bruce Toms (C); David Lane (L); Leonard Porter (L); Steve Coss (C); Donald Keyes (C); Alma Alexander (L); Frank Hearn (L); John Crislip (L); Conrad Caraway (L); Maida Pou (L); Larry Kilbourne (C); Kent Crow (C); Duncan Gray (C); Rick Paul (C)

West Palm Beach District:

Kendall M. Taylor (C)

South: Brian Brightly (C); King Kuhney (L); Brack Hogan (L); Ruth Bamber (L); Frank Furman (L); Phil Bachi (L); North: Elizabeth Munnings (L); Karen Snyder (L); John Spillane (L); Thomas Sharpe (L); Rainer Richter (C)

OPERATION EVANGELIZATION REPORT

All across our Annual Conference churches and pastors are trying new approaches to reach the unchurched people in their surrounding communities. These efforts have translated into new members and higher worship attendance for these churches. Although we are a long way from reaching the vision of our Bishop of 400,000 disciples by Annual Conference 2000, many churches, which would have been declining, are showing growth. The following are some of the ways Operation Evangelization has helped catalyze the renewal of our Annual Conference.

Starting in October 1998, 60 pastors were trained to lead small groups of pastors in their district. The focus of these meetings are "how do we reach the unchurched in our communities?" As these groups study current literature on evangelism and church growth they are able to process through the experience of their colleagues. Many of the strategies I have used in my church were borrowed from success stories I heard from friends.

Under the urging of the Spirit (and our Bishop) many churches have chosen a means of evangelism that has bypassed our normal one time "program" approach to their lack of growth and instituted an ongoing means of reaching the unchurched. Some of these exciting stories of successful evangelism in our Annual Conference were given in The Bishop's Fishing Guide to Florida. Many

churches have: reworked their system of connecting a visitor to member, begun deploying their laity for evangelism outside the walls of their church in innovative ways, such as, servant evangelism, starting a new worship service, starting need meeting ministries for unchurched people or have marketed their church through media. The Bishop's Fishing Guide to Florida is available through the Annual Conference offices in Lakeland for \$5.00.

One of the more exciting approaches to evangelism in our Annual Conference is the Share Jesus Mission. At this writing 19 churches of the Jacksonville District are using the Share Jesus model of evangelism. During the regional event which takes place July 17th to the 24th, teams of approximately 15 people will camp out on the floor of these churches to help these congregations reach the unchurched in their communities. Here are some of the 19 projects happening that week: outreach to surfers, feeding the homeless and relaunching their contemporary service, backyard Bible clubs, servant evangelism to invite people to a four day family festival, and a three pronged outreach: to a retiree high rise, to business persons during lunch and to the poor who surround their downtown church.

Both the St. Petersburg and DeLand Districts have covenanted to have a Share Jesus Mission in 2000. If leaders emerge from this year's mission, we hope to do an all youth Share Jesus Mission in 2001.

Our committee, the District Superintendents, and the Bishop felt we must have ongoing accountability to our goal of 400,000 by May of 2000. Each church has been asked to fill out monthly reports on their churches progress.

Finally, all of us on the committee are excited to have a person of the caliber of Roger Swanson to direct Operation Evangelization. We are thankful to the Foundation for Evangelism for providing \$25,000 per year to help underwrite his salary.

Joe MacLaren, Chair

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

It is interesting to note that when we read the Bible we find that God calls to ministry people who are not necessarily trained, equipped, or even willing to do what God is asking them to do. Moses was afraid of public speaking, Jonah was unwilling, Jeremiah was too young, Abraham was shamefully old to become the father of a nation, Saul was an enemy of the church and none of the disciples had been to Seminary.

Leadership Network (NetFax Number 94, March 30, 1998) identified the development of a new apostolic leadership as key to the effectiveness of the Christian Church in the 21st century. 20th century training for ministry focused on formal theological education and credentialing processes. The church of

today and tomorrow is asking ministry leaders to present the Christian Faith in a fast paced world of change and challenge. It is vitally important that people entering full-time Christian ministry have a vibrant faith and a willingness to continue learning from lay people, peers and mentors in ministry. An active faith and on-the-job, experiential development is more important now than formal theological education. Though we still believe in the traditional disciplines of theology, church history, and scholarly study of the Bible, we are seeing many shifts in the preparation of candidates for ministry.

Seminaries where a majority of Florida students attend have recently restructured the theological reflection that accompanies field education and supervised ministry settings. District Committees on Ministry are asking candidates to explore personal growth issues through Clinical Pastoral Education and counseling. The Board of Ordained Ministry is designing individual learning experiences for candidates to integrate knowledge with the experience of ministry, and utilizing group peer learning experiences for further growth. The development of the Probationary Mentor Program in the year 2000 will further enhance peer learning for those new in ministry.

In addition, those entering ministry as a second career, both through the elder track and as local pastors, bring a wealth of experience to the practice of ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry has continued to be amazed and inspired by the leadership of our exceptional local pastors, many of whom have revitalized churches previously served by more formally educated ordained clergy.

All of this has led the Board of Ordained Ministry to struggle with what we are looking for in ministry leaders. Is it education, training, skill? That was the old model, with faith assumed. Should we question candidates on gifts and passion for ministry, and their devotional habits? Could it be that a candidate's willingness to be obedient to God while facing a future of change and challenge is what is most important? We do not have the answers but I can assure the Annual Conference that this Board of Ordained Ministry has grappled with all of these issues.

Our Board process changed in 1998, with a deadline of September 1 for applications for ministry. The Board reviewed materials in October and interviewed applicants in January and February. Part of the changed process is that some applicants were asked to do further work and to resubmit their applications at a future date, looking towards a more positive experience in the interview process. In some cases where the Board had serious concerns about applicants, we asked the applicant to work with us in designing the learning contingencies. We have had positive feedback on the September 1 deadline as it allows students to complete their applications during the summer months and not at final exams and it is a slower time in the local church than the Advent Season. For those of us serving full time in the local church, the October and

February weeks enabled us to spread out our time commitment over several months rather than spending two weeks during Lent at the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Board of Ordained Ministry is indebted to our wonderful Division of Ministry staff, the Rev. David A. Dodge, Executive Director of the Division of Ministry, and Mrs. Winnie Dean, Administrative Assistant. David and Winnie serve with effectiveness, efficiency, and grace. Dr. Richard Burnette of Florida Southern College, the denominational pioneer of ministry assessment, continues to enrich our work with screening both applicants and exploring candidates. We are indebted to Dr. Burnette and Mrs. Becky Cockroft, Psychometrist, for their tireless work on our behalf. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the 41 members of the Board of Ordained Ministry who willingly volunteer a minimum of two weeks' hard labor each year. Special thanks go to the Lay members of the Board whose perspective from the pew is invaluable.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie McLeod, Chairperson

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

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

Joanne Kelly: Associate in Music
Carol V. Marsh: Minister of Christian Education

RECOMMENDED FOR ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION

Thomas Clayton BRIDGES
Age 37; married (Denise); Candler; Southwest, Gainesville District; Candidate for Elder.

Kimberly Ann COTT
Age 30; married (David); Candler; First, Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers District; Candidate for Elder.

Ronald DEGENARO, JR.
Age 37; married (Jeannine); Biblical; Friendship, Ft. Myers District; Candidate for Elder.

Preval S. FLOREAL
Age 52; married (Rosanne); Asbury; Grace Haitian, Miami District; Candidate for Elder.

Robert Michael MARTIN
Age 35; married (Patricia); Duke; St. Luke's, Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

Jeffrey Allan PARKKILA
Age 35; married (Stephanie); Duke; Lockhart, Orlando District, Candidate for Elder.

David Kerns RAWLS
Age 44; married (Michele); Asbury; Grace, Tampa District, Candidate for Elder.

David Douglas SPAULDING
Age 46; married (Jeanne); Duke; Harbour Heights, Ft. Myers District, Candidate for Elder.

David Lee SPRINGER
Age 34; married (Jenifer); Candler; First, Geneva, Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

Javier Alexis VIERA
Age 28; single; Duke; Christ, New York City; Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

Deborah Victoria WEATHERSPOON
Age 31; married (Dale); Wesley; Palm Springs, Miami District; Candidate for Elder.

David Andrew WILLIAMSON
Age 27; married (Carolyn); Duke; Conway, Orlando District; Candidate for Elder.

RECOMMENDED FOR DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION*

Thomas E. DRICK
Nancy QUINTANA-RODRIGUEZ

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

RECOMMENDED FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Elizebeth AWONIYI
Age 46; married (Samuel); Florida State, Asbury; Tallahassee District; Candidate for Deacon.

Margaret B. KARTWE
Age 43; single; American Baptist College, Gammon; Leesburg District; Candidate for Deacon.

R. David MISENER
Age 32, married (Lena); University of South Florida, Asbury; Tampa District,

Candidate for Deacon.

Elizabeth Ann MORRIS

Age 35, Single; Florida State University; Duke; Ft. Myers District;
Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

Thomas Jay NELSON

Age 42, married (Michelle); Grove City College, Duke; Orlando District,
Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

Jacques E. PIERRE

Age 34, married (Charline); Trinity, Candler; Lakeland District,
Candidate for Deacon.

Gary Alan RIDEOUT

Age 43, married (Jayne); Southern Methodist University, Asbury; Jacksonville
District, Candidate for Commissioned Minister

Adam Scott ZELE

Age 31, married (Virginia); University of Pennsylvania, Duke, Gainesville District;
Candidate for Commissioned Minister.

RECOMMENDED FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Everett Thomas ASH

Age 55, married (Jean); Trinity College, Candler Course of Study; St. Petersburg
District; Candidate for Deacon.

Denzil Anthony SOUTHWOOD-SMITH

Age 64, married (Yvonne); Union Seminary– Jamaica; West Palm Beach District;
Candidate for Deacon.

RECOMMENDED FOR LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING

John BENNETT

Kathy BOYLES

Charles BURTON

Wilton DICE

John EKERS

Frank FITZSIMMONS

Emilio GONZALEZ

W. Storm HUTCHINSON, III

Tamara ISIDORE

Robert LADNER

John PEAVEY

Troy RAY

Charles REEB

Brett TEMPLETON

Gregory Stacey WILLIAMS

RECOMMENDED FOR TRANSFER AND RECOGNITION OF ORDERS

Jacob ATUAHENE-NSOWAAH

Age 45, married (Monica); University of Ghana, Union Seminary, Ghana
Methodist Church, Miami District.

PREACHERS RELIEF BOARD & RETIREMENT HOUSING

The Preachers Relief Board and Retirement Housing Committee continues to provide financial assistance and adequate housing for those in need during the special years of disability or retirement. At present, some twenty ministers and/or families are provided housing in property owned by the Board in several locations throughout the Conference. Our property manager, Rev. Paul Morris, does a superb job of "pastoring" these families, as well as seeing to the upkeep of the property. A yearly report is submitted to the Conference Trustees. Currently all structures are in satisfactory condition, properly maintained and insured.

The Board has made a concerted effort during 1998-99 to update our operations and ministry. As there are fewer calls for retirement housing due to better pastors' salaries, benefits and planning, we are concentrating on meeting the needs of those facing health or financial crises in their retirement years and/or a disabling condition. While we continue to solicit dwellings and donations for the ministry, which receives no conference funds, we are led to be ready with both houses and financial assistance for those necessitous cases among our brothers and sisters. We remind our ministers that the Board makes available up to \$500 in moving expense money for those retiring whose incomes do not exceed \$44,700.00. We also have a banquet at Annual Conference for those retired, with the current year's retirees as our guests.

We once again offer our thanks to our Conference Treasurer, Rev. Tom Marston, and our Division of Ministry Chair, David Dodge and Secretary Winnie Dean for their faithful service.

The Preachers Relief Board and Retirement Housing Committee is fiscally sound using wisely invested income from contributions of houses and money through the years. We thank all of you for your support. Please know that many wonderful and deserving people are "blessed" by your continued generosity.

May His Blessing Be Yours,
Rev. William A. Pickett

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

The Florida Annual Conference provides disability benefits through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). When a participant has been approved for disability status and has been certified as disabled by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits - Medical Review Board, the applying participant will begin to receive compensation at the rate of 40% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) on a monthly basis and an additional 10% from the Basic Protection Plan (BPP). The 1999 disability rate is \$19,668 and the 2000 disability rate is \$20,402. As the DAC increases, the CPP and BPP benefit

will increase proportionately. In addition, there is a 3% annual increase each July, provided the benefit was in effect by the previous December 31.

The Joint Committee on Disability met with a staff representative from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits in a training session in January 1999. The purpose of the session was to clarify the applications and reviews process for disability leave and benefits. The Joint Committee with assistance from the General Board will develop written policy statements on the process for the affected parties.

The Joint Committee on Disability has approved continuing disability benefits for the Conference Year 1999-2000 for the following persons: Donald M. Brown, Larry P. Dinning, Frank Edwards, Thomas P. Ettinger, Carol E. Green, Don Jordan, Don McMillan, Chilton W. McPheeters, Russell Moore, E. Edward Murfin, Jr., James K. Rowland, Alfred Hicks and Robert L. Sterner. The Joint Committee on Disability asks the Conference members to keep these persons and their families in your prayers.

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

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

We are grateful for the continuous labors in the Florida Conference. We are grateful to God for bringing about the increase in productive ministry among our smaller church bodies. Our funds have served well in the support of ministry, and the stewards of these funds are to be highly commended. The recommendations for the following year are as follows:

Guidelines

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

1. Who is qualified to receive minimum salary funds?
 - All full-time pastors who are not excluded in Section 2.
 - Student Pastors - maximum allowable \$3,700 from Equitable Compensation Funds with total salary not to exceed \$8,000.
 - Ministers serving those pastoral assignments of more than 125 members with an average attendance of 55 at the principle worship time. If the membership and attendance figures remain the same over a three year period, consideration will be given to the church becoming part of a circuit or part-time. The exceptions are student

appointments and new church situations in the first three years of organization.

2. Who are not eligible for minimum salary support?
 - All pastors who are retired.
 - Part-time pastors are not eligible for minimum salary support except in those cases where ministry within the discretion of the District Superintendent and Cabinet warrant special support. The amount of support available will not exceed 50% of the amount available on a full-time basis.
 - Ministers on Leave of Absence.
 - Associate Pastors.
 - Any ordained conference member not under pastoral appointment.
 - Those who are appointed from other Annual Conferences under Disciplinary appointment of 337.1.
3. To become a claimant a minister must live in the bounds of his/her parish and give full-time service to that charge. Studies pursued in an approved college or university are considered part of the work of the ministry if approved by the District Superintendent.
4. Applications for Equitable Compensation funds are submitted twice a year and must be received by the Conference office on or before December 1 and May 1. The December 1 application requires the signature of the Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, request for funds by the Charge Conference and the signature of the District Superintendent. The May 1 application may be completed by the District Superintendent and submitted to the Conference office.
5. Before a church is granted salary support, the church must conduct, or agree to conduct, a Stewardship Commitment plan.
6. The maximum allowable for any one minister is \$5,000 per year from Minimum Salary Support funds.
7. Assistance may not be received from both Missional Situation Funds and New Church Development Funds. Assistance may not be received from both Minimum Salary Support Funds and New Church Development Funds.
8. Churches whose salary support is at or near minimum may apply for assistance with utilities, health insurance, or moving expenses, or from the Haitian Hispanic Ministers Fund.

Minimum Salary Recommendations

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

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Full Connection with M. Div	\$26,310	\$27,625
Probationary Members with M. Div.	\$25,810	\$27,125
Full Connection without M. Div.	\$25,310	\$26,625
Associate Members	\$24,810	\$26,125
Full-time Local Pastor with two or more years of Course of Study	\$24,565	\$25,840
Full-time Local Pastor with less than two years of Course of Study	\$23,250	\$25,565

Other Equitable Compensation Funds

Longevity Merit Increase:

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

Missional Situations:

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

Utilities, Health Insurance, Moving Expenses:

The Equitable Compensation Commission recommends that each local church pay the Pastor's utilities and the portion of the group hospitalization premium which is not paid by the Annual Conference. In hardship situations pastors may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for utilities and for health insurance payments not covered by the Conference or the local church. The Equitable Compensation Commission will

pay only 60% of the base Health Insurance plan. In areas where HMO's are available, they shall be considered the base plan.

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

Ethnic Parsonage Fund:

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

Haitian-Hispanic Ministries Fund:

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

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

2000 Budget Request

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

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Equitable Salaries	\$145,000	\$187,000
Longevity	15,000	15,000
Missional	48,000	
Utilities and Moving	15,000	20,000
Ethnic Parsonages	25,000	35,000
Health and Hardship	70,000	59,500
Pensions	28,000	30,000

Workers Compensation	2,000	2,000
Administration	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Subtotal	\$350,000	\$ 350,000
Special Grant –		
Church Redev.	\$ <u>75,000</u>	\$ <u>75,000</u>
Grand Total	\$ 425,000	\$ 425,000

Harry R. Hoston, Chairperson
David A. Dodge, Executive Director

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Fall meeting of the General Board of Pensions Benefits Health Flex Summit was held September 17-19, 1998 in Evanston, IL. This meeting included all of the member conferences of the Health Flex program. This meeting was attended by David Dodge, Exec. Director of the Division of Ministry and the chair of this committee.

Items discussed at this meeting included a review of the Internal Revenue Code 125, commonly known as a "Cafeteria Plan." This plan is a funding method for medical reimbursement accounts for clergy and lay employees utilizing pre-tax dollars. A General Board attorney reviewed this code, pointed out the new changes and stressed the very strict compliance rules.

Also discussed by benefit educators from the General Board, along with representatives from Cigna, was a presentation on a trial election workshop.

Coverage rules and eligibility for retirees were reviewed specifically for those participants that could be affected by the 5-year rule. Further information will be furnished by Conference officers when it is available.

GBOPHB advised that the 3-year contract with United Behavioral Health would expire 12/31/99. At present, plans are to execute a 1-year contract for actives only, while they are exploring other possible vendors and programs.

The Florida Conference Insurance Committee met 1/20/99 in Lakeland. Bob Preusch and Karen Allen attended from GBOPHB. Rod MacLaren was introduced as a new member of the Florida Conference Health Insurance Committee. At this meeting Bob Preusch presented a final draft of the eligibility and coverage rules for retirees. The most significant change is involving the "5 Year Rule" which mandates that retirees must have been enrolled in the Health Flex program for the 5 years prior to retirement in order to receive health insurance benefits in retirement. Bob Preusch also advised that a one-year

contract had been signed with United Behavioral Health in order to provide time to explore other vendors for the Mental Health program.

A special committee was appointed to study the non-funded liability of our health insurance program. The first meeting was set for March 11, 1999 in Lakeland.

Concern has been raised over the difference in rates to churches in an HMO area and those outside an HMO area. The insurance committee voted to use money from the Rate Stabilization Fund to make out-of-HMO-area rates equal to the in-HMO area rates. This will be in effect for clergy appointments, but not for local church lay employees.

The Winter of 1999 Semi-Annual Summit Meeting was held at Simpsonwood in Norcross, GA. In attendance were representatives from all conferences in the Health Flex program. David Dodge and the Chair of the Insurance Committee represented the Florida Conference. Following are items discussed at the meeting.

1. Final draft of 5-year eligibility rules approved by GBOPHB
2. Final draft and recommendation on Section 125 and the revised adoption agreement.
3. Florida projected rates were presented for the year 2000. Projected rates show an increase over 1999 of 8.9% for actives, and 4.4% for retirees. As indicated, these are projections at this point. Final rates will not be available until September of 1999. However, it is felt that they will be sufficient based on current data.

For comparison purposes, the projected rates for the entire Health Flex program is an increase of 7.6% for actives and 12.5% for retirees.

The following rates are projections, as mentioned above, and are given only to help churches **begin** their budgeting process. They don't include life insurance premiums. **Final rates will be released as soon as they are available.**

Monthly rates:

Single	\$249
Participant + 1	\$473
Family	\$598

Percent Change from Previous Year 8.9%

The projected additional cost for "buying up" by those who live in an HMO area but elect the PPO:

Single	\$127
Participant + 1	\$148
Family	\$187

Recommendations for 2000

The Florida Conference continues with General Board of Pension and Health Benefits Health Flex Program for 2000.

The 2000 Annual Conference Budget for medical and life insurance programs with the Conference share funding formula at 22% shall be set at \$2,300,000.00 an increase of \$100,000.00.

Cigna is to continue to be our carrier for the Basic Life Insurance Program. Minnesota Mutual is to continue as carrier for the Supplemental Life Insurance Program and will paid 100% by the participants without Conference funding.

The Florida Conference will continue with the American Dental Plan, its dental insurance for 2000.

The firm of Aon Consulting shall continue to serve as Agent of Record for the Life Insurance program.

Our Insurance Committee Report and recommendations are before you for implementation.

Gerald D. Lossing, Chairperson

THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

The Board of Pensions is committed to serving the Florida Annual Conference by providing the best possible benefits for our clergy participants and lay participants, and their families. The Board is composed of twenty-one members: fourteen lay persons and seven clergy persons, along with ex-officio persons, consultants, and liaisons. Board members also serve on the Health Insurance Committee and the Preacher's Relief Board. The Board is looking at the Twenty-First Century and plans to report on "The State of the Pensions Program" at the annual conference session – 2000. The Board is also looking at the effects of health insurance liability for retirees as mandated by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Board is fortunate to have the capable leadership in Rev. David Dodge as Executive Director and Rev. Tom Marston as Conference Treasurer. We are also appreciative of the fine work and support that Jenny DiLorenzo and Winnie Dean give this Board in so many ways.

The Florida Conference Average Compensation (CAC):

1999 — \$ 47,315 2000 — \$ 48,785

The Denominational Average Compensation (DAC):

1999 — \$ 39,337 2000 — \$ 40,805

The Board of Pensions submits five reports for action:

Report I - Past Service Rate

The Board of Pensions recommends that the Past Service Rate for 2000 be \$512.

The 2000 Rate is equal to 1.05% of the 2000 Conference Average Compensation. This recommended increase is made possible by a recent actuarial analysis by the General Board. The 1999 Past Service Rate was \$473.

Report II - Special Grants

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

The Board of Pensions recommends continued special grants for former lay employees of the Florida Annual Conference: Doris Buhrman, Hilda Fuster, Janet Hardin, Elizabeth Hogan, Eugene Hogan, Leroy Northrup, Clara Spencer, and Mary Winslow. The rate per service year is set according to a formula based on 50% of the Conference Past Service Rate. The rate per service year for former lay employees is projected to be \$ 256.00 for 2000.

Report III - Apportionment Recommendation for 2000

The Board of Pensions recommends the following amounts to be referred to the Council on Finance and Administration as necessary to fund the pension benefits programs for 2000 in the MRPF/ CPP Apportionment:

Ministerial Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF)	\$ 56,014
Comprehensive Pension Program (CPP)	\$1,062,000
Basic Protection Program (BPP)	\$ 58,000
Special Grants	\$ 50,000
Pensions Support	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,276,014

This amount for 2000 is equal to the amount for 1998 and 1999.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and

are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. An amount equal to 100% of the pensions payments received during the year of 2000 be and is hereby designated as a housing/rental allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Florida Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement.
2. This housing/rental allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or place on disability leave by the Florida Annual Conference and whose name and relationship to the Conference is recorded in the Journal of the Florida Annual Conference and in other appropriate records maintained by the Conference.
3. The pension payment to which this housing/rental allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference or institution of The United Methodist Church or of a former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired ministers' pension.

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

Retired clergy will continue to avoid paying taxes (either income or SECA taxes) on the portion of their pension, which is used to provide housing and housing related expenses. The amount excluded cannot exceed the smallest of the following amounts:

- *the amount actually spent for housing including, but not limited to: maintenance, utilities, furnishings and taxes;*
- *the fair rental value of the housing including the fair rental value of furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of the utilities; or*
- *the amount of the taxable portion of the pension benefit received from the General Board.*

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

A retired clergy person 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 clergy person, 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 clergy person 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 clergy person. Costs which were paid for after the death of the clergy person 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.

Report V – Resolution on Benefits for Deacons in Full Connection

Whereas, the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church established the Order of Deacons in full connection;

And whereas The Book of Discipline – 1996 states that Deacons in full connection are Clergy;

Therefore, be it resolved that all employers of Deacons in full connection within the Florida Annual Conference be encouraged to provide Deacons with health and welfare benefits equivalent to those provided to Elders in full connection of the Florida Annual Conference. For those employers who are eligible, it is encouraged that the Florida Annual Conference's health insurance program and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits' plans be utilized. Funding for these benefits is the responsibility of the salary-paying unit.

(This resolution was approved by the Conference Board of Pensions and the Conference Board on Ordained Ministry in 1999 for presentation to the Annual Conference.)

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

Board of Pensions Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 1998

Assets

Investments in General Board of Pensions		
Conference Endowment Fund	4,064.71	
Deposit Account	16,150,901.63	
Past Service Funding Account	15,784,788.27	
Superannuate Endowment Fund	<u>227,287.87</u>	
		32,167,042.48
Due from Other Funds		<u>98,147.01</u>
Total Assets		<u>32,265,189.49</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Net Assets		
Pension Fund Balance		<u>32,265,189.49</u>

Board of Pensions Statement of Financial Activities

January 1- December 31, 1998

Income	
MRPF/PPP Apportionments	1,284,634.32
Defined Benefit Annuity Reserve Fund	5,927,840.00
Temporary Aid Fund	
United Methodist Publishing House	11,496.80
Chartered Fund	

Printing Establishment Fund	3,058.57	
Interest Income	3,298,724.36	
Superannuate Endowment Fund	<u>56,162.45</u>	10,581,916.50
Expenditures		
BPP Premiums	53,765.46	
CPP Premiums	977,915.29	
MRPF	484,955.29	
Special Grant	21,685.42	
Unfunded Liability	<u>2,934,587.29</u>	<u>4,472,908.75</u>
Income in Excess of Expenditures		<u>6,109,007.75</u>

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) seeks to carry out the guidelines and fulfill its mandate as stated in the Book of Discipline, Section IX, Paragraph 640, and to develop and implement a performance based action plan which identifies methodologies designed to enhance its role, responsibility, and status within the conference.

SUMMARY

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

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

- Monitoring
- Surveying districts and churches for needs determinations

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

Resources will be allocated as [programs are developed and organized through planning and development meetings and conferences. For example, monitoring instruments must be planned, developed, and field tested before actual monitoring activities can begin. Surveys developed, data collected, and needs-based determinations made before training and other support activities can occur. Annual conference approval for a conference culturally diverse activity and time slot before planning and expense can be determined.

The total program budget proposed for conference year 2000 is \$6,500.00

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Arnett Smith, Chair

**FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church request the Annual Conference meeting June 1-5, 1999 to authorize the remodeling and refurbishing of the United Methodist Building.

Funds for this project will come from the Trustees budget not to exceed \$1.4 million dollars for the duration of the loan. The goal is a 10 year pay off and not to exceed 15 years.

This request has been approved by C.F. and A. By using the present Trustee budget it will not create additional apportionments for the local church.

The United Methodist Building was built over 25 years ago. It is in need of new air conditioning, security system, telephone update, and re-designs for computer networks as well as re-designs of space for offices and changes necessary related to the new Archives Building.

Additional savings will be realized if these changes can be made in conjunction with the building of the new Archives Building.

The Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Annual Conference requests the permission to begin construction of the new Archives Building when cash and pledges amount to the estimated construction cost of \$450,000.00.

We now have on hand, cash and pledges amounting to \$350,000.00. We believe pledges from local churches and individuals will insure the cost of construction.

In just 10 months we have received cash and pledges of \$350,000.00. The Trustees ask the Annual Conference to approve a loan to cover the cost of construction not to exceed a 4-year pay off.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN

This past year, 1998, was a historical one for the Florida Conference United Methodist Men. Under the able leadership of Russ Tabbert we celebrated during October 50 years of United Methodist Men Retreats at Leesburg — 50 years of coming together in a retreat setting, praising God through song, prayer and worship — 50 years of men meeting the Resurrected Christ at the Saturday night commitment service — 50 years of men returning to their homes, their churches, their communities, on fire for Jesus after a life-changing experience that took place at a Leesburg retreat — a half century of men making a difference as they share Jesus because of what happened at these retreats.

We live in a frenetic, fast paced, fragmented society that often stands in the way of the needed quiet time we must have with our Lord. Places like the Leesburg retreats are very important in our Christian walk. If you haven't been to either of the couples' retreats in the Spring or a men's retreat in October, please commit yourself this year to do so, as almost 4,000 United Methodists did in 1998. Of that number over one-fourth of them, 1,291, came to the altar to give their lives to Christ for the first time, or re-dedicating themselves to Jesus. These are the numbers that are important! Leesburg is indeed Holy Ground.

This year we will have five couples and four men's retreats. The last weekend of the men's retreats will again be fully Contemporary. This was introduced last year and was so well received we are planning to make it a permanent retreat. Further, plans are going forward to make one of the couples retreats Contemporary in the year 2000.

As we continue to look at different ways to bring the Leesburg Experience to others in our Conference, I am pleased to announce an all singles retreat is planned for the year 2000. The Conference United Methodist Men provide a retreat for couples and for men, but a large segment of our church has been overlooked as a potential retreat group. With such a large number of singles in the local churches, we hope to provide a retreat just for them. Bishop Henderson

is also excited about this way of ministering to our singles. More information will be forthcoming as the plans for this retreat unfold.

On July 11, last year, three Conferences came together for a day to be remembered. Alabama-West Florida, South Georgia and the Florida Conference United Methodist Men met in Tallahassee for the First Annual Bishops Invitational for Christ's Men. The Bishops of each Conference preached along with a Leesburg men's retreat favorite, John Riley, with Dr. Jimmy Buskirk from First Church Tulsa, Oklahoma, giving the final commitment address. I might add our own Bishop Henderson was truly outstanding. When he finished speaking, the men gave him a five minutes standing ovation. The Florida Conference is blessed to have such a powerful preaching Bishop as Bishop Henderson.

The music team came from Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, along with a quartet from Killearn United Methodist Church, Tallahassee. We were blessed by word, song, and fellowship that day in July.

Over 92% of the men in attendance want to repeat this event within two years. So June 24, 2000 the Second Annual Bishops Invitational will take place again in Tallahassee. Our Past Conference Lay Leader Mr. Leland McKeown will again be the General Chairman for this event.

In 1999 we will strive to have a United Methodist Men fellowship in each church in our Conference as mandated by the Book of Discipline. I, along with the Board of Directors, District Presidents, and Conference Committee of the United Methodist Men, stand ready to work with all Pastors and churches to achieve this goal. We are available and ready to serve and assist any where, any place and any time. We covet the support of our Pastors to ensure a fellowship of United Methodist Men exists in each church.

Our Ministerial Scholarship ministry this past year was again strong. Since the mid-1970's the United Methodist Men have provided over \$345,000 for scholarships. This past year fourteen aspiring United Methodist Pastors received help from this fund. Further, the Jim Russo Prison Ministry, Lay Renewal, United Methodist Children's Home, Foundation for Evangelism, both the Boy and Girl Scouts, along with seven various missions received financial support from the Conference United Methodist Men.

The United Methodist Men supported the Conference Archives Building Project. This will continue until this much needed new building is completed. The United Methodist Men stand willing to support our Bishop and the Florida Conference any way we can as we have in the past.

As I begin my tenure as Conference President of the United Methodist Men, I am humbled as I reflect back and ponder the legacy my predecessors laid before us:

such leaders as John Grant, John Counter, especially Leland McKeown and Russ Tabbert. Both Leland and Russ have contributed much to prepare me for this responsibility, I pray I can rise to the standard these leaders have achieved over the years. Truly they are a cloud of witnesses that all United Methodist Men can emulate. To these men I say THANKS for your commitment, your dedication, and your sacrifices for this Ministry called United Methodist Men.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith . . . so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. God bless you.
Your Brother, John Dowell

**“MAKE PLAIN THE VISION”
FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

9,600 women came together for four days in May, 1998, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando for the Assembly of the United Methodist Women to “Make Plain The Vision” for all of God’s people in our time and place. The theme Scripture was Habakkuk 2:2 “The Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.”

The Assembly is a global gathering of women called to “Make Plain The Vision,” a vision of hope, grounded in Scripture, inherited from our foremothers, molded by our experiences, enriched by our diversity, and inspired by our dreams. Our commitment to mission with women, children, and youth brought us together. In community we worship, pray, cry, laugh, search, listen, and talk with one another sharing our visions as we recommit to living out God’s vision.

The Assembly opened with a Celebration of Holy Communion. Each day we were called to worship by the sound of the shofar, the ancient horn. Bible Study led by Tex Samples, and Emilie M. Townes, using Scripture from Isaiah 65:17-25, as we remembered the prophetic vision of Isaiah and the many ways this vision has been lived out by women dedicated to mission. Elizabeth S. Tapia led us through Bible Study, with Scripture from Luke 4:18-19, focusing on the ways that God’s vision challenges us in the present as we reflect on how Jesus would have us “bring good news to the poor.”

Sara Shingler, President of The Women’s Division, and many others addressed the Assembly with stories of our foremothers, testimonies of women in mission, and challenges for social action. Nearly 10,000 letters were written urging the ratification of the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and delivered to legislators in Washington, DC, in September. Assembly participants brought Mission Resource Kits for the UMCOR Depot.

\$231,384.68 was collected for the Assembly Offering. The Assembly closed with a challenge from Joyce Sohl, Deputy Secretary, The Women's Division, to use our hands, hearts, and power to "Make The Vision Plain."

The Conference elected officers and School of Christian Mission Study Group Leaders were in attendance at the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission held in June at the Ramada Conference Center in Jacksonville, FL.

The United Methodist Women continue to "Make Plain The Vision" with mission education for the church through the 1998 School of Christian Mission held at Florida Southern College. Over 700 women, men, youth, and children joined in the studies of:

- The Bible (Part 1, Origins and Formation)
- Indonesia
- Refugees and Global Migration

The school includes worship, study, a learning center, focus groups, leadership training, membership promotion, interpretation of the Purpose and total program of United Methodist Women. One of the highlights for the youth was participation in a "hands on" mission experience at Tampa United Methodist Center.

All United Methodists are encouraged to be a part of the 1999 School of Christian Mission with the continued study of The Bible (Part II, Authority and Interpretation), studies of Mission in the Twenty-First Century, and Humanity Comes of Age. Florida Southern College once again will be the site for the school.

Representatives to The North America Southeast Region 3 World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Retreat at Simpson Woods Conference Retreat Center, Norcross, GA in August, were Donnell Keeling, and Jacquelyn Whitehouse. Jackie is serving as the Registrar for the Florida Area World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Retreat to be held at the Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, in August 1999.

Jan Winfield, Executive Secretary, Leadership Education, The Women's Division, Atlanta Office and Nelida Morales, Volunteer Consultant, led a Leadership Workshop for the Committee on Program in August.

"The Lord is My Shepherd" was the theme for the Eighth Annual Spiritual Enrichment Retreat held at the Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, in September. Renowned speaker and author, Marjorie Kimbrough of Atlanta, led us through an inspiring, enriching and revitalizing weekend.

In October, we were privilege to have Jean Vanderslice and Gail Christy-Jones to represent our Mission Team at the Korean-American United Methodist Women National Training Event in Nashville, TN.

The training for the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission Planning Team, 1999 was held at Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN, November 6-8, 1998. Jacquelyn Whitehouse is serving as the Florida Conference Representative through 2001.

"Powerful Promises" was the theme for the Twenty-Fifth Conference Annual Meeting held at Branscomb Auditorium, Lakeland. The Worship Service opened with a Native American Smudging Ceremony, with The Rev. Margaret Bellows dressed in traditional Native American attire. The Rev. Candace Lewis led us through Biblical reflections of the powerful promises of the theme Scripture, II Corinthians 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the Glory of God." The Rev. Nora Ramirez and Rev. Margaret Bellows assisted with the closing Communion Service.

The 1999 Budget, including a Pledge to Mission of \$735,000, was approved by the delegates. Praise God for the vision of the women of the Florida Conference who exceeded the challenge of the 1998 Pledge to Mission by giving \$796,283.35 in undesignated gifts to the mission of the Church. In addition, many thousands of dollars were given by Local Units for local missions. We are challenged each year to meet the needs of God's people and with God's help we shall meet that challenge. We celebrate the organizing of new United Methodist Women units chartered in Jacksonville, Leesburg, Melbourne, Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee and Tampa Districts. We invite all churches to charter a unit of this organization which is deeply rooted in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church.

Christine Dean Keels, Vice President, Chair, Christian Social Responsibility, The Women's Division, keynote speaker, presented a powerful and inspirational message on justice and social issues of the poor and marginal people which need the support and action of all Christians.

Creative and inspiring reports of the Assembly, "Make Plain The Vision," were given by scholarship recipients: Tammy Hawkins and Amy Wiggins (College/University Women) and Tina Frazier and Erica Daniels (Teen Members).

Special Mission Recognitions were presented to newly Commissioned Missionaries Christine Williams, Tampa, and Kim Torres, Miami. We rejoice and support their commitment to be missionaries of the Church. A Membership Workshop was conducted in February, 1999 by Dollie Watkins Crist, Volunteer Consultant to the Membership Campaign, "Yes!! Count Me In." The focus of the workshop was on Teen and College/University Women. Each District had representation at the event.

May 15, "All God's Children Got A Place In The Choir," a workshop on Racism and Hate Groups was led by Lois Dauway, Assistant General Secretary, Christian Social Responsibility, The Women's Division. Assisting Ms. Dauway were the 1995 National Seminar, Florida Conference Representatives, Paulette Monroe and Jessie Pinney.

Financial Workshops are being held in the fourteen Districts during the first six months of 1999. These workshops are focusing on the role, responsibilities and commitment as United Methodist Women to fulfill the Purpose of the organization, and the ministry to women, children, and youth.

We are happy to have women from our conference giving their service in other capacities of mission through The Women's Division, The Board of Global Ministries. Mary Melvin is a Women's Division Director, Dollie Watkins Crist serves as the United Nations Advocate and Volunteer Consultant to the Membership Campaign, "Yes! Count Me In," and Rosita Seeber is the Hispanic Consultant. Gredda Davila serves as a representative on this committee. Amy Miller serves as a member on the Women's Division Task Force on Teen Women.

The Florida Conference United Methodist Women had a full and busy year since the last Annual Conference. The education and experience from the workshops and events are an important part of doing God's mission. We have seen the vision and have dedicated ourselves to be seekers and doers to bring Jesus Christ into many lives.

We are called to "Make Plain The Vision" - our commitment to mission with women, children, and youth - brings us together. The challenges which confront us, strengthen us. Passion for justice moves us to make the vision real. The love we experience in Jesus Christ sustains us.

PURPOSE

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

Anna J. Woods, President

FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Accomplishments of the past year include:

Over 51 registered UMVIM teams went out from Florida to other countries or in the USA. They included all types of ministries, from Bible Schools to Evangelism, Building, Musical, Cottage works, groves, reforestation, solar, and sustainable, appropriate technology ..etc.

STATE AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- ❖ In 1998 UMVIM and DISASTER RESPONSE combined to set up first response teams to disasters. Follow up teams are recruited to help in the aftermath of the disaster and to rebuild. Training is offered at Conference, District and Local Church Levels. While each group has its own identity and individuality, the merger to response has been very successful. Bill Rhan, the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator is responsible for the training. Disasters responded to by the response teams include, the Haines City and Orlando District Tornadoes, the Florida Fires, Hurricane Georges in the Keys, as well as coordinating supplies and funds for the response to hurricanes in the Caribbean and Central America.
- ❖ The primary Florida project under construction is the **Chief Billy Osceola Seminole Reservation Library** in Brighton. UMVIM is adding an addition which will double the space of the Library. The original building was built by UMVIM teams twenty-two years ago.
- ❖ Florida hosted many teams including Nomad groups. They worked in disaster response, building and remodeling projects. The Nomads are construction teams of mostly retired persons with motor homes who travel across the country and stay and work on construction sites, offering their volunteer ministry.
- ❖ Mt. Nebo UMC in the Gainesville District is having an addition constructed.
- ❖ Carver Heights Ministries has been created by the Leesburg District and is an official program of Florida Conference UMVIM. It ministers to low income families and children.
- ❖ Florida UMVIM was the highest represented with attendees at the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM Rally in July of 1998.
- ❖ Florida UMVIM has sponsored the itineration of ministers from other countries.
- ❖ Florida UMVIM encourages the building of strong District UMVIM teams.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- ❖ The Youth Arm of UMVIM under the leadership of Rick Conner, Youth Director is very successful and took a team to Belize as well as some

projects in the U.S.

- ❖ A UMVIM Youth Choir is being organized under the Leadership of Terry Anne Farmer and will tour the U.S. and other countries.
- ❖ A Musical Evangelism Team went to Zimbabwe under the musical direction of Choirmaster Tom Dewitt. Another trip is planned in June of 2000.
- ❖ Under the coordination of Bill and Becky Lewis teams are sent to Belize. A kitchen was built in Forest Home with youth and adult teams to help with hunger. A vo-tech classroom will be re-built in 1999.
- ❖ Medical Teams went to many areas including Honduras, Zimbabwe and other countries under the leadership of the UMVIM Medical Coordinator, Dr. James Flach.
- ❖ The Methodist Church in Haiti received an Exploration Team of five and future projects are being worked on that will include Haitian-Americans on teams.
- ❖ Work with the Methodist Church in Panama is projected in the near future. A Cottage Works Team was sent to Panama to investigate potential projects. Cottage Works engages people in sustainable agriculture and appropriate technology.
- ❖ Florida UMVIM has sent teams to Venezuela in the area of Bureo.
- ❖ Team Africa continues to work in Zimbabwe with Box Garden, Cottage Works, Solar, Medical, Dental, Reforestation, Noah's Ark (an animal project) and changing the factory to a school of vocational training.
- ❖ We are working toward setting up a MEDICAL AND DENTAL Turn Key Project to make it easier for Medical and Dental teams to work in the USA and Abroad.

To find out all you want to know about Florida UMVIM, attend the ***UMVIM Convocation & Rally during the 3rd weekend in September, at the Life Enrichment Center***

All the above is accomplished to the Glory of God. ***Dare to Share Jesus Christ!***

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Griner, Director Florida Conference UMVIM
Call: 352/326-5672; 352/326-3050, FAX

RELATED AGENCIES

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME
1998 - "An Extra-Ordinary Year"

90 Years of Ministry to Children and Youth

The mission of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is to create an atmosphere which enables children and families with special needs to experience God's love and care as presented in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Combining Christian influence with a healing, caring, therapeutic community, the Home provides a continuum of highly specialized services designed to strengthen individual and family life.

The year 1997 was "no ordinary year." Through a dedicated Board of Trustees and many extra planning hours for staff as well, we left 1997 in a dead run with a sketch of what 1998 would bring. If 1997 was "No Ordinary Year" then 1998 was an "extra-ordinary year" as we began to put faces on the sketches of 1997.

Ordinary in the sense that we continued to do what we do best in caring for children, youth and families in a Christian Environment.

Extraordinary in the sense that we also developed new programs and buildings designed to carry us into the next Millennium as we plan to provide the care and program needed for the future. These extraordinary renovated and new buildings will allow us to touch more lives and provide ministry in a variety of ways to more people. These new buildings were designed and built as current program evolved and future programs are envisioned.

They are extra-ordinary in that they allow us to:

Brinkley Cottage – Worrell Educational Center is an extraordinary addition to program in that it provides an educational support center for our residents where tutoring, study hours, library, nature and science center are available. Program possibilities for a campus school for new and suspended residents are in the development stage.

Hardin Hall renovation is an extraordinary addition in providing a Campus Welcome Center, Archives Room, administrative offices in close proximity for better teamwork and staff utilization, Alumni Office, photo-video study and production room, mail center, computer lab, and gift room. A Board/Conference room, small meeting rooms for staff in-service training as well as workshops, seminars and retreats are also housed in Hardin Hall.

Bruton is an extraordinary addition in that it too offers a reception area for new residents and their families. It was designed to make persons feel comfortable in difficult situations. Among its special features are counseling rooms for

individuals, families, groups, play therapy and conference rooms for meetings or parent education. Bruton Counseling Center has allowed us to be on the cutting edge of new technology, counseling theory and a teaching center for interns from local universities that will assist our ministry to children, youth and families. Our consulting psychiatrist as well as the local Child Advocacy Center maintains an office and three staff members in Bruton Counseling Center. During 1998 we were able to accomplish more home assessments, work closer with families and as a result of these programs there were no unplanned discharges.

During 1998 we were able to begin and will continue an extraordinary special project in competency-based training beginning with child and youth care workers and extending to all staff in the future.

Waller-Jeter, specifically designed to house children and youth with behavioral difficulties, is an extraordinary addition to our work with difficult children and youth. This cottage, through the use of specially trained Child and Youth Care Workers and Behavior Buddies has assisted in helping children and youth gain control of their behaviors, build self-esteem, and increase their social skills with others. The cottage also acts as a diagnostic cottage.

West Gilbert has undergone an extraordinary renovation. Built in the 40's this cottage needed a plumbing upgrade. As a result four new bathrooms were installed, fresh paint, new carpet and new furniture make the living arrangement for the middle school boys who live there much easier.

Our new brick fence line and new corner sign are an extraordinary addition to the beautification and security of our campus, our residents and the community.

Nineteen Ninety-eight was truly an extraordinary year in that through special gifts, bequests and through the continued prayerful assistance of the local churches in the Florida Conference and especially our donors we were able to maintain program while building for the future. The children and youth in our care are experiencing new programs in counseling, campus religious life, education, recreation and cottage family life. We continue to unconditionally love and care for our residents, as they continue to make us proud "parents" by succeeding in many endeavors including, academic, social and recreational. They are the reason we are called to be here. The need is greater than ever and with your faithful support we can continue creating an atmosphere, which enables children, youth and families with special needs to experience God's love and care as presented in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

During 1998, Our Fifth Sunday giving from local churches and friends of the Home allowed us to minister to more children, youth and families than in previous years. The local church goal for giving in 1999 is \$8.25 per member and is set for \$8.50 in 2000. This represents a minimum goal of what is actually needed. We deeply appreciate the local churches and individuals that exceed their

commitment to children and thereby meet and exceed their goal. Without them 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.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to combine Christian influence with a healing, caring, therapeutic community, so that we might provide a continuum of highly specialized services designed to strengthen individual and family life on your behalf. Truly this was an "extraordinary year!"

Freda S. Boone, Chairperson Board of Trustees
Alexander C. Carmichel, IV, President – Senior Pastor

Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
Financial Statements and
Independent Auditor's Report
Years Ended December 31, 1998 and 1997
Members of the Board of Trustees
Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
Enterprise, Florida

I have audited the accompanying statements of financial position, activities, cash flows and functional expenses of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. (the "Home"), as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Home. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audits.

I conducted my audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audits provide a reasonable basis for my opinion. In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc., as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and the results of its support and revenue, expenses, cash flows and functional expenses for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

February 17, 1999

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 1998

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Assets				
Cash	\$ 183,060	\$	\$	\$ 183,060
Contributions receivable	507,176	507,176		
Other receivables	2,340	2,340		
Prepaid expenses	40,613	40,613		
Internal receivables <payables>	<37,776>	5,977	31,799	
Land, buildings, and equipment	7,168,575	7,168,575		
Investments	937,462	482,284	10,848,169	12,267,915
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,801,450</u>	<u>\$ 488,261</u>	<u>\$ 10,879,968</u>	<u>\$ 20,169,679</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 423,190	\$	\$ 50,000	\$ 473,190
Annuity payment liability			310,881	310,881
Net Assets				
Unrestricted	8,378,260			8,378,260
Temporarily restricted, primarily for construction or purchase of buildings or equipment		488,261		488,261
Permanently restricted for:				
Scholarship education			1,062,878	1,062,878
General endowment			4,742,469	4,742,469
Annuities			3,941,824	3,941,824
Campus education			552,144	552,144
Scholarship endowment			219,772	219,772
Total Net Assets	<u>8,378,260</u>	<u>488,261</u>	<u>10,519,087</u>	<u>19,385,608</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 8,801,450</u>	<u>\$ 488,261</u>	<u>\$ 10,879,968</u>	<u>\$ 20,169,679</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Assets				
Cash	\$ 233,085	\$	\$	\$ 233,085
Contributions receivable	385,550			385,550
Other receivables	18,848			18,848
Prepaid expenses	11,357			11,357
Internal receivables <payables>	<11,289>	<1,244>		12,533
Land, buildings, and equipment	3,292,029	353,448		3,645,477
Investments	1,272,716	3,811,499	8,769,696	13,853,911
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,202,296</u>	<u>\$ 4,163,703</u>	<u>\$ 8,782,229</u>	<u>\$ 18,148,228</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 350,399	\$	\$ 50,000	\$ 400,399
Annuity payment liability			300,007	300,007
Net Assets				
Unrestricted	4,851,897			4,851,897
Temporarily restricted, primarily for construction or purchase of buildings or equipment		4,163,703		4,163,703

Permanently restricted for:				
Scholarship education			868,924	868,924
General endowment			3,546,556	3,546,556
Annuities			3,332,210	3,332,210
Campus education			517,060	517,060
Scholarship endowment			167,472	167,472
Total Net Assets	<u>4,851,897</u>	<u>4,163,703</u>	<u>8,432,222</u>	<u>17,447,822</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 5,202,296</u>	<u>\$ 4,163,703</u>	<u>\$ 8,782,229</u>	<u>\$18,148,228</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support				
Contributions	\$ 3,460,486	\$ 801,400	\$809,991	\$ 5,071,877
Investment income	68,659	148,386	144,045	361,090
Support payments	146,392			146,392
Day care center	181,980			181,980
Net realized and unrealized gains <losses> on investments	<12,147>		1,415,444	1,403,297
Change in value of split-interest agreements			128,711	128,711
Miscellaneous income	51,132			51,132
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Transfer of earnings	234,604	<1,255>		<233,349>
Transfer of capital improvements	<u>4,623,973</u>	<u><4,623,973></u>		
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>8,755,079</u>	<u><3,675,442></u>	<u>2,264,842</u>	<u>7,344,479</u>

Expenses and Losses

Program, residential home care and scholarships	3,817,158		75,659	3,892,817
Day care center	208,900			208,900
Management and general	479,664		102,318	581,982
Financial development/public relations	<u>722,994</u>			<u>722,994</u>
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>5,228,716</u>		<u>177,977</u>	<u>5,406,693</u>
Change in net assets	3,526,363	<3,675,442>	2,086,865	1,937,786
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>4,851,897</u>	<u>4,163,703</u>	<u>8,432,222</u>	<u>17,447,822</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 8,378,260</u>	<u>\$ 488,261</u>	<u>\$10,519,087</u>	<u>\$19,385,608</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support				
Contributions	\$ 3,290,614	\$ 1,535,915	\$ 1,891,581	\$ 6,718,110
Investment income	100,348	174,287	127,899	402,534
Support payments	137,029			137,029
Day care center	154,934			154,934
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	43,112		838,778	881,890
Change in value of split-interest agreements			206,965	206,965
Miscellaneous income	36,878			36,878
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Transfer of earnings	173,503	<1,184>	<172,319>	

Transfer of capital improvements	576,502	<576,502>		
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	4,512,920	1,132,516	2,892,904	8,538,340
Expenses and Losses				
Program, residential home care and scholarships	3,291,717		60,558	3,352,275
Day care center	185,135			185,135
Management and general	329,984		79,214	409,198
Financial development/public Relations	612,295			612,295
Total Expenses and Losses	4,419,131		139,772	4,558,903
Change in net assets	93,789	1,132,516	2,753,132	3,979,437
Net assets at beginning of year	4,758,108	3,031,187	5,679,090	13,468,385
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 4,851,897</u>	<u>\$ 4,163,703</u>	<u>\$ 8,432,222</u>	<u>\$17,447,822</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Statement of Cash Flows
Years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997

Unrestricted

	1998	1997
Cash flows from unrestricted operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ 3,526,363	\$ 93,789
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by unrestricted operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	747,427	528,528
Unrealized depreciation <appreciation> on investments	58,725	<31,267>
Decrease <increase> in:		
Contributions receivable	<121,626>	42,448
Other receivables	16,508	3,938
Prepaid expenses	<29,256>	20,499
Internal accounts	26,487	33,702
Increase <decrease> in:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	72,791	<35,706>
Donated investments	<124,067>	<20,007>
Net loss on sale of investments	15,611	6,055
Investment distributions credited to related asset	283	5,053
Net cash provided by unrestricted operating activities	<u>4,189,246</u>	<u>647,032</u>
Cash flows from unrestricted investing activities:		
Net additions to land, buildings and equipment	<4,623,973>	<576,502>
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,700,763	1,907,399
Purchase of investments	<2,316,061>	<1,810,645>
Net cash used by unrestricted investing activities	<4,239,271>	<479,748>
Net increase <decrease> in cash	<50,025>	167,284
Cash at beginning of year	233,085	65,801
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 183,060</u>	<u>\$ 233,085</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Restricted

	1998	1997
Cash flows from restricted operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$<1,588,577>	\$ 3,885,648
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by restricted operating activities:		
Annuity payment liability activities:		

Net income on restricted annuity investments	462,986	338,510
Annuity contract payouts	<323,401>	<240,955>
Change in value of split-interest agreements	<128,711>	<206,965>
Unrealized appreciation on investments	<1,309,110>	<788,641>
Decrease <increase> in:		
Contributions receivable	-0-	72,918
Internal accounts	<26,487>	<33,702>
Donated investments	<160,475>	<1,995,716>
Net loss on sale of investments	114,546	57,609
Investment distributions credited to related asset	<u>65,360</u>	<u>25,591</u>

Net cash <used> provided by restricted operating activities <2,893,869> 1,114,297

Cash flows from restricted investing activities:

Net <additions> reductions to construction in progress	353,448	<321,230>
Proceeds from sale of investments	5,877,220	3,405,483
Purchase of investments	<u><3,336,799></u>	<u><4,198,550></u>

Net cash provided <used> by restricted investing activities

2,893,869 <1,114,297>

Net change in cash	-0-	-0-
Cash at beginning of year	-0-	-0-
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Program services

	Program and Residential home care	Day care center	Total
Salaries	\$ 1,597,849	\$ 128,556	\$ 1,726,405
Employee benefits	257,757	24,524	282,281
Payroll taxes	<u>114,824</u>	<u>9,373</u>	<u>124,197</u>
Total salaries and related expenses	1,970,430	162,453	2,132,883
Utilities	255,065	5,668	260,733
Materials, supplies and postage	135,333	5,699	141,032
Repairs and maintenance	400,101	1,952	402,053
Public relations			
Travel and related expenses	42,025	45	42,070
Insurance	93,599	2,080	95,679
Food	86,544	16,054	102,598
Professional fees	110,478		110,478
Investment expenses			
Education and training programs	34,909		34,909
Scholarship payments	75,659		75,659
Conferences and memberships	13,335		13,335
Special events			
Real estate assessments			
Community support	<u>2,655</u>		<u>2,655</u>
Total expenses before depreciation	<u>3,220,133</u>	<u>193,951</u>	<u>3,414,084</u>
Depreciation	<u>672,684</u>	<u>14,949</u>	<u>687,633</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,892,817</u>	<u>\$ 208,900</u>	<u>\$ 4,101,717</u>

Supporting services

	Management and general	Financial development/ public relations	Total Total	expenses
Salaries	\$ 210,865	\$ 244,356	\$ 455,221	\$ 2,181,626
Employee benefits	75,005	64,897	139,902	422,183
Payroll taxes	11,794	11,702	23,496	147,693
Total salaries and related expenses	297,664	320,955	618,619	2,751,502
Utilities	14,170	8,503	22,673	283,406
Materials, supplies & postage	19,680	159,092	178,772	319,804
Repairs and maintenance		5,331	5,331	407,384
Public relations		139,287	139,287	139,287
Travel & related expenses	48,232	22,459	70,691	112,761
Insurance	5,200	3,120	8,320	103,999
Food				102,598
Professional fees	34,050	7,150	41,200	151,678
Investment expenses	105,572		105,572	105,572
Education & training programs				34,909
Scholarship payments				75,659
Conference memberships	16,518	4,047 2	0,565 3	3,900
Special events		30,627	30,627	30,627
Real estate assessments	3,525		3,525	3,525
Community Support				<u>2,655</u>
Total expenses before depreciation	544,611	700,571	1,245,182	4,659,266
Depreciation	<u>37,371</u>	<u>22,423</u>	<u>59,794</u>	<u>747,427</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 581,982</u>	<u>\$ 722,994</u>	<u>\$ 1,304,976</u>	<u>\$ 5,406,693</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

Program services

	Program and Residential home care	Day care center	Total
Salaries	\$ 1,537,821	\$ 115,914	\$ 1,653,735
Employee benefits	259,039	23,710	282,749
Payroll taxes	111,283	8,576	119,859
Total salaries and related expenses	1,908,143	148,200	2,056,343
Utilities	237,624	5,281	242,905
Materials, supplies and postage	106,280	4,550	110,830
Repairs and maintenance	230,538	327	230,865
Public relations			
Travel and related expenses	39,381	147	39,528
Insurance	101,665	2,259	103,924
Food	89,788	13,736	103,524
Professional fees	52,793	19	52,812
Investment expenses			
Education and training programs	28,840	45	28,885
Scholarship payments	60,558		60,558
Conferences and memberships	16,040 1		6,040
Special events			
Real estate assessments			
Community support	<u>4,950</u>		<u>4,950</u>

Total expenses before depreciation	2,876,600	174,564	3,051,164
Depreciation	475,675	10,571	486,246
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,352,275</u>	<u>\$ 185,135</u>	<u>\$ 3,537,410</u>

Supporting services

	Financial development/ Management and general	public relations	Total Total	expenses
Salaries	\$ 150,474	\$ 207,498	\$ 357,972	\$ 2,011,707
Employee benefits	33,019	52,172	85,191	367,940
Payroll taxes	<u>8,321</u>	<u>8,538</u>	<u>16,859</u>	<u>136,718</u>
Total salaries & related expenses	191,814	268,208	460,022	2,516,365
Utilities	13,201	7,921	21,122	264,027
Materials, supplies & postage	14,325	137,080	151,405	262,235
Repairs & maintenance		7,995	7,995	238,860
Public relations		119,634	119,634	119,634
Travel and related expenses	30,487	15,062	45,549	85,077
Insurance	5,648	3,389	9,037	112,961
Food				103,524
Professional fees	27,671	8,988	36,659	89,471
Investment expenses	82,966		82,966	82,966
Education & training programs				28,885
Scholarship Payments			60,558	
Conferences and memberships	8,213	3,968	12,181	28,221
Special events		24,194	24,194	24,194
Real estate assessments	8,447		8,447	8,447
Community support				<u>4,950</u>
Total expenses before depreciation	382,772	596,439	979,211	4,030,375
Depreciation	<u>26,426</u>	<u>15,856</u>	<u>42,282</u>	<u>528,528</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 409,198</u>	<u>\$ 612,295</u>	<u>\$ 1,021,493</u>	<u>\$ 4,558,903</u>

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 1998 and 1997

(1) Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Organization

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

The Home follows the accounting principles and reporting practices for certain voluntary health and welfare organizations as defined by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' committee on voluntary health and welfare

organizations. The accompanying financial statements include all assets, liabilities, and financial activities of the Home.

(b) Contributions Receivable

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

(c) Contributions

Contributions are recognized when constructively received. All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor or grantor or designated by the Board. The majority of contributions originate either from Methodist laity or from Methodist churches in the State of Florida.

(d) Land, Buildings, and Equipment

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

(e) Restricted Amounts

(1) Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted amounts will become either unrestricted or permanently restricted when the conditions of the temporary restrictions are met. Temporarily restricted assets primarily consist of amounts held for the construction or purchase of buildings or equipment.

(2) Permanently Restricted

Scholarship education net assets are subject to restrictions of gift instruments requiring that the principal and income be used for the education of qualified candidates.

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

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

Campus education net assets are subject to restrictions of gift instruments requiring that the principal be invested in perpetuity. The income is available for funding educational activities of the Home.

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

(f) Income Taxes

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

(g) Donated Goods and Services

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

(h) Investments

Investments are carried at current value in the accompanying financial statements. Current value is determined primarily by reference to market quotations.

(i) Concentrations of Credit and Market Risk

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

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

(j) Functional Allocation of Expenses

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

(k) Use of Estimates

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

(2) Land, Buildings, and Equipment

A summary of land, buildings, and equipment follows:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Land	\$ 630,438	\$ 630,438
Land improvements	1,091,293	840,154
Buildings	7,851,786	4,516,498
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	3,273,870	2,607,154
Vehicles	710,104	717,383
Construction in progress	-0-	353,448
	<u>13,557,491</u>	<u>9,665,075</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	<u><6,388,916></u>	<u><6,019,598></u>
	<u>\$ 7,168,575</u>	<u>\$ 3,645,477</u>

(3) Investments

Investment balances consist of the following:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Cost	Market	Cost Market

Debt	\$ 3,524,929	\$ 3,472,653	\$ 3,099,444	\$ 3,025,827
Equities	4,449,369	7,469,623	4,430,973	6,293,901
Money market funds	983,521	983,521	4,193,601	4,193,601
Other	<u>282,540</u>	<u>342,118</u>	<u>352,722</u>	<u>340,582</u>
	\$ 9,240,359	\$12,267,915	\$12,076,740	\$13,853,911

The unrealized appreciation on investments recorded in the financial statements amounted to \$3,027,556 in 1998 and \$1,777,171 in 1997.

(4) Pension Plans

The Home has a defined contribution pension plan in effect for non-ministerial employees, which is presently being funded at ten percent of eligible employees' compensation. To be eligible, employees must have been employed for at least six months and be at least twenty-two years old. Vesting begins after two years of employment, with employees becoming fully vested upon completion of six years of service. The ministers are participating in a defined contribution plan and a deferred annuity program administered by the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church. Total pension expense for nonministerial employees was \$110,673 and \$114,493 for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively, and for ministers was \$38,460 and \$37,041 in those same years.

(5) Annuity Payment Liability

An annuity payment liability for charitable gift annuity contracts has been established based upon expected future net outlays to each annuitant as determined from contracted payment schedules using current life expectancies and reduced by the expected investment income from the restricted annuity assets transferred to the Home by the beneficiaries. Each year, the liability is adjusted for changes in the estimates used. At maturity of an annuity, when the related annuity assets revert to the Home, any remaining liability balance is adjusted for the records. During the year, annuity payments to beneficiaries are charged to this account, while investment income and realized or unrealized security gains or losses from the restricted annuity assets are credited to the account.

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

Why choose your Credit Union? With so many alternatives to the traditional bank, choosing the right financial institution can be difficult. But one alternative stands out from the rest. Credit unions are different because they are "not-for profit" organizations. People who join are not just customers, but member-owners of their financial institution.

As cooperative financial institutions, owned and operated by the people they serve, credit unions have provided financial services to people for more than 90 years. Chartered according to specific "fields of membership," credit unions give people of a common bond (such as occupation, residence, or association) a safe,

convenient and low cost alternative to banks and other financial institutions. Each credit union member has voting privileges, the right to elect a board of directors and to attend annual meetings.

With more than 70 million people in the United States as members, credit unions are one of the fastest growing financial institutions and, according to the National Credit Union Administration, are rated the highest in customer satisfaction of all financial institutions. Members can enjoy higher dividend rates on savings, and lower interest rates on loans, because bottom line profits do not go to a group of stockholders. Instead, revenues generated are returned to the members after operating costs are paid and required reserves transfers are met.

Credit unions are also a safe choice because they are regulated by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), an agency of the federal government, that insures members' deposits up to \$100,000 per member. Credit unions are also equal opportunity lenders, which means money is loaned based on a fair and impartial review process.

Credit unions have expanded membership to include low-income communities, distressed areas and rural neighborhoods and help provide financial services to the "under served."

Dedicated to providing the very best in financial services, credit unions provide members with a sense of belonging and a sense of understanding because members are member-owners, not customers. Credit unions are, and will always remain, not for profit, not for charity, but for service.

Now aren't you glad you have such a fine place to belong - your Florida United Methodist Credit Union! To find out more about your credit union, read the list of our services in your Welcome Book, stop by the Credit Union display table while you are attending Annual Conference, or call our office at: 1-800-282-8011, ext 145.

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

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Council, I want to thank you for your commitment to the unity of the Church and for all that you do to support the work of the Florida Council of Churches in its efforts to foment and encourage that unity.

It has been two years that I have been serving as Executive Director of the Florida Council of Churches. During this time I feel that I have begun to understand something the situation of the churches in Florida and of the Florida

Council of Churches. A number of things have come "into focus," as it were, and it is these that I want to share with you in this report.

Against the background of our work toward showing forth the Oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ even in the midst of our diversity, and as a way of proclaiming that basic unity, the Council has chosen three principal areas of ministry.

1. We are in the process of developing our program of stewardship of the environment, which we call Cherishing the Creation. Each of our judicatories has been asked to name an Eco-Justice Coordinator to be a member of the Cherishing the Creation Committee. During Lent we did a pilot project in the Tallahassee area with a group of churches, which carried out a special program of Lenten studies and ecumenical worship around the theme of our responsibility as Christians to be God's stewards of the environment. The Council has participated directly in the Clean Air Campaign in Florida as another expression of our Cherishing the Creation. We are seeking some special grants to underwrite this program and hope to have it functioning with a fulltime staff person by the fall.
2. We are encouraging the formation of Interfaith Groups throughout the state to be local agents for Disaster Preparation, Recovery and Mitigation. After the tornadoes of last year in Central Florida, and during and after the fires on the east coast, and the Hurricane Georges in the Keys, we found that local interfaith groups were most effective in helping people rebuild their lives. The three Interfaiths that were formed in Central Florida have rebuilt more than 50 homes from the ground up, for persons who had no or inadequate insurance and needed major assistance. A combination of volunteer labor and a mixture of state and federal funds and volunteer contributions, coordinated by the local interfaiths made this possible. In addition, major repairs were done on more than 325 homes in Central Florida. The Interfaiths in Flagler County and in Big Pine Key are crucial players in the recovery efforts in those areas. We are working in various areas of the state toward the formation of interfaith groups before the next disasters. Positive results are seen in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Pensacola, Panama City and West Palm Beach. We hope to stimulate the formation of such groups throughout the state and provide them with whatever assistance they need in their organization and preparation.
3. We continue to represent the churches of Florida in addressing some of the many social justice issues facing our people. We are providing specific support for workers in Quincy, Auburndale, Immokalee, Orlando, Melbourne, Miami/Dade county and Broward county. The support of the Florida Council of Churches has proven to be crucial in a number of instances in aiding workers to get recognition, and, subsequently, more

justice in the workplace. We have been and are active in the efforts to close the School of the Americas. We have been and are active in seeking regulation by the state of the Title Loan industry and met with Governor Bush on April 8 to express the concern of the churches for the abuses of the poor by the exploitative practices of this industry. We continue to offer assistance to the churches regarding the death penalty in Florida, encouraging local congregations to study this from a spiritual perspective. We are supporting children's issues, education, efforts against domestic violence, homelessness and poverty. In all of this, it is clear that the churches can be more effective agents of Christ by working together than by working in isolation.

We are also in the process of a basic restructuring of the Council in order to be more effective in these areas of ministry. The new structure will have a College of Judicatory Leaders, (the bishops and executives), which will meet once a year to provide guidance and direction for the Council, and elect eight members to the Board of Directors. The remaining denominations not represented by those eight will elect/appoint nine more members to the Board of Directors. The Board will be the governing body of the Council and will meet twice a year. There will be an Annual Assembly, which will have representatives from all of the judicatories on a proportional basis. It will gather for witness, worship, sharing and inspiration.

For 52 years, the Florida Council of Churches has been promoting the kind of unity that can only be described as a gift of God. The ecumenical movement is not a human effort to build one big "super-Church." Nor is it an effort to return to some kind of institutional unity. Nor is it a movement to force everyone into one understanding of God's truth. And, it is not a place to pretend that we don't have differences. It is a response to the gift of God's grace. In other words, ecumenism is, above all else, a spiritual journey, as churches and their members respond to God's grace, which has called us into being in the first place.

At this time of tensions and hostilities within the faith communities, the very existence of the Florida Council of Churches offers a crucial reminder that we are not the owners of our faith, nor even of our churches. It is a sign of God's grace, calling all of the manifestations of Christ's Body into new efforts to show our God-given unity to the world—even in the midst of and in spite of our differences. We have established a Website for the Florida Council of Churches, which has already received two national awards for excellence. The Web Site address is: www.floridachurches.com

As you can see, the work and mission of the Council is dynamic. There is more work to be done than we are capable of doing. We need your continued support, both financially and in terms of participation. And, of course, we need your prayers. Most importantly of all, we need for all of our communions to seek, at every opportunity, to proclaim and manifest the unity that is ours as a gift from God.

A final word: the United Methodist Church has always been an important partner in the work of the Florida Council of Churches, as well as all efforts toward the unity of the Church. We need to continue and deepen our partnership in order to be faithful to our Lord's command that "they all be one." John 17.

In the Name of our Lord,
Fred Morris, Executive Director

THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.

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

The Florida United Methodist Development Fund's purpose is to assist the Annual Conference in its church development needs. The Fund receives investments from individuals, churches and church organizations, and it issues to the investor a Certificate of Participation (redeemable on a "demand" basis) upon which it pays interest. The interest rate, 5.5% as of January 1, 1999, is set quarterly by the Board of Directors. From the accumulation of these investments, the Fund makes first mortgage loans to churches of the conference for new building construction and major renovations. The maximum loan amount is \$750,000, and the maximum term is fifteen (15) years. The interest rate for loans, 7.5% as of January 1, 1999, is adjusted annually to 2.0% above the rate being paid to investors in The Fund.

The minimum investment is \$100.00. Interest is paid on March 31 and September 30 of each year. As of December 31, 1998, investments totaled \$20,041,309.59. Funds not yet loaned are deposited only in Certificates of Deposit and U.S. Government obligations. The Fund has a capital reserve of which \$1,500,000 serves as security for the investors' deposits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Florida United Methodist Foundation will serve as Trustee in the management of revocable or irrevocable charitable trusts established to benefit the church or its related institutions. Trustee services include the professional management of trust 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 small fee will be assessed in order to cover administrative expenses.

Through an Investment Management Agreement, The Foundation will invest local church, district and conference endowment funds or other permanent funds. Once an appropriate investment strategy is determined by The Foundation and the investing unit, the funds are placed under professional management. A small

fee is assessed in order to cover administrative expenses. As of December 31, 1998, The Foundation managed assets of over \$60,000,000 (Fair Market Value) in these trusts and money management agreements.

The Foundation provides Charitable Gift Annuities to individuals who wish to give a meaningful charitable gift to their church and yet also retain the security of regular income payments over their lifetime, or over the lifetime of a loved one. The Foundation assesses a small administrative fee for this service on value of the original gift; however, this fee does not diminish the value of the gift annuity to the annuitant. As of December 31, 1998, The Foundation managed over \$1,123,672.11 (Fair Market Value) in gift annuities.

On a short-term basis, the Foundation invests building and other designated funds received from local churches, the districts, the conference and other church related organizations in The Sharing Plan. From these funds, loans are made to the conference, districts and local churches. The investing unit receives a higher rate of interest than customarily is paid for short-term deposits and at the same time keeps its money working in the church. Through the years, borrowers have saved thousands of dollars because of the lower interest rates on their loans. As of December 31, 1998 \$2,978,530.96 was invested in The Sharing Plan.

Bruce A. Baker, President
Thomas W. Marston, Executive Director

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE KOINONIA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED**

DECEMBER 31, 1998
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Florida Conference Koinonia
Cocoa Beach, Florida

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets and net assets arising from cash transactions of the **Florida Conference Koinonia**, as of December 31, 1998, and the related statement of revenue collected, expenses paid and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the **Florida Conference Koinonia**. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note A, these financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets and net assets arising from cash transactions of the **Florida Conference Koinonia**, at December 31, 1998 and its revenue collected, expenses paid and changes in net assets for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.

Certified Public Accountants

March 3, 1999

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND NET ASSETS ARISING
FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**
DECEMBER 31, 1998

ASSETS	
Cash	<u>\$ 11,111</u>
Investments, Note B	
First Union National Bank - Certificate of Deposit	15,096
SouthTrust Bank - Certificate of Deposit	16,355
Florida United Methodist Foundation:	
Managed Fund	245,734
Sharing Account	11,343
Total investments	<u>288,528</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$299,639</u>
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted, Note A	\$299,639
Temporarily restricted, Note A	-
Permanently restricted, Note A	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$299,639</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE COLLECTED, EXPENSES PAID
AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

REVENUE COLLECTED FROM:	
Mortuary calls contributions	\$ 43,317
Other contributions 120	
Membership dues	2,241
Interest income	60

Net earnings on investments, Note B	<u>42,008</u>
Total revenue collected	87,746
EXPENSES PAID:	
Donations to beneficiaries for death benefits	\$ 40,000
Postage and printing supplies	2,557
Treasurer's honorarium	2,400
Secretary's honorarium	400
Audit	150
Miscellaneous	<u>155</u>
Total expenses paid	45,662
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUE COLLECTED OVER EXPENSES PAID	42,084
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS , beginning of year	<u>257,555</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS , end of year	<u>\$299,639</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1998

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

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

Accounting Basis

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

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Unrestricted Net Assets

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

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

There are no temporarily restricted net assets.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

There are no permanently restricted net assets.

Financial Instruments and Credit Risk

The carrying amounts of financial instruments approximate fair value based on quoted market prices or discounted cash flow analysis for cash equivalents and other financial instruments. The Organization is subject to some credit risk through short term cash investments, which are placed with high credit quality financial institutions directly through the Florida United Methodist Foundation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of these financial statements required management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Management believes the Organization is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

Income Taxes

The Organization is an affiliated Section 501(c)(3) organization of the United Methodist Church and is exempt from income taxes under provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; therefore, no provision for income taxes has been made in these financial statements.

NOTE B - INVESTMENTS

Investments are carried at quoted market prices, are held for trading purposes, and consist of the following at December 31, 1998:

	Market	Cost
--	--------	------

Certificates of deposit	\$ 31,451	\$ 31,451
Florida United Methodist Foundation – Pooled income fund	245,734	151,929
Florida United Methodist Foundation – Sharing account	<u>11,343</u>	<u>11,343</u>
Total	<u>\$288,528</u>	<u>\$194,723</u>

A summary of earnings on investments consist of the following for the year ended December 31, 1998:

Interest and dividends	\$ 5,325
Net realized gain	10,214
Net unrealized gain	26,913
Management fees	(444)
Total return	\$42,008

NOTE C - FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

The costs of providing program and other activities are required to be summarized on a functional basis and, accordingly, certain costs are required to be allocated among program and supporting services benefited. For the year ended December 31, 1998, 100% of expenses are considered to be program expenses.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE KOINONIA
MEMBERSHIP STATUS
DECEMBER 31, 1998

Total membership, January 1, 1998	570
Additions:	
New members	10
Record correction	1
Total additions for 1998	11
Total with 1998 additions/corrections	<u>581</u>
Members removed from membership:	
By death	11
For non-payment	4
By request	1
Total removed for 1998	<u>16</u>
Total membership, December 31, 1998	<u>565</u>

Recap of Membership

Active clergy members	300
Retired clergy members	262
Total	562
Contributing members without benefit	<u>3</u>
Total membership, December 31, 1998	<u>565</u>
Total spouse members	500
Members on disability	6

Dues structure and payments due at death of member or spouse is summarized as follows as of January 1, 1999:

	Annual Dues	Mortuary Fees
Full Conference member	\$5	\$5/call
Minimum salary member	\$5	\$4/call
Retired member	\$1	\$5/call
Probationary member	\$1	\$2/call (first 4 years)
Disabled member	-	-
Spouse of member	\$1	

WESLEY GROUP HOME MINISTRIES, INC.

Since 1990 the Miami District and the West Palm Beach District have worked together to have "A Dream Come True." On May 4, 1997, groundbreaking ceremony was held to start construction on the first group home in the Florida Conference. On June 7, 1998 Bishop Cornelius Henderson led us in the dedication of "Larry's Home." The month of August found us open with five of six residents living at 616 SW 3rd Street, Hallandale, Florida. The Board of Directors thanks all who gave support to this very important ministry through prayer, service and financial gifts. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

June Johns, President

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Incoming Divinity School seminarians began a new year-long immersion in spiritual formation outside the classroom as they covenanted and met weekly in small groups under the leadership of area pastors or faculty. The 33 groups focused on spiritual disciplines, giving first-year students support for a journey

into prayer and reflection on service. Student-initiated spiritual formation groups continue this valuable experience during the second and third years of seminary.

During the 1998-99 academic year, the Divinity School community included 484 students from 31 states and six foreign nations, holding degrees from 232 colleges and universities. Among the incoming class of 150 students, 45 percent are female, 16 percent ethnic minority, and 3 percent international, with a median age of 27. Twenty students enrolled in January. Currently, 60 percent of the student body is United Methodist, and the remaining 40 percent of students represent 35 other denominations. Total enrollment includes 373 M.Div., 32 Th.M., 13 M.C.M., 41 M.T.S., and 16 special students.

Faculty appointments included J. Deotis Roberts, who had been a visiting professor, to research professor of historical theology; David Aers, James B. Duke professor of English and professor of historical theology; Lewis Ayres, assistant professor of Christian theology; Michael Battle, assistant professor of spirituality and black church studies; Amy Laura Hall, assistant professor of theological ethics; and Reinhard Hütter, associate professor of Christian theology. Janice Virtue joined the Divinity School as associate dean for continuing education and strategic planning. Greg Duncan assumed responsibility for student life and is now director of admissions and student life. Tracy Anne Allred was named assistant director of admissions. Sarah W. Pickens has been named assistant director of development and director of the annual fund.

Richard P. Heitzenrater was named the William Kellon Quick professor of church history and Wesley studies and presented an inaugural lecture, "Tradition and History," in March. Acknowledged as the major Wesley scholar of his generation, Dr. Heitzenrater is best known for his discovery of the key to John Wesley's Oxford diaries. Professor of Homiletics Richard Lischer has been invited to deliver the Lyman Beecher Lectures, one of the oldest and most distinguished lectureships in American Protestantism, for the 1999-2000 academic year at Yale Divinity School. Thomas A. Langford was presented the University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Service in October. Langford, William Kellon Quick professor emeritus of theology and Methodist studies, is former dean of the Divinity School and university provost emeritus.

Duke President Nannerl O. Keohane appointed five new members to the Divinity School Board of Visitors: Carla C. Badgett of Houston, Tex.; J. Keith Kennedy of Falls Church, Va.; Charles H. Mercer, Jr. of Raleigh, N.C.; Mary A. Stevens of Greensboro, N.C.; and William Vann York of High Point, N.C. The chair of the board is Harold J. Wallace, special assistant for minority affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Rev. Dr. Norman E. Neaves, pastor of Church of the Servant, Oklahoma City, Okla., received the 1998 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Convocation and Pastors' School will be held Oct. 11-13 and feature Richard Mouw, Abuna Elias Chacour, and Barbara Lundblad.

Support for all causes in the Divinity School during fiscal 1997-98 totaled \$4.8 million, a new record high, according to Wesley F. Brown, associate dean for external relations. In October, the Divinity School joined Duke University in the kick-off of a five-year \$1.5 billion fundraising campaign, the largest in the university's history. The Divinity School seeks \$35 million, which includes funds for attracting and supporting students, recruiting and retaining top faculty, enriching the campus and community environment, and for annual and long-term unrestricted support. These funds will help the Divinity School sustain its leadership role in the preparation of women and men for diverse ministries in the Church and the world.

—Respectfully submitted by L. Gregory Jones, Dean, Duke Divinity School

BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE

This report brings the news of unprecedented progress at Bethune-Cookman College. The College family remains immeasurably grateful to God for the support of The United Methodist Church, in general, and the church members of the Florida Conference, in particular, continue to provide our institution.

Academically, Bethune-Cookman College continues to make extraordinary strides in curriculum expansion and enhancement, faculty research, recognition of our institution, and student performance. The institution's curriculum has been enhanced by majors in International Studies and Church Music. There have been numerous research efforts taking place. Faculty research leading to the discovery of a new enzyme and its impact on the treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease won special acclaim. Students graduating in Teacher Education continue to leave the College with a 100% passing rate on the State Teacher's Certification Examination. Bethune-Cookman College was listed as one of the top-50 colleges that attract and service African-American students. Above all, our Teacher Education, Medical Technology, Hospitality Management programs were re-accredited by their respective accrediting agencies.

In terms of diversity, the Bethune-Cookman College faculty is interracial and the student body has students from 26 foreign countries, including Russia, Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Africa, South America, and from the Asian Continent, especially Mainland China, India, and Australia. There is an increased number of white students enrolled in the student body. I am pleased to report that the student leadership from Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College have initiated a very wholesome relationship with Florida Southern's students visiting our campus.

Athletically, Bethune-Cookman College won its conference championship and special recognition in football, basketball, golf, and tennis. Our football and basketball coaches won the coveted "Coach of the Year" awards. The football coach was further recognized with five (5) other national and state awards.

In fund raising, Bethune-Cookman College succeeded in achieving and exceeded its \$25 million Capital Campaign goal. We were blessed to secure \$35 million in cash and pledges. The College, therefore, was able to construct a \$5 million Business building. Further, the Campaign enabled Bethune-Cookman to have \$9 million toward the \$14 million, 3000-seat auditorium in which we hope one day to host the Florida Annual Conference. We have also increased the College's endowment to \$24 million.

The spiritual life of Bethune-Cookman College is under the direction of the Reverend Michael A. Frazier, Sr. who serves as College Chaplain. He reports that students are engaged in Bible study and participate in prayer groups in each of the dormitories. Again this year, the Templeton Fund listed Bethune-Cookman College in its honor roll of character-building colleges.

Our institution's immediate and future goals include the following:

1. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for general endowment;
2. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) endowment for merit scholarships and for needy students. Ninety-five percent (95%) of our students urgently need financial aid;
3. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for a multipurpose classroom building to serve as a Center for Technology and classrooms for the Division of General Studies;
4. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) toward the construction of Mary McLeod Bethune Fine Arts Auditorium in which Bethune-Cookman College hopes to host the Florida Annual Conference; and
5. Twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for Bethune-Cookman College's Community/Student Union Building that will include a 5,000-seat sports arena.

In each of the above areas of need, I am pleased to say that Bethune-Cookman College has made moderate progress. It is our hope and prayer that, in our Year 2000 report, members and friends of the Florida Conference would have helped Bethune-Cookman to achieve these goals. We solicit your prayerful support.

In the Name of Christ, our Saviour,
Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., President

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Florida Southern College continued its commitment to a personal, well-rounded college experience for over 1700 students in 1998-99. This year's increased

enrollment featured a stronger academic freshmen class; an increase in the number of out of state students; an increase in international students; and an increase in the percentage of students living on campus.

Florida Southern was recognized by several publications including U.S. News & World Report and America's Best Christian Colleges: 1999. This was the third year FSC was listed as one of the top five best values in Southern Regional Liberal Arts Colleges. To achieve this ranking, colleges must be in the top quartile of schools in academic reputation and have an affordable cost and significant financial aid. Florida Southern was one of only 87 colleges and universities in the U.S. to be recognized in America's Best Christian Colleges, selecting those institutions having the highest academic standards among denominational and inter-denominational colleges and universities.

The Publix Super Markets Charities Commons, the college's newest residence hall complex, was dedicated in February. A five million dollar gift from the Publix Super Markets Charities helped fund the \$8.9 million residence complex. It consists of three buildings, each housing 85 students.

Construction projects continue around campus. Work on the music addition to Branscomb Auditorium is progressing with completion targeted for December of 1999. The rehabilitation of the Polk Science Building began in December. The first phase should be completed by September. Polk Science was the last of the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings constructed on the campus.

There has been good progress toward reaching the college's Capital Campaign goal of \$50 million. A public announcement of the campaign was made in September. Currently in the third year of the five year campaign, over \$46 million has been raised. We expect to successfully conclude the campaign in the next few months.

Students have had the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers including environmental defender Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. He was honored as the college's 65th Honorary Chancellor speaking to students about their environmental destiny. The Florida Lecture Series also continued on campus bringing the subjects of such things as civil rights and women's rights in Florida to life. Washington conservative Allen Keyes was the latest speaker to appear on campus as part of the Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise which provides students with an excellent insight in the realities and challenges of corporate American and the free enterprise system.

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

For the 1998-99 school year a new partnership between United Methodist Churches and Florida Southern College, Lakeland, has produced \$138,970 in scholarships for United Methodist students. In the inaugural year of the Advancing the Flame Matching Scholarship program at Florida Southern College, 49 United Methodist Churches in the Florida Conference and two U.M. churches in other states contributed \$80,530 in scholarship funds for 73 young people from their congregations who are now FSC students.

In appreciation of the United Methodist Church support of these students, Florida Southern matched \$58,340 of the funds. The matching funds, in most cases, doubled the church's scholarships of \$1,000 or less. This is a great partnership between FSC and United Methodist Church.

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

The annual Church Christmas Gala concert by the Music Department drew a record breaking crowd of 1,650 United Methodists from all across the state for a joyful prelude to the Christmas season.

In its 114th year as a United Methodist campus, Florida Southern College continues to be true to its mission: to stimulate Judeo-Christian values and ideals, cultivate the development of the whole person, promote an atmosphere of international and inter cultural understanding encourage responsible citizenship, and prepare students for meaningful lives and vocations.

Thomas L. Reuschling, President

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRIES
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UPDATE
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

BACKGROUND: In response to the 1996 General Conference mandate on prison ministry/prison reform, The United Methodist Church established a restorative Justice Ministries Inter-Agency Task Force and assigned this mandate to the General Board of Global Ministries. Membership on this inter-agency task force included representatives from the Council of Bishops, the United Methodist Program Agencies, and the General Council on Ministries. As your Florida Representative to the General Council on Ministries, I serve on this task force. Our work will be providing resources, training, coordinating and networking to local United Methodist congregations, districts and to annual conferences.

As chair for the Florida Conference Jail/Prison Ministries Task Force I welcome the help being made available to our Conference.

There will be five Restorative Justice Ministries training events for five annual conferences in the United States to be carried out in 1999 and 2000. Three members of the Florida Conference Jail Prison Ministries Task Force and I will attend the training event that will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on September 9-11, 1999. I will attend the Global Training Event to be held January 13-15, 2000 in New York.

The Restorative Justice Ministries Inter-Agency Task Force is currently reviewing the Social Principles as they relate to criminal and restorative justice and reviewing all General Conference resolutions related to this mandate, including: criminal justice, capital punishment, victims of crime, penal reform, the local church and the local jail, the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups in the United States, equal justice, grand jury abuse, gun violence in the United States, domestic surveillance, repression and the right to privacy, preventing and reduction of juvenile delinquency. These resolutions are being re-drafted to reflect more recent developments and contextual issues as they relate to criminal justice and restorative justice. One of the most recent developments is the tragedy at the Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado.

The theoretical framework of restorative justice is being applied to many global contexts, where mounting tensions, major civil conflicts and increased violence and genocide have erupted in communities and societies around the world. Spiritual leadership and concrete skills are required of doing restorative justice ministries.

At the present time the Florida Conference Jail/Prison Ministries Task Force has thirteen district representatives who are documenting jail/prison ministries in each district throughout the Florida Conference.

Thank God we are connectional!
Jody Parks Moxley

GCOM "GLOBAL EVENT"

New Testament Church — St. Petersburg, Russia

Last October, as your conference representative to the General Council on Ministries, I went to St. Petersburg, Russia, as a team member for the GCOM "Global Event."

In Russia today, we found there are two classes of people: the rich and the very, very poor. We met with four United Methodist ministers, visited two of their congregations and one drug center, to simply "listen" of their experiences. It was obvious these Christians are living under dire conditions.

The Russian Methodist Christians we met in St. Petersburg have such a tremendous faith to share! Their faith in Jesus Christ was so contagious, outstanding and personal! These people have so very little ... they don't know if they will have food for "their tomorrows." Yet, their hope was verbalized over and over again of their "Jesus." Few of these people have jobs to go to, little or no income, much less a church building to worship in, but they expressed their faith excitedly. I felt as if I were re-living the early Church times including the trials, the urgency and the deep excitement of new faith.

We interviewed the four pastors who shared of their faith personally and very lovingly. One pastor had been an outstanding pianist, had a personal experience with Christ and was called into the ministry only five years ago, but is now the district superintendent of St. Petersburg. Another young minister was from Estonia and had come to St. Petersburg to serve Jesus through the United Methodist Church.

One of the female pastors had been an engineer and had prided herself on having an outstanding library prior to becoming a minister. A friend of hers shared a personal event concerning a particular book she was studying with a group. The young engineer was intrigued by such a book and asked if she could borrow it. She promised to read it overnight and return it the next day. Instead, she went with her friend to this study group and discovered the "book" was the Bible! She also discovered Jesus and committed her life to him.

The other young female pastor shared that, in her teens, she had felt life was not worth living and considered suicide. She was saved while trying to take her life and through this friend was introduced to Jesus. She was our interpreter and shared that she sought out the United Methodist Church because she knew she was called to be a minister! Her witness of Jesus was extraordinary!

In both the congregation and drug center we visited, we experienced anew the empowerment of his Holy Spirit. The time I spent in St. Petersburg was truly a "New Testament Blessing." It reminded me of the word of Jesus when he said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

To see how others live and of their plight was truly a global event for the twenty-two teams who visited Methodist Christians throughout the world. Our United Methodist Church is truly connectional...global...and a witnessing part of the body of Christ.

Jody Parks Moxley,
GCOM Representative

THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Florida Annual Conference Members of SEJAC:

Bishop Cornelius Henderson, James Jennings, Frank Furman, Yolanda Macon, Carrill Munnings, and Jimmy Jones

At the end of 1998, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council completed 10 years in service to some 2.8 million members and over 12,000 churches in 15 annual and missionary conferences of the southeast.

SEJAC, created to coordinate and provide missional direction to a range of ministries that had arisen in response to expressed needs, was confronted by significant fiscal problems and societal shifts. Today SEJAC reports:

A pattern of innovative ministries cooperatively responding to requests for help in areas of spiritual formation, leadership training, and missional outreach.

An inclusive policy-making council that seeks to unite annual conferences and general church agencies in shared ministry.

A missional focus on assisting annual conferences to help congregations make disciples and share in God's redemptive mission.

A strong fiscal condition including enhanced facilities, responsible operations, increased annual conference support, and planned growth in plants and endowments.

A covenant connection strengthened by interactive communication, responsive consultative services, innovative programming, and sensitive resourcing.

In 1998, the Annual Conferences expressed confidence in SEJAC's ministry by giving a record 84% to the apportioned Mission & Ministry Fund which supports Jurisdictional administration and programming, Lake Junaluska development, and our seven Agencies. The \$1,555,492 from the Fund combined with other income from fees, grants, and gifts to total over \$12,000,000 expended in a shared ministry by all units.

Ministry Division

In 1998, Ministry Division training and service activity involved 67,194 persons.

36,094 participated in activities at the three jurisdictional conference centers: Gulfside, Hinton, and Lake Junaluska.

12,308 were engaged in field activities of the Lay Ministry Center.

9,062 volunteers were coordinated through UMVIM.

7,759 persons shared in conference-sponsored activities led by SEJAC staff.

1,971 took part in SEJAC-sponsored events at other sites within annual conferences.

SEJAC staff provided 833 consultation/program days in the annual conferences. Missional priorities were evident in efforts to strengthen racial ethnic networks, train in reaching the unchurched, meet needs of marginalized persons, enable spiritual formation by studying Biblical and Wesleyan traditions, enhance servant leadership skills, create a supportive resource center, and establish communication processes.

In this latter case, a new magazine-format was adopted for the SEJ periodical, interactive web pages and chat rooms were established, and a pioneering distance learning project, Nicodemus, has opened classroom walls to the jurisdiction and beyond.

The work of SEJ Agencies and Program Units continues to be a vital component of Ministry Division service. Reports from these groups include the following and more:

UMVIM coordinated work of 489 teams involving 9,062 volunteers

SEMAR supported 51 group homes for 342 retarded adults

SEJANAM served 5,088 persons and sponsored drug awareness training

IGC involved 3,801 persons including those in DISCIPLE Bible Study Celebration

Hinton Rural Life Center reports 5,204 participants and a Colleague Covenant Forum

Gulfside Assembly celebrated 75 years in ministry and served over 5,100 persons

Archives and History served 4,075 guests, 29 researchers, and 1,849 confirmands

Lay Ministry Center enrolled 11,437 persons and served as advisor to 32 church units

Korean-American Mission networked 54 congregations, raising \$48,000 for extension

As part of a **SEJAC Capital Funds Campaign**, the Ministry Division is seeking endowment to underwrite much of this ministry as well as to establish foundations for preaching, lectureships, and scholarships. In tandem, Gulfside and Hinton are engaged in specialized campaigns and the other agencies and units continue fund-raising emphases.

Lake Junaluska Division

Lake Junaluska Assembly continues to perfect a division of its work into two interrelated segments: Conference Center operations and Residential Services to over 720 property owners who share in creating a mission-oriented community.

The **Conference Center** reports 113,109 guest nights in 1998 with operations income \$4,440,827. An intensive marketing emphases is being implemented.

A superior team of department leaders is in place. Planned process improvement, appropriate training, caring personnel initiatives, upgrades to telephone and computer systems, and scheduled renovation of key facilities point to continued growth.

Current facility improvements totaling almost \$2,000,000 in costs include \$1,750,000 in renovations at the Apartments, Terrace, and Lambuth and over \$225,000 in the Junaluska Associate's Rose Walk Project and related lakeshore work. Of this total, 60% will come from a maintenance reserve derived from revenues, 17% from Associates gifts, and the balance from Mission and Ministry allocations. In addition, volunteers are currently working to upgrade Mountainview and Sunnyside.

These improvements, added to previous renovations to Stuart, the Youth Center, the swimming pool, and other recreational facilities, set the stage for a comprehensive **Capital Funds Initiative** to be launched in 1999. The vision includes plans for renovation (Shackford, Childrens, Jones Cafeteria, and the Colonial), new construction (Welcome/ Registration Center, Staff Housing Complex, and Mid-sized auditorium), and endowment for ministries, special programs, and common area maintenance.

The **Habitat House** approved by the 1996 SEJ Conference envisions an April 11, 1999 dedication with a qualifying staff family as owners. The 120-unit Hickory

Hill Subdivision is on schedule as sales prompt opening the next stages. Plans for a new bridge and road over the dam are in development.

In 1999, **Residential Services** Department has a new director and a team of experienced and trained field workers headquartered in a new shop facility. Delinquent Accounts Receivables have been reduced, needed equipment has been obtained, and steps are being taken to implement the 10-yr plan for infrastructure renewal and financing.

Gordon C. Goodgame, Executive Director

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution #1 Fairness in Representation

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church emphasizes the ministry of all Christians through partnership in ministry between clergy and laity; and

WHEREAS, Fairness in General Conference delegate representation is best achieved by each professing church member having equal weight (one person one vote); and

WHEREAS, Fairness also requires that each annual or central conference continue to have at least one clergy and one lay delegate to General Conference; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 502 of the 1996 *Book of Discipline* provides the same formula for the composition of the voting delegates of the General Conference as was adopted by the 1968 General Conference, when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were brought together through a plan of union; and

WHEREAS, Compliance with this formula which has both a "clergy factor" and a "lay factor" in determining the composition of the General Conference has, over the last thirty years given increased weight to the "clergy" factor, and the number of clergy has increased while the number of laity has decreased; and

WHEREAS, With the addition of Deacons and Part-time Local Pastors as part of the "clergy factor," the impact of that factor is projected to be even greater in 2000; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the General Conference of the United Methodist Church amend and revise the following subsections of Paragraph 502 as follows:

- 3.a) change "140 clergy" to "375 clergy" in both places that this term is used in this subsection; and
- 3.b) change "44,000 members" to "26,000 members" in both places that this term is used in this subsection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the secretary of The Florida Annual Conference is instructed to send on behalf of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church a petition to amend Paragraph 502 as stated in the resolution to the secretary of the General Conference.

Respectively submitted,
Charles W. Courtoy
T. Terrell Sessums

Resolution #2
Revision of Charles Wesley Hymns

WHEREAS we Methodists have always recognized the importance of music as an enhancement to spiritual worship; and

WHEREAS contemporary forms of worship and musical celebration are particularly attractive to not only younger, but also many previously unchurched individuals; and

WHEREAS those who express a concern for the lack of theological depth in certain contemporary hymns and praise choruses make a legitimate point out of a sincere concern for the spiritual growth of their brothers and sisters in Christ; and

WHEREAS the brothers Wesley (John and Charles) have left us a theological legacy in word and verse unmatched among any other denomination for their theological consistency or their spiritual unity; and

WHEREAS we are blessed in our day with dedicated and talented people in the area of contemporary Christian music;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Annual Conference, through the Discipleship Team and in consultation with the Communications Committee, support the effort to communicate Methodist theology through the musical styles of our own generation and to utilize every public relations outlet available to encourage those so gifted in our midst to recast the great body of verse left to us by Charles Wesley into modern terms and to set these lyrics in contemporary musical forms. By employing our denominational news service and other internal communications vehicles, advertising costs should be negligible. However, a sum of \$5,000 will be designated by the Discipleship

Team over the next four years for regional Conference workshops where musicians may showcase their work and share ideas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our delegations to the Jurisdictional and General Conferences be encouraged to make every effort to promote the idea of creating truly contemporary Wesleyan hymnody and to bring this same resolution to the floor of their respective Conference assemblies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this effort be undertaken with the ultimate goal of providing sufficient material for the publication of a Contemporary Wesleyan Hymnal in honor of the three-hundredth anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth in the year 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Ronald D. Thomas, Sr.
Sebastian United Methodist Church, Sebastian, FL

With the unanimous approval and support of the Sebastian UMC Administrative Council.

This resolution is recommended for adoption by the FL Conference Discipleship Team.

Resolution #3
Iraq

WHEREAS, Iraq has been under an economic embargo since August of 1990 and unable to produce enough oil to fulfil the basic needs of the population with the result that the children of Iraq are subject to rising malnutrition, disease, infant mortality and death (UNICEF, April 1998),

WHEREAS, most major Protestant denominations, the Vatican and the Pope, 54 U.S. Catholic bishops, the New England Journal of Medicine and 43 members of the House of Representatives, among others, have urged President Clinton to abandon or modify these sanctions,

WHEREAS, after a child reaches the age of two or three, chronic malnutrition is difficult to reverse and damage to the child's development is likely to be permanent (UNICEF and World Food program, May 1997),

WHEREAS, since 1990 more than 1.2 million people, including 750,000 children below the age of five, have died because of the scarcity of food and medicine (Verified by the UN, June 1997),

WHEREAS, thirty-two per cent of children under five, some 960,000, are chronically malnourished (a rise of 72% since 1991) and 23% are underweight –

twice as high as the levels found in neighboring Jordan or Turkey (UNICEF, November 1997),

AND WHEREAS, hospitals in Iraq now face massive shortages in basic medicines and supplies, such as antibiotics, anesthesia, syringes and disinfectants, resulting in the breakdown of Iraq's health care system (International Relief Association, June 1998).

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida conference of the United Methodist Church urge the President of the United States, in recognition of the fact that the Food-For-Oil plan is ineffective, find alternative humanitarian solutions for providing food and medicine to the Iraqi people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the two Florida Senators and the Florida members of the House of Representatives.

John Powers, Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Oviedo
David Tropf, Ph.D.
Lay Member
Richard Adicks, Ph.D.
Delegate to the Annual Conference

Resolution #4 Call for Accountability

WHEREAS, there seems to be a problem of Christian accountability within The United Methodist Church organization. In some instances, a few church leaders have acted outside the law of the Church, without regard for being called to accountability. The connectional structure of the Church lends itself to a loose discipline of accountability; however, the authority to hold offices accountable for their actions resides with the Council of Bishops.

WHEREAS, a few leaders within The United Methodist Church have betrayed their ordination vows, have acted faithlessly and without integrity towards the denomination, and claim, in some instances, that God has justified their actions.

WHEREAS, a few United Methodist ministers have supported same-sex unions within the Church, and in some instances, have not been held accountable for their actions.

WHEREAS, a few groups and a few officials within the United Methodist Church have broken Church laws, as defined in the *Holy Bible* and *The Book of*

Discipline and Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, and should be held accountable for their actions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1999 session of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby charge its Conference Secretary to petition the General Conference 2000 to charge the Council of Bishops to diligently, strictly and comprehensively enforce *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Lakewood United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Resolution #5
Amending *The Book of Discipline's* Paragraph on Abortion (65J)

WHEREAS, the Church has witnessed and worked, through the ages, to protect "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), including unborn children and their mothers. The teachers and teachings of the Church have consistently promoted protection of the unborn and their mothers,

WHEREAS, Paragraph 65J of the 1996 *Book of Discipline* states belief in "the sanctity of unborn human life" and "the sacredness of the life as well-being of the mother,"

WHEREAS, Paragraph 65J on abortion, as it now reads, is morally ambiguous, therefore, the paragraph is incapable of rendering moral guidance on abortion that is consistent with historic Christian teaching and with its own affirmations; this is particularly tragic in American society, which has counted over 35 million abortions performed since 1973 and now averages approximately 3,800 abortions performed each day;

WHEREAS, Paragraph 65J's moral ambiguity has allowed The United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society, along with the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, to affiliate with and support the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a political lobby that advocates abortion in American society and contradicts Paragraph 65J's own assertion of "the sanctity of unborn human life,"

AND WHEREAS, Paragraph 65J is sufficiently ambiguous to allow United Methodist leaders to support, in a public way, the continued legal status of partial-birth abortion, a procedure which only the most radical advocates of abortion approve,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1999 session of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby charge its Conference Secretary, using the entire rationale stated above, to petition General Conference

2000 in a timely and appropriate manner, to amend Paragraph 65J of *The Book of Discipline* to read:

“Paragraph 65 (J) Abortion—Human beings are created by God. The beginning of human lives and the ending of human lives are the God-given boundaries of earthly, human existence. Not only have individuals always had some degree of control over when they would die, but also, through much of history, they have had the awesome power to determine whether new individuals would be born. Our belief in the sanctity of all human life, including the unborn, as God’s gift, as affirmed in Scripture, tradition and experience, prevents us from approving abortion except in the most extreme of circumstances. We are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life of the mother. In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic and rare conflicts where the life of the unborn child directly and immediately threatens the physical life of the mother, that may seem to justify abortion, and in such cases we encourage clergy and congregations to pray for and with such mothers and their families to seek God’s help and guidance. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection. We deplore the use of the cruel form of late-term abortion known as ‘partial-birth abortion,’ in which the infant is killed while being born; and we believe it should be illegal. We also deplore the murdering of those who perform, and who assist in the performance of, abortions; such murdering violates basic Christian teaching. We commit our church to continue to provide nurturing ministries (including the ministry of forgiveness) to those who terminate a pregnancy for any reason, as well as hospitality ministries (including the ministry of adoption) to those in the midst of a difficult pregnancy, and to those who give birth. We recognize that governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the Christian teaching and affirm that such laws and regulations should not permit, or advance among the citizenry, a casual disregard for unborn human life. In a culture which devalues human life, the Church is a community of life, offering the life-giving, life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, any decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel.”

Submitted by Lakewood United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Resolution #6
Methodist Bishops Organize Against Gambling Forces

WHEREAS, The Florida Conference expresses appreciation to its Episcopal Leadership for their strong stand in opposition to gambling as a destructive force in society, and

WHEREAS, Florida's role as one of the leading Conferences in the United Methodist Church on the cutting edge of a changing society mandates that it reach out to deal with spiritual ills throughout Methodism, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the Episcopacy to assert leadership throughout the United States on this critical issue and promote vigorous and active opposition to the extension of gambling in any area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT this Florida Conference meeting in the Lakeland Center on June 1-5, 1999, Lakeland, Florida, would ask those Bishops of Florida origin to kindly lend their expertise to leading this exercise, to seek a time of special session with the Council of Bishops and be given freedom to recruit those consultants they deem knowledgeable of rendering direction and help at the time of the Councils' decision as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Verna K. Echols
Lakeland District at Large-Delegate
Elver and Ruth Hodges, Wauchula United Methodist Church Delegates

Resolution #7
Save the United Methodist Student Day Special Sunday

WHEREAS, The General Council on Ministries and General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church have proposed legislation for General Conference to reduce the number of Special Sundays with Offerings and eliminate the observance of UM Student Day and,

WHEREAS, The GCOM-GCFA Special Sundays Task Force in its elimination of United Methodist Student Day has reallocated the distribution of the World Communion Sunday Offering receipts and assigned 30% of the offering receipts for United Methodist scholarships and loans to be administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and

WHEREAS, Presently offering receipts from United Methodist Student Day, provide approximately \$500,000 in scholarship and loan funds per year to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for United Methodist students, and

WHEREAS, The elimination of UM Student Day as a Special Sunday with Offering:

- *Reduces the opportunity for local churches to contribute to the General Church scholarship and loan program;*

- *Heightens the possibilities of a material reduction in receipts (\$500,000) per year for student scholarships and loans;*
- *Reduces the opportunity to inform congregations of its United Methodist related schools, colleges and universities and educational opportunities available to United Methodist students, and*

WHEREAS, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has petitioned General Conference to retain the observance of UM Student Day; 90% of the receipts to be used for the UM scholarship program and 10% for the UM Student Loan Program, and

WHEREAS, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has petitioned General Conference to retain the observance of World Communion Sunday and that the designations remain as presently recorded in the 1996 *Book of Discipline*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the delegates to the 1999 Annual Conference and the 2000 General Conference to support the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's efforts to save UM Student Day Special Sunday with offering.

Resolution #8

Resolution on Endowment Funds For the historically Black Colleges and Universities of the United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denomination, The Methodist Episcopal Church, from its inception in 1784 has been deeply rooted in the social order; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has actively identified with the problems of society and this has been one source of its strength and spiritual life; and

WHEREAS, after slavery the establishment of schools for African-Americans immediately after the Civil War was a powerful expression of the very nature of the denomination's doctrine derived from John Wesley; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church today supports the largest number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities of any denomination in the United States, and

WHEREAS, these eleven institutions provide access to higher education for thousands of young women and men of promise; and

WHEREAS, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities are preparing a new generation of leaders, lay and clerical for the next millennium, and

WHEREAS, the Black College Funds, created by the 1972 General Conference, is essential to the ongoing life of these eleven academic institutions; and

WHEREAS, technological demands, library resources and faculty development are critical driving forces for continual accreditation and academic excellence that The United Methodist Church build sufficient permanent endowment funds to enable these academic institutions to sustain their long term institutional viability and effectiveness and to advance their mission in partnership with The United Methodist Church in preparing a new generation of leaders for our church and society; and

WHEREAS, the General Council on Finance and Administration made a unanimous decision at its December 1-4, 1998 meeting that "GCFA encourage the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to consider creation of an endowment fund for the colleges" in addition to the church's continuing support of the Black College Fund; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry request that the 2000 General Conference authorize the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to develop and implement a twenty-five (25) year plan to raise \$300 million in endowment funds, to be managed by GBHEM, that will increase and strengthen the \$205 million endowment now held collectively by the eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities of The United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURETHER RESOLVED, that said endowment funds will be raised by private programs under the leadership of GBHEM.

**Resolution #9
Assistance for the Hearing Impaired**

WHEREAS, there are over one million hearing impaired and deaf persons in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Over 90% of these persons are unchurched, and

WHEREAS, those persons require assistance in various forms to fully participate in the activities of the church, and

WHEREAS, in order to share the message and love of Jesus Christ and to provide a welcoming environment for these persons it is imperative that the church be responsive to this group of persons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Florida Annual Conference establish a policy that all conference events provide the means for the hearing impaired and deaf persons to fully participate.

Florida Conference Church & Society Ministry Team

Resolution #10
Continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry
2001-2004

WHEREAS, the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry was approved by the 1996 General Conference as a mission initiative for the whole church, and annual conferences are now beginning this quadrennium to respond to the National Plan, as evidenced by the 45 conferences who have up to 1998 requested Plan consultants to assist in the development of Hispanic ministries in their own conference;

WHEREAS, the annual conferences are now just beginning this quadrennium to seek assistance from the Office of the National Plan with the training of lay missioner and pastor-mentor teams and other leaders in ministry with Hispanics, as demonstrated by the request of 26 conferences for facilitator-consultants up to the end of 1998;

WHEREAS significant progress had been made in the fulfillment of some of the goals that the National Plan proposed to accomplish, such as the chartering of 51 Hispanic local churches, the starting of 123 missions, and 25 Hispanic ministries (as of mid-1998), but at the same time not all the goals have been reached, such as 400 new outreach ministries out of a goal of 3000;

WHEREAS the 1996 General Conference overwhelmingly approved the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry, but approved \$2.8 million for the 1997-2000 quadrennium of the \$3.1 million originally requested, thus limiting part of its implementation;

WHEREAS certain important programs/resources, such as mobilization (revitalization) of Hispanic/non Hispanic congregations program/ resources, Module III resources for lay missioner/pastor-mentor teams, resources/ programs for non Hispanic local church leaders, produced by the four general program agencies has taken time to develop and are just beginning to be tested and distributed;

WHEREAS the Florida Annual Conference has ministered to the Hispanic community for over 126 years, and currently has 36 Spanish language churches and missions with a total membership of 3,600 and the Hispanic population distribution with an estimated growth of an additional ½ million persons by the year 2003, will reflect 1 Hispanic in 5 in the total Florida population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Florida conference request the continuation of the National Hispanic Plan for Hispanic Ministry for the 2001-2004 quadrennium with the budget request that (national) Committee on Hispanic Ministries is seeking from the 2000 General Conference.

Gene Rodriguez, Chair, Florida Hispanic Committee on Ministry

Resolution #11

Resolution to General Conference on the commission on Communications' Proposed National Media Campaign, "Igniting Ministry"

WHEREAS, the purpose of The United Methodist church is to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the commission on Communications to promote The United Methodist Church, its beliefs, its mission and its uniqueness, and to share the experiences of its members by telling stories of faith; and

WHEREAS, television, radio and print media, when used effectively, can enhance ministry and mission and have a potentially positive impact on present members, inactive members and those with no strong church attachments by reaching large numbers of people proclaiming the Good News persuasively and powerfully; and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Communications is proposing a bold new media initiative on behalf of the entire denomination titled "Igniting Ministry;" and

WHEREAS, this national media campaign when funded will begin in 2001 and run through 2004 and will emphasize, primarily in television spots, the church's beliefs, history, ministries and mission, including opportunities for evangelism, our involvement in education and health care, and our Biblical traditions; and will convey our inclusiveness, concern for children worldwide, our disaster relief activities, our supportive fellowship and connectionalism; and

WHEREAS, the television ads were tested in all five United Methodist jurisdictions, and viewers polled indicated dramatic increases in favorable impressions of the denomination and willingness to attend services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church requests that the 2000 General Conference support the funding of the Igniting Ministry campaign; and that Florida Annual Conference churches consider support* for a co-marketing effort of the Florida Annual Conference to enhance the national placement of the television spots in Florida and ensure that the frequency of placement results in an effective media campaign.

*Details concerning the amount of support will be presented at the 2000 Florida Annual Conference Event, contingent upon the passing of the media campaign proposal at the 2000 General Conference and after specifics related to national placement costs have been determined.

Resolution #12
Children's Health and the Environment

WHEREAS, Children are more susceptible than adults to the effects of environmental pollutants such as dioxins, hormone-mimicking chemicals and heavy metals;

WHEREAS, Industrial pollution and toxic waste are frequently located near low-income housing;

WHEREAS, The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty has focused the United Methodist Church's attention on the issues of children and persons living in poverty;

WHEREAS, Some industries are making efforts to clean up their toxins and others are not:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That local churches with constituents living near toxic wastes be encouraged to dialog with the industries and with their legislators, affirming those efforts that have been made to solve pollution problems and assisting in the determination of remaining problems and solutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church call on all Florida State and National legislators to support and implement legislation that restricts the release of environmentally detrimental pollutants into the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to those legislators.*

*The Environmental Justice Task Force will provide names and addresses.

Unanimously approved by the Conference Council on Ministries December 5, 1998.

Resolution #13
Roll Back Gambling

WHEREAS, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has long held the position that gambling is destructive of public safety, promotes a

“something for nothing” mentality, and constitutes a wealth transfer system rather than a wealth producing system, and

WHEREAS, the people of Florida have, on three separate occasions, decisively defeated efforts to introduce casino gambling into the state, and

WHEREAS, powerful gambling interests have subverted the will of the people and permitted gambling on Indian reservations in a misbegotten effort to thwart the intention of the populace, and

WHEREAS, “Cruises to Nowhere,” entailing gambling activity on ships, which could be halted by action of the Florida Legislature, are being widely adopted in Florida to take advantage of legal loopholes, and

WHEREAS, gambling has been proven to be addictive, causing those individuals who suffer the addiction untold stress and destruction in their lives and the lives of those who love them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church notifies members of the State government, the Florida Legislature, and the Florida congressional delegation to persevere in their efforts to keep this social evil from spreading further in Florida, and that it be rolled back from its present locations and levels of activity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church expresses appreciation to those governmental officials who have taken strong and active positions in helping turn back this menace to our state’s continued well being.

Respectfully submitted,
Verna K. Echols, Lakeland District At Large Delegate
Elver Hodges, Wauchula UMC (Prof. Emeritus U of F)
Ruth Hodges, Wauchula United Methodist Church