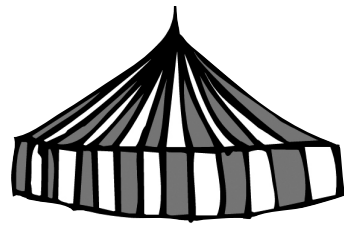


Local Church Mission Fair

Ministries and missions will be showcased in a bold new way at Annual Conference 2014: a Local Church Mission Fair.

The lay leadership planning team is celebrating churches involved in ministries with children, as well as ministries related to eradicating poverty.

The mission fair will be held today (Monday) from 12-2



p.m. at the Florence Civic Center in the downstairs ballroom.

Food will be available for purchase.

The AC2014 Social Calendar

Monday, June 2

- Mustache Monday
- Prayer Walk, 6:30 a.m., meet at campout space
- BINGO CARDS, each day will be a different color

- 1st Whiffle Ball Game, 30 minutes following Worship Service, Memorial Park behind Civic Center

Tuesday, June 3

- 3rd Annual Unofficial SCAC 5K, 6:30 a.m., meet at campout space
- BINGO CARDS, each day will be a different color

Wednesday, June 4

- Wild Pants Wednesday
- Prayer Walk 6:30 a.m., meet at campout space
- BINGO CARDS, each day will be a different color

Golf-lovers headed to The Traces in Florence May 31 for the second annual S.C. Camps and Retreats Ministries Golf Tournament. The tournament, which raises funds for camp scholarships, featured a host of prizes, including a hole-in-one prize of a church bus donated by King Cadillac Buick GMC, as well as a trip for two to Lajitas Golf Resort & Spa. A silent auction, lunch and other festivities rounded out the day. First place winners were James Friday, Ronald Friday, Howard Lofton and Eric Wilson. They also won the district traveling trophy, which will be displayed at the Greenwood District office until this time next year. Here, a golfer takes a swing.



Photo by Matt Brodie

“AC2014 Opens,” from “Page 1

election of the conference secretary, the presentation of resolutions and the presentation of the budget.

Resolutions presented today

Two major resolutions are before the body as of press time and will be presented today to Annual Conference for information and reference:

- A Resolution on Gun Violence, submitted by United Methodists in the ecumenical, nonpartisan, nonprofit Faith Coalition on Gun Violence. This resolution is essentially a push for awareness and prevention of gun violence.

- A Resolution to Support our Neighbors: The Need for Services to Individuals with Mental Illness in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, submitted by the Rev. John W. Culp and new Columbia District Superintendent the Rev. Cathy Jamieson-Ogg. This resolution stems from a major court case involving unconstitutional treatment of mentally ill inmates. It instructs the conference to urge the director of the SCDC to correct the long-standing deficiencies in its mental health program; to urge the S.C. governor and legislators to appropriate sufficient funds to do this; and to call on Holston to convey the concern and desire of the S.C. UMC to the SCDC.

Other resolutions could also come before the body if they are presented today.

Budget also presented

The budget is presented

today by the conference Council on Finance and Administration for information only; Annual Conference members will have a few days to consider and pray on it before a vote is called Wednesday morning. The \$16.71 million budget is for 2015 and is a slight increase—0.6 percent—from the \$16.6 million budget passed last year. The increase is \$50,000 additional for Fund No. 4, Equitable Compensation, for a new recommended amount of \$550,000. The Rev. David Surrent, chair of CF&A, told the *Advocate* the increase is because of the conference’s renewed on new church development, which helps create new faith communities for the unchurched.

The \$16.71 million budget accomplishes CF&A goal to bring funding levels to 15 percent of average net funds of the S.C. UMC by the year 2015. It also reflects a change from a four-year average to a two-year average for average net funds.

CF&A is also bringing a new proposal to Annual Conference that they believe will help recover funds related to direct billing, which is the bill churches receive for their pastor’s insurance and pension coverage. To remedy this, CF&A is proposing a Direct Billing Forgiveness Plan and application form.

Churches who are behind would then be able to apply for forgiveness of their past-due direct bills.



DAILY ADVOCATE

A joint publication of the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church and

South Carolina
United Methodist Advocate

Monday, June 2, 2014

Today's Agenda June 2, 2014

- Church and Society Breakfast 7-10:30 a.m. Health Screening
- 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 8 a.m. Conference Organization
- 9:10 a.m. Bible Study
- 9:40 a.m. Children in Poverty Pan Methodist Church and Society Board of Ordained Ministry Committee on Nominations
- Nomination and Election of Conference Secretary
- Consent Calendar
- Committee Council on Finance and Administration (for information)
- Committee Resolutions and Appeals (for information)
- Noon Lunch Recess
- Local Church Mission Fair
- 12:30 p.m. African-American Clergywomen's Luncheon
- Asbury Theological Seminary Luncheon
- 2 p.m. The Report of United Methodist Theological School
- The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry
- Black College Fund
- The Report of Camps and Retreats
- Salkehatchie
- Claffin University
- Africa University
- 2-4 p.m. SMC, Cookies with Colleen
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess
- Erskine Seminary Alumni & Student Get Together
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Alumni Dinner
- 5:45 p.m. Duke Alumni Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. Pre Music
- 7:30 p.m. Commissioning and Ordination Service
- Ordination Service Reception following service

‘Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope and Love as AC2014 opens



Photo by Matt Brodie

Chelsia McClary, with the Children and Youth Choirs of St. Paul UMC, Kingstree, sings “I Want Your Heart” as Annual Conference 2014 begins Opening Worship Sunday night.

By Jessica Connor

FLORENCE—After a rousing and Spirit-filled opening worship service Sunday night, thousands of S.C. United Methodist clergy and laity gather today for the first full day of business, prayer, fellowship and dialogue about critical issues facing the denomination in this state.

This year’s Annual Conference carries on the “more excellent way” theme from last year—this time focusing on creating corridors of faith, hope and love.

“It is a time of celebration,” Bishop Jonathan Holston told the crowd in his opening sermon last night. “I believe God will give us visions and dreams that are God-sized because He’s taking

us and exposing us to a higher standard.”

This year’s event will feature a slate of business to include passage of a \$16.71 million budget; vote on resolutions opposing gun violence and supporting mentally ill inmates; ordination and commissioning of 38 clergy; worship and celebrations honoring retiring clergy and memorializing others; a worship celebrating young adults and service, “In the Beginning was the Word”; Bible studies by Dr. Robin Dease; awards; a Local Church Mission Fair to showcase ministries of churches across S.C.—and the culmination of the “God-sized dream” that is the Million Book Effort for literacy.

Key on today’s opening business agenda: the

Continued on Page 4

Coming
tomorrow

- MBE book packing
- Retirement Celebration
- Memorial Service
- Business
- In the Beginning Was the Word Worship Service

Million Book Effort: It's not too late to help

By Jessica Connor

S.C. United Methodists have been hard at work for months with the conference-wide Million Book Effort, collecting one million brand-new elementary and preschool books for children in need.

At last, their hard work builds to a crescendo as volunteers prepare for the final book-packing processing event here at the Florence Civic Center tomorrow (Tuesday) in five shifts between 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

It is not too late to help; MBE leaders say volunteers are still needed, as well as funds for books.

One million books translates to 83,500 books collected in each of the conference's 12 districts, or roughly 1,000 per church, all to combat illiteracy and, ultimately, poverty. Other book-processing events have been held in each of the conference's 12 districts leading up to now. They began May 26 in Honea Path and Easley and wrap up with the final book-processing event here in Florence Tuesday.

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday to receive, sort, package and place bookplates in each book to prepare them for distribution to organizations that work with children in poverty, from schools to tutoring and enrichment centers. To sign up, go to www.millionbookeffort.org and scroll down the list



Volunteers sort books at the Rock Hill District's Book Processing May 31. The final processing is Tuesday at the civic center; sign up to help.

Photo courtesy of Linda Dunn

to the Florence Processing Site. Click "register now" at right. Volunteers must be age 14 or older.

Funds are also needed to purchase final books and help with distribution. Monetary donations are being accepted at www.millionbookeffort.org. Click Make a Donation on that website.

If you are an organization with a childcare component that serves children in poverty, it is not too late for you to sign up to be a book recipient and get some of these donated books for distribution to your service area. To apply to be a book recipient, go to www.millionbookeffort.org and click the Donate-A-Book tab at left. Then click the link "Book Request Form" to sign up.

All involved with the MBE on any level, whether as a volunteer, a book donor, a partner or a prayer

supporter, are encouraged to attend the worship service Tuesday night celebrating young adults and service, "In the Beginning was the Word." Held at 7:30 p.m. featuring the S.C. Christian band My Dear Demas, a word from the Rev. Tiffany Knowlin and more, the service will include a celebration of the Million Book Effort.

The Rev. Ricky Howell, who is organizing the MBE for the conference, said the effort is only the beginning of how the UMC hopes to combat poverty and illiteracy.

Howell and other organizers encourage churches and individuals to form partnerships with schools and local agencies that promote literacy, to volunteer as tutors and/or reading partners and to consider other ways to promote childhood literacy moving forward.

DAILY ADVOCATE

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AC2014: Your 'need to know' info

In addition to business and fellowship, here are some helpful items every Annual Conference attendee should know:

Stay connected

Conference communications leaders are embracing a stronger and more intentional conversation this year, encouraging an active social media presence at Annual Conference. All conversations will use the hashtag #umcsc and will focus on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Follow the conference on Facebook at www.facebook.com/scumc and on Twitter and Instagram @umcsc. Follow the Advocate on Facebook at www.facebook.com/advocateSC and on Twitter @advocateSC.

Delegates' concerns

New this year is a Delegates' Concern Form. If anyone has any issues or concerns at the event, whether this is to do with lodging, restaurants or anything within the realm of the four-day event, conference organizers encourage

people to fill out the form and turn it in so they are aware of the problem and can effectively address it for now and for the future. Find the form in registration materials.

Voting and recognition

To speak from the floor at conference, you must hold up the plum-colored Recognition Sheet found in your pre-conference materials.

To participate in the parliamentary process, here is how the conference handles a motion:

1. A member of Annual Conference (lay or clergy) makes a motion.
2. Another member seconds the motion.
3. The chair states the question on the motion.
4. The motion is pending and open for debate.
5. The assembly decides on the motion (accepts or rejects).
6. The chair announces results of the vote.

For further details, see Part II in the pre-conference materials.

Childcare

A nursery will be offered during Annual Conference for children who are not school age. The nursery is housed at Highland Park UMC, Florence, Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For evening services through Tuesday, the nursery will be at Pisgah UMC, Florence, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/child all three days, or \$10/day. If only using the nursery for one of the services, or for just a few hours one day, the cost is only \$5. To sign up or for more information, email: jmarant@umcsc.org or 843-662-9611.

Emergency phone number

No cell phone, signal or battery life? Give loved ones and colleagues the emergency telephone number for the Florence Civic Center: 843-432-1228. You can also call this number during AC2014 for information or to relay messages.

Ordination tonight

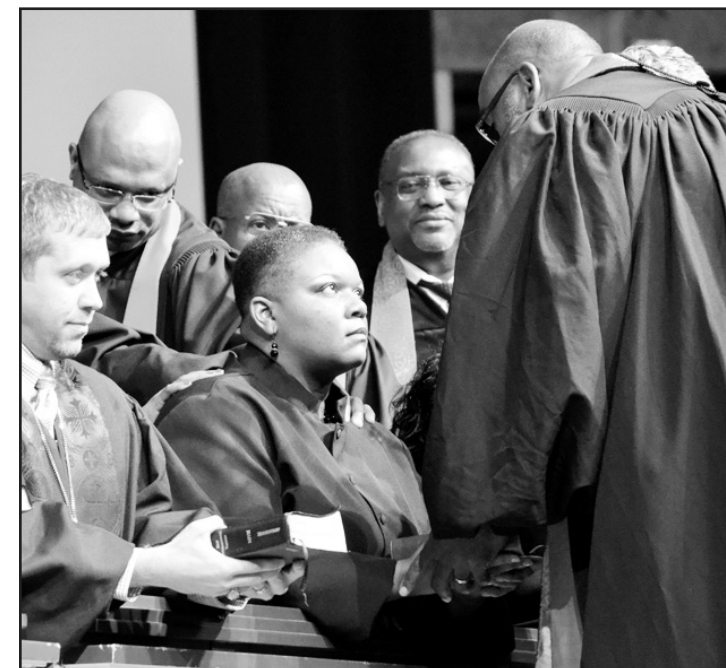


Photo by Allison Trussell

Annual Conference will ordain or commission 14 elders, 20 provisional elders, one deacon and three provisional deacons tonight. The following will be commissioned provisional deacons: Eric Hendrickson, Andrew Thomas Jones and Elizabeth Adams Murray. The following will be commissioned provisional elders: Doris Regina Bright, Jacqueline Carter-Harris, William Wallace Culp III, Lillie Kerns Davis, Zachary Harmon Dillard, Angela Marie Etheredge-Manly, Kimberly Norbeck Evans, Sharon Spann Gamble, Michael Eugene Goldston, Erik Kenneth Grayson, Kayla Brooke Harward, John David Howle, Charles Brian Humphries, Sheila B. Koger, Mark Douglas Mitchell, James Lawson Morgan, Allen Nesmith, Meghan Lindsey Sweeney, Charlie Thomas and Carly Kirsten Wicklund. The following will be ordained deacon: Katherine Amanda Brock. The following will be ordained elders: Hope Renee Avins, Joshua Lee Blackwelder, Benjamin Olsen Burt, Walter Joseph Cantwell, Daniel Walker Chamblee, Michael Terrence Fleming, Mallory Jean Forte, Andrew Charles Martin, David Jeffery Roper, Redonia McKnight Thomas, Suzanne Byrum Walker, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Charles Byrson Williams Jr. and Thurmond Williams.