

Online registration ends tonight for Tuesday disaster trainings

FLORENCE—United Methodists are invited to three different disaster trainings tomorrow, June 7, related to response and recovery.

All trainings will end at 5 p.m., and organizers hope all participants will stay for the Imagine No Malaria Celebration Concert featuring popular contemporary Christian band The Digital Age.

There are three offerings that day:

1. Early Response Team training: Train to be part of an ERT, which is a trained volunteer team that responds in the aftermath of a disaster to tarp roofs, clean out damaged homes and cut access paths through storm debris. Persons will need to complete a conference background check to be certified. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Pee Dee Room. Cost: \$35. Participant Limit: 50

2. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team leader training: UMVIM members are in mission around the nation and around the world. This training will equip persons seeking to lead a team in flood recovery or internationally. Time: 1-5 p.m. Location: Ballroom 1. Cost: \$35. Participant Limit: 30.

3. Helping Children Cope with Trauma: This workshop will equip teachers, parents and others to help children heal emotionally and spiritually following difficult experiences. Time: 2-5 p.m. Location: Ballroom 2. Cost: Free thanks to a gift from Hood Seminary Children's Summit. Participant limit: 50.

The deadline for online registration is tonight (June 6) at www.umcsc.org/ac2016. Bring payment with you to the door. Registration will also be accepted at the door only as space allows.



Teeing up for Asbury Hills

A golfer takes a swing during the fourth annual Camps & Retreat Ministries Golf Tournament at The Traces in Florence June 4, the day before Annual Conference began. The tournament raised thousands of dollars, and proceeds will enable kids in financial need to attend summer camp at Asbury Hills. (More photos in the July Advocate.) The tournament featured food, fun, a silent auction, prizes (including a 15-passenger bus and a GMC Terrain from King GMC, Buick and Cadillac as hole-in-one prizes), and more. This year's winners: the team comprising Kurt McPherson, Jay Bennett, Ray Crouse and Eric Dusa.

Photo by Allison Trussell

Coming tomorrow (Tuesday)

- Disaster Response Daylong Training
- Memorial Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
- Celebration of Retiring Ministers
- The Digital Age Concert celebrating Imagine No Malaria



Photo by Jessica Brodie

Local Church Mission Fair today at noon

Successful, vital missions that create space for God to work will be celebrated at the third annual Local Church Mission Fair, set for today, June 6 from 12-2 p.m., in the civic center's downstairs exhibit ballroom. Mission Fair projects give conference delegates and exhibitors a glimpse of missions happening through many local churches in the South Carolina Conference. Lunch will be available during the fair with several food stations set up around the ballroom. Tickets are \$8 and available for purchase at the door. Here, a woman checks out a display at last year's mission fair.



MAKING SPACE FOR GOD TO WORK

DAILY ADVOCATE

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

South Carolina
United Methodist Advocate

Monday, June 6, 2016

Today's Agenda June 6, 2016

- 7-10 a.m. Health Screening
- 7 a.m.-Noon Clergy Photo Session
- 7:15-8:45 a.m. Reconciling Ministries of S.C. Breakfast Gathering
- 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 8 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Conference Organization
- 9 a.m. Bible Study
- 9:40 a.m. Election of Quadrennial Conference Officers
- Consent Calendar
- Committee on Nominations
- Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry (Licensing Service)
- Colleges and University
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Recess
- African-American Clergy-women's Luncheon
- Hispanic/Latino Ministry Lunch
- Local Church Mission Fair
- 2 p.m. Council on Finance and Administration
- Committee on Resolutions and Appeals
- Reports of the United Methodist Theological Schools
- Report from General Conference Delegation
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 4 p.m. Report of Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- Black College Fund
- The Report of the Laity
- The Report of the Cabinet
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess
- 7:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music
- 7:30 p.m. Commissioning and Ordination Service
- 9 p.m. Ordination Service Reception following service

The hashtag for all things Annual Conference:

#umcsc

'Making Space for God to Work' at Annual Conference 2016



Photo by Marc Brodie

Vanessa Murray of the Mount Zion UMC Choir, Kingstree, proclaims how "The Lord is My Shepherd" during Annual Conference's Opening Service of Worship Sunday night, June 5.

By Jessica Brodie

FLORENCE—Business officially begins today for Annual Conference 2016, when thousands of United Methodist laity and clergy from across South Carolina gather here in the Florence Civic Center for a time of prayer, worship, celebration and legislation in the name of Jesus.

With the theme "A More Excellent Way: Making Space for God to Work," this year's Annual Conference is designed to focus on celebrating and developing new ways we can let God use us to further His Kingdom on earth.

Among other things, the body will consider a \$16.84 million budget for 2017, ordain and commission deacons and clergy, offer three disaster trainings, celebrate South Carolina's efforts to eradicate malaria and approve or reject several resolutions expected to go before

Annual Conference today.

"We are seeking a more excellent way," said Bishop Jonathan Holston as he welcomed people to opening worship Sunday night. "God has blessed us, and we are recipients of His grace and His mercy. Even tonight, after we have come through another year of work together, the Lord is asking us for one more thing."

Annual Conference will also consider for approval a sizable rate increase for healthcare next year for the conference thanks to a spike in prescription drug costs and a host of health issues that led to a high healthcare loss ratio.

Today's business

Today's business begins with a call to order

"Making Space," continued on Page 3

Six resolutions expected at this year's Annual Conference

By Jessica Brodie

FLORENCE—Annual Conference is expected to consider six resolutions this year ranging from racism to public education to non-discrimination of transgender people.

One of the resolutions—advocating a change to state social studies education standards regarding how South Carolina Native American history is taught—is already properly before the body and is in preconference materials. Five additional resolutions are expected to be formally presented today, June 6, to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals.

“If the committee says that they are in order, then all six will be considered on Wednesday morning,” said Conference Secretary the Rev. Ken Nelson.

Nelson said there is some possibility that one or more of these may be referred to other boards, agencies or commissions of the conference.

The five new resolutions are as follows:

- Resolution to Support the Nature of High Quality Public Education South Carolina Historic Church Support for Public Education: This resolution asks that the South Carolina Conference meet the needs of all children and working families by advocating to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend strong schools; educating congregations about the importance of engaging curriculum; mobilizing members to advocate for implementation of fair standards; raising awareness about high-stakes testing and the negative effect it has; advocating for investment in the teaching profession to ensure teachers are well-prepared and supported; advocating for a comprehensive, multi-provider system that ensures voluntary access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education; mobilizing members to fight for legislation, policies and funding that ensure strong public schools; and encouraging provisions that enable parents and guardians to participate fully in their children's education.

- Resolution for Uninsured Poor Adults in South Carolina: This resolution asks South Carolina United Methodists to accept responsibility for modeling health in

all its dimensions, specifically the redemptive ministry of Christ and the holistic ministry of healing (spiritual, mental emotional, and physical). In addition, it calls upon entities in the United Methodist connection to take steps toward health and wholeness and encourage the conference to continue support and provision of direct-health services; work toward a comprehensive health system that would provide equal access to quality health care; promote the passing of Senate Bill 845 that will enable people in the insurance gap to purchase health insurance; and support efforts private market proposals for expanding health coverage.

- Responsibilities for Eradication of Racism Resolution: This resolution asks every district and local church to have a strategy and program that educates and supports systemic and personal changes to end racism and develop interculturally competent leaders. It asks the conference to offer a yearly educational program on becoming an inclusive church, plus encourage clergy and lay leadership to participate. It asks that churches report their strategies for eradicating racism to their charge conference, and that the South Carolina Advocacy ministry area and the Committee on Religion and Race include as part of their annual report a review of these strategies, plus provide a review of conference and district efforts in equipping and supporting leadership to eradicate racism.

- Resolution for an Assessment, and a Plan of Action for the African American Historical Methodist Flagship Churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference: This resolution asks the conference to establish an assessment method to evaluate the past, present and future worth of South Carolina's 1866 “Flag Ship” churches and each African-American UMC in the state, plus direct the congregational specialist for African-American ministries and others to implement an assessment and plan of action for historical black churches to further determine if community centers or historical sites have possibilities.

- Resolution to Oppose Discrimination Against Transgender People: This resolu-

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tion asks the conference to no longer be silent about the value of each and every life; to categorically oppose discrimination against transgender people in all its forms and, in the spirit of advocating for safe sanctuary, to respond to acts of discrimination against transgender people with acts of compassion; and to take a public stand against speeches of hate, exclusion, harassment and acts of intimidation and violence filled with long-held prejudices.

Resolutions can be presented to the body by bringing 2,000 copies of the to Annual Conference and submitting it to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals by this afternoon for consideration.

“Making Space,” continued from Page 1

followed by the first reading of the budget, presentation of the resolutions (one is already properly before the body, and five additional are expected to be formally presented today; see article, Page 2), elections of quadrennial conference officers, reports by the schools, a report from the delegation to General Conference and more.

Voting will return to the non-electronic method this year, whether by hand, voice or written ballot. As this is not a General Conference election year, there is not as great a need for such detailed voting results, plus the electronic system is expensive, said Head Teller the Rev. Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes.

Sipes urged voting delegates to be sure to bring their conference materials, which have the perforated written ballots as well as the form to make any motions or amendments.

Bible study will be led by Dr. Luther Smith, professor emeritus of Candler School of Theology, each morning of the gathering.

Also today, 41 men and women will be licensed as local pastors: Minnie Pearl Anderson, Laura Nicole Benson, Tammy Abee Blom, Patricia Peterson Bowman, Timothy Warren Bureson, Willie Mae Cannon, Gerald Farrow Clinkscales, Joe Wesley Conner, Karen Elizabeth Dowdle-Wells, James L. Drummond, Michael Eugene Evans, Daniel Kaye Fortney, Alisha Christine Hansen, Anthony Allan Harder, Richard Kent Herd, Roger Dale Hovis, George Palmer Hudson, Annie Kathryn Jackson, Marcus Allen Johnston, Clayton Jonathon Jones Sr., Harold Ray Kessler III, Stewart Comer Kidd, Mary Ann Perine Lewis, Rebecca Robin McCorkendale, Patsy Staggers McCrea, John Edward McLeod Jr., Trevor Alvia Miller, Scott Douglas Nurse, Eunice Juanita Bowyer Raber, Caroline Adams Salmans, Sherri Priscilla Scott, Javon Acosta Seaborn, Matthew Kirk Snelgrove, Stephen Craig Turner, Eric Andrew Vickery, Gerald LeRoy Watford, Sylvia Freeman Watson, Lisa Montique Way, Barbara Jean McDowell Webster, Gwendolyn White and Kendrick Williams.

And tonight, former South Carolina Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey will preach the Service of Ordination and Commissioning, with 32 to be commissioned or ordained as clergy or deacons. The offering for the service will be received for The J. Lawrence and Margaret F. McCleskey Scholarship Fund of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.



32 commissioned, ordained tonight

Annual Conference will ordain five men and women as deacons, ordain 14 as elders and commission 13 as provisional elders tonight. Here at last year's service, Baltimore-Washington Conference Bishop Marcus Matthews blesses a new clergy member. Former S.C. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey will preach this year's service.

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