

20 years of deacons

During the Board of Ordained Ministry's report June 6, the Rev. Wayne Horne and the Rev. Karen Jones lifted up the 20th anniversary of ordaining deacons. Jones noted there are two orders—elders and deacons—and deacons do a variety of servant ministries, specializing in anything from Hispanic ministry and pastoral counseling to community economic development and more. "The needs of the world are vast, and there are too many to list," Jones said. In a video celebrating deacons, deacon candidate Elizabeth Murray noted that "deacons are called to bridge the church and the world." Also during the report, the body celebrated the 60th anniversary of ordaining women.



Photo by Allison Trussell

Body OKs health rate jump

FLORENCE—Annual Conference has approved the reports offered by the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, including a 12.4 percent increase in health insurance rates.

Herman Lightsey, chair, and the Rev. David Anderson, benefits officer, gave the reports, noting that while pensions are not changing, active plans rates will see a 12.4 percent increase for plan participants and a 15 percent increase for churches for 2017 because the claims rate spiked last year to 142 percent.

"That's basically a loss ratio of 142 percent," Anderson said.

He said so far this year, claims look promising.

"I've often said that we don't set the rates. We do approve them, but the rates are set by the claims we pay. We're doing all we can with health screenings and health plan, and I ask every clergyperson to take advantage of the health initiatives," Anderson said.

Lightsey said, "We are much stronger in our pensions and insurance programs than probably most of the private and public sectors around us, and one of the strongest conferences (in the UMC) when it comes to pensions and insurance."

"Over the past 10 years overall, your insurance premiums have only increased 4.9 percent; not another entity that can really say they've kept costs down that much," Lightsey said.

Conference quadrennial officers elected

On Monday morning, Annual Conference elected conference officers for the quadrennium, plus the Committee on Nominations presented the slate of nominees to the 16 quadrennial and non quadrennial boards, commissions and councils, as well as members of conference-related boards of trust, Wesley Foundations, district boards and committees, and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Elected as quadrennial conference officers were Parliamentarian W. Timothy McClendon; Chancellor Kay Gaffney Crowe; Conference Secretary Kenneth L. Nelson; First Assistant Secretary James C. Lane; and Assistant Secretaries Angela Ford Nelson, Mary Johnson, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes and Mel Arant Jr.

Also on Monday, the body elected Beth Westbury as conference treasurer.

The other nominees will be voted on Wednesday.



Photo by Matt Brodie

'Spaces Where God is Working'

Mission Fair-goers browse booths at the third annual Local Church Mission Fair, held June 6 to showcase the many missions happening in UMCs across South Carolina.



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

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Today's Agenda June 7, 2016

- 7-10:30 a.m. Health Screening
- 7:30 a.m. Awards Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 9 a.m. Connectional Ministries Report
- Hispanic Ministry Task Force
- Report of Congregational Development
- Break
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Recognition for Retiring Ministers and the Passing of the Mantle
- 11 a.m. Ministers' Spouses Luncheon
- Noon UMVIM Luncheon
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Recess
- Extensions Ministries Luncheon
- Diakonia Luncheon
- 2 p.m. A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
- 3-5 p.m. Clergy Photo Session
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Report of Commission on Equitable Compensation
- Report of Camps and Retreat Ministries
- Report from Imagine No Malaria Task Force
- 5 p.m. Dinner Recess
- 5:30 p.m. Claffin/Gammon Alumni Fellowship Dinner
- Duke Alumni Gathering
- Lutheran Theological Seminary Alumni Dinner
- Candler Club Dinner
- Erskine Seminary Alumni and Student Get Together
- 7:30 p.m. A Concert for Imagine No Malaria
- 9 p.m. BMCR Worship Service



Photo by Billy Robinson

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Early Response Team members clear fallen trees from a roof in the aftermath of the October 2015 floods. ERT team member training is one of three trainings slated for today.

Ready for the next disaster?

Today's trainings help South Carolina prepare

By Jessica Brodie

FLORENCE—United Methodists will have the opportunity to engage in a full day of disaster response trainings today, June 7.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. and held in the Florence Civic Center, the three separate trainings will be for those seeking to be part of a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Early Response Team, for those seeking to lead an UMVIM team in flood recovery or internationally, and for teachers, parents and others seeking to help heal childhood trauma in the aftermath of a disaster.

The trainings will end at 5 p.m., and organizers hope all participants will stay for the Imagine No Malaria concert tonight at 7 featuring popular Christian band The Digital Age.

"You've got to prepare ahead of time, and this is so important," said Billy Robinson, South Carolina ERT coordinator. "It shows that South Carolina is concerned about disaster response, and we realize there is a great mission field. People are hurting after a natural disaster, and we want to be God's hands and feet to them."

For those not signed up but would like to participate in any of the trainings, onsite registration will be accepted at the door until the spaces are filled. The ERT training will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pee Dee Room. Cost is \$35. The UMVIM leader training will be from 1-5 p.m. in Ballroom 1. Cost is \$35. The childhood trauma training will be from 2-5 p.m. in Ballroom 2 (no cost).

Coming tomorrow (Wednesday)

- Health Screening
- Elections, Committee on Nominations
- Clergy Photo Session
- Committee on Resolutions
- Fixing of Appointments

The hashtag for all things Annual Conference:

#umcsc



The Digital Age performs in a free concert tonight at 7.

The Digital Age performs tonight in free Imagine No Malaria concert

FLORENCE—Tonight, June 7, Annual Conference will celebrate all that South Carolina United Methodists have done to help Imagine No Malaria.

Popular contemporary Christian band The Digital Age will perform in a free concert at 7 p.m. All are welcome, not only Annual Conference attendees.

The Digital Age, which headlined the conference's youth Revolution event in 2013, features four of the six musicians from the Grammy-nominated, multiple Dove Award-winning David Crowder Band, and organizers said the band is sure to deliver a powerful, inspiring performance.

"It's a celebration of what we have accomplished, but also an encouragement

to continue raising awareness and funds for Imagine No Malaria," said Imagine No Malaria Field Coordinator the Rev. Jeri Katherine Sipes, urging people to bring pledges but remember "it's not just about the money. It's about impacting lives."

While there is no admission, a love offering will be taken, and organizers are asking people to bring a campaign pledge to turn in that night, as well as consider donating the cost of a typical concert ticket as a contribution. The South Carolina Conference has promised to raise \$1 million for Imagine No Malaria, and it has two more years to turn in the funds.

Pledge cards are available at inm.umcsc.org, and the conference can also provide resources to help with local fundraising.



McClendon is S.C. episcopal nominee

Annual Conference has approved the nomination of Dr. Tim McClendon—delegation chair, former Columbia District superintendent and current senior pastor of St. John's UMC, Aiken—as South Carolina's episcopal nominee. "We're going to Jurisdictional Conference behind Tim 100 percent," said Lay Leader Barbara Ware. "Not been since 1992 have we had a nominee from South Carolina become bishop." After his approval, McClendon expressed deep appreciation to Annual Conference. "You have shaped me and made me who I am; you have made me better than I am," McClendon said. "I'd be most happy to be here till I draw my last breath, but if God so chooses, I will serve and I will give it my all, and I thank you."

DAILY ADVOCATE

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Jurisdictional pool approved

FLORENCE—Annual Conference approved a jurisdictional pool of South Carolina United Methodists to serve on various boards and agencies.

South Carolina voted to put forth 45 names of various ethnicities. In addition to General and Jurisdictional delegates and alternates, the pool will include laity Cynthia Williams, Marilyn Murphy, John Redmond, Tracy Pender, Ashleigh Booker, Will Randall, Iris Gadsden, To'mas Stephens and Abigail Wiren. It will also include clergy Cheryl Toothe, Miyoung Paik, Richard Reams and Karen Jones.

Annual Conference commissions, ordains 32

In a service preached by former South Carolina Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, joined by South Carolina Resident Bishop Jonathan Holston (right), Annual Conference ordained or commissioned 32 last night, June 6, as clergy or deacons. Annual Conference ordained five as deacons in full connection: Eric Philip Hendrickson, Andrew Thomas Jones, Bennett William Mazyck, Elizabeth Adams Murray and Martha Ann Timmons. Annual Conference commissioned 13 as provisional elders: Anthony Griffith Carosiello, Beverly Crowe-Tipton, Shawna Michelle Darnall, LaTonya Monique Dash, Eleanora Coaxum Ellington, Katherine Marie Haselden, Bette Ann Hedden, Jon August Hoin, James Stewart McDowell, Brian Edward Preveaux, Sara Elizabeth Relaford, Sylvia Freeman Watson and James Timothy Whited. And Annual Conference ordained 14 as elders in full connection: Doris Regina Bright, Meghan Lindsey Sweeney Cook, William Wallace Culp III, Lillie Kerns Davis, Zachary Harmon Dillard, Sharon Spann Gamble, Michel Eugene Goldston, Erik Kenneth Grayson, Kayla Brooke Harward, Miriam Wilson Mick, James Lawson Morgan, Charlie Thomas, Carly Kirsten Wicklund and James Elbert Williams. The offering taken at the service will go to The J. Lawrence and Margaret F. McCleskey Scholarship Fund of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.



41 local pastors licensed

Annual Conference licensed 41 men and women during the Board of Ordained Ministry's report June 6.

Six resolutions presented

Annual Conference will vote on six resolutions Wednesday: the one resolution printed in preconference materials (regarding how South Carolina Native American history is taught), as well as five others.

The Rev. Marvin Caldwell gave the report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals, noting these additional resolutions will be distributed to the body today, June 7, after the morning session.

The resolutions are a Resolution to Support the Nature of High Quality Public Education South Carolina; Resolution for Uninsured Poor Adults in South Carolina; Responsibilities for Eradication of Racism Resolution; Resolution for an Assessment and a Plan of Action for the African-American Historical Methodist Flagship Churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference; and Resolution to Oppose Discrimination Against Transgender People.

Sign me up for the Advocate!

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