

Wednesday Morning, The Third Day

At 8:30 AM, the Reverend Dr. Vivia Fowler led the delegates in a **Bible Study**.

Bishop Holston opened the morning session at 9:00 AM with an announcement that \$145,359.89 has been raised for the Stop Hunger Now project.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe presented the **Consent Calendar** for adoption. No items were removed from the calendar. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the consent calendar is approved.

Mr. Curtis Young presented the report of the **Committee on Nominations**. He presented the three names for the open position on the Board of Pension and Health Benefits: Thelma Hudson, Cheryl Glover and Jeff Selig. Bishop Holston called for a vote and Thelma Hudson was elected.

Ms. Kim Sanders asked for a clarification of the nominees. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the nominees were approved.

The Reverend Marvin Caldwell presented to report of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**.

He presented "**Resolution on Minimally Adequate Education**" and the committee recommended concurrence. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

Reverend Caldwell presented "**Resolution to Support Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion**." The committee recommended concurrence. Louise Geddings spoke against the resolution. Dot Scott spoke in favor of the resolution. Michelle Filler from the Greenville District spoke against the resolution and questioned the fiscal soundness of Medicaid expansion. JoJo Nixon spoke in favor of resolution stating that churches need to take care of their own. The Reverend Cathy James asked to refer a portion of the resolution which states "direct a Congregational Specialist to coordinate Health Advocacy" to committee. Bishop Holston stated this portion could be dealt with if the resolution is approved. John Kelly spoke against the resolution and in favor of a health care alternative. Patricia Patterson spoke in favor of the resolution. Rev. Caldwell asked to allow the Reverend Amari Hooker to speak on behalf of the resolution. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the body approved allowing Reverend Hooker to speak. Reverend Hooker stated that the Committee on Advocacy was seeking to ask the legislature to move forward and to expand Medicaid to help those in need.

Reverend James made the motion to refer the line "direct a Congregational Specialist to coordinate Health Advocacy" to the Conference-Staff Relations Committee. Bishop Holston called for the vote and the amendment was approved.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the resolution and the resolution is supported.

Reverend Caldwell presented the “**Resolution to Prohibit Guns at Church-Sponsored Activities.**” The Reverend Karen Jones presented the rationale of the newest version of the resolution which changes the language of the resolution in regards to law enforcement and she stated that a law is currently in place in South Carolina to make churches “gun-free” zones. She stated that the primary concern was chaperones for church children and youth events off the grounds of the church. Reverend Jones stated that the intent of the resolution is to extend the gun-free zone to off-church activities.

The Reverend Rodney Powell spoke against the resolution and presented information on the rates of gun violence. Mr. Michael Cheatum asked for a clarification of the resolution and stated that the reference to SC Code 16-23-30 in the resolution is incorrect. Bishop Holston called for an editorial change to correct the SC Code to 16-23-20.

Brad Parham spoke in favor of the resolution stating that it reflects the current law in South Carolina and says it delegates authority to church councils. The Reverend Eric Shepherd asked to make an amendment and add a further exception to allow retired and active military and police officers to discharge firearms on church cemeteries for the purpose of salutes at funerals. The amendment was seconded. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

Jerry Byrd spoke against the resolution questioning whether individuals who possess guns could hold functions on their own property. Carroll Player spoke in favor of the resolution. Steve Simpson spoke against the resolution.

Bishop Holston called for a show of hands and a standing vote. However, he stated that the vote was close and asked for tellers to count the votes.

Following numerous questions and concerns, Bishop Holston asked for a distribution of paper ballots. Prior to the vote, Bishop Holston prayed stating that “no opinion should be any different than our love for Jesus Christ.”

Following a 15 minute break, Bishop Holston called the Conference into order.

Bishop Holston announced that by a vote of 628-540, the resolution was not approved.

Reverend Caldwell presented the “**Resolution to Support Global Maternal and Child Health through the Healthy Families, Healthy Planet Project.**”

The Reverend Cheryl Toothe spoke in favor of the resolution. Billy Lynch questioned what role abortion has or will play in this endeavor. Reverend Caldwell stated that abortion plays no role in this resolution. Bishop Holston called for a vote on this resolution and it is approved.

The Reverend Caldwell presented the “**Eradicating Poverty in South Carolina Resolution**” and the committee recommended concurrence. With no discussion, Bishop Holston called for a vote and the resolution was approved.

Reverend Caldwell presented the resolution called “**Responding to the Proposed Changes to High School Equivalency Testing: A Rallying Cry for Action in South Carolina.**” Reverend Caldwell stated that the committee concurred but asked to refer this resolution to Connectional Ministries. Connie Moody asked whether the General Assembly has passed a bill related to this resolution. Cynthia Seller spoke against the resolution and in particular with the pencil and paper reference in the resolution. Joyce Porter spoke in favor of the resolution. Steve Nin spoke against the resolution. Steve Bradley spoke in favor of the resolution. Jerry Byrd questioned whether a church has the authority to “insist” that a government agency take action.

Bishop Holston called for a vote to concur with the resolution and forward it to Connectional Ministries. The resolution is approved.

The Reverend David Surrett offered the report of the **Committee on Finances and Administration (CF&A)**. Reverend Surrett announced the Lee McMillan has retired from the treasurer’s office and requested for the Conference Secretary to send greetings on behalf of the Conference. Reverend Surrett also thanked Conference Treasurer Tony Prestipino for his work for the Conference.

Reverend Surrett asked the conference to remember Mr. Thad W. Herbert and his wife, Kathryn, who both died in the past year. Mr. Herbert had served the conference as treasurer prior to retirement.

Reverend Surrett stated that the overall budget represents a decrease of 1.5 percent over the previous year. In addition, he stated that changes related to the Greenwood District Parsonage will only apply to the churches in the Greenwood District. Reverend Surrett made the motion that the budget be accepted.

Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

The Reverend Tim McClendon presented the **Resolutions to Discontinue or Abandon Churches**. Reverend McClendon referred to this as a high and holy moment and a celebration of the ministries of each of the churches that will be presented. He stated that these churches have chosen, through charge conference action, to discontinue their ministry.

The following churches were discontinued:

- Cameron United Methodist Church in Calhoun County in the Orangeburg District. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.
- Old Galilee United Methodist Church located in Marlboro County in the Marion District. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.
- Calvary United Methodist Church located in Laurens County in the Greenwood District. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.
- Union United Methodist Church in Pickens County in the Anderson District. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

Following the votes, Bishop Holston asked for the delegates to remember and reflect on those who have served, been a part of and who have been ministered to by these four churches. He then led the Conference in a prayer for these churches.

Bishop Holston announced that the Annual Conference dates for 2014 will be June 1-4. The Reverend John Culp asked the conference to consider other sites in the state for future Conferences.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe made the recommendation that the Conference return to Florence for the 2014 Annual Conference. John Williams asked for consideration of different dates due to school schedules. Bishop Holston stated that he will take those factors into consideration in future years.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the Conference site and it is approved.

The Reverend Keith Ray expressed gratitude to Bishop Holston for this first conference.

The Reverend J.C. Lane asked to see whether the former members and pastors of the churches who were discontinued would be asked to stand to be recognized. Bishop Holston asked for those to stand and be recognized.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe asked for delegates to fill out the evaluation form in the conference packet.

Reverend Radcliffe stated there are many people in the conference who made this time and time of worship possible for the 2013 Annual Conference. She expressed gratitude to the Reverend Tim Rogers for his help and assistance. As part of her report, delegates watched a video of all who assisted in the conference.

Reverend Radcliffe then made the following Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session

not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the completion of The Fixing of the Appointments, that this 2013 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned sine die. The motion was seconded and approved by the Conference at 11:32 p.m.

Following a brief break, the Conference reconvened for the Closing Service of Worship and Fixing of Appointments. Copies of the SC Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church Ministerial Appointments roster were distributed to Conference participants. Bishop Jonathan Holston presided over the worship service and preached a sermon entitled: "What Really Matters." The sermon was based on Luke 9:23-27. Following the sermon, the District Superintendents and the District Lay Leaders came forth to amend the ministerial appointments where necessary and to approve them. The Lay Leaders prayed for the clergy and laity in each respective district. The following edits were made to the Ministerial Appointments roster:

Florence District

Hemingway:

Good Hope – appointment changed from TBS to Graham Bennett

Lynchburg:

Lynchburg Parish – a misprint was corrected. Franklin D. James is the associate pastor, and Blondell Miller is the Sr. Pastor.

Greenwood District

Extension Ministries - Adrienne Finkham is appointed to attend school.

Hartsville District

Oswego:

Oswego Circuit – the appointee was changed from Keith Taylor to be supplied (TBS).

Orangeburg District:

Orangeburg Circuit – the appointee was changed from David W. Williamson to Dan Glendaniel.

Charleston & Walterboro Districts

Extension Ministries – Genova McFadden is the Congregational Specialist for the Walterboro and Charleston districts.

Following the singing of the hymn: "Go Make of All Disciples," Bishop Jonathan Holston pronounced the Benediction and sent the Conference attendees forth to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.