

## E. CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

### 1. ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY (Epworth Place and Asbury Care Center)

Aldersgate staff and board of directors have continued to take measures toward enhancing the financial and functional integrity of this missional organization's viability now and for the future. We have continued to monitor and insure that we have "right-sized" our personnel resources for the optimum value and functional capability with which to serve our residents with excellence, within a reasonable cost structure for the community.

During this year, we have eliminated a senior-management staff position, with the responsibilities of that position redistributed among other members of the management team. Reduction of costs associated with this move, along with a cooperative working relationship among the remaining staff members, has proven to be another positive step in our quest for the optimum organization.

The board of directors has initiated a "Land Use Planning Task Force" to assimilate a comprehensive set of documents containing the various buildings, plus streets and utilities infrastructure, along with the physical attributes of the entire Aldersgate parcel of land. This report will be studied by the committee, guided by an architectural firm, to plot and plan toward future phases of mission and ministry on the campus. A first phase is already anticipated to be the addition of a number of individual homes to the campus.

We are currently planning the conversion of several apartments on our Epworth Place third floor to add a number of accommodations to Parker Terrace Assisted Living Unit. Currently, the state of North Carolina is reviewing our request to accomplish this conversion. Hopefully, this can be completed and provide additional assisted-living accommodations by the fall of 2004.

As we continue to plan and develop new products and services for our resident community, we remain committed to our original mission of providing excellent services to older persons in the compassionate, Christian neighborhood called Aldersgate.

#### Proposals: Aldersgate Boards

(Referred as Petition 13 to Forum Group 11)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)

1. The Board of Advisors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board (\* denotes new member):

Max G. Erwin*	<i>Class of 2005</i>	
	<i>Class of 2006</i>	
Margaret Fisher*	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Nancy Keever Andersen	Thomas R. Bethune Jr.	Jean Campbell*
Michael G. Carle	Joseph H. Cathey Jr.	Stephen R. Combs
LeRoy Deabler*	Zane E. Eargle*	Frank H. Edwards
Ralph Gable*	Cecilia Jarrett*	William T. Jeffries
Myra Jenkins	Tom P. Phillips	Grady Price
C. Ronald Riley	W. Leonard Robinson	Michael R. Smith
G. Everett Suddreth	Stacy A. Sumner*	Edwin H. Wadsworth

2. The Board of Advisors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., proposes that the following members be confirmed as members of the Board of Directors of Aldersgate:

Virginia H. Canipe*	<i>Class of 2005</i>	
	<i>Class of 2006</i>	
Dan B. McIntyre*	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Michael G. Carle	G. William Climer Jr.*	W. Leonard Robinson
Thomas R. Sigmon	Michael R. Smith*	

Samuel S. Wermuth, *Chairperson*  
Raymond O. Hall, *President*

## **2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.**

On my desk sits a jar of rocks, treasures collected from sites all over the world by one of our residents, a resident with little family and a deep sense of her aloneness in the world. These rocks came into my possession on the strength of a promise I made to her to value and care for them into a future that would extend beyond the span of her own years. They serve to remind me of the sacred role that Arbor Acres plays as the steward of living stones given into our care, as the keeper of hope for the future of each resident during his or her remaining lifetime and beyond. Arbor Acres addresses the fear that lurks in the uncertainty of what may lie ahead. Occasionally, this even includes the fear that the precious artifacts of a lifetime will be cast away and a good life forgotten altogether.

The living stones of Arbor Acres, our residents and staff, have withstood ground-shifting change over a period of years. Only as 2003 drew toward its conclusion did the quaking begin to subside. A dramatic plan for new construction and renovation reached its fulfillment this year. As a result, Arbor Acres has enlarged its continuum of facilities by adding a new and state-of-the-art apartment building. This increase of 44 apartments enables Arbor Acres to serve an expanded number of people who want and need the securities afforded through congregate living. Additionally, the plan called for the complete renovation of all other facilities at Arbor Acres, including dining and health care facilities. Again, change brought new opportunities for expanded dining options and greatly enhanced service delivery through an innovative new bathing center. Known as the SPA (or Soothing Pleasures Alternative), this facility, and the program it makes possible, has transformed the undignified activity of being bathed into a relaxed, sensually soothing, and spiritually rich experience. Already, Arbor Acres has received national attention for a program that has the potential to impact the quality of care delivered in nursing centers throughout the country.

Other accomplishments of 2003 are no less notable. They include:

- Re-accreditation through the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission, a coveted stamp of approval that assures that Arbor Acres remains among the best of the best in the field of continuing care.
- Development of high-quality dining options, consistent with the high expectations and interests of residents, that serves to enhance community life among all residents.
- A successful Mother's Day Offering, totaling \$169,188, and the delivery of financial assistance to residents at a total cost for the year of \$687,093.
- Corporate reorganization and the naming of the following offices: chair, president/CEO, vice-president/CFO, vice-president/COO, and corporate secretary.
- Implementation of a unique program, in partnership with Hospice and Palliative CareCenter, to educate residents and staff about end-of-life issues and to assure the delivery of quality end-of-life care.
- Successful marketing of the new Stockton Building apartments and commencement of occupancy of the building by new residents. By year-end, all but two apartments were under contract to prospective residents, a truly remarkable achievement.
- Creation of a physician program to serve independent-living residents who choose to receive medical care at and through Arbor Acres. Housed in a facility known as the Clifford Perry Clinic, this program is directed by Dr. Chris Herman, president of Physicians ElderCare, who also serves as Arbor Acres' medical director.
- An active, engaged resident council, applying its energies to improving the quality of life within the community and to enhancing communication between residents and staff, and between the residents and the board of directors.

Which brings me back to the living stones. I look at the stones on my desk each carefully wrapped and all cradled in a beautiful glass jar, and I am reminded that Arbor Acres is people living and working together to accomplish a noble mission, to provide residents opportunity for security, contentment, and life with meaning and purpose. Our commitment to this mission has grown stronger this year, like gold refined by fire, in Arbor Acres' case the intense heat of past and future pressing against one another like tectonic plates. The resulting ground-shift has allowed Arbor Acres to hold fast to its heritage, even as it explored ways to prepare for challenges and opportunities to come. The living stones of Arbor Acres have endured and even prospered during this time of upheaval. We did this by holding fast to each other, and by remembering the Ground on which we stand, God, who changes not from age to age, in whose name we serve.

### Proposal: Arbor Acres Directors

(Referred as Petition 14 to Forum Group 11)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)

The following persons are proposed for election as members of the Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.:

*Class of 2005*

S. O. (Skip) Brown, Jr.  
Martha Jo Campbell  
David E. Cassels  
Anderson D. Cromer  
Susan B. Culp

Lee Gladden  
William D. Hobbs  
James E. Martin  
Anita H. Ogburn  
Richard B. Port

William M. Satterwhite, Jr.  
Edwin L. Welch, Jr.  
Charles B. Wright

*Class of 2006*

Sylvia F. Alderson  
Thomas B. Cannon  
Winborne S. Chandler  
Linda G. Davis

James W. Ferree  
Richard M. Marvin  
Michael L. Robinson  
W. David Stedman

Thomas B. Stockton  
Robert D. Turner  
W. Earl Gibson, Jr.  
Patricia W. Wiseman

*Ex Officio (District Superintendents)*

Arnetta E. Beverly  
Lynne B. Caldwell

J. Michael Leatherwood  
Ronald A. (Alan) Rice, Jr.

Frank A. Stith III  
J. Hurley Thomas III  
Anderson D. Cromer, *Chair*  
W. David Piner, *President/CEO*

### 3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

This past year has been one of transition. Many changes have occurred as we prepare for the future generation of children and families we shall serve. The new mental-health licensing our agency has undertaken now allows us the opportunity to serve the neediest of God's children.

A change in administration, as well as an increased focus on the clinical programming, has been incorporated. These significant landmarks have greatly enhanced our ability to work with mentally ill children and families. It is imperative that we have a highly trained and professionally licensed staff in order to provide quality programs and services. The price tag is expensive compared to the yesteryears of custodial care. We now find ourselves looking for other revenue streams and advanced technological systems to help defray these costs and increase productivity and efficiency.

Our financial needs continue to challenge us. Both trustees and staff have put great effort and energy into the continued stewardship of our resources. We try to maximize every charitable dollar received, as well as state and federal reimbursements, so that the most neglected/abused children get the help they so desperately need.

As we look to the future, we must not forget the past. Our faithful alumni, donors, churches, and conference are some of the reasons we continue to succeed with those clients who are hurting most. We constantly review and scrutinize the social-service delivery systems used to develop our residential program, therapeutic/traditional foster care, outpatient counseling, day treatment, day school, and the Ironwood Institute. The institute is also the newest component to our array of services and is a direct link to every pastor and congregation in the Western North Carolina Conference. Ministers throughout our conference are invited and encouraged to participate in workshops and intensive training provided by our professional staff in areas such family dynamics/systems, parenting techniques, counseling, and abuse/neglect issues.

We have been blessed with a rich tradition of spiritual and financial support. We urge you to continue to keep The Children's Home in your thoughts and prayers as we strive to fulfill God's mission and our motto of "Where Children and Families Matter Most."

Richard A. Nelson, *Chief Executive Officer*

**Proposal: Children's Home Trustees and Officers**

**(Referred as Petition 15 to Forum Group 11)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)**

The Board of Trustees of The Children's Home, Inc., proposes:

1. That the following persons be confirmed as members of the board:

*For three-year terms, expiring in March 2007:*

Anne D. Martin	Maurice West	Jennifer Davis
Bob Dunnigan	Etta W. Marcellus	Rebecca Johnson
Phyllis Jones	Sara Williams	J. Robert Nations, Jr.
Faye M. Ashe	Tom Wilson	

2. That the following officers of the Board be confirmed for a one-year term:

Thomas L. Griffis.....	President
Edwin Welch.....	Vice President
Ella P. Hand.....	Secretary
Carolyn Wemyss.....	Recording Secretary
Richard A. Nelson.....	Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer

**4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community is in the throes of a major expansion project which will transform this community with its completion in the summer of 2005. Several years ago, at the conclusion of a significant strategic planning process, the board of directors made a bold decision to proceed with a progressive expansion program to enhance and expand the facilities and residencies in our community, in an effort to continue providing quality care and service to a current and future generation of residents. Further, these efforts reinforce our mission and ministry and position the organization for the next 25 years.

Residents, construction workers, board members, and staff joined together in a heartwarming "topping out" ceremony, an old tradition which marks the placement of the last steel beam in our new construction. The beam was signed by those in attendance and ceremoniously hoisted to the northeast corner of the new Oxford Commons with a hemlock tree and American flag. The "topping out" ceremony marks a major milestone in the construction of the new 137 apartments, 59 cottages, wellness center, activities areas, and other much needed space.

Campaign Co-chairpersons Ed and Donna Broadwell recently announced that Givens Estates has raised more than \$2 million as of December 31, 2003, toward a capital campaign for our expansion project. The future of this community has been blessed by the Broadwells and so many others who have given sacrificially. We rejoice with this good progress as we endeavor to achieve our \$2.5-million goal.

Givens Estates takes seriously its responsibility to be involved in outreach ministries. The Vanderbilt Apartments, LifeMinistries, Memory Assessment Clinic and Eldercare Resource Center, the Mountain Area Health Education Center, and UMAR continue as priorities for our community. Collectively and individually, residents and staff are involved in community service and volunteerism. Our tradition of serving others remains a cornerstone of our mission.

Meeting the challenges of the future calls for our vision to expand as we seek to provide affordable, desirable, and necessary services with compassionate care to a growing older adult population. The aforementioned expansion enhances Givens Estates' capacity to undertake the necessary activities and programs to meet the needs of our present and future residents. Even with the major campus transformation, our mission and ministry remains the same as it was almost 30 years ago: To serve seniors of a diverse population in a loving and caring environment.

**Proposal: Givens Estates Directors**

**(Referred as Petition 16 to Forum Group 11)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)**

The Board of Directors of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board:

*Class of 2005*

William B. Cagle	William A. Hart, Jr.	G. Edward Towson, Jr.
Mary O. Davis	Charles E. Nesbitt	Maurice E. West, Sr.
Mary D. Donnelly	Phillip J. Tate	

	<i>Class of 2006</i>	
Ronald P. Clauser	Dorothy D. Marlow	Elaine T. Wolf
Janet H. Collins	Mary Marcia Salsbury	George W. Wooten
William F. Depp	Patricia S. Smith	
	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Donna A. Broadwell	Gregory D. Hutchens	Frances C. Waser
E. Wannamaker Hardin, Jr.	Joetta F. Rinehart	Sarah C. Zimmerman
Earle R. Haire	Kenneth W. Swayze, Jr.	
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
Thomas E. Camp III (Givens Trust)	Lucian C. Rice (Medical)	
Fred B. Conner (Property)	Robert E. Shepherd (Regional Affairs)	
Myron L. Coulter (Regional Affairs)	Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Givens Trust)	
Earl G. Hunt, Jr. (Honorary Life)	Donald L. Watrous (Resident Council Representative)	
J. Clay Madison (Honorary Life)	Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Givens Trust)	
	<i>Ex Officio (Clergy)</i>	
Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.	Ben W. Curry	Carl W. Lindquist
Arnold D. Corriher	N. Fred Jordan, Jr.	W. Lyn Sorrells
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
Charlene P. Kammerer, Resident Bishop		
William H. Osborne, Jr., Administrative Assistant to the Bishop		
Thomas R. Sigmon, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries		
Karen F. Miller, Asheville District Superintendent		
Robert E. Roach, Marion District Superintendent		
James T. Trollinger, Waynesville District Superintendent		

## 5. UMAR, INC

For over 20 years, UMAR has provided community-based residential services to individuals with developmental and similar disabilities. Currently, we support 121 individuals in 23 residential facilities located in Asheville, Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hayesville, High Point, Lincolnton, Statesville, and Winston-Salem. There are also fundraising efforts to construct homes in the Lexington District and the Lake Norman area.

Demand for UMAR services continues to increase, as government financial support plateaus. To this end, UMAR is developing a new fundraising model that focuses on increasing unrestricted revenues. These funds are critical to supporting our mission of promoting person-centered independence and growth in a supportive environment for individuals with developmental and associated disabilities, and advocating for community inclusion.

In the past year, we have strengthened our infrastructure to better support the quality services provided in the homes. New financial systems and policies, enhanced information technologies, and restructuring to maximize staffing capacity are a few pieces of the improved support for our direct services. In the area of direct services, UMAR has increased employee training, bolstered our continuous quality program, and developed a program to increase communication and accountabilities with residents' parents/guardians.

Most importantly, UMAR has developed a strategic plan to focus our services and growth to better ensure that we meet the needs of our current and future residents, while better positioning ourselves for fiscal stability. UMAR's future lies in its ability to balance the bi-focal priorities of ministry and business success. The strategic plan will serve as our roadmap to providing the highest quality services, while implementing best-practices business systems.

### Proposal: UMAR Trustees

**(Referred as Petition 17 to Forum Group 11)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)**

The Board of Trustees of UMAR, Inc., proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2004:

	<i>Class of 2004</i>	
Julian M. Aldridge, Jr.	Joel Clingman	Bobbie Hankins
J. Paul Christy	Carla Cornelius	Morry Johnston
	<i>Class of 2005</i>	
Dino Cimma	Jo Fields	Libby Privette
Sallie Close	George Fleming	Dave Richard
Bill Eller	Cindy LaBrosse	

Cathy Cook  
Pam Hazen  
Jim Hooper

*Class of 2006*  
James C. Howell  
Ginger Kelly  
Dwight Marshall

Ray Thomas  
Linda Weisbruch

Steve Sellers, *President*

## **6. METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES (MCCS)**

Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services (MCCS) serves the area formed by the Albemarle, Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, and Statesville districts. During the past year, MCCS provided more than 7,600 hours of individual, couple, family, and group therapy; consulted with various congregations; conducted numerous workshops for congregations and the public from the 75 offerings which are available; and trained a number of clergy and laity in both pastoral care and counseling.

MCCS recently was re-accredited as a service center by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute. MCCS and the Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center co-sponsor Carolina Institute for Clinical Pastoral Training (CICPT), the only AAPC-approved training program in the Carolinas. Successful completion of the training program can lead to North Carolina licensure or certification as a professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, and/or pastoral counselor, as well as certification up through the supervisory level with one or more of these cognate groups: American Association of Pastoral Counselors, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, National Board of Certified Counselors, and College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. Coursework and training from the CICPT has been applied to doctor of ministry programs at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. CICPT and the Caring Communities Program of Duke Divinity School are engaged in a special training program to equip pastors and other church professionals in the use of self to facilitate caring congregations.

In March of 2004, Davidson Clergy Center, located in Davidson, North Carolina, opened to provide intensive holistic care for clergy and other church professionals of various denominations from across the country who have encountered extreme stress and discouragement. Collaborating with the local YMCA staff and nurses from Carolinas Medical Center for blood work, nutrition, and physical fitness, MCCS therapists provide for a week of individual and group therapy which is designed to intervene, assess, stabilize, and assist participants in beginning a five-year self-care plan, which will include various aftercare modalities. The Davidson Clergy Center accepts both self-referrals and those from judicatories.

To learn more about the MCCS clinical services, workshops and consultations, clinical training, and the care of clergy and other church professionals, as well as how to make contributions to the Samaritan Client Assistance Fund to aid persons without the financial means to seek professional pastoral counseling, visit the new MCCS website at [www.mccsvs.org](http://www.mccsvs.org).

James W. Pruett, Executive Director

## **7. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY**

The years 2003 and 2004 have been years of transition for the conference's deaf ministry. After the resignation of Leo A. Yates, Jr., on October 2002, the board decided to hire a full-time person with administrative and ministerial skills and begin to reach across and serve our full Western North Carolina United Methodist Conference. This resulted in the hiring of Kay Dunlap at the end of October 2003. Kay came to us after five years of experience serving the deaf and hard of hearing in Winston-Salem at the Forsyth Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and also after serving in deaf ministry in the Triad area.

Since Kay's October hiring, a comprehensive deaf ministry brochure has been designed to enlighten, encourage, and inform the churches and agencies within the conference about the need for deaf ministry and resources to help get these established. Bible studies have been started and continued in the Morganton, Asheville, and Gastonia areas of our conference and include working with the deaf and deaf/blind. Presentations have been given to churches, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and district pastors' meetings across our conference as well. Plans are being made to reach out to deaf young people and get them involved with church activities. The first of June will mark the beginning of a summer drama/mime group for deaf young people ages 12-18 in Catawba, Burke, and Caldwell counties. In March, the Murphy's Girls, one of our youngest groups of UMWomen, from First Church, Morganton, began developing relationships with girls of the same age at the North Carolina School for the Deaf. They began to learn sign language, attended worship services together, worked on craft projects, and will become pen pals over the summer vacation. Our Deaf United Methodist Women

continue to be active in reaching out and serving others and assisted in collecting Campbell soup labels that were given to North Morganton Church for their van fundraiser. Plans are moving forward for a Deaf Walk to Emmaus. Each week, the Lord is leading us to wonderful, spirit-filled people with good signing skills, and we feel that our Deaf Walk is well in sight.

The deaf ministry wishes to thank all the churches and individuals who have supported us this year and in the past with their gifts. Your support is greatly needed to insure that this much-needed ministry continues and grows. If you have any questions about deaf ministry, would like a presentation concerning deaf ministry at your church, or wish to give a gift to deaf ministry, please send your correspondence to: WNCUM Deaf Ministry, P.O. Box 9152, Morganton, NC 28655, or phone 828-437-0921, extension 20.

Robert M. Pitzer, *President*  
Kay Dunlap, *Director*

## F. COUNCIL ON LAITY

The Council on Laity has been very active and productive this year, with programs, participation in projects, and updating our by-laws. With the soft economic conditions that exist in each church and community, there is no doubt that each of us is called upon and challenged as never before to exhibit loving stewardship and responsibility for the success of our conference. The council desires to encourage all of our laity to respond to this challenge, for we believe that, if together we work hard, pray hard, and think bigger than we ever have before, success will come.

My thanks to each of you for giving me the honor and privilege of serving you as your conference lay leader for these past six years. Thank you, too, for electing me on the first ballot as a delegate to General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as well as electing three youth as delegates, giving our conference the largest number of youth delegates in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and probably in the entire United Methodist Church. A special thanks to the members of the Council on Laity, which is composed of the 14 district lay leaders; 12 at-large members; past conference lay leaders; the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and Women; the vice-chairperson of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; the chairperson of the Laity Service Award program; the conference chairperson of lay speaking; the chairperson of the Conference Ministries Advisory Council; the conference scouting director; the conference prayer advocate; the chairperson, registrar, and treasurer of the Gathering of the Laity; a Cabinet representative, a conference staff representative; and the conference lay leader, who is also the council president. We all serve under the caring leadership of Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer.

During the past six years, I have been richly blessed to meet with and learn from the annual conference lay leaders from around the world, and especially those from the Southeastern Jurisdiction, through the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. We met with the bishops of the jurisdiction this past January in Charleston, South Carolina, for an exchange of ideas and to strengthen the cooperation between bishops and conference lay leaders.

On behalf of our council, I want to thank the pastors and staff of Faith-St. Paul Charge, Mooresville; Bethel Church, Midland; and Christ Church, High Point. Not only did they welcome us into their worship services, but they also provided wonderful lunches and then allowed us to stay for the afternoon, so that we could conduct our quarterly business meetings. The council feels that we get a chance to strengthen our connection by giving the different churches we visit throughout the conference a chance to express any concerns, ideas, projects, or actions they have in mind.

The council is dedicated to securing pledges and/or donations to raise \$50,000 for the Bishop Joseph B. and Shirley C. Bethea Welcome Center at Lake Junaluska. We solicit your help in this effort; we have approximately half the needed amount already.

*The Connection*, under the direction of Frederick N. Jones, is our attempt to get the ethnic-minority churches to be more aware of, and participate in, the Gathering of the Laity each year at Lake Junaluska.

Johnny Harvell, the chair of Gathering of the Laity, has come up with an outstanding array of tremendous speakers, such as John Ed Mathison, senior pastor of Frazer Memorial Church, Montgomery, Alabama, one of the fastest growing churches in America; and Leonard E. (Lenny) Stadler, Jr., senior pastor of Weddington Church, one of the fastest growing churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. Also on the 2004 program will be Clyde Duplin, a crusade evangelist from Kernersville; Rosemary Brown, senior pastor of Monroe Street Church, Elizabethtown, Tennessee; and Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul Church, Winston-Salem. All of them will be speaking on the theme, "Joy in the Harvest," August 13-15, 2004, at Lake Junaluska. Also included will be a laity address from Don Eaton, of Advance, and special music by the Junaluska Singers, under the direction of Glenn Draper.

We are indebted to Betty Jo Hardy for her outstanding job of getting our churches to nominate persons for the Laity Service Award recognition. Each year, we are privileged to recognize more of our unsung, dedicated Christian laity. Betty Jo passes the torch to Wade Lowder, who will be preparing the recognition program at the Gathering of the Laity on Saturday afternoon, prior to the Junaluska Singers' concert.

My thanks to Mitchell Matthews, conference director of lay speaking, for coordinating the development of lay speaking, and especially for the increased interest in getting laity to submit their talks for annual conference. We have gone from six submissions the first year to 43 this year. The message of Fred Gray, of Guilford College Church, Greensboro, was selected to be given at the 2004 annual conference.

I want to thank Mary K. Kizer, conference president of UMWomen, for her leadership and hard work in keeping Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women number one in many areas of work, especially in mission giving. Thanks also to Ray G. Boger, conference UMMen president, for his dedication and for raising the level of awareness of the work of Western North Carolina United Methodist Men. They will be celebrating the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Men's Rally at Lake Junaluska, April 23-25, 2004.

On behalf of our council, I want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Jimmy Causby, who was taken to be with his Heavenly Father since our last annual conference. Jimmy was our past conference lay leader and a true and valued friend to me.

This year I am conclude my term as your annual conference lay leader. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the laity and clergy of the conference for allowing me to serve you for the past six years. The support of our bishop, Cabinet, conference secretary, and the clergy and laity is something I shall treasure the rest of my life as we partner together to make disciples of Jesus Christ. May it be said of my six-year term, "God knows Jack tried."

Jack Young, *Conference Lay Leader and President*

## **G. UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Men's organization continues to grow in the number of chartered fellowships and individual men's memberships in the EMS ("Every Man Shares") program of United Methodist Men. With support from the General Commission on United Methodist Men and our clergy, it has been possible to increase the awareness of United Methodist Men's ministries.

A. Franklin Gordon, Jr., was presented the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award at the 2003 session of the annual conference. He was nominated by the men of Glen Alpine Church for his pastoral leadership in men's ministries with the men and youth of the church.

We have experienced continued support for the Four Major Emphases this year in scouting, the *Upper Room* Prayer Line, support programs, and the Ministerial Scholarship Fund. Eighteen scholarships were awarded to men and women who are pursuing second careers in ministry.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> UMMen Rally was held April 24-26, 2003, with the theme, "Men Created in Christ." The rally began with a golf event on Friday morning to benefit The Children's Home in Franklin. Program participants during the weekend were Thomas R. Sigmon; evangelist Terry R. Duckworth; Marvin A. Moss, senior pastor at Saint James Church, Alpharetta, Georgia; Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul Church, Winston Salem; Robert K. (Buzz) Scott, senior pastor of Covenant Community Church, Asheville; David M. Hamlyn, pastor of Abernethy Memorial Church, Rutherford College; and Otis L. Snow, pastor of Memorial Church, Kannapolis. The music by the Men's Choir of Saint James Church, the Covenant Praise Ensemble, Terry Duckworth, and Dustin Diehl lifted our spirits and knitted us together as one body.

In our business session, the following officers were elected: Ray Boger, president; Elwood Mabe and Dee Yates, vice-presidents; Leon Norman, treasurer; and Ron Patterson, secretary. The Best Fellowship honor was awarded to Canaan UMMen, from the Lexington District. The UMMen of First Church, Waynesville, were presented a plaque representing the 2002 winner.

The ninth National Gathering of United Methodist Men will be held at Purdue University, July 15-17, 2005. United Methodist Men from throughout western North Carolina will travel by chartered bus to attend this important conference. Over 5,000 youth and men are expected to be in attendance. Participants will hear outstanding speakers and musicians during the weekend and participate in over 45 workshops. Visit the General Commission website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)) to learn more about this gathering.

Our purpose states that "United Methodist Men shall be a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily His will." The membership of UMMen is trying to fulfill this purpose.

Ray G. Boger, *President*

## **H. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The economic downturns in 2003 did not hinder United Methodist Women in our support of mission around the world. Our Undesignated Giving increased, and our total giving was again over \$1 million, totaling \$1,081,894. For the third year in a row, we were the Number 1 conference in the nation in our Undesignated Giving and Total Giving. We were also Number 1 in the channels of Gift in Memory and

World Thank Offering, Number 2 in Gift to Mission, and Number 3 in Pledge to Mission. Our financial goal for the year was to increase our giving in the Gift in Memory category by 10%. We exceed this, with an increase of 33%. Our love offering of \$36,279 (the largest ever) was given in honor of Bishop Charlene Kammerer, in appreciation for her commitment to and her vision for missions.

Each of our 14 districts is blessed with wonderful, creative mission teams. They see that their districts have prayer breakfasts, mission studies, annual meetings, officer training, and other events to help UMWomen live out our *PURPOSE*. The conference adds to this with spiritual growth retreats, the School of Christian Mission, our Annual Meeting, and officer training.

The National Seminar, held once every four years, was August 2-8, 2003, at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville. The theme was "*If Not Now, When ... If Not Me, Who?*" Polly Pearson and Elizabeth Baker were the two participants from our conference.

A special highlight for our year was the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, March 12-14, 2004. The theme for the program was, "*Vessels of Mission*," which was carried out in very meaningful ways. Our conference had 192 in attendance, the largest number from any one conference.

Chartering new units is always a time of celebration. We were so pleased to have a unit chartered at Plaza Church, in Charlotte, and our second Hispanic unit, *Mujeres En Accion*, in Winston-Salem.

We continue our emphasis on *Mission Today*. The criteria for becoming a *Mission Today* unit provide a good checklist to be sure that we are living out all phases of our *PURPOSE*.

LUV (Local Unit Visitation) continues to be a great tool for sharing information as district officers visit local units.

Plans are well on the way for our 2004 events. Themes will be: *Spiritual Growth Retreat, God's Promise of Hope; School of Christian Mission, Policy, Prayer, and Politics; and Annual Meeting, To God be the Glory.*

Districts continue to communicate with local units via letters, newsletters, and phone calls. The *Conference Gram* is mailed quarterly to conference and district officers, plus each local president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and circle chairs. Also, we have our e-mail list and website at [www.qbgm-umc/wncumw/](http://www.qbgm-umc/wncumw/). We invite you to visit it often for latest information.

The year 2004 is going to be a very special year for us. We celebrate 135 years as Women in Mission (1869-2004). Local units and districts are encouraged to celebrate their history and continue to plant seeds of commitment to mission. We will celebrate as a conference at our Annual Meeting.

United Methodist Women continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in their local churches and communities and to give their money so others can go to serve where they cannot. Thanks be to God for each member!

Mary K. Kizer, *President*

## I. UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is currently composed of 33 youth and 23 adult representatives. The conference is well represented, with two youth from each of the 14 districts, as well as some at-large members. The adult representation is divided in the same fashion.

The council plays an integral part in planning, designing, and staffing the youth events that occur within the conference throughout the year. It is imperative that youth are involved in the planning of events for youth. The council originates ideas concerning theme, drama, preferred speaker, programming, and mission opportunities, as well as fundraising for the Youth Service Fund (YSF). These ideas are then furthered in adult design teams, who make functional realities out of the youths' ideas. Incredible youth events are thus created through team effort!

There are several levels of events for youth participants at different places in their spiritual journeys. On a beginners' level, the conference offers Youth Night at Lowe's Motor Speedway and UMYF Splash (sponsored by the Lexington and High Point districts), held at Emerald Pointe Water Park. These entry-level events involve a lot of fun and fellowship, with a poignant, but not pushy, Gospel message.

On a slightly deeper level, the conference holds several weekend events, including SpiritUs (held at Ft. Caswell Beach in August) and SUMMIT (the first weekend of February in Boone). Both of these events have experienced rapid growth over the past few years. SpiritUs has grown to the point that it now offers a second weekend, and numbers continue to rise. SUMMIT outgrew its facilities after four years at Boone Church (maximum of 800) and this year moved to the Holmes Convocation Center at Appalachian State University, with 1,500 participants registered! We also offer Kaleidoscope Middle High Weekend each spring at the YMCA Camp Thunderbird on Lake Wylie, South Carolina, with about 300 participants.

For youth at a committed level in their faith journeys, the conference holds events such as Choose to Share Christ (C2SX) and the Bishop's Confirmation Celebration. C2SX is a learning weekend, in which participants discover how, once they have a relationship with Christ, to go about sharing that relationship with others. The Bishop's Confirmation Celebration is celebrating that step that youth have made by going through confirmation classes within their home churches.

Some youth are at still another level in their faith in which they are exploring a call into the ministry.

For these youth, the conference has the weekend event Exploration. This allows participants to further explore their call into ordained ministry, lay ministry, or the mission field. This event is open to both youth and young adults.

A major CCYM goal for this year was creating a Children and Youth Protection Policy and Procedures for conference youth events. Not only has the CCYM created the policy and procedures, but these have also begun to be implemented in all of our conference youth events, beginning January 1, 2004. Our adult task force, in cooperation with the Cabinet, is providing training for representatives from all 14 districts to help train leaders in every local church who will be creating their own church policies and procedures in the next year.

We were grateful that the 2003 statistics for our conference showed an increase in middle- and senior-high youth attending Sunday school and United Methodist Youth groups. We also thank God that the youth in our conference are working to build up the kingdom and increased the amount paid out for their outreach and mission projects by \$442,763 in 2003! Thank you, youth, for your hard work, and thank you to the adults who support, direct, and encourage them!

We are grateful to God for the support and participation of our churches at conference youth events. Please let us know how we can strengthen and equip you in your ministry with youth in your local church.

Lea Scott, *President*  
Katie S. Fralic, *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

### **Proposal: Safe Sanctuary Policy**

**(Referred as Petition 18 to Forum Group 2)  
(Adopted by conference on June 11, 2004)**

The undersigned propose the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas, The 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of any type of abuse of children and youth in the church, including neglect and physical, emotional, sexual, or ritual abuse; and

Whereas, Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me ... If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones ... it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:5-6); and

Whereas, Children are our present and our future, our hope, our teachers, and our inspiration, full participants in the life of the church and the realm of God; and

Whereas, Our Christian faith calls us to offer both hospitality and protection to the little ones, the children; and

Whereas, The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm that "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse" (*Discipline* ¶ 162C); and

Whereas, Churches have tragically not always been safe places for children, inasmuch as child sexual abuse, exploitation, and ritual abuse (abusive acts committed as part of ceremonies or rites) occur in churches, both large and small, urban and rural; and

Whereas, The problem just described cuts across all economic, cultural, and racial lines, is real, and appears to be increasing; and

Whereas, Most United Methodist annual conferences can cite incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation within churches, and virtually every congregation has among its members adult survivors of early sexual trauma; and

Whereas, Such incidents are devastating to all who are involved — the child, the family, and the local church and its leaders — and, increasingly, churches are being torn apart by the legal, emotional, and monetary consequences of litigation following allegations of abuse; and

Whereas, God calls us to make our churches safe places where children and other vulnerable persons are protected from sexual and ritual abuse and where children and adults grow safe and strong (cf. *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* (2000), pages 180-81); and

Whereas, In all of its ministries with children and youth, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ, so that each child and youth will be "surrounded by steadfast love, established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal" (Congregational Pledge 2 in Baptismal Covenant II, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 44); and

Whereas, Faithful stewardship of the ministry with which the annual conference has been entrusted requires that the safety and well being of all its constituents be ensured; and

Whereas, The Western North Carolina Conference and its program agencies desire to establish a Protection Policy for Children and Youth Events, Camps, and Local Churches to demonstrate the absolute and unwavering commitment of the conference to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all its children and youth; and

Whereas, All agencies and entities in the life of the church which work with children and youth need a policy to serve as a guideline for children and youth and the adults who work with them, in order to enable the optimum safety of all participants; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Western North Carolina Annual Conference:

- a. Direct its conference and district program agencies which work with children and youth at events and camps, in covenant with The United Methodist Church, to adopt the following policy by December 31, 2005, in order that abuse of children and youth in all conference- and district-related settings may be prevented to the fullest extent possible:

As a Christian community of faith, we pledge to conduct the ministry of the gospel in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all children and youth, as well as those who work with them. We will follow reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of staff. We will implement prudent operational procedures in all programs, events, and camps. We will educate all our workers with children and youth regarding the use of all appropriate policies and methods. We will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse that conforms to the requirements of state law, and we will be prepared to respond to media inquiries if an incident occurs.

- b. Direct all local churches of the conference to adopt for themselves the policy just stated and direct its Office of Youth Ministries to provide training in the districts, at the expense of each district, to help local churches establish and implement "Safe Sanctuary" policies and procedures. Each local church should begin this process immediately and have it completed by December 31, 2005.

[Adapted from *Youth Abuse Prevention Policy, Safe Sanctuaries for Youth: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries*, by Joy Thornburg Melton, Discipleship Resources, 2003.]

Conference Council on Youth Ministries  
Conference Office of Youth Adult Ministries  
Conference Office of Christian Education  
Conference Children's Council  
Conference Cabinet