

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

Viviane Avant, Richard Bargoil, Phil Bostian, Mary Lynne Calhoun, Stephen R. Cheyney, Andrew Clark, Jim Dudley, Greg Gillispi, LuAnn Jordan, Sarah B. Kalish, Nancy Kraft, Celia Marshall, Janice Martin, John Mourtsen, Ivan H. M. Peden, Morgan Roseborough, George E. Thompson, Phil Tonnesen.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Amy van Schagen, Ceola Ross Baber, Chris Barona, Corey Hearne, Don McCrickard, Frank A Stith III, Julie Potts, Laurie Weaver, Matt Duvall, Molly Roberts, Sarah Shoffner, Steve Danford, Susan Norman Vickers, Zac Greene, Amy J. Rio-Anderson.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE

Not submitted.

UNITED CHRISTIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT WILMINGTON

Not submitted.

WESLEY FOUNDATION OF GREENVILLE

Not submitted.

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT RALEIGH

Not submitted.

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WINSTON-SALEM

Cass Mitchell, Todd A. Spencer, Elinor Starling, Alvin Tyndall, Dennis Booth, Bill Hunter, Nathan E. Kirkpatrick, Gregg Stierheim, Nancy W. Johnson, Ashley Cyre, Laura Elliott, Christy Buchanan, Brett Harris, Sheryl Squires, Rachel Morgan, Matt McGarry, Brandi Jones, Gloria Dunlap, Franklin W. Grice, Lauren P. Richardson, Becky Hartzog, J. Hurley Thomas III, Elizabeth Jeffers, J. J. Watts.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Gene McAbee, Sheri Turk, Don Frank, Tom Frazier, Randall A. Tingle, Jeni Knobel, Lee Gale, Callie Dobson, Sandy Carper, Michael Clement, Judith Claus, Julie Barnes, Elizabeth McRae, Michael Despeaux, Matt Hair, Alaina Werner, Matt Lawing, Graham Martin.

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY (COOPERATIVE MINISTRY)

G. L. Brown, J. Ray Butler, Deborah T. Daniels, Lacy Deberry, John F. Epps, James W. Ferree, Deborah Fountain, Scott Freese, James Fulwood, Makeeba Green, Thelma Hines, Constance Johnson, Pat Toole, Melody Pierce, David Riffe, Cedric Rodney, Samuel Stevenson, Juanita Tatum, J. Hurley Thomas III, Rosa Tribble-Wilson, Mary Jane Williams, Manuel D Wortman.

E. CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS**1. ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
(Epworth Place and Asbury Care Center)**

The mission of Aldersgate is to provide excellent continuing-care services for older adults. Of great importance is the activity of the Aldersgate Committee. This group focuses on the community-engagement aspect of service and has produced an increase in Aldersgate's contribution to the Charlotte community of \$40,000 over 2003. We now provide more than \$598,000 in community benefit and are well within state guidelines that enable us to remain exempt from *ad valorem* taxes. Resident Committee members Ann Tyler and Jean Farris are heading an effort to increase volunteer opportunities for residents and a process of tracking these activities.

Aldersgate continues to support the mission and ministry of UMAR. Currently, there are two group homes, in addition to the two already existing, being planned for the campus. UMAR is also planning to build a supported apartment-living residential building on the site.

The organization conducted a thorough Resident and Staff Expectation Survey during the year. The results were presented, analyzed, and used to develop action plans for improvement. Staff has met regularly to develop and implement action plans in a prioritized and timely fashion. The plans and progress are communicated to residents and staff in small groups and council settings.

The Land Use Task Force, under the leadership of Robert W. Lawing, Sr., chairperson, continues to evaluate and plan for the future. A priority of the group is to evaluate Asbury Care Center and determine the future of this valuable health-care facility.

Other projects and their progress:

- Renovations have been completed in nine of the apartments in Epworth Place to add kitchens and revise the floor plans. These plans have been well received, and all of them are sold. We currently have some Epworth residences that are vacant, and we are now showing the kitchen option that can be added to a one-bedroom apartment and look for combination opportunities when apartments open through natural attrition.
- We are in the last stage of completing a renovation and conversion of the third floor of Epworth Place to provide an additional 24 accommodations to the Parker Terrace Assisted-Living Unit. Our goal is to begin moving residents into that area by mid-April 2005.
- The task force proposed and the board of directors approved an expansion of up to 49 independent-living cottages (Wesley Glen). Additional infrastructure improvements to our water system were integrated into the project. The first homes in this expansion will be available in the latter part of 2005.

As we review the past year, it is evident that we faced the challenges of 2004 head-on and made noticeable progress in every area. Are we further along in our mission today? Absolutely. Have we achieved all our desired goals? Not yet, but, the good Lord willing, we will.

Robert W. Lawing, Sr., *Chairperson*
Raymond O. Hall, *President*

Proposals: Aldersgate Boards

(Referred as Petition 13 to Forum Group 11) (Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)

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):

Class of 2008

Sandra H. Allen	Ray Cathey*	G. William Climer Jr.
W. Scott Cooper	Max G. Erwin	Irma Ellwanger*
S. Scott Ferebee Jr.	Stewart Finch*	Ann R. Flouhouse*
Michael H. Harris	Charles D. Hughes*	Marshall Jennette
Bonnie Johnson	Lucille McConnell*	Dan B. McIntyre Jr.
Maxine McLinnahan-Broadway	Loyd Rose*	Betty Taylor*
Van L. Weatherspoon	Paul Williams*	

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 (* denotes new member):

Class of 2006

Virginia H. Canipe*	W. Scott Cooper	
	<i>Class of 2008</i>	
Joseph H. Cathey Jr.	S. Scott Ferebee Jr.*	Dawn M. Hand
Wanda F. Musgrave*	C. Ronald Riley*	

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Some years have a glorious ordinariness, years unmarked by drama, years when steadiness is the primary accomplishment, and no small accomplishment at that. The year 2004 was such a year at Arbor Acres. Our mission, "to serve senior adults through facilities and services that provide opportunity for security, contentment, and life with meaning and purpose," continued. It unfolded in the lives of just over 400 residents, providing for them the context within which they, as aging people, experience the loving embrace of the church.

This year, Martha turned 90, celebrating the milestone of reaching her 10th decade among friends she has made since moving to Arbor Acres 18 years ago. Vivian, in 2004, beat the odds and survived the second year after a major stroke eradicated her ability to speak. The loss of eloquence was profound, yet, through the Health Center at Arbor Acres, there came love enough to enable her to thrive. Frances lost her husband of 70 years in 2004. Her widowhood, which she compares to the amputation of her right side, she entered soothed by her wide circle of Arbor Acres neighbors.

Bill moved to Arbor Acres in 2004 and was enabled to live independently because Arbor Acres provides him daily contact through a low-cost, high-touch program known as ELITE. Jean spent 2004 in the embrace of assisted living, declaring all the while that she didn't need a bit of help, even at age 100, thank you very much. Mindful of her independence, the staff supports her discreetly so she won't notice. The Joneses, James and Jenny, had a difficult 2004, as Jenny's bones became ever more brittle, and, correspondingly, her care needs rose. Ultimately, Jenny had to leave the house at Arbor Acres that she and James had shared for more than a decade. She lives now in the Health Center, close by, where James can be with her daily.

Betty moved to Arbor Acres in 2004 to live in a one-bedroom apartment. Young and active, Betty found an array of service and leadership opportunities here. She is flourishing. John, a hard-driving businessman, now retired, lent all his leadership skills to the role of president of the Resident Council. The council, unusually active in 2004, raised big money for tsunami relief, Meals on Wheels, and, in extraordinarily generous fashion, the employees' Christmas Fund.

True, this year corridors were renovated. Lawns were cut and pansies planted. Dining at Arbor Acres blossomed also as more and more residents found delight in the higher quality of service and food. Roads were repaved, new residents came, other residents reached the end of life, doing so supported by Arbor Acres grace-filled and empowering End of Life Care program. We spent \$750,000 in 2004 providing financial assistance to residents who could not otherwise afford to live at Arbor Acres, a miracle achieved even as conference apportionments and Mother's Day Offerings declined. Such was life at Arbor Acres in 2004, life in all its wonder, joy, stress, dissension, discovery, change, upheaval, and happiness; in other words, Life Abundant, in all of its ordinary extraordinariness.

W. David Piner, *President*
Anderson D. Cromer, *Chair, Board of Directors*

Proposal: Arbor Acres Board of Directors

**(Referred as Petition 14 to Forum Group 11)
(Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)**

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

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>Class of 2005</i> | |
| Sylvia F. Alderson | James W. Ferree | Thomas B. Stockton |
| Thomas B. Cannon | Richard M. Marvin | Robert D. Turner |
| Winborne S. Chandler | Michael L. Robinson | W. Earl Wilson, Jr. |
| Linda G. Davis | W. David Stedman | Patricia W. Wiseman |
| | <i>Class of 2006</i> | |
| David W. Bailey | Anderson D. Cromer | Richard B. Port |
| Edward S. Beason | Richard Fulp | D. Clark Smith, Jr. |
| S. O. (Skip) Brown, Jr. | Emma Graham | Edwin L. Welch, Jr. |
| Martha Jo Campbell | Dyeann Jordan | Charles B. Wright |
| David E. Cassels | Anita H. Ogburn | |
| | <i>Ex Officio</i> | |
| J. Lawrence McCleskey, Resident Bishop | | |
| Arnetta E. Beverly, Northeast District Superintendent | | |
| Lynne Blankenship Caldwell, High Point District Superintendent | | |
| C. M. Worthy, Jr., Lexington District Superintendent | | |
| R. A. (Alan) Rice, Jr., North Wilkesboro District Superintendent | | |
| Frank A. Stith III, Greensboro District Superintendent | | |
| J. Hurley Thomas III, Winston-Salem District Superintendent | | |

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

This past year has been one of tremendous growth. We have experienced a significant expansion in both our traditional and therapeutic foster-care programs. We continue to refine and enhance our clinical team, so as to provide quality residential services to the mentally-ill children of western North Carolina. We have expanded our day-treatment services to include both our residential and now community youth.

An additional full-time Hispanic counselor has been added to our outpatient counseling program. The Ironwood Institute, started last year to help with the training needs of both Methodist ministers and the lay community, continues to flourish. We have added "adoptions for hard-to-place youth" in the past six months. Our first completed adoption will be finalized in early spring 2005.

The Children's Home has recently been accredited by the United Methodist Association. Our "EAGLE" Award will be presented to us in March. We have also been through the Council on Accreditation (COA), a national accrediting-review organization. It is anticipated that this highly coveted award will be bestowed on us in early May.

We have expanded our service slots to 130 children and families in western North Carolina. We continue to explore ways to increase our capacity and better serve those families less fortunate.

As we continue to grow for the future, we must not forget our heritage. The conference, churches, and donors who started this wonderful ministry almost 100 years ago expect nothing less. We are thankful for the spiritual and financial support given to us over the years. We pray that you will continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we strive to fulfill God's mission of caring for those in need and our motto, "Where Children and Families Matter Most."

For the Children,
Richard A. Nelson, *President/CEO*

Proposal: Children's Home Trustees and Officers

**(Referred as Petition 15 to Forum Group 11)
(Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)**

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

1. That the following persons be confirmed as members of the board for a three-year term:

Lynne H. Berry	Donald L. Martin, Jr.	Richard J. Tamer
Mildred Carter	Martha Y. Martinat	Randolph P. Waugh
Linda Davis	F. Ronald Smith	Jim Wilson
James W. Ferree		
2. That the following officers of the board be confirmed for a one-year term:

Edwin Welch.....	Chairman
Ella Hand.....	Secretary
F. Ronald Smith.....	Treasurer
Richard A. Nelson.....	President/CEO

4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community will soon complete a major expansion project, adding state-of-the art facilities to our campus. The new houses and apartments will be larger, complementing current residences. The wellness center, performing arts center, and dining options in the new Oxford Commons will improve programming opportunities. Once construction is complete, renovation will begin on the existing Asbury Commons. Included will be a new library and business center, designated areas for arts and crafts, an expanded gift shop, and much more. One of the highlights of the renovation project is a chapel and fellowship area. This expansion and renovation may well be the most important step forward for Givens Estates since our genesis in 1975 and will perpetuate the foundation for compassionate care and service to a growing senior population.

The Grand Opening of Oxford Commons is currently planned for July 22, 2005. To prepare for this occasion and for our new residents, staff and current residents are working diligently to embrace new neighbors, to help make the transition to their new home and community smooth, and to ensure that new services and amenities are well thought through and meaningful. Much attention is being given to develop and redefine programming, which will bring vitality to new and renovated spaces.

Givens Estates continues its commitment in outreach endeavors, enabling seniors in our region who are struggling in life's journey to have opportunities for receiving help with services and care they might not otherwise be able to afford or obtain.

LifeMinistries Outreach is now in its seventh year and continues to have a major impact in Buncombe, Mitchell, and Yancey counties through medication assistance, health education, and connections with organizations which can further assist those in need. LifeMinistries volunteers and staff have helped approximately 1,200 people receive over \$5 million in free medications in the past six years. In excess of 6,000 people have benefited from this faith-centered health ministry. LifeMinistries is also impacting Avery, Haywood, and Transylvania counties by planting seeds of change and developing new programs.

Givens Estates' relationship with several non-profit providers continues our tradition of community service and volunteerism. Through our partnerships with Mountain Area Health Education Center, The Vanderbilt Apartments, Memory Assessment Clinic and its Eldercare Resource Center, we are making a positive difference in the provision of care and much-needed services for our region's seniors.

Robert A. Wood, Jr., *President and Chairperson*
Kenneth M. Partin, *Director*

Proposal: Givens Estates Directors

(Referred as Petition 16 to Forum Group 11)
(Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)

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

<i>Class of 2006</i>			
Ronald P. Clauser	William F. Depp	Mary Marcia Salsbury	Elaine T. Wolf
Janet H. Collins	Dorothy D. Marlow	Patricia S. Smith	George W. Wooten
<i>Class of 2007</i>			
Donna A. Broadwell	E. Wannamaker Hardin, Jr.	Joetta F. Rinehart	Frances C. Waser
Earle R. Haire	Gregory D. Hutchins	Kenneth W. Swayze, Jr.	Sarah C. Zimmerman
<i>Class of 2008</i>			
Carolyn Cort	Charles E. Nesbitt	Donald L. Watrous	***
Myron L. Coulter	Phillip J. Tate	Maurice E. West, Sr.	***
(*** To be elected)			
<i>Ex Officio</i>			
Thomas E. Camp, III (Givens Trust)		Robert E. Shepherd (Regional Affairs)	
Myron L. Coulter (Regional Affairs)		Donald L. Watrous (Resident Council Rep.)	
J. Clay Madison (Honorary Life)		Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr. (Minority Relations)	
Lucian C. Rice (Medical)		Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Givens Trust)	
<i>Ex Officio (Clergy)</i>			
Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.	N. Fred Jordan, Jr.		W. Lyn Sorrells
Ben W. Curry	Carl W. Lindquist		
<i>Ex Officio</i>			
J. Lawrence McCleskey, Resident Bishop			
William H. Osborne, Jr. Administrative Assistant to the Bishop			
James T. Trollinger, Conference Director of Ministries			
Karen F. Miller, Asheville District Superintendent			
Robert E. Roach, Marion District Superintendent			
J. Alexander Ward, Jr., Waynesville District Superintendent			

5. UMAR, INC.

From High Point to Hayesville, UMAR supports meaningful lives for adults with developmental and associated disabilities. UMAR supports 115 individuals in 20 facilities in High Point, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Concord, Charlotte, Statesville, Lincolnton, Gastonia, Asheville, and Hayesville. These supports are critical for individuals that need lives based on community integration and for parents who could not provide without UMAR's support.

UMAR provides these supports in a home environment, typically of higher quality than other providers. Our waiting list of over 200 individuals is a testimony to the quality of supports UMAR provides and the need for our services.

In the past year, UMAR has taken several exciting steps in service provision and infrastructure. UMAR implemented its first community-based employment service when it created a grounds-maintenance crew. This crew, made up of a supervisor and two UMAR residents, provides grounds maintenance for almost all of UMAR's homes and for the group homes of Autism Services of Mecklenburg County. This is a tremendous opportunity for residents like Angie and Scott, who were previously underemployed. Now, they have a meaningful job, with meaningful pay and benefits, that will lead to further employment opportunities. For UMAR, this business venture provides an additional source of income that helps diversify our revenues. Our long-term plan is to engage United Methodist churches in contracting with UMAR for their grounds maintenance. What better way to support a Methodist ministry than to contract with it for work that you already pay for!

UMAR also expanded its residential options with the development of its first apartments. A three-bedroom group home, in Charlotte, was converted to a three-bedroom apartment. Three women, two current group-home residents and one new resident, are now able to enjoy an independent lifestyle that was not previously available to them. We are truly excited about this move!

In an effort to evaluate organizational structure and strategically plan for the future, UMAR applied for, and received, a grant for organizational change. Over the next year, UMAR will, with the support of a consultant, systematically evaluate who we are, who we need to be, and how we will get there.

UMAR continues to develop additional revenue streams to offset diminishing government support. This focus continues to be critical as we support 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.

Steve Sellers, *President*

Proposal: UMAR Trustees

(Referred as Petition 17 to Forum Group 11)
(Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)

The Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc. proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2005:

	<i>Class of 2005</i>	
Dino Cimma	Jo Fields	Libby Privette
Sallie Close	George Fleming	Dave Richard
Bill Eller	Cindy LaBrosse	
	<i>Class of 2006</i>	
Cathy Cook	Jim Hooper	Ray Thomas
Pamela Hazen	Dwight Marshall	Linda Weisbruch
	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Bobbie Hankins	Morry Johnston	Charlie Lieske

6. METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES (MCCS)

Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services serves the area formed by the Albemarle, Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, and Statesville districts. During the past year, MCCS provided 7,459 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 is a service center accredited 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.

MCCS provides clinical staff for the Davidson Clergy Center, located in Davidson, North Carolina. Through this program, MCCS offers a week-long intensive, holistic care for clergy and other church professionals from various denominations from across the country who have encountered extreme stress and discouragement or seek new vitality for their ministry. Collaborating with an internist, psychiatrists, and the local YMCA staff and nurses from Carolinas Medical Center for blood work, nutrition, and physical fitness, MCCS therapists provide individual and group therapy 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, as well as 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 MCCS website at www.mccsvs.org.

James W. Pruett, *Administrative Director*

7. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY

The year 2004 was an exciting one for the conference's deaf ministry, with much being accomplished to broaden our reach across our conference to touch the hearts and lives of the deaf and hard of hearing. Although financial restraints forced us once again to have only a part-time director, we have still very much been about reaching the deaf and hard of hearing for Jesus Christ, from our hearts and hands to their eyes and hearts. We are faith touching lives.

We have worked this year to bring awareness for the need for deaf ministry through district pastors' meeting presentations, church presentations, and meetings. Our comprehensive deaf ministry brochure was included in the conference's *Missions Alive* mailing, and presentations to United Methodist Women's and United Methodist Men's groups were also given.

We worked to educate and encourage our churches on ways to make their sanctuaries more accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing by providing resource information and assistive listening devices displays and information. We are working this year on fact sheets to be distributed along with PowerPoint and video presentations that can be offered in sessions at district leadership conferences, at individual churches, in mailings, and hopefully in the future, on the conference web site.

Perhaps one of the most exciting things we have been a part of this year is the part we played in helping to establish our first minister to the deaf and hard of hearing in the Triad area of our conference. Pamela H. Culler leads this much-needed ministry, UMC Deaf Ministry/Mission of the Triad. We are also excited about the establishment of a new deaf ministry in the western part of our conference, near Lake Junaluska, at Long's Chapel Church.

This year, our conference will welcome three deaf at-large lay members to our annual conference. This is the largest number of deaf members of conference we have ever had, with even more deaf attending in auditorium activities. It is wonderful to see more deaf becoming involved in our conference.

This year, we would also like to encourage more congregations and districts to consider the part they can play in the growth of deaf ministry in our conference, whether it is by prayer, awareness through educational programming, gifts, or beginning to consider deaf ministries in their own churches.

In 2005, we hope to transition our board to having the availability of 14 of our members to represent the 14 districts of our conference, so as to build relationships with our districts and be a point of contact and reference if needed for possible resources. Our board wants to focus comprehensively on education for and about the deaf and hard of hearing in order to address our vision of ministering to these unreached or inadequately-reached children of God. Our board is also exploring the possibility of using the NOW-L model of ministry for our program areas by praying for persons to commit to using their gifts to achieve our ministry goals.

Meetings are in progress in order to bring our vision of a "Deaf Walk to Emmaus" into reality.

We are praying that, with the support of our congregations and districts throughout the conference, the year 2005 will see the addition of ministers to the deaf in the Gastonia/Charlotte and Morganton/Hickory areas, where the deaf population is large and the need is so great.

We are also praying that 2005 will see growth in the Bob Pitzer Minister Education Fund. This fund will enable deaf and hard of hearing who would like to go into ministry to the deaf but are unable to afford their education to become ministers or missionaries.

We wish to thank all those wonderful churches, individuals, and organizations that continue to faithfully support deaf ministries. You keep our hearts encouraged and our spirits blessed.

If anyone has questions concerning deaf ministry, has need for resource information, or would like to give a gift to deaf ministry, please send your correspondence to: WNCC United Methodist Church Deaf Ministry, PO Box 5644, Asheville, NC 28813, or phone 828-665-2158 (voice or tty).

Kay Dunlap, *Director*

F. COUNCIL ON LAITY

The Council on Laity is committed to supporting Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey as he leads us in becoming a "Christ-centered, disciple-making, transformational community."

We have heard the call, and we prayerfully accept the challenge to work in partnership with the clergy of this conference. The lay leaders of the fourteen districts across our conference, the United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Youth are serving in ministry to make Christ known in our world.

We seek to empower the laity through opportunities for leader development, such as the lay-speaking program. Mitchell Matthews, the conference director of lay speaking, coordinates the district training events and the selection of lay persons to bring the laity addresses to our annual conference and to the Gathering of the Laity. We seek to make the ministry of the laity more visible by honoring persons with the Laity Service Award. J. Wade Lowder is the director of this recognition program. Persons who exemplify Christ-like servanthood are chosen in each local church. The recipients of the Laity Service Award are recognized in their districts and at the Gathering of the Laity.

Johnny Harvell is the chairperson of the annual Gathering of the Laity event, which will take place this year at Lake Junaluska, August 19-21, 2005, with the theme, "Sharing the Love of Christ." Featured speakers will be Dr. Reginald Mallet, of England; Jan Brittain, senior pastor of Christ Church, Greensboro; Marjorie Kimbrough, noted lecturer and author; G. Howard Allred, "pastor emeritus" of First Church, High Point; and Dr. Hank Williams, an evangelist. This is the 40th year for this well-attended evangelistic outreach program.

The Council on Laity meets four times a year at a variety of churches across our conference. We are in the process of revising and refining our by-laws so that we may function more effectively. Our council includes a representative from the cabinet, Lynne Blankenship Caldwell, and a representative from the conference staff, Dewey W. Smith. With their direction and leadership, we expect to move forward in the ministry of the church.

The Council on Laity is committed to the belief that **all God's people in all places and in all times are called to love and to serve!**

Betty Jo Hardy, *President and Conference Lay Leader*

G. UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men of this conference have been involved in many areas of ministry and mission work in 2004. We have dealt with the destruction done by the hurricanes in western North Carolina, and we continue to be supportive of the work going on there. I believe we have turned the corner in many of our districts, and we are not being called the "meet-and-eat" men's groups. Prayer groups are meeting, Bible studies are being held in many of the districts, and hands-on mission work is being done. We are striving to increase our EMS numbers and to charter and re-charter more units. The clergy continue to be supportive of men's ministries and are asking more questions about what is available for them in their ministry.

Randy N. Sherrill, pastor of Konnoak Hills Church, Winston-Salem, was presented the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award at our annual conference in June 2004. He was nominated by the UMMen of his church.

Our Four Major Emphases continue to be the lifeline support for scouting, Upper Room Prayer Ministry, support programs, and the Ministerial Scholarship Fund in our conference. We awarded eleven scholarships to men and women pursuing second careers in ministry.

The 24th annual *UMMen Rally* was held April 23-25, 2004, with the theme, "Men Transformed to Serve God." Program participants during the weekend were Arnetta E. Beverly, Northeast District superintendent, and Leonard E. Stadler, Jr., senior pastor at Weddington Church, one of the fastest-growing United Methodist churches in the southeast, with over 3,000 new members over the past 14 years. Rex L. Gibbs led the Bible study during the weekend. He and Dr. Beverly were presented Life Member awards.

In the business session, the following officers were elected: Ray G. Boger, president; Elwood Mabe, vice-president; Henry Goldston, vice-president; Leon Norman, treasurer; and Ron Patterson, secretary. Leadership training has been conducted in most of the districts and prayer breakfasts have been held in most of the districts. Identifying new leadership continues to be a major roadblock for the conference.

The ninth National Gathering at Purdue University will be held July 15-17, 2005, and men from western North Carolina will be attending this national gathering. You can read the information about this event by visiting the web site for the General Commission on United Methodist Men at www.gcummm.org, and you can register on-line.

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

Celebrating 135 years in mission was our emphasis for 2004. United Methodist Women in western North Carolina celebrated in their local units, at district meetings, and at our Conference Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska. We celebrated our heritage of being in mission to women, children, and youth and accepted the challenge to “serve the present age,” building on the foundation provided by our predecessors, paving the way for those who come after us.

All three of our conference events were designed to help us live out our *PURPOSE*. “God’s Promise of Hope” was the theme for our Spiritual Growth Retreats, where 1,465 UMWomen came together for time apart from our busy lives to “*know God, and experience freedom as whole persons in Jesus Christ.*” “Prayer, Policy, and Politics” was the theme for our School of Christian Mission, with 339 persons in attendance. In addition to Bible study, other studies helped us “*expand our concepts of mission.*” “To God Be the Glory” was the theme for our Annual Meeting, with 776 persons in attendance for worship, fellowship, and conducting the business of our conference. Each of the fourteen districts had similar events.

New units were chartered at Laurel Hill Church, in the Asheville District; Warrensville and Hanes Grove churches, in the North Wilkesboro District; and Vida Nueva Church, in the Northeast District. Two units were rechartered at Kingswood Church, in the Winston-Salem District, and at Arney’s Chapel Church, in the Marion District. Each of these were times of joyous celebration! New circles, including some teen circles, continued to be added in existing units.

Most of our members enjoy reading and participate in the Reading Program. Our conference is pioneering the way with a Children’s Reading Program. (Information is available on our web page.)

LUV (Local Unit Visitation) continues to be an effective way for district officers to visit in local units, offering to do a program or be of whatever assistance is helpful for the local unit. Mission Today continues to keep us focused on all aspects of our *PURPOSE* as we meet the criteria to become a Mission Today Unit.

Our scholarship program continues making a difference in the lives of persons seeking church-related careers. This year, 11 students are recipients of our scholarship funds.

District newsletters and the *Conference Gram* continue to be good tools for communication, along with our conference website at www.gbqm-umc.org/wncumw.

Following the example of our role models of women in Luke 8, United Methodist Women in this conference too walk with Jesus, sharing our resources with members of God’s family. Exceeding the \$1-million mark again, UMWomen in this conference gave \$1,085,228.35 in 2004. We were again the Number 1 conference in giving for the fourth year in a row. We were Number 1 in the channels of Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, 135th Anniversary Offering, total undesignated giving, and total giving. Our love offering was again the largest ever, for a total of \$37,083.16. Yes, we do have cause to celebrate, and we do! We celebrate even more the difference these funds will make in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world!

The joining together of every member in every local unit makes it possible for us to continue the legacy our foremothers began more than 135 years ago of participating in God’s mission as we serve others in His name.

Mary K. Kizer, *President*

I. UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Looking to the future, the conference Council on Youth Ministries and the Office of Ministries with Young People are committed to continuing our efforts to equip youth and young adults in the churches and communities of our conference to follow Jesus, to make disciples, and to transform the world. We are doing this primarily through conference events and by equipping adult youth workers in their own personal walks with the Lord and in their ministries to young people. Responding to the needs of the local churches for training and networking for their adult youth workers, we are very excited to have established an Adult Youth Worker Training Academy, in conjunction with Pfeiffer University, that will offer 12 courses over a two-year period for both volunteer and paid youth workers.

Each year, nearly 5,000 young people and their adult leaders and pastors are involved in conference events. We rely heavily on committed adults and young people and the members of the conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), who volunteer to plan and staff our various and diverse events held throughout the year. We thank God for these volunteers, with their servant’s hearts and generous stewardship of the gifts God has given them. Each of our events focuses on sharing the Gospel, discipleship, and outreach in mission and ministry. We are able to sponsor many mission opportunities for young people through our Youth Service Fund offerings received at each event.

Our events include:

- SUMMIT Winter Weekend for Young People, in Boone the first weekend of February.
- Kaleidoscope Middle-High Weekend, in March on Lake Wylie.
- Bishop’s Confirmation Celebration, in April in Hickory, for confirmands and their pastors and mentors.
- Youth Night at Lowe’s Motorspeedway, in Concord in July.
- Two SpiritUs Youth Beach Weekends, in August on Oak Island.
- Exploration in October, for young people discerning God’s call into vocational ministry.
- Choose2Share Christ, a faith-sharing training for committed Christian youth, young adults, and adults, in November at Lake Junaluska.