

local-church volunteers for ministry in prisons. To date, more than 6,000 inmates have participated in DISCIPLE Bible Study in the North Carolina prison system!

- **FAITHFUL FRIENDS:** Working with DISCIPLE prison participants following their release and providing a connection to the local church community is the aim of the FAITHFUL FRIENDS. program. FAITHFUL FRIENDS provides a bridge back to the community during the difficult first year following release.
- **RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP:** Understanding the need for early intervention in the lives of at-risk youth, DBOM has joined forces with the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to create a Bible-study program for juvenile offenders called RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP. RINGS is now being offered in all five youth-development centers and other settings outside of the institutions.

DBOM's reputation outside of North Carolina continues to grow as she provides her unique model of ministry to other annual conferences. The heart of DBOM is empowerment. DBOM empowers volunteers by providing the setting, training, and tools they need to make a difference for Christ in the world. We hope that all of our churches will support DBOM through the special-Sunday offering on August 28, 2005. For the many ways to become involved, call the DBOM office. We would love to talk to you!

... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ " (Ephesians 4:12)

Mark C. Hicks, *Executive Director*

## Z. FINCH-HUNT INSTITUTE FOR HOMILETICAL STUDIES

The Finch-Hunt Institute for Homiletical Studies, established through the generosity of the late George D. and Lucy Finch, of Thomasville, North Carolina, and the vision of the late Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., and other conference leaders, is devoted to the strengthening of Western North Carolina Conference pulpits. Laity and clergy both support the institute and also benefit from its emphasis on continuing education as a means towards vital and effective preaching.

The primary offering of the institute occurs in February, when the annual Finch Lectures on Preaching are presented as part of the Mission to Ministers, which is cosponsored by the conference Commission on Witness Ministries, Division of Evangelism.

Over 300 pastors from the annual conference gathered on Tuesday, February 1, to hear two outstanding speakers. Dr. Peter Storey, 2005 Finch Lecturer on Preaching, challenged us to embrace with courage the task of prophetic preaching. Dr. Dale Galloway, the 2005 Lecturer on Evangelism, offered both inspiration and practical suggestions for helping our people and our churches grow. We are appreciative to the staff and members of St. Luke's Church, Hickory, for hosting the event.

Other programs of the Finch-Institute include the annual Bishop's Reading Program and awards to those who demonstrate excellence in preaching.

### Sermon Award Challenge

One of the primary missions of the Finch-Hunt Institute is to assist in the cultivation and encouragement of outstanding preaching in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. One way that we do this is by sponsoring the Sermon Award Challenge, which recognizes outstanding preaching on the part of those who have been ordained as elders for five or fewer years. Two awards are presented each year as a part of this challenge: The John Wesley Award, for a sermon that faithfully and creatively applies the gospel message to contemporary life issues, and the Francis Asbury Award, for a sermon that most effectively reflects a biblical understanding of evangelism. In 2004, the John Wesley Award was presented to Donna M. Claycomb, director of admissions at Duke Divinity School, for her sermon entitled, "The Perfect Party Planner." The Francis Asbury Award went to Cathy A. Cook for her sermon entitled, "The Fragrance of Love."

Terry L. Matthews, *Chairperson*

### Finances

The treasurer's report was received and approved by the board of trustees in the annual meeting on February 3, 2004, as follows:

Beginning balance, as of 02/03/2004	\$15,672.16
Receipts	4,109.11
Disbursements	<u>4,479.23</u>
Ending Balance as of 2/03/2004	\$15,302.04
Operating Funds Available	\$ 9,069.04
Holy Land Award Funds Available	<u>6,233.00</u>
Balance of Funds Available	\$15,302.04
Endowment Account –First Citizens Investor Services	<u>77,441.39</u>
Total Assets	\$92,743.39

Submitted with great appreciation to the laity and clergy who support the institute.

J. Lawrence McCleskey, *President*  
 Julianne Brittain, *Executive Vice-President*  
 Patricia W. Wiseman, *Secretary*  
 David B. Wall, *Treasurer*

## AA. TRUSTEES OF THE EUGENE M. COLE FOUNDATION

The will of Eugene M. Cole established the foundation in 1944 to provide benefits for retired ministers and surviving spouses of the Western North Carolina Conference. In 2004, the foundation directed monthly payments to the conference treasurer to supplement the cost of health-care benefits to retired ministers and spouses. The monthly payments totaled \$288,000.00 in 2004. The trustees have determined that the monthly payments for health care benefits shall continue for 2005.

The foundation is governed by three (3) trustees elected by the annual conference: James C. Windham, Jr., chairperson; Juanita T. Henderson, vice-chairperson; and R. Anthony Orsbon, secretary.

### Proposal: Cole Foundation Trustee

(Referred as Petition 29 to Forum Group 23)  
(Adopted by conference on June 10, 2005)

The trustees of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation propose that Juanita T. Henderson, whose term as trustee expires in 2005, be re-elected for another three (3)-year term, expiring in 2008.

James C. Windham, Jr., *Chairperson*

## BB. THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

How wonderful it is to share with you positive news of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. For the second year in a row, the economy has favorably caused the foundation's most popular investment option, Diversified Fund C, to have a year-to-date return as of December 31, 2004, of 10.4% net of manager's fees. When we translate this into ministry impact, 10.4% more monies were available by year-end for ministries throughout the Western North Carolina Conference and beyond than were available at the beginning of the year. The foundation's investment committee is especially pleased with this performance, because not only did the return surpass the benchmark, but it also marks three consecutive years of experience with the foundation's new investment policy statement and new investment managers. For this three-year period, the average annual return is 8.2%, compared to a benchmark return of 6.8%.

This past year also brought about changes in leadership at the foundation. In June 2004, Sam H. Smith, Jr., became the third chairman of the board of directors since 1985. Sam brings a wealth of business and church knowledge to this position and has several years of experience in our conference, serving on various committees and boards. P. Glenn Kinken III, the senior vice-president of planned giving and communication, became the newest staff member of the foundation in July 2004. Having served as an associate pastor at Memorial Church, Thomasville, and completed certification programs in church leadership and non-profit management, he is uniquely qualified to promote the planned-giving vehicles of the foundation.

In June 2004, the board of directors approved the establishment of the United Methodist Foundation Ministry Fund. Designated income from this fund will be used to financially supplement ministries within the conference for years to come. When you add the assets of this permanently restricted endowment to the other managed assets of the foundation, by December 31, 2004, our total assets reached their all-time high of \$83,722,373. We celebrate this milestone but also know that there are other opportunities for us to be in ministry within the conference and beyond. We also know that we are not on this journey alone and attribute our success to the faithful United Methodists from throughout western North Carolina that continue to have faith in us and share in the ministries of the foundation of endowment development, planned giving, and fund management. For the individuals, church-related institutions, and local churches that have already engaged in ministry with us, we give thanks and hope that you celebrate with us in our achievements. For those who have yet to become familiar with the ministries of the foundation, we look forward to that day when we can be in ministry with you and hope you will not hesitate to contact us.

The following information is offered to give the reader an idea of the ministries of the foundation. If you would like to know more, we encourage you to visit our display in the ministry tent, located between the auditorium and the chapel throughout annual conference, or give us a call at the Conference Center: 800-562-7929, extension 146. We also offer a website that provides valuable information related to the ministries of the foundation at [www.umfoundationwncc.org](http://www.umfoundationwncc.org). Please feel free to visit us in person, give us a call, or visit us on the world-wide Web. We look forward to hearing from you.

The **Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund of the United Methodist Foundation** was created by Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds out of a passion to carry out the charge of the church, found in Matthew 28:19, to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Annually, the committed membership of the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund Committee reviews applications from ministries throughout the world. This year, the committee was pleased to grant \$189,500 to the following ministries:

- *Hispanic/Multicultural Ministries:* Albemarle District, Charlotte District, Salisbury District, and Waynesville District.
- *Local Church Ministries:* Redeemer's Light, Mooresville; Crossfire, Wilkesboro; and New Creation, Kernersville.

- *Conference and District Ministries:* Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries, Greensboro District "Seed Sowing" Campaign, Western North Carolina Conference Office of Congregational Development, and the Western North Carolina Conference Visioning Process.
- *World Missions:* ELADE and World Methodist Evangelism Institute.

Those interested in applying for monies from this permanently restricted endowment fund of the foundation should contact the foundation office. Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by the foundation no later than February 1 of each year.

In addition to the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund, the foundation also administers the **Superannuate Endowment Fund**. Thanks to the vision of several laypersons who wished to express their appreciation to retired and/or disabled clergy for service rendered in our conference, this permanently restricted endowment was formed in 1916. Prior to Easter of this year, approximately \$147,785 was distributed to retired clergy and their surviving spouses and dependent children to supplement their income from The Duke Endowment and Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Monies from this fund will be available in perpetuity for our faithful servants in ministry.

As always, we consider it an honor and a privilege to be in ministry with you. Please remember that we share this ministry with you and look forward to hearing from you when we can be of service.

Sam H. Smith, Jr., *Chairman of the Board of Directors*  
David A. Snipes, *President*

### CC. BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

The purpose of this association shall be to foster a sense of helpfulness and support among the clergy and laity of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church by providing a fund for the benefit of families of deceased clergy.

This benevolent spirit has permeated the conference through this association since December 1, 1893. We are grateful to serve the annual conference with a spirit of care and support.

#### Treasurer's Report Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

##### Receipts:

Advance Payments for Calls .....	\$ - 1,510.50
Revenue from Calls: Clergy .....	59,467.00
Revenue from Calls: Lay Members .....	53,961.00
Revenue from Notes: Clergy .....	2,798.00
Interest Income .....	2,799.96
Other Revenues .....	<u>19,264.00</u>
Total Receipts .....	\$136,779.46

##### Disbursements:

Death Benefits .....	\$ 93,592.00
Net Salaries .....	15,218.22
Federal Taxes .....	1,778.00
State Taxes .....	842.00
FICA Taxes .....	2,401.28
Medicare Taxes .....	561.78
Office Supplies .....	0.00
Printing and Outside Copies .....	467.05
Postage and Shipping .....	6,019.92
Computer Expenses .....	3,727.25
Rent Expense .....	600.00
Telephone Expense .....	1,586.54
Laity Expense .....	872.65
Dir. Operating Expense .....	4,751.51
Professional Services .....	184.28
Travel .....	474.96
Other Operating Expenses .....	<u>3,077.63</u>
Total Disbursements .....	\$138,155.07
Change in Cash During Year .....	\$ - 1,375.61
Cash Balance, Beginning .....	<u>2,277.50</u>
Cash Balance, Ending .....	\$ 901.89

### Proposals

#### (Acted upon in meeting of Brotherhood/Sisterhood membership)

1. That the assessment rate for clergy members be \$8.00 per call, that lay participants contribute \$3.00 per call, that the initiation fee for new members be \$10.00, and that the benefit paid to beneficiaries of deceased clergy be \$8,500.00.
2. That both laity and clergy be encouraged to include the Brotherhood/Sisterhood in their wills.
3. That clergy members be encouraged to pay in advance an annual estimated assessment of \$112.00, based on an average of 14 assessments per year.
4. That persons with notes be encouraged to begin payments on any outstanding balances.
5. That assessments are to be paid upon receipt of notice or within sixty (60) days of the notice.
6. That each local church be encouraged to observe Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday on the third Sunday in February or on another Sunday more suitable to the particular congregation.

Kathie Clontz Sherrill, *President*

Rex L. Gibbs, *Vice-President*

A. Owen Peeler, *Recording Secretary*

Robert W. Combs, *Executive Director*

James A. Harrell, Sr., and Jack Young, *Co-Directors of Laity*

### Brotherhood/Sisterhood Roll 2005-2006

Adams, C.L.	Biggers, E.L.	Cassady, T.L.	Crowder, R.J.	Eller, K.R.
Adams, G.L.	Bigham, W.O.	Cates, P.K.	Culler, P.H.	Ellis, L.D.
Adams, H.C.	Billings, J.W.	Caudill, C.J.	Curtis, J.K.	Ellison, W.B.
Adams, M.W., Sr.	Bingham, K.W.	Cauble, R.L.	Curtis, M.E.	Emory, M.J.
Adams, T.D.	Black, E.L.	Cecil, J.H.		Epps, J.F.
Addo, P.E.A.	Blalock, J.F., Jr.	Champion, B.J.	Dalton, G.W.	Ervin, B.N.
Aldridge, J.M., Jr.	Blanton, W.N., Jr.	Chappell, M.D.	Daniels, J.C.	Ervin, J.L.
Allcorn, D.K.	Bletsch, J.H.	Childers, D.W.	Darnell, J.D.	Evans, J.H.
Allcorn, S.M.	Boggan, R.E., Jr.	Childers, W.H., Jr.	Davenport, J.P.	Everett, A.
Allen, C.W.	Boggs, J.S.	Chloe, D.C.	Davis, B.F.	Everhart, C.D.
Allen, D.R.	Bogle, J.R.	Chopin, P.P.	Davis, C.	
Allen, T.L.	Boliek, A.P.	Christy, D.H.	Davis, C.N.	Faggart, J.R.
Allred, G.H.	Bottoms, F.G.	Christy, J.C.	Davis, D.C.	Faggart, W.H.
Alventosa-Brown, J.	Bowen, J.E.	Christy, J.P.	Davis, E.V.	Fair, L.O.
Alvord, V.G.	Bowman, G.O.	Christy, M.H.	Davis, G.M.	Falls, Fred, Jr.
Amason, J.D.	Bowman, R.A.	Cirksena, R.J., Jr.	Davis, J.	Farabow, M.S.
Andrews, H.F.	Bradley, E.F.	Clanton, R.A., Jr.	Davis, J.B.	Ferguson-Allen, L.L.
Andrews, J.R.	Brake, J.L.	Clark, L.J.	Davis, J.E., Jr.	Ferree, J.K.
Andrews, W.E.	Branton, T.R.	Clayton, R.L., Jr.	Davis, M.D.	Ferrell, S.B.
Andrews, W.M.	Bremer, D.C.	Clifton, L.B.	Davis, T.A.	Few, J.F.
Armfield, E.L., Jr.	Briggs, L.T.	Clinard, H.C.	Dawkins, H.C.	Finney, R.H.
Armstrong, J.M.	Brittain, T.B.	Clinard, R.M.	Day, A.P.	Fisher, D.L.
Armstrong, J.M., Jr.	Brock, A.C., Jr.	Clodfelter, B.C.	Dean, E.E., Jr.	Fite, R.D.
Arnold, C.L.	Brooks, G.A.	Clodfelter, J.P., Jr.	Dean, R.I.	Fitzgerald, J.C.
Ashe, D.W.	Brown, A.D.	Clodfelter, W.D.	DeBerry, P., Jr.	FitzJefferies, H.D.
Auman, G.E.	Brown, A.W., Jr.	Coates, P.K.	Dennis, B.J.	Flack, C.A.
Auman, J.L.	Brown, H.A.	Cockman, E.A.	Deyton, J.H.	Fleming, H.D.
Auman, T.L.	Brown, W.A., Jr.	Cole, J.W.	Dickens, J.G.	Fletcher, L.W.
Autrey, S.L.	Buckner, F.W.	Cole, P.B.	Dickson, C.H.	Flynn, D.J.
	Bumgarner, L.G.	Coles, A.L.	Dingus, W.H.	Forbes, V.L.
Bailey, D.A.	Bunch, R.P.	Collins, G.D.	Dodd, R.V.	Forbis, W.T.
Bales, H.K.	Bunn, D.M.	Collins, M.W.	Donahue, C.E.	Ford, A.G.
Ballard, M.J.	Bunn, J.H.	Colson, J.D.	Donald, D.K.	Foster, A.D.
Banyai, P.D.	Burson, R.N., Jr.	Combs, J.F.	Doser, W.R.	Foster, G.B.
Barbee, W.L.	Burton, G.A.	Combs, R.W.	Doub, R.D.	Foster, R.A.
Barden, L.E.	Burton, J.M., Jr.	Combs, S.R.	Dougherty, B.G.	Foust, W.N.
Barden, B.J.	Burton, J.M., Sr.	Compton, H.R.	Dowdle, J.O., Jr.	Fowler III, J.W.
Barden, M.L.	Burton, M.K.	Conder, A.R.	Dowdy, A.M.	Fox, D.B., Jr.
Barnes, S.E.	Byers, R.T.	Conder, T.E., Jr.	Dukes III, L.S.	Fralic, K. M.
Barnhardt, D.R.	Bynum, L.E.	Conover, C.H., Jr.	Dulin, M.W.	Franklin, J.K.
Barnhardt, R.T.		Conrad, D.E.	Duncan, D.J.	Freeman, E.R.
Barr, C.B.	Cagle, J.F.	Cook, D.A., Jr.	Duncan, G.M.	Freeman, G.D.
Barrett, J.S.	Caldwell, L.B.	Cook, E.A., Jr.	Dunker, C.F.	Freeman, K.G.
Barringer, G.R.	Campbell, D.J.	Cook, F.B.	Durham, D.B.	Freeman III, M.L.
Bartley, E.J.	Campbell, R.H.	Cooke, J.H.	Durham, O.G., Jr.	Freeman, Patrick
Baxter, D.L.	Campbell-Robinson, H.	Cooke, R.J.	Duvall, J.A.	Freshour, A.R.
Beall, T.M.	Cantor, E.D., Jr.	Crady, B.M.	Dyar, W.H.	Fritts, R.E., Jr.
Beam, D.W.	Canty, S.L.	Crady, L., Jr.	Dye, M.J.	Frye, K.H.
Beard, D.R., Jr.	Carpenter, K.D.	Cranfield, B.W.		Fulk, J.M., Jr.
Beaty, F.D.	Carter, E.K.	Cranfill, K.R.	Eanes, R.H., Jr.	Fulk, J.M., Sr.
Beck, B.R.	Carter, H.S.	Crawley, J.W.	Easter, K.L.	Funderburk, D.K.
Beck, H.C.	Carter, M.C., Jr.	Creech, H.L., Jr.	Edmonds, O.R.	Furr, J.C.
Benfield, C.M.	Carter, R.L., Jr.	Crissman, E.M.	Edwards, F.H.	
Bennett, G.M.	Cartner, J.D.	Crissman, K.S.	Edwards, J.F.	Gaddy, D.W.
Berry II, W.F.	Cash, D.R., Sr.	Croom, S.A.	Edwards, J.K.	Galloway, J.W.
Beverly, A.E.	Cash, L.W.	Crouse, K.D.	Eggers, L.A.	Gibbons, C.F.

Gibbs, D.W.	Hobson, B.G.	Lain, C.A.	Miller, J.K.	Powell, D.N.
Gibbs, L.C.	Hockett, D.C.	Lair, R.E., Jr.	Miller, P.J.	Powell, J.J.
Gibbs, P.H.	Hodnett, M.E., Jr.	Lambert, A.E.	Milleson, B.W.	Powell, J.L.
Gibbs, R.L.	Holcombe, T.D.	Lambeth, L.L.	Mills, R.W.	Powell, T.A.
Gibert, A.S.	Holland III, A.R.	Langford, S.O.	Milton, S.J.	Prichard, J.O.
Gibson, T.L.	Holland, Cornelius	Langford III, T.A.	Miner, D.L., Sr.	Prichard, T.F.
Gilbert, D.W.	Holland, J.W.	Langston, C.A.	Money, D.B.	Pryor, W.D.
Giese, K.W.	Holliday, B.M.	Lanier, R.S.	Montgomery, G.G.	Pyatt, J.L.
Giles, S.L., Jr.	Hood, R.L.	Lasater, A.L.	Moore, C.A.	
Gilland, J.C.	Horn, K.A.	Latimer III, C.T.	Moore, J.A.	Queen, Harry
Glahn, P.L.	Houser, E.H.	Lear, W.J.	Moore, S.H., Jr.	
Glass, B.D.	Howard, J.F.	Leatherwood, J.M.	Moore, T.S.	Raines, J.A.
Golden, J.B., Jr.	Howell, J.C.	Lee, D.W.	Moran, F.H.	Rainey, S.K.
Goode, M.H.	Howle, R.A.	Lee, E.D.	Moran, J.D.	Ralls, R.J.
Gordon, A.F., Jr.	Hubbard, L.E.	Lee, S.T.	Morgan, L.S.	Ramsey, G.L.
Gordon, G. B.	Hubbard, S.D.	LeBaube, R.E.	Morris, S.A.	Randolph, R.D.
Gordon, M.B.	Huffman, L.B.	LeMasters, F.H.	Morrison, B.S.	Rankin, N.B.
Gottula, J.R.	Huffman, R.E.	Lemons, E.M.	Morrison, H.L.	Ratcliffe, D.W.
Gottula, K.W.	Huffstetler, B.M.	Lemons, J.B.	Morton, C.E.	Reece, E.A.
Gould, R.J.	Humphries-Bivens, P.	Leonard, D.B.	Moss, A.W.	Reed, R.L.
Grant, R.L.	Hunsucker, L.G.	Lewis, M.W.	Moss, O.R.	Reep, J.D.
Graves, E.L.	Hunter, B.V.	Lewis, P.A.	Moss, R.T.	Reeves, J.R.
Graves, J.H.	Hunter, R.L.	Lindquist, C.A., Jr.	Murray, J.D.	Reid, J.L.
Gray, J.P.	Hunter, T.R.	Lindsey, C.R.	Murrow, M.C.	Renfro, L.C.
Gray, M.D.	Hurley, J.B.	Lindsey, J.A.	Myers, G.L., Jr.	Rice, R.A., Jr.
Greene, D.S.	Hutchings, C.R.	Listenbee, S.O.	Myers, H.P., Jr.	Riggs, E.R.
Greene, L.W.		Little, G.H.	Myers, J.L.	Rintz, J.W.
Grice, F.W.	Ingram, B.A.	Lookadoo, D.G.	Myrick, C.K.	Roach, R.E.
Griffin, G.T.	Ingram, F.E.	Lovelace, W.E.		Roberson, G.W.
Griffis, T.L.	Ingram, R.M., Sr.	Lowder, P.D.	Napper, W.L.	Roberts, J.A.
Griffiths, G.S.	Ireson, C.H.	Lowe, D.W.	Needham, G.H.	Roberts, T.K.
Groh, D.G.	Isenhour, O.B.	Lowe, V.W.	Newell, J.K.	Roberts, T.R.
Guy, C.R.	Ison, F.H.	Lowman, E.H.	Newman, B.M.	Roberts, W.W.
Guy, D.A.	Ivey, H.D.	Lucas, J.C.	Newman, D.A.	Robinson, A.A., Jr.
Gwyn, B.L.		Luther, J.E., Jr.	Nicholson, R.H.	Robinson, G.P.
	Jarrett, R.B.	Luther, J.D.	Northcraft, S.B.	Rochester, N.L., Jr.
Hacklander, P.K.	Jeffries, W.T.	Lutz, D.H.	Northington, J.A.	Rodriguez, C.A.
Hagler, G.C., Jr.	Jenkins, P.M.	Lynn, E.R.	Northrup, P.B.	Rollins, D.E.
Hahn, R.J.	Jessup, B.J.	Lyons, D.J.	Norton, Z.G.	Romanat, M.M.
Haines, S.D.	Johnson, J.W.		Noyes, D.C.	Romanello, R.E.
Haire, E.R.	Johnson, B.E.	Macdonald, M.A.		Rorie, D.M.
Hale, L.A.	Johnson, C.R.	Macon, F.K.	O'Ferrell, L.R.	Rose, G.W.
Hall, J.T.	Johnson, J.L.	Maddox, J.E.	Oakley, J.S.	Roseboro, R.E.
Hall, R.O.	Johnson, J.S.	Madison, J.C.	Ollis, J.P.	Roseman, M.D.
Hamilton, James R.	Johnson, K.M.	Magnuson, R.A.	R.C. Osborne	Rosenquist, V.B.
Hamllyn, D.M.	Johnson, LaNell	Maness, C.M., Jr.	Outen, D.K.	Rouch, M.A.
Hammill, T.L.	Johnson, S.T.	Manning, C.C.	Outlaw, J.K., Jr.	Routh, D.W.
Harbin, M.E.	Jones, B.M.	Marbry, C.D., Jr.	Overcash, R.A.	Rowell, L.J.
Harkey, E.S.	Jones, K.R.	Marcellus, C.H., Jr.	Owen, P.S., Jr.	Rowland, C.L.
Harrelson, C.G.	Jones, L.M.	Marlowe, A.R.	Owenby, L.E.	Royals, G.C.
Harris, A.B.	Jones, R.R.	Marlowe, J.D.	Owens, N.B.	Rudisill, G.W.
Harris, B.P.	Jones, S.T.	Martin, D.B.	Owens, W.N.	Ruffy, J.M.
Harris, J.D.	Jordan, D.M.	Martin, D.G.		Russell, R.G., Jr.
Harris, M.L.	Jordan, N.F., Jr.	Martin, J.L.	Padilla, M.B.	Rutledge, T.E., Jr.
Hartsell, C.J.	Joyce, S.D.	Martin, S.G.	Page, C.E.	
Hatherly, K.L.	Joyner, A.L., Jr.	Martin, S.L.	Park, P.W.	Sailors, R.R.
Hauser, J.J.	Joyner, M.E.	Mashburn, M.D.	Parker, B.J.	Sain, D.D.
Hawk, J.H.	Judy, C.W.	Mason, D.M.	Parker, M.J.	Sanders, J.K.
Hawkins, W.T.	Judy, K.W.	Mason, D.O.	Parker-Reece, B.L.	Sartin, C.W.
Hawks, W.G.H.	Justice, H.A.	Mayo, B.B.	Parks, S.R.	Sayer, A.R.
Haynes, D.W.		McClellan, M.D.	Parris, D.L.	Scandale, N.A., Jr.
Haynes, J.O.	Kale, J.W.	McCleskey, J.L.	Parsons, R.T., Jr.	Scarborough, S.C.
Heafner, J.P.	Kalish, S.B.	McClintick, H.E.	Patzfahl, R.L.	Schwantes, H.E.
Heath, D.E.	Kammerer, C.P.	McConnell, J.T.	Payne, A.D.	Scott, J.A.
Heath, E.M.	Kaser Odor, K.E.	McCombs, J.A.	Peeler, A.O.	Scott, L.W.
Hechler, Y.C.	Kayler, C.J.	McGuire, J.W.	Pegues, Walter	Sellers, H.R., Jr.
Hedgpath, E.H.	Kayler, R.E.	McHale, D.F.	Pendleton, K.S.	Sellers, Jackie
Heermans, E.D.	Keaton, J.C.	McIntosh, M.D.	Penland, D.R.	Sellers, Liston, Jr.
Heermans, J.P.	Kelley, D.R.	McKelvey, W.H.	Penry, C.K.	Settle, C.E.
Helms, M.W.	Kelly, L.M.	McKim, D.A.	Perkins, P.F., Sr.	Setzer, R.D.
Herbin, F.L.	Kelly, R.D.	McKinney, E.D.	Perry, R.D.	Shepard, J.J.
Herin, T.J.	Key, J.T.	McLawhorn, R.T.	Peterson, M.L.	Shepherd, B.K.
Herman, J.F.	Key, M.J.	McLean, T.C.	Petree, J.R.	Sherfey, J.H.
Herold, J.W.	Killian, T.S.	McMurry, J.C.	Peurifoy, R.C.	Sherrill, C.G.
Herron, R.E.	Kim, Abraham	McNabb, B.F., Jr.	Peurifoy, V.B.	Sherrill, H.D., Jr.
Herron, V.C.	Kincaid, E.C.	McWhorter, J.L.	Pharr, P.A.	Sherrill, H.M.
Hershberger, G.A.	King, J.C.	Medlin, W.T., Jr.	Pheagin, W.H., Jr.	Sherrill, K.C.
Hiatt, E.E., Jr.	King, R.M.	Medlin III, W.T.	Pillsbury, S.E.	Sherrill, R.N.
Hill, F.A.	Kirk, R.H.	Melton, J.T.	Ploch, R.L.	Shives, H.D.
Hillyer, D.E., Jr.	Kirk, T.A.	Melton, L.M.	Plowman, E.L.	Shoaf, F.C.
Hilton, R.D., Sr.	Kitley, R.M.	Michael, R.B.	Plummer, C.M.	Shuford, M.A.
Hinnant, S.L.	Knoespel, J.W.	Michael, S.G.	Pollock, G.L.	Sides, S.H.
Hinson, H.L.	Koonts, R.A.	Mick, R.A.	Pollock, H.M.	Sigmon, T.R.
Hipps, R.H.	Krall, N.M.	Miller, B.R.	Porter, T.R.	Sills, J.R.
Hitch, G.C.	Kurtz, M.D.	Miller, D.W.	Portis, M.S.	Sills, M.R.
Hittel, K.B.		Miller, J.J.	Powell, C.G.	Sisk, C.W.

Sluder, D.K.	Stinson-Wesley, J.T.	Tilley, K.D.	Webb, J.S.	Williams, J.B., Jr.
Smisor, H.N.	Stith III, F.A.	Tingle, R.A.	Webb, J.T., Jr.	Williams-Gilbert, C.
Smith, D.E., Jr.	Stockton, T.B.	Tisdale, J.K.	Webb, S.F.	Wilson, A.A.
Smith, D.S.	Stokes, E.B.	Tolbert, M.R.	Webb, S.S.	Wilson II, C.W.
Smith, D.W.	Stokes II, J.L.	Trollinger, J.T.	Weekley, J.M.	Wilson, L.B.
Smith, H.D.	Stokes, J.R.	Troutman, G.D.	Weeks, T.W.	Wimmer, M.F.
Smith, J.E.	Storey, N.B.	Turman, D.W.	Weiler, M.L.	Winstead, M.E.
Smith, K.H.	Stowe, D.P.	Turman, R.K.	Weisner, R.D.	Witherington III, Ben
Smith, S.L.	Strader, R.H.	Turner, C.M., Jr.	Welch, M.B.	Witherspoon, L.H.
Smotherman, D.P.	Strange, L.H.	Tutterow, W.K.	Welch, P. P.	Witty, R.L., Jr.
Snider, N.T.	Strickland, E.L.	Tyson, C.E.	Welch, R.C.	Wolfe, R.G.
Snipes, D.A.	Summey, R.C.		Wensil, T.D.	Wombough, W.B.
Snow, O.L.	Sutton, B.N.	Underwood, S.C.	Westfall, J.M.	Woodard, L.H.
Spencer, A.Y.	Swann, M.M.		Westmoreland, C.M.	Woodward, W.W.
Spencer, R.L.	Sweeney, J.A.	Van Lente, R.D.	Westmoreland, J.R.	Wooten, M.B.
Spillman, J.P., Jr.	Sweet, W.A.	Van Meter, A.R.	White, C.D., Jr.	Workman, M.M.
Spivey, A.C.	Sweezy, N.N.	Varner, J.H.	White, D.L.	Worley, Edwin
Stadler, L.E., Jr.	Swofford, M.K.	Vickers, M.N.	White, J.K.	Worthy, C.M., Jr.
Stamey, R.H.		Vickers, S.N.	White, J.L.	Wray, L.L.
Stanton, D.S.	Tate, J.P.	Vredenburg, Y.L.	White, W.R.	Wright, F.A.
Staples, L.W., Jr.	Taylor, J.L., Jr.		Whiteside, B.M.	Wyant, D.A.
Starnes, T.P.	Taylor, J.M.	Wachs, W.R.	Whitley, A.L.	Wyman, W.C., Jr.
Steagald, T.R.	Taylor, P.J.	Wall, R.L.	Whitlock, D.E., Jr.	
Steed, R.G., Jr.	Taylor, T.K.	Wallace, E.L.	Whittington, T.L.	Yarborough, E.S.
Steele, B.T.	Therrell, W.F.	Ward, J.A., Jr.	Wilkinson, H.C.	Yarbrough, J.B.
Stein, J.C.	Thomas III, J.H.	Ward, J.R.	Wilkinson, H.R.	Yates, W.G.
Stephens, E.U.	Thomas III, W.P.	Warner, J.M.G.	Wilkinson, L.D.	Young III, C.S.
Stephens, I.A.	Thore, W.C.	Warner, S.B.	Williams, E.W.	Young, H.C., Jr.
Stevens, W.L.	Thumm, M.V.	Watwood III, H.L.	Williams, G.E.	Yount, P.W., Jr.
Stewart, C.A.	Thurman, J.M.	Weaver, A.B.	Williams, H.M.	Yow, J.L.

## DD. THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

"Have you not seen? Have you not heard?" The prophet Isaiah cannot contain the excitement—the sheer exuberant joy—at the NEW THINGS declared into being by an ever-present, ever-creating Lord.

These new things have required new training, new thinking, new energy, and new planning within the Western North Carolina Conference, and the Rural Church Division of The Duke Endowment has been scrambling to try to keep up. Today, we only have time to outline a few of the many projects we are working with this year.

At Atlantic Beach last year, many rural pastors discussed the particular challenges and opportunities presented by our rural churches. We have responded to the issues raised in this retreat in several ways:

- We convened two meetings with the bishops and extended cabinets of both North Carolina conferences, along with selected leaders from Duke Divinity School, including Dean L. Gregory Jones, Director of Continuing Education Janice A. Virtue, and Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, to try to determine ways that we all can be responsive to developing and supporting vital ministries and ministers to our rural communities. These discussions are continuing and should result in some wonderful new opportunities for transformative ministry in the near future.
- We gathered African-American clergy from both conferences to explore more in-depth ways that the endowment could work with these churches. The first fruit of that gathering is that our board has just approved funding for a Christian educator who will work with our rural African-American churches to help develop demographically relevant curriculum and to help be a liaison between these rural churches (and especially their youth) and the conference.
- Many clergy spoke of the difficulties they have in talking about issues related to good stewardship: stewardship of time, talent, and finances. Many admitted that they do not know how to talk about responsible and appropriate giving and feel great financial stress. This is not a problem reserved to rural churches and clergy. In response to a request from the conference, our trustees have just joined with our United Methodist Foundation to fund specific training in stewardship. This training will be available to churches over the next year.

The prophet Isaiah alludes to believers—leaders and congregations—who struggle, but in the same breath acknowledges God present even in these times: "A bruised reed he will not break," Isaiah promises, "a dimly burning wick he will not quench." The endowment has funded two programs this year that address the reality of broken and hurting congregations and pastors. Beth and Kelly Crissman have continued to expand their Plowpoint Ministry and work with churches and pastors that have experienced conflict and need relationships healed.

A second ministry—ShepherdCare—has begun as a pilot program in the High Point District. Twenty-four clergy are participating in this year-long program to strengthen their physical, emotional, and spiritual health, so that they may better lead the flock.

In addition to these programs, we are participating in one that helps equip rural pastors to thrive and grow in their ministry. Janice Virtue, of Duke's continuing education department, has designed and implemented an extended program called "Courage to Serve." Over an 18-month period, participants gather for five extended retreats designed for personal and professional renewal.

Time allows mention of only one more grant: The endowment now has funds available to assist eligible congregations with the implementation of Safe Sanctuary practices. Please call the endowment for details on how to apply for this assistance.

The endowment will continue to entertain proposals that will fulfill the bishop's plans to "shepherd the shepherds," to be in intentional ministry with the poor, and to practice good stewardship. Please be open to the places the Spirit might be leading you, and know that resources may well be available to help in the ongoing creation of the new earth among us.

Valerie B. Rosenquist, *Associate Director, Rural Church Division*

## EE. NORTH CAROLINA PASTORS' SCHOOL AND DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL CONVOCATION

On October 11-13, 2004, 500 clergy gathered for the annual Convocation and Pastors' School at Duke Divinity School. The event focused on the theme, "The Art and Craft of Preaching," and featured strong lectures, seminars, and worship services. The James A. Gray Lectures were presented by Marva Dawn, well-known theologian and author of *Unfettered Hope: A Call to Faithful Living in an Affluent Society* and *A Royal "Waste" of Time: The Splendor of Worshipping God and Being Church for the World*. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, presented the Jameson Jones Lectures. Convocation preacher Peter Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church at Harvard University, and Jones Lecturer Thomas Long led worship for the program. Bishop William H. Willimon offered a sermon for a panel-discussion critique and feedback by colleagues, including Marva Dawn, Peter Gomes, Stanley Hauerwas, and Fleming Rutledge. Fourteen different continuing-education seminars enrolled over 300 pastors. The seminars included "Proclamation in the Hard Places," "Imaginative Exegesis," and "Showing the Story."

The 2005 Convocation and Pastors' School will be held October 10-12 and will focus on the theme, "A New Creation: Building a Ministry of Reconciliation." A detailed brochure will be available from Duke Divinity School later this summer. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Center for Continuing Education for more information ([www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu), email [div-conted@duke.edu](mailto:div-conted@duke.edu), phone 888-845-4216).

Jonathan D. Marlowe, *Chairperson*

## FF. SCHOOLS OF THEOLOGY

### 1. CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Its mission is *to educate—through scholarship, teaching, and service—faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. These purposes define Candler's role as a school of Emory University and of The United Methodist Church and point to the unique challenges and opportunities we face in leading a national research university in re-discovering what it might mean to relate to a major denomination.

With the full university community, the faculty has undertaken a strategic planning process. This initiative has allowed the opportunity to reflect on Candler's significant commitments to church and society and to envision goals and investments through 2010. Chief among them is a three-phase building project. Plans are under way to construct a new building to house the Pitts Theology Library, classrooms, a teaching chapel, and the university's Ethics Center. Later, Bishops Hall and the Quadrangle building currently housing the Pitts Theology Library will be renovated. You will hear a great deal about this project once architectural designs have been secured. In the interim, know that this effort is long overdue and speaks to Candler's aspirations to secure facilities that will support the strong educational program already in place here.

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-four members hold full-time appointment, and one holds a part-time appointment. An additional seven serve in a part-time or adjunct capacity. Thirty teaching supervisors support our contextual education and teaching parish programs. In addition, Bishops Woodie W. White and M.L. (Jack) Meadors, Jr., serve as United Methodist bishops in residence, and the Right Reverend Frank K. Allan, recipient of this year's Emory Medal, serves as Anglican bishop in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler, working with the development office.

As is typical, Candler faculty continue to provide leadership in professional societies. This year, David Petersen serves as president of the Society for Biblical Literature, and Roberta Bondi is president of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. Both gave presidential addresses at the San Antonio AAR/SBL meeting in November. Gail O'Day continues as editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and Ted Brelsford as editor of the *Journal of Religious Education*.

Enrollment stands at 536, with 413 in the master of divinity program, 71 in the master of theological studies program, 12 in the master of theology program, 7 in the doctor of theology program, and 33 enrolled as special, non-degree students. The number of students committed to full-time education is up, with 80% of students enrolled full time. The student population is 29% non-white, 7% international, and 52% female. More than 52 denominations are represented, with 64% of M.Div. students being United Methodists from 38 annual conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler in-

clude African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Nazarene, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and the Methodist Churches of Brazil, Korea, and the Caribbean.

The United Methodist Church elected three Candler alumni as bishops this summer. Mary Virginia Taylor ('75T) is now the episcopal leader of the Columbia Area; William H. Willimon ('73DST), of the Birmingham Area; and Richard N. (Dick) Wills ('67T), of the Nashville Area. With their elections, twenty-one United Methodist bishops are Candler alums. Bishop Willimon and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward have been elected to the Emory board of trustees, replacing retiring bishops Robert E. Fannin and William W. Morris.

Great things continue to happen with Candler's continuing and church education efforts. Currently, plans are under way for a fall conference on *Music and Worship* (October 9-11, 2005). Information about this and other upcoming events is available at <http://candler.emory.edu>.

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, Candler's scholarship program is one of the top in the nation. Last year, 87% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler, with an average scholarship covering 80% of tuition. Gifts from the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this success; however, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's M.Div. graduates leave school with educational debt. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program and a strong start in pastoral ministry for our students.

For more information about Candler, our extraordinary faculty, and dedicated students, I hope you will bookmark <http://candler.emory.edu>.

Russell E. Richey, *Dean and Professor of Church History*

## 2. THE DIVINITY SCHOOL OF DUKE UNIVERSITY

Duke Divinity School prepares students for strong, faithful leadership in the church through a persistent focus on spiritual formation and transforming ministry, as well as rigorous academic study.

The school is at the center of Duke University, both physically and historically, and divinity students regularly access and enhance the university's intellectual and material resources. Several programs allow students to pursue joint degrees with other highly regarded schools on campus, such as the School of Nursing and the School of Law. A partnership with the nearby University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill allows a joint master of divinity/master of social work degree.

Major construction was completed on the 47,000-square-foot building addition in recent months. It was named The Westbrook Building, honoring The Reverend Hugh Westbrook, a 1970 divinity school graduate, who has donated nearly \$20 million to the school in recent years. The addition includes significant new classroom space, the 315-seat Goodson Chapel, a large refectory, and offices for admissions and student life. It also includes offices for the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life, a multi-disciplinary effort begun in 2000 to improve care at all levels for those near death.

The portions of the school formerly known as New Divinity and Old Divinity were renamed The Thomas A. Langford Building, in honor of the professor and dean who later served as Duke University provost. Langford, who died in 2000, was associated with the university for five decades.

The divinity school also was honored to receive a \$6.7-million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., for *Advancing Pastoral Excellence*, a program bringing the school together with churches and church leaders across the country to promote innovative leadership and excellence in ministry. The effort is the second phase of the successful *Pulpit & Pew: Research on Pastoral Leadership* program, also based at the divinity school.

In the fall of 2004, Duke Divinity enrolled approximately 550 students. The student body continued to be younger, especially among master of divinity candidates. The median age overall for the school was 26. The median age for master of divinity students who entered in the fall of 2004 was about 22 and a half.

Duke Divinity students hailed from 32 states and several foreign countries. Most were from the United Methodist tradition, but more than 30 denominations were represented in the school. The student body was 55% male and 45% female. Eighteen percent of students were ethnic minorities; 12 percent were African American.

The divinity school's Field Education Department had another strong summer of placements. Duke Divinity had 195 students in full-time, formal placements (excluding student pastors and people working in ministry other than field education). This included four students in South Africa and one each in Uganda, Lithuania, Brazil, and Switzerland. The school has another 177 placements for the academic year. As 2005 began, we welcomed from Mississippi The Reverends Joey and Connie Shelton, who have joined the school as co-directors of field education and church relations. Most recently, Joey was the pastor of Court Street United Methodist Church, in Hattiesburg, and Connie has served as executive director of the *United Methodist Hour of Mississippi*, a weekly television show.

Also in 2004, Allen Verhey, formerly of Hope College in Michigan, joined our faculty as a professor of Christian ethics. He is a leading scholar in both Christian medical ethics and in the relationship of scripture and Christian ethics.

Several Duke Divinity School faculty members were honored with major fellowships in 2004. Amy Laura Hall, assistant professor of theological ethics, received a Henry Luce III Fellowship in theology; Jay Carter, assistant professor of theology and black church studies, received fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Louisville Institute, and the Association of Theological Schools; and Joel Marcus, professor of New Testament and Christian origins, was awarded a fellowship by the National Humanities Center. Faculty publications continued to provide essential resources for a variety of disciplines.

We are thankful for the relationship between this conference and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry.

To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our Web site at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

L. Gregory Jones, *Dean*

### 3. GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary, founded in 1883, is one of 13 accredited United Methodist seminaries in the United States. Located at 653 Beckwith Street, in Atlanta, it is the United Methodist component of the Interdenominational Theological Center consortium. Gammon was established by the Methodist Episcopal Church in connection with Clark University. The mission of Gammon Theological Seminary, in partnership with the Interdenominational Theological Center, is to recruit, support, and educate pastors and leaders for The United Methodist Church. The student body is comprised of 78 United Methodist students from Africa, Asia, and the United States who are enrolled in graduate and post-graduate degree programs.

The interdisciplinary curriculum offers a holistic educational experience, integrating theological studies with preparation for the ministry. One hundred sixty (160) courses fall into four major areas of study: Biblical Studies and Languages; Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, and History; Persons, Society, and Culture; and The Church and Its Mission. Many classes actively engage students in the ecumenical and multicultural environment on campus and in the community beyond, where they encounter a preview of the diversity they will discover in serving congregations and communities after graduation.

The alumni of Gammon Theological Seminary serve the community and larger society as bishops, pastors, counselors, professors, government officials, denominational executives, campus ministers, chaplains, college administrators, clinical pastoral counselors, and political and community leaders.

Gammon has started a major renovation project, at a cost of \$2.5 million, to renovate the Gammon Hall administration and dormitory facility.

Gammon has embarked upon the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a vision to strengthen its physical plant and to promote financial security for the institution with its fundraising efforts and to increase recruitment of prospective students that will honor its historic mission and embrace its promising future.

Walter H. McKelvey, *President*

### 4. METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

As our new academic year began in the fall of 2004, the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) community celebrated the start of our 45<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, continuing our celebration of the vibrant life that results from the open, searching, challenging examination of theological issues.

A total of 235 students, with the largest number of students under age 30 in our history, joined us in academic year 2005-06. Members of our student body come to us from 20 states and three countries, including Nigeria and Ghana, and from 24 denominations, including United Methodist, and 26 annual conferences.

We were pleased and proud to welcome as our sixth academic dean The Reverend Dr. John Kampen, formerly vice-president and dean of Bluffton College, a Mennonite and renowned scholar on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament. In addition, with our partners in the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus—the Pontifical College Josephinum and Trinity Lutheran Seminar—we welcomed Dr. Paul Numrich as our first joint professor, in the field of world religions and inter-religious dialogue.

Since we are a school grounded in the Wesleyan tradition and also proud of our commitment to being ecumenical in both spirit and practice, we continued our interdenominational outreach by developing specific programs for our students who are members of the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ. In support of these programs, we have revised our board of trustees by-laws to add two members of the Presbyterian Church USA and two members of the United Church of Christ.

Also at the beginning of the current academic year, we learned that our master of arts in counseling ministries (MACM) degree program was approved by the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board of the State of Ohio. The director of our MACM program, Dr. Vergel Lattimore III, was approved by the same Ohio board as a licensed independent marriage and family therapist (I.M.F.T.). Earlier in 2004, Dr. Lattimore had received another honor: He became the first African-American to attain the rank of brigadier general in the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force.

Our new doctor of ministry degree program welcomed its first cohort group, specializing in missional congregations and spiritual leadership. Our Center for Applied Christian Leadership has implemented a coaching program designed to aid less-experienced pastors by placing them in mentoring relationships with more experienced ministers.

Our *Jesus Doesn't Work Alone* campaign continues to be successful, with almost \$19 million raised toward our \$30-million goal. The major focus of this campaign is scholarships, with the hope that we will be able to offer the first year of study at no cost to students in the future. The campaign has also established a new faculty chair in youth ministry and practical theology. We launched a new fundraising effort with our first golf outing, named *A Swing and a Prayer*. The outing raised \$16,000, and our second annual outing is set for May 19, 2005.

Our annual Schooler Institute on Preaching enjoyed record attendance in October 2004, with nearly 300 people in attendance, 119 of them MTSO alumni/ae, to hear keynote speaker Bishop William H. Willimon. This year's institute, set for October 16-18, will feature Dr. Marjorie Suchocki. Last year's Youth Ministry Institute featured Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, as well as Steven L. Case, author of *The Book of Uncommon Prayer*, and attendees are looking forward to this year's institute, to be held October 11-15. The Institute for Evangelism, which last year featured Keith Wasserman, will change its focus in 2005 to address how congregations can work together in evangelism.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that prospective students are welcome to apply for admission on-line, through our website, [www.mtso.edu](http://www.mtso.edu). For those who apply on-line, we will waive our \$35 application fee. Within the first two weeks of the availability of on-line applications, we received ten, including one from Korea, and we look forward to the many other students who will discover the advantages of technology in answering God's call.

Norman E. (Ned) Dewire, *President*

## 5. UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Mission Statement:** *United Theological Seminary is a Christ-centered graduate school of The United Methodist Church that equips leaders for the church in a pluralistic world through the nurture of piety, the love of learning and the pursuit of justice.*

We have been entrusted with a profound mandate to prepare spiritual leaders for the church and to actualize the nurture of piety, the love of learning, and the pursuit of justice. The tradition of our founders was deeply rooted in the proclamation of the Gospel and the creation of dynamic communities of faith and service. In that same spirit, we have made monumental decisions to define our tasks within radically shifting contexts and to provide for the effectiveness and sustainability of the seminary. To these ends, we spent 2004 making plans in the following areas:

### **Relocating the Seminary:**

On February 18, 2005, UTS purchased a new 80-acre campus for the seminary in Trotwood, Ohio. We now look toward to next steps, which include renovations and transition planning. We rejoice and thank God for all that has been done to facilitate this remarkable transition.

### **Providing Opportunities for Congregational Development:**

The Center for Worship, Preaching and the Arts received a grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship which has been used to fund "Come to the Waters," a series of two retreats on leading congregations through the Easter Vigil, and "Come to the Table," a study guide and training session based on *This Holy Mystery*.

The Pohly Center for Supervision and Leadership Formation has been working with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to provide training in the Pohly model for the Virginia Annual Conference Cabinet in March of 2005. Other opportunities for this type of service to the church exist in several other states.

The Center for Urban Ministry continues in partnership with the Hispanic/Latino ministries coordinator of the Southwest Region of the West Ohio Annual Conference by offering a monthly practical ministry training program in Spanish for lay pastors.

The Center for Urban Ministry hosted "Toward the City of God," an urban conference, with scholarship help provided by the West Ohio Annual Conference. The West Ohio Conference has also designated 15 clergy who will undergo a doctor of ministry degree with a focus on urban ministry at UTS, with the conference providing half the tuition. The center is also working with the West Ohio Urban Network to provide training for clergy newly appointed to urban congregations.

The Office of Continuing Education continues in partnership with MTSO to offer a Course of Study School in Ohio.

The Institute for Applied Theology continues to plan Teaching Church Network Events in various locations around the region, including work with the Holston Conference, First-Centenary Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and continuing education programs in congregational development in Dayton.

### **Growing Enrollment/Flex Semester:**

We celebrate some enrollment growth in 2004. Fall-semester enrollment was 352 students enrolled, with 141 master's students, 196 doctoral students, and 13 special students. We are pleased that the flex semester system and new curriculum are working well and providing our students with multiple opportunities to take classes and to specialize in a particular work area within the M.Div. program.

### **Meeting the Needs of a Digital Culture:**

The e-mail newsletter we began in March of 2004 has become very popular, and we are adding e-mail addresses on a regular basis.

We have upgraded our Web site to provide easier access to the expanding number of programs at United through a user-friendly navigation scheme.

We are making major strides toward the development of an online learning program by hiring a person who will develop meaningful and appropriate courseware for distance-learning initiatives.

### **Collaborating with Others:**

We are forming some fruitful partnerships as we explore wellness education as it relates to UTS. Recommendations for establishing a Center for Wellness Education will be presented to the board in the spring.

A grant from GBHEM is funding a youth event in Ohio in the fall of 2005, "At the Threshold: Consider the Possibilities." This event is being planned in partnership with other colleges, MTSO, and the two Ohio conferences. The focus of the event is to identify and nurture young people for professional and ordained ministry.

**Preparing Leaders for the Black Church:**

United's growing doctor of ministry program celebrates the addition of new focus groups and mentors that include some of the rising stars in a new generation of church leaders.

We continue our commitment to prepare leaders for the black church and community.

United's D.Min. program represents an ecumenical group of constituents, including United Methodists, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Baptists, and many other denominations and groups.

The D.Min. focus groups represent a growing number of partnerships that encompass a wide variety of expressions of ministry, including pastoral care, urban studies, community development, preaching, and health-related issues.

**Conclusion:**

We continue to diligently plan for the emergence of a dynamic Christ-centered learning community, and we are determined to collaborate with others in the pursuit of our mission, vision, and values. Let us pray and reason together, so that United's vision will be of the greatest possible usefulness to Christ and the entire church here and across the earth.

G. E. Zeiders, *President and CEO*

## 6. WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary is located in our nation's capital. The deep center of the seminary is evangelical, as was John Wesley, because it is centered on Jesus Christ and believes in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives. Our students experience transformation while at seminary, not only in the classroom with our faculty, but also through experiences such as covenant discipleship groups, where rich relationships with others from theologically diverse backgrounds help prepare them for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Wesley Seminary's commitment to global issues continues, with students from Africa University, Korea, and Russia. Many of our faculty have taught at Methodist seminaries in other countries. These connections are deepening with our newly created vice-president position in international relations.

Graduates of our seminary remark on the quality of our faculty in both academic scholarship and practical leadership in the local church. It is common to hear that a faculty member has offered advice on how a student pastor could best handle a situation in his or her church. Experienced clergy find that our doctor of ministry programs are tailored to further equip them with skills in the complex issues that church leaders face. Our doctor of ministry in church leadership excellence draws upon the scholarship of the G. Douglas Lewis Leadership Center. The doctor of ministry in pastoral theology, care, and counseling provides ministers with the theoretical and practical tools necessary for more effective and reflective ministry in care and counseling. Our Spirituality and Story program combines the resources of Wesley faculty and the Pathways Center of *The Upper Room* in Nashville.

Understanding the quality of our faculty and hearing from churches in our area about the need for adult education in churches, Wesley Seminary has created [www.wesleyministrynetwork.com](http://www.wesleyministrynetwork.com), the Wesley Ministry Network, to bring academic scholarship to churches. Bishop Richard B. Wilke has said that the Wesley Ministry Network courses are the perfect follow-up to Disciple Bible study. Our Equipping Lay Ministry program provides over 300 laity a year with biblical and theological training for leadership in their churches. We also have three Web sites, which offer resources for laity and pastors who are leading others to experience God's call: [www.cultureofthecall.com](http://www.cultureofthecall.com), [www.aboutrightnow.com](http://www.aboutrightnow.com), and [www.wesleysem.edu](http://www.wesleysem.edu).

With our orientation as a church-based seminary, the value that our committed faculty place upon preparing leaders for the church, and our international reach, Wesley Theological Seminary is committed to investing its resources in efforts that will contribute to the renewal of the church.

David McAllister-Wilson, *President*

## GG. SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONNECTIONAL TABLE

We continue to celebrate the unique Southeastern Jurisdictional ministry. Your SEJ staff at Lake Junaluska and the seven agencies (Archives and History, Gulfside Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center, SEMAR, SEJANAM, and UVMIM) work diligently to provide annual conference and congregational leaders opportunities for connecting, consulting, and training, in our three centers and around the jurisdiction. We are determined to offer the best discipleship training and spiritual formation opportunities for all ages.

In July 2004, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council was honored to once again host the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska. It was a pleasure to welcome and serve conference leaders from around the jurisdiction. We appreciate the confidence the delegates gave to the SEJ ministry through supporting our request for funding. We are especially grateful for the special asking of 50 cents per member for the quadrennium, designated to the restoration of the Lake Junaluska dam in order to bring it in line with strict North Carolina structure codes. The fund is to be paid over the 2005-2008 quadrennium. The overwhelming support was appreciated.

We served over 129,000 United Methodists during 2001-2004 in our ministry events, our Networking Groups, and at Lake Junaluska, Gulfside Assembly, and Hinton Rural Life Center. We also hosted over 150,000 at our conference centers. Many lives are being touched for Christ through your jurisdictional ministry.

In December 2004, we welcomed newly elected members to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council. During our meeting, it was decided to change our operating body to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Connectional Table and to streamline our organization, using task groups and fewer committees. The Junaluska Properties and Services Committee will give leadership in guiding our work at Lake Junaluska. Our organizational task group will be joined by four persons from the jurisdiction in order for an intensive study of the jurisdictional organization to be done.

Again I am delighted to report that our Workplace Discipleship Program, designed to assist our staff in celebrating their call to ministry and leading us toward being a more inclusive staff, continues to be successful. In 2004, we moved from 8% to 13%. Our staff has been diligent with this, and I commend each of them for our success.

Great strides are being made toward the capital improvements at Lake Junaluska Assembly. We have \$7.5 million committed to the campaign. We have \$1.1 million committed to the Bethea Welcome Center, and we continue to raise money and hope to begin that project in 2006.

We are in the process of renovating fifty (50) of the one hundred (100) rooms at the Terrace Hotel. The remaining rooms will be finished in early 2006. We plan to have the outside of the Terrace painted and new siding installed by this summer.

We are grateful for the leadership of the elected members from the Western North Carolina Conference: Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, Connie Locklear, John F. Howard, Jr., and Thomas R. Sigmon.

Continue to pray with us as we strive to serve Christ and the work of The United Methodist Church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Jimmy L. Carr, *Executive Director*

## HH. TREASURER-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I am thankful today that I have had the opportunity to serve another year in the ministry of administration.

### Financial Support

During 2004, we extended the focus of our faith through \$18,561,269, or 89.22% of the apportioned budget. For 2005, the charge conferences accepted 86.35% of the total apportioned budget. Are we slipping down a slippery slope? I prefer to believe we have our feet firmly planted on a rocky mountain trail, where we are climbing higher and higher toward the summit of "Mission Mountain," higher than ever before. We heard from hundreds of churches that, for the first time in a long time, serious and detailed discussion of the mission and ministries of our conference took place in local-church councils and committees. Since last fall, we have heard many folk saying to us, "We really need to support our outreach ministries." This is the first time I have heard that kind of comment coming from local churches since I have been part of our conference. We have accepted responsibility for paying in 2005 the highest amount in total dollars ever. We are a mission-minded conference. Our quest is to fund our vision.

### Financial Responsibility

Again this year, due to the efforts of Thomas R. Sigmon and our program staff and others, the Council on Finance and Administration is pleased to announce another balanced budget. In other words, the program ministries of the conference did not spend more than you contributed. Amen? Amen.

That was not the case this year, however, for the Conference Support Fund. We were able to stay within the spending limits set by CFA, but the total receipts fell short of the estimate, and we had an overall deficit of \$27,609. That had to be paid from the Conference Working and Emergency Reserve. Spending has been further restrained for 2005 in an effort to prevent a repeat of 2004.

A piece of good news is that, for the second time in four years, our Health Benefits Committee is pleased to announce both Active and Retiree plans are stabilized and built back part of their underfunded reserves. The changes you made three years ago have apparently worked to stabilize the Retiree Plan and have begun to secure it for the future.

The auditing firm of McGladrey & Pullen has completed our audit with "no qualifications." We were able to include for the first time the Retiree Medicare Supplement Unfunded Liability of \$29,000,000. Funding this item will be a major priority over the next 10 to 15 years, and we have begun the task.

On another note, the auditors gave us an "emphasis paragraph" on the results of our audits of the constituent ministries related to the conference. As a result, the CFA Audit Committee is continuing to provide support for accounting practices across the constituent ministries.

### Financial Reflection: "The Currency of Our Work"

For a few moments, I ask you to reflect on "the currency of our work." What exactly is the measure of viability in our ministries? What exactly is the currency of our work?

From an historical perspective, over the past 30 years, our conference has grown in membership by about 4%. That is not 4% per year, but rather 4% in total membership. Well, many in the denomination

would be very pleased to have recorded any growth at all! Many of our conferences have shrunk by a lot more than 4%, some maybe as much as 40%. So, I suppose that, by comparison, we look pretty good.

But think about that growth in this context for a moment: Think back to what you earned in 1975. Back then, I was earning about \$10,000 per year. Then increase that compensation by 4%. In 2005, with the same rate of growth as the conference, I would be earning about \$10,400. Could you live on \$10,400 per year in 2005? Would you be starving to death?

Our church is starving for new life from new disciples and nourishment from the currency of our work.

Last year, our friend Crystal, a Southern Baptist, told my wife, Jacquie, that she was going on a mission trip to a northern U.S. city. Jacquie said, "To do what?"

Crystal said, "You know, a mission trip to start a new Baptist church up in the north."

Jacquie said, "What are you going to do, make more Baptists? There enough of those already!"

But the idea sort of got my attention, because, in the context of United Methodist life, what we really need to do is "Make More Methodists." So this could be a new easy evangelism program, the "3M Plan." So, if I said to you, "What do we need to do?" you would answer, "Make More Methodists."

We United Methodists have the perfect theology for this day. Jesus affirmed, "Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself." John Wesley put that theme into action as "personal relationship with Christ and personal love for your community." They are a perfect message for our day, for generations who want desperately to believe in something. Offer them Christ and a place to live it out, and that will create the currency of our work!

When I was young, we had lots activities to reach people. We had Tuesday-night visitation, when members of the church would go visit anybody they could find: newcomers to town, visitors to church, just about anyone. Recently, I read of a plan which suggests that members invite five neighbors over to their homes for coffee and Bible study. Do you know your neighbor? Do you know five neighbors?

One conference has "Bring-a-Friend Sunday." You know, it is not hard evangelism to bring a friend to church. Another conference emphasized Christmas Eve candlelight services in every church. Every church has a sign out front in December, inviting persons to come for Christmas Eve. Innovative ideas to do what we need to do.

And what do we need to do? Make More Methodists.

This next statement is likely to be regarded as blasphemous, coming from a conference treasurer, but here goes: For too long, a principal measure of success for local churches has been whether or not we have paid 100% of our apportionments.

Conference members, the currency of our work is changed lives. The currency of our work is changed lives.

I am thankful today for the United Methodist Woman who shared her testimony from her "Open Hearts" training with a harried businessman on airplane flight. Six months later, he called her to say that he and his family had been baptized and joined the church. Amen? You never know how small seeds will grow.

I am thankful today for the disaster-response volunteers who made such a difference in the life of an African-American man in Tarboro during the floods of Hurricane Floyd. The man said to me that the ministry of our volunteers had renewed his faith in race relations. You never know how seeds will grow.

I am thankful today that Gamewell is a United Methodist church that cared enough about children to begin "Hand in Hand," a ministry to elementary school students across the street from the church. You never know how seeds will grow.

The currency of our work is changed lives.

You can make a difference to someone in your neighborhood.

Offer them Christ and a place to live it out, because the currency of our work is changed lives.

Amen.

William C. Wyman, Jr., *Conference Treasurer-DAS*

## II. CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

On behalf of the whole conference, and from me as statistician, I extend sincere gratitude to the 14 district statisticians; my assistant, Shannon Redden; our computer programmer, Kenneth Perry; Yvonne Gritt, Dot McDaniels, and Barbara Rouse in our Treasury Services Department; and to all pastors, membership secretaries, financial secretaries, and treasurers. We could not have done the job of statistical reporting for last year without all of these. The complete report of the statistician is found in Volume 2 of the 2004 journal.

Calendar year 2004 was a good year for the churches of the Western North Carolina Conference. In addition to an increase in church membership, which I will address in a moment, we experienced increases over the year 2003 in worship attendance; professions of faith; transfers from churches of other denominations; church-school membership, including numbers of children and youth; membership in United Methodist Youth; total value of all property, which now totals almost \$2 billion; and total expenditures for all causes, which exceeded \$218 million, up 1.4%.

At the same time, we regretfully must report decreases as compared to 2003 in the number of persons baptized, preparatory members, church-school attendance, and members of both United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women.

As interesting as it is to compare our 2004 record to our performance in 2003, we find a more meaningful perspective if we look at what has happened over a longer period of time. Figures from one year to the

next, quite frankly, do not change very much. It is only when we look across a longer time span that we really see the significant trends.

What I am going to do in this report, after sharing some numbers about our wonderful 15 straight years of membership increases, is to go back to the first full year of this conference's existence, 1969, and see if we can spot some trends, with a particular view to our mission to bring the unchurched to Christ and to form disciples.

First, the 15-year membership numbers. Since 1989, the last year in which we had a membership loss, our local church lay membership has increased every year:

1989	274,457	- 796	1997	286,290	+ 1,381
1990	276,077	+ 1,620	1998	288,575	+ 2,285
1991	277,444	+ 1,367	1999	289,661	+ 1,086
1992	278,074	+ 630	2000	291,484	+ 1,823
1993	278,697	+ 623	2001	291,727	+ 243
1994	280,902	+ 2,205	2002	292,071	+ 344
1994	282,819	+ 1,917	2003	292,595	+ 524
1996	284,909	+ 2,090	2004	293,735	+ 1,140

In some years, the increases exceeded 2,000. In others, they were much less, but, in total, there are now 19,278 more lay people who belong to our churches than was the case in 1989, an average increase of 1,285 persons each year across this time span. We have moved significantly against a national trend in our church. Most conferences are smaller today than they were in 1990; some much smaller. So we celebrate our growth, although our celebration is tempered by the realization that 1,285 persons a year is just barely more than one person per church per year—not so spectacular—but, still, much better than the negative numbers that we have seen from so many other parts of the church!

Now, we turn to the 35-year comparison. How did we do in 2004 as compared to 1969? This year, I am focusing on the "people" figures, the "making-and-nurturing-disciples" numbers. Next year, perhaps I will be able to bring you some financial comparisons.

When we compare our 1969 total membership with that of 2004—and, since we are all, clergy and laity, in this together, I am including the numbers for both groups—here is what we see:

	<u>1969</u>		<u>2004</u>
Lay:	282,572	Lay:	293,735
Clergy:	1,092	Clergy:	1,626
Total:	283,664	Total:	295,361
			+ 11,697, or 4.12%

(A parenthetical note: Why are there so many more clergy now? There are a couple of obvious reasons, among others: (1) Clergy are, like everyone, living longer, and (2) full-time and part-time local pastors, the un-ordained persons who are appointed to serve our churches as pastors, were not considered clergy in 1969 but are now.)

Despite there having been only four years of membership gain between 1969 and 1989, we still have grown, thanks mostly to these last 15 years. There are now 11,697 more of us in this conference, an increase of just over 4% over the 35 years. And that's a good thing!

What can we learn from looking at how those new members came to us? (And here we're dealing only with lay members.) Here are the numbers:

	<u>Profession of Faith or Restored</u>	<u>From Other UM Churches</u>	<u>From Other Denominations</u>
1969	5,626	5,647	1,967
2004	6,040	3,454	3,421
	+ 7.36%	- 38.83%	+73.92%

Three things jump right at you when you see this:

- (1) We actually are receiving more persons by profession of faith and restoration than we received in 1969, up 7.4%. That, quite frankly, surprised me.
- (2) We now receive 39% fewer persons who come from other United Methodist churches. This is not surprising, since we are all familiar with the breakdown of denominational loyalty in America which has been so well documented by others. Obviously, more United Methodists who move to other areas are joining churches of other denominations, if they are joining anything at all.
- (3) But, the breakdown in denominational loyalty cuts both ways, and clearly in our favor, for we have had a staggering 74% increase in members received from churches of other denominations!

All of which suggests that United Methodism still has much to offer the folks to whom our welcoming outreach should extend. People still join our churches by profession of faith. And we are attractive to persons from other denominations to a degree that I am not sure we fully appreciate

If we need to know how we are *receiving* members, we also need to know how we are *losing* them. We have just looked, as it were, at the front door; now we look at the back door:

	<u>By Charge Conf. Action or Withdrawal</u>	<u>To Other UM Churches</u>	<u>To Other Denominations</u>	<u>By Death</u>
1969	3,700	5,130	2,013	3,052
2004	4,061	2,382	1,587	3,745
	+ 9.76%	- 53.57%	- 21.16%	+ 22.71%

Some quick observations about each of these four categories:

- (1) The "cleaning of the rolls" we do now and then has shown a bit of an increase. This surprised me, because I assumed that taking church membership out of the apportionment formula some years ago would actually cause the number of removals by charge conference action to go down; it does not seem to have done so. Since, however, this category also includes persons who have with-

drawn, presumably without going to any other kind of church, the figures in the first category certainly reflect those folks, but to a degree that is impossible to measure.

- (2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> category shows the same breakdown of denominational loyalty described earlier: 54% fewer persons who leave the churches of our conference do so by joining other United Methodist churches. At the very least, we could be doing more to put moving Methodists in touch with United Methodist churches and pastors in the areas to which they are moving.
- (3) What is true for other United Methodist churches is also true for churches of other denominations: 21% fewer of our folks have left us to become something other than United Methodists.  
(Reflecting on these first 3 categories a moment: 26% fewer persons left our churches in 2004 than did in 1969. Again, this is somewhat surprising, but certainly indicates that people are not, contrary to the views of some, leaving our churches in droves!)
- (4) More of us are dying, a 23% increase in 2004 as compared to 1969, presumably because more of us are older. The "graying of the church" is real.

Just a couple more sets of figures and we will be done. This first group has some other important "people" figures for us to contemplate:

	Worship <u>Attendance</u>	Baptisms	Preparatory <u>Members</u>
1969	119,871	5,442	31,660
2004	127,046	4,143	38,366
	+ 5.99%	- 23.87%	+ 21.18%

First, worship attendance. On average, there are 6% more of us in worship each Sunday than was the case in 1969. Compared to the 4% increase in membership, it appears that a few of us at least are doing better about going to church! To the extent that this is true, we are finding more opportunities to be shaped in our discipleship by the worship of God.

Second, baptisms have significantly declined in number, by 24%. One assumes that this is related to the declining number of children in the church school, as we shall see momentarily.

Third, however, the number of preparatory members—baptized youngsters under 18 years of age—has increased by almost the same percentage that baptisms have declined. I must give that one some more thought!

When we think about being formed in our discipleship, we naturally think of those kinds of activities which engage our minds and hearts through teaching and learning. All manner of new and creative ways of discipleship growth, especially Disciple Bible, Beginnings, and an almost endless variety of Bible study groups, support groups, and so on, are showing positive growth throughout the conference.

Sunday School, however, is not one of those! This set of figures needs little commentary:

	Leaders/ <u>Teachers</u>	Children	Youth	Adults	Total Church <u>School Membership</u>	Average <u>Attendance</u>
1969	22,125	57,862	37,678	99,354	217,019	126,901
2004	19,726	34,313	19,579	72,071	145,689	66,537
	- 10.84%	- 40.70%	- 48.04%	- 27.46%	- 32.87%	- 47.57%

One may or may not be prepared to declare the "age of the Sunday School" finished, but our inability to sustain participation levels in this area of our work over the long haul suggests in a powerful way the need for ever more of those creative, new ways of discipleship formation that are emerging all around us.

As I come to the end of this historical survey, I want to leave you with 2 numbers:

4                      68

I find these numbers haunting. They are troubling. But they are also full of opportunity. What do they represent? The 4 is the percentage of growth in the total lay and clergy membership of our conference since 1969. The 68 is the percentage by which the population of the state of North Carolina has grown in the same period. The fields, as scripture says, are white unto harvest. The people are here. As Wesleyans, we believe that the convenient grace of God is at work in all of them. Whatever else following Jesus means for us, faced with an opportunity like that, it must mean making disciples amidst this great sea of people, and through the transformations which their lives will experience, to transform the communities, the counties, the annual conference, the state, and ultimately the world in which we live.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your statistician and for your wakefulness to receive a speech about numbers this early in the morning!

Charles D. White, Jr., *Secretary-Statistician*

## JJ. PARADIGM IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE

The United Methodists of western North Carolina are a blessed and resourceful people. Think about the ministries our congregations are sharing in the name of Jesus Christ. While the New Funding Paradigm may give us some cause for concern, we all need to see that our concerns are really opportunities for the mission and ministry of the church.

Our Cabinet representative, Robert E. Roach, organized the committee on April 14, 2005. The following officers were elected: Phillip B. Cole, chairperson; Patricia W. Wiseman, vice-chairperson; and Mildred S. Carter, secretary. We held a fact-finding meeting on May 12 and heard reports from Sam H. Smith, Jr., chairperson of the Quadrennial Budget Planning Committee, on their history and intent; William C. Wyman, Jr., for the Council on Finance and Administration, concerning payouts and operating procedures; Mark L. Barden, for the Conference Ministries Advisory Council and conference staff, on the impact on our mission

and ministry; and Robert E. Roach, from the Cabinet, concerning acceptances at charge conferences. At this time, we still have more questions than answers. We do want to report the following observations:

- The intent of the paradigm is based on a long-term solution. We must stick to it and work together for positive results.
- Some of our initial reactions at various levels appear to be moving us toward “the slippery slope” of congregationalism, rather than toward the strength of our connectional system.
- It is simply too early to make any hard-and-fast observations. The only hard data that we have are the charge conference acceptances. Please see the following “Charge Conference Acceptances Status Summary.” Note that this only shows suggested payout rates, not what will actually be given. Also see the “Choice Empowerment Process Survey” on page 43 of the 2005 *Program and Reports* booklet.
- We are experiencing a heightened awareness of stewardship and its spiritual importance. Now is the time to begin the work of the committees for Stewardship of Giving and Stewardship of Managing. We should all share in this vital work.

Phillip B. Cole, *Chairperson*

**Charge Conference Acceptances Status Summary**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2005 %</b>	<b>2004 %</b>	<b>2003 %</b>
Equitable Compensation Fund .....	98.81%	98.59%	99.38%
Pension Fund .....	99.10%	98.57%	99.18%
Episcopal Fund .....	98.43%	98.30%	99.12%
District Superintendents' Fund .....	98.45%	98.46%	99.10%
Conference Administration Fund .....	97.52%	96.88%	97.51%
Conference Benevolences Fund .....	71.17%	91.03%	94.08%
Higher Education Ministries .....	69.31%	89.96%	93.73%
Health and Human Services .....	68.64%	90.98%	92.97%
World Service Fund .....	66.43%	88.52%	92.65%
Africa University Fund .....	72.78%	90.17%	93.28%
Black College Fund .....	66.93%	89.65%	92.74%
General Administration Fund .....	67.88%	90.10%	93.11%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund .....	65.30%	90.20%	92.77%
Jurisdictional Administration Fund .....	69.87%	89.94%	93.05%
Ministerial Education Fund .....	70.43%	89.70%	92.90%
Lake Junaluska Dam and Lake Restoration Fund ....	63.25%		
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>86.35%</b>	<b>94.76%</b>	<b>96.31%</b>
Congregational Development Fund .....	56.61%	63.61%	75.60%
Ministries First Asking .....		54.18%	