

association (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), effective January 1, 1981, as the duly authorized successor to the United Methodist Regional Commission on Campus Ministry in North Carolina; and

Whereas, The Commission has operated since that date pursuant to its By-laws and in accordance with ¶ 633.4(a)(10) of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2004) (hereinafter referred to as "*The Book of Discipline*") for the purposes, among others, of evaluating the needs of campus ministry programs relating to the Annual Conferences within the State, providing advocacy on behalf of campus ministry, and making recommendations to each of the two Annual Conferences concerning support for such programs and the assignment of campus ministers; and

Whereas, The Annual Conferences reaffirm their continuing support of campus ministry in partnership with the boards of campus ministry and local churches within the Annual Conferences, which ministry plays an important role in the life of the church; and

Whereas, The Commission has determined that in this era of changing approaches to funding, the Commission's continued operation is not the most effective means for the Annual Conferences to facilitate and support campus ministry; and

Whereas, Both Annual Conferences reaffirm that campus ministries provide valuable United Methodist leadership to and discipleship of students and to college and university campuses; and

Whereas, The Commission recommends that oversight of campus ministry and other functions presently provided by the Commission should be returned to each Annual Conference, and to the Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry of each Annual Conference as provided in *The Book of Discipline*, for those campus ministry programs within the geographic boundaries of said Conference; and

Whereas, The Commission has concluded that it is in the best interests of the Commission, the Annual Conferences, and the campus ministry programs within this State for the Commission to cease operations and wind up its affairs in an orderly fashion and in accordance with the requirements of *The Book of Discipline* and applicable law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Commission recommends to the Annual Conferences the following actions be taken:

1. The Commission shall cease operations and be dissolved effective January 1, 2007. The Commission's affairs shall be wound up in an orderly manner.
2. All liabilities and obligations of the Commission shall be paid and discharged, or adequate provisions be made therefore. Assets, if any, held by the Commission upon condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of the dissolution, shall be returned, transferred, or conveyed in accordance with such requirements. Other assets, if any, of the Commission shall be transferred or conveyed to the Boards of Trustees of the Annual Conferences or shall be otherwise distributed as agreed upon by the Boards of Trustees of the Annual Conferences.
3. Effective January 1, 2007, responsibility for, and oversight of, campus ministry programs within the geographic boundaries of each Annual Conference shall be vested in the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry or an analogous agency of such Annual Conference in accordance with ¶ 633 of *The Book of Discipline*.
4. Until the local boards of campus ministry are equipped to do so and procedures are adopted and implemented by each Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the Annual Conferences, financial matters for campus ministry programs previously handled by the Treasurer and Finance Committee of the Commission shall be handled by the Treasurer's Office of such Annual Conference.
5. The Council on Finance and Administration of each Annual Conference will provide apportioned funds for the present salaries and benefits of the current campus ministers through June 30, 2007, in the Western North Carolina Conference and through December 31, 2008, in the North Carolina Conference. Interim property, legal, and liability issues will be the responsibility of the respective Boards of Trustees or Boards of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the Annual Conferences, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*.
6. The members and proper officers of the Commission shall be authorized and directed to do and perform, or cause to be performed, any and all other acts which may be necessary or proper to accomplish the dissolution, liquidation and transition of responsibilities of the Commission in accordance with this resolution and the directives of the Annual Conferences.

CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

1. ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The Mission of Aldersgate is to provide excellent continuing care services for older adults.

Areas of interest that are vital to the health and ongoing missional vitality of Aldersgate: One of the most crucial activities that we as an organization can engage in is planning for the future. Change is one of the surest phenomena that we will encounter in any portion of our lives today. The person who cannot or will not embrace and be in command of change in his/her personal life is setting himself or herself up for failure in today's fast moving world. The same is true of organizations.

The residents, board, and staff here are working together to prepare ourselves to find opportunities to propel ourselves into the future with strength and vitality as a community. We are concentrating on the best knowledge we can gather to equip ourselves for the future, in both the short range and the long range:

Short range:

- Wesley Glen Cottage Expansion: sites to build 50 cottages:
 - Currently, the street and utility infrastructure is completed, and 13 cottages are in various stages of completion.
 - Four couples have already moved in.
- Renovations to Resident Wellness Clinic:
 - This will give residents who visit the clinic more privacy and make the area more accessible to the various professionals who provide service to our residents.
 - We have contemplated in the design that we will most likely be offering some range of Home Care services to residents.

Long range:

- Continue to monitor whether to propose participation in Medicare in Asbury Care Center (ACC).
 - Have engaged BDO Seidman to conduct a study of our possibilities with Medicare and other structures to research our financial opportunities.
- Study of ACC regarding renovation/refurbishment has been completed by architect/interior designer. We are now seeking bids for the suggested renovations from two firms.
- Development of Home Care program being studied and discussed by a joint team made up of staff and residents. Seventy percent of Aldersgate residents are members of The United Methodist Church. All members of the churches of our districts are needed to help gather information regarding individuals who may be interested in becoming residents at Aldersgate. The residents, churches, and board members are the best sources of resident referrals. Since the churches have always been the foundation of the resident base here, we plan to go back to the churches to educate them about what is going on at Aldersgate.
- Physical Conversion of third floor of Epworth Place to Assisted Living: The third floor of Parker Terrace was completed and opened in the early part of 2005 to rave reviews from residents.
- Resident and Staff Expectation Survey: All members of the Aldersgate management team are meeting regularly to address areas of importance identified by residents and employees. Ongoing follow up and evaluation continue to be a part of the management commitment from our entire team and is improving and exceeding customer service expectations.

UMAR has completed the construction of a new group home across the street from the current group homes on UMAR Court on the Aldersgate campus; this is the third home on our campus. Our agreement with them is that for each home they have located on our campus, we are given a priority placement for the dependent adult child of any of our prospective residents. This will give us one answer to the issue of families who have heretofore not been able to locate to Aldersgate because they had no place for their dependent children.

The Aldersgate Committee continues to plan and track how we can most effectively reach out to the larger community through various initiatives and partnerships.

We commend the Aldersgate staff for their disciplined and dedicated focus this past year in a combined effort to move Aldersgate in the direction of greatness. It has been invigorating to be a part of a committed movement in that direction. We look forward to an even more superior experience in 2006.

We also express appreciation to the board of directors and board of advisors committees for stepping up as volunteers to study the various issues that confront our community. Having a knowledgeable, supportive, and engaged board makes for a satisfying relationship and a dynamic community.

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

Proposals: Aldersgate Boards**(Referred as Petition 9 to Forum Group 3)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)**

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

Robyn A. Crigger*	Richard P. Holshouser*
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Class of 2009

Patience S. Brumley	William C. Mathis*	Thomas R. Sigmon
Dale C. Bryant*	David R. Murray*	C. Douglas Simpson
Pamela B. Carter	Wanda F. Musgrave	James Therrell*
Margaret Fisher	T. Patrick Peacock*	Ann Tyler*
Linda Ford-Banner	Charlie D. Rivens*	T. Mark White
Telezee L. Foster	Donald C. Sanders	Roy H. Wiggins
Dawn M. Hand	Carolyn S. Shinn	

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

Class of 2007

Ann Tyler*

Class of 2009

Robyn A. Crigger*	Telezee L. Foster	Roy H. Wiggins*
Zane E. Eargle*	Dan B. McIntyre	

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

A year of celebration, 2005 brought Arbor Acres to the 25th anniversary of the commencement of its ministry to residents. Since opening its doors to the first residents on March 3, 1980, Arbor Acres has sought to fulfill a mission of security, contentment, and life with meaning and purpose for those it serves. The anniversary was well marked throughout 2005 through festive parties and meals, special worship services, recognition of founders, outreach activities, and the sharing of stories. Anniversary and other operational highlights for 2005 include:

- **Publication of *Sweet, Sweet Spirit: The Arbor Acres 25th Anniversary Storybook*:** A collection of personal reflections on life, people, and events during these first 25 years, the storybook was made possible through a generous anniversary gift from BB&T, Blue Ridge Burke Insurance.
- **The Founders Luncheon**, honoring William F. Womble and other founding directors for their vision and diligence during the crucial formative years following passing of the resolution in 1975 authorizing creation of a United Methodist retirement community in the Triad area.
- **The 25th Anniversary Gala:** A shining display of the spirit of fellowship, generosity, festivity, and beauty that make Arbor Acres special. Over 400 residents and friends attended this event.
- **Outreach Programs Commemorating 25 Years of Service to the Church and Community:** In this year, residents gave over \$20,000 to charitable enterprises, including Meals-On-Wheels, and church and national hurricane relief efforts. Arbor Acres provided housing to a family from New Orleans displaced by Hurricane Katrina and made a gift of \$25,000 to the North Wilkesboro District in support of that district's effort to provide quality housing for its elderly.
- **Selection of a New Director of Development:** After 20 years of service to the residents of Arbor Acres, Gary Fleming retired. Pat Hunter stepped into the office of director of development on September 1, 2005. A talented addition to that staff, Pat is providing wonderful leadership to this crucial area.
- **Resident Satisfaction Survey:** Arbor Acres conducted this year a formal resident satisfaction survey, using a national consultant in order that results could be measured against national benchmarks. Resident satisfaction is remarkably high.
- **Financial Assistance to Residents:** During 2005, 30 residents received financial assistance at a total cost of \$918,310. Arbor Acres delights in serving these residents who would otherwise be unable to afford the costs of residency.

The board of Arbor Acres is engaged actively in development of a strategic plan to address anticipated challenges over the next five to ten years. The entire field of continuing care recognizes that the next generation of retirees will have unique expectations and its own definition of successful aging. The sheer numbers of baby boomers that will reach retirement age in the next decade will both challenge and open opportunity for retirement communities nationally. Arbor Acres seeks to maximize the opportunities that lie ahead to deliver quality of life to the generations now and in the future. Throughout the country, abundant new and innovative ways of serving are now being tried and accepted. Mindful of this, Arbor Acres will strive always to remain on the cutting edge of quality in ministry to senior adults. This is the mission generously bestowed upon Arbor Acres by the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, a mission we have shared in partnership for each of the last 25 years.

W. David Piner, *President and CEO*
Richard M. Marvin, *Chairperson, Board of Directors*

Proposal: Arbor Acres Board of Directors

(Referred as Petition 10 to Forum Group 3)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)

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 2006</i>	
David W. Bailey	David E. Cassels	Anita H. Ogburn
Edward Beason	Richard Fulp	Richard B. Port
S. O. "Skip" Brown, Jr.	Emma Graham	Edwin L. Welch, Jr.
Martha Jo Campbell	Dyeann Jordan	Charles B. Wright
	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Sylvia F. Alderson	Gregory B. Hunter	W. David Stedman
Judy M. Briggs	Richard M. Marvin	Neal E. Tackabery
Thomas B. Cannon	Michael L. Robinson	Robert D. Turner
Linda G. Davis	Gerald E. Smith	W. Earl Wilson, Jr.
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
J. Lawrence McCleskey, Resident Bishop		
Arnetta E. Beverly, Northeast District Superintendent		
Lynne B. Caldwell, High Point District Superintendent		
R. Alan Rice, Jr., North Wilkesboro District Superintendent		
Frank H. (Duke) Ison, Greensboro District Superintendent		
J. Hurley Thomas III, Winston-Salem District Superintendent		
C. M. Worthy, Jr., Lexington District Superintendent		

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME

The Children's Home continues its 96-year heritage of serving children and families in the Western North Carolina Conference through our residential services, on-site school, foster care, and outpatient counseling services on the Winston-Salem campus. The Franklin campus continues to provide outpatient counseling services and opened a new foster care and adoptions program in January 2006 to serve the western-most counties of North Carolina. The Franklin Auxiliary also was recently established and held its first meeting on January 25, 2006. As expressed in our recently adopted vision statement, we are dedicated to serving greater numbers of children and families and are pleased to report an 85% increase in the number of those served. We served 85 children and families during 2004 and 157 children and families in 2005.

Children and families being served by The Children's Home have found hope, healing, and a sense of well being during their time with us. Last fall, for example, the children enjoyed activities on the farm as they planted, harvested, and sold summer corn and Halloween pumpkins. One of the children even decided he wants to be a farmer when he grows up! Numerous groups have used our facilities for recreation, fellowship, and reflection. Several church and scout groups used the ropes course, climbing wall, and other campus facilities. Overnight retreats continue to be held at the Brantley Center. We are most grateful to the 373 volunteers who performed 7,022 hours of service in 2005, which included a "farm day" cleanup, painting, yard work, and repair.

Perhaps the most exciting recent news is that George Bryan, Jr., M. Div., became the new president/CEO on April 1, 2006. George is the former director of Exchange SCAN, a child-abuse prevention and intervention agency in Winston-Salem. He is well known throughout the state and nation as an advocate for children. George brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to The Children's Home.

I thank you for the support, through your prayers and contributions, given during my tenure at the Home. The needs of children and families seem to become more desperate daily. Please continue to support The Children's Home mission through your prayers and gifts in 2006 and beyond.

Linda G. Davis, *Interim CEO*

Proposal: Children's Home Trustees

(Referred as Petition 11 to Forum Group 3)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)

The Board of Trustees of The Children's Home, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board:

<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
Bob Dunnigan	Ed Welch	Tom Lambeth
Maurice West	J. Robert Nations, Jr.	Bob Winchester
Wanda Merschel	Rebecca Johnson	Harper Heckman
Jennifer P. Davis	Richard Tamer	Lynne Berry
Etta W. Marcellus	Donald L. Martin, Jr.	Jean Irvin
Sara Williams	Martha Y. Martinat	Jane Hanes
James W. Ferree	Mildred S. Carter	Jim Wilson
Linda G. Davis		Loy H. Witherspoon
	<i>Ex-Officio</i>	
	J. Lawrence McCleskey, Resident Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference	
	J. Hurley Thomas III, Superintendent, Winston-Salem District	

4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Givens Estates has experienced many changes in our community since the last report. Construction was completed on Oxford Commons, our new central building, as well as our new cottages on Lovely Lane and Strawbridge Court. New residents began moving in, and our population nearly doubled in a few short months. Common areas, such as Dining, the Performing Arts Center, and the Wellness Center were established in Oxford, offering residents a beautiful environment for dining, entertainment, exercise, and more.

The renovations to Asbury Commons, our original central building which was constructed in the 1980s, are nearing completion. The early indication is that the apartments and activity areas in this older facility will significantly enhance the wonderful spaces in Oxford. Redesigned areas in Asbury include the gift shop, art and craft rooms, billiards room, beauty shop, banking, classrooms, and offices for the programming and financial operations departments. Exterior renovations include a porte -a-cochère, covered entrance, and mansard roof. Finally, we are converting our former dining room and kitchen into a chapel and fellowship hall. This important addition to our community should be ready for worship and programs this summer.

New and current residents alike enthusiastically involved themselves in many activities on campus, including Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and our annual Christmas Tea. They also came together to generously share their compassion for those less fortunate through several Christmas outreach projects. Throughout the holidays, we embraced one another with smiles and friendship, celebrating our expanded community, the season, and our many blessings!

As part of our original expansion plans, Givens has rebuilt the main Sweeten Creek Road entrance to make it visually appealing to residents and visitors, and to provide easier navigation for those traveling on

our campus. This project adds a divided road for incoming and outgoing traffic, with a beautifully landscaped area in the middle.

Givens Estates is pleased to have been invited to work with the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council (SEJAC) and the Southeastern Methodist Association for Rehabilitation (SEMAR) in developing an affordable housing project for seniors in Haywood County. Our goals are to expand our ministry into other Western North Carolina counties, to provide 100 apartments for older adults with low and modest incomes, and to offer support services to assist residents who are facing the challenges of aging.

This project, The Great Laurels, will be located on 6.3 acres across from the main entrance to Lake Junaluska Assembly and will consist of 36 apartments supported through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and 64 apartments funded through tax credits. Additional funding sources have been secured, making this one of the most uniquely financed projects in the country.

It has been a privilege and an honor working with SEJAC and SEMAR, both of which have a passion for serving the needs of Haywood County. Moving forward, Givens Estates will assume full responsibility for developing, building, and managing the ongoing operations of this apartment community. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity, which enables us to further fulfill our mission of providing outreach ministries beyond our campus.

Since 1989, we have embraced significant partnerships and programs extending our mission to seniors in our region. These ministries often touch our rural communities, providing access to needed care and medications, while enabling people concerned about their neighbors and community to make a difference. We have served more than 6,000 people in the past seven years with over \$7 million in free medications for people making tough choices. Medication costs for some are **over half their income**. Through cost-effective partnerships and outreach initiatives, we have touched many lives beyond our campus.

We remain abundantly blessed by those who have a passion for sharing the hope and love of Christ!

Kenneth M. Partin, *Chief Executive Officer*

Proposal: Givens Estates Directors

(Referred as Petition 12 to Forum Group 3)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)

It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community:

Donna A. Broadwell	E. Wannamaker Hardin, Jr.	Kenneth W. Swayze, Jr.
Mark Clasby	Gregory D. Hutchins	Frances C. Waser
Earle R. Haire	Joetta F. Rinehart	
	<i>Class of 2008</i>	
Myron L. Coulter	Charles E. Nesbitt	Donald L. Watrous
Gordon C. Goodgame	Kathy Rabb	Maurice E. West, Sr.
Hal Lawrence	Phillip J. Tate	
	<i>Class of 2009</i>	
William F. Depp	Virginia Robinson	Elaine T. Wolf
Doris P. Loomis	Patricia S. Smith	George W. Wooten
Billy Martin	Judy Toney	
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)	Robert E. Shepherd (Regional Affairs)	
Thomas E. Camp III (Givens Trust)	Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr. (Honorary Life)	
J. Clay Madison (Honorary Life)	Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Givens Trust)	
Lucian C. Rice (Medical)		
	<i>Ex Officio (Clergy)</i>	
Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.	N. Fred Jordan, Jr.	W. Lyn Sorrells
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
J. Lawrence McCleskey, Resident Bishop		
William H. Osborne, Jr., Assistant to the Bishop		
Karen F. Miller, Asheville District Superintendent		
Robert E. Roach, Marion District Superintendent		
James T. Trollinger, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries		
J. Alexander Ward, Jr., Waynesville District Superintendent		

5. UMAR-WNC, INC.

In 2005, UMAR continued to show strong improvements in its service quality and financial position. Demand for services and support continues to be strong. UMAR currently supports 127 individuals in 20 group homes and eight apartments, while maintaining a waiting list of almost 200 individuals.

UMAR expanded its service continuum by adding community living supports through apartment living. In the process, UMAR converted a pair of three-bed homes into three-bedroom apartments. In addition to offering more independent services that better meet the needs of certain residents, UMAR also reversed the

homes' poor financial positions. UMAR continues to seek opportunities to advance apartments, and other more independent living options, throughout western North Carolina.

UMAR also took over operations of a group home in Lincoln County. Similar to the apartments project, UMAR implemented an effective management and administrative structure that increased resident supports while improving the home's financial position. In January 2006, UMAR received a federal grant, from HUD, to build a replacement home. This step will further the residents' quality of living, while providing an additional bedroom for someone on UMAR's waiting list.

UMAR began the bold step of filling unmet needs for individuals with developmental disabilities who have become senior citizens. This fast-growing population has not been effectively addressed in western North Carolina, or the rest of the state. In collaboration with Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, UMAR is converting its Givens Estates group home into a home for seniors with developmental disabilities. Through activities, events, and supports in the community and at Givens Estates, UMAR is developing a model seniors program that focuses on an active and independent lifestyle for this population.

The Lake Norman area group home effort, now officially called the UMAR Barnabas Home, made significant fundraising advancements in 2005. The effort is currently working through final zoning requirements in preparation for construction in 2006.

UMAR also continues to implement its strategic plan, strengthen infrastructure supports, and improve the quality of life for the people we support. UMAR is very excited to be on the forefront of service provision by embracing the philosophy of social capital. Social capital emphasizes that community involvement, independence, and personal development and satisfaction are based on one's ability to develop and use relationships with individuals and community groups. UMAR is proud to advocate for the full community inclusion of our residents through social capital!

Proposal: UMAR Trustees

**(Referred as Petition 13 to Forum Group 3)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)**

The Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc., proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2006:

<i>Class of 2006</i>	<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>
Cathy A. Cook	Jim Cochran	Sallie Close
Pam Hazen	Bobbie Hankins	Bill Eller
Jim Hooper	Morry Johnston	George Fleming
Dwight Marshall	Charlie Lieske	Libby Privette
Linda Weisbruch		
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
James H. Graves	James T. Trollinger	Bill Ervin
Aaron W. Moss	Theresa Hall	Oscar Wong
Bob King	Tom Hollowell	Ginger Kelly

6. METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES (MCCS)

Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services (MCCS) is a specialized ministry, extending the ministry of local congregations to persons who seek hope in the midst of their despair, light in their darkness, and God's healing grace. MCCS provides certified pastoral counselors who meet persons where they are on their journey through this life. In a high-tech society, our pastoral counselors bring a personal touch. While psychiatrists offer pills to treat life's problems, and psychologists offer limited sessions due to managed-care restrictions, our pastoral counselors offer a relationship that will last as long as the process of healing takes, and at considerably less cost.

MCCS serves an important referral source for pastors, who often do not have the time or the specialized training to work with persons in local congregations who are hurting. Having qualified pastoral counselors that you respect makes referral for your parishioners a lot easier.

MCCS serves five districts that cover an 11-county area. In the past year, MCCS provided 7,242 hours of individual, marital, family, and group therapy. We provided 96 hours of consultation with various congregations. We also conducted 354 hours of workshops and educational events for congregations. MCCS is a service center that is accredited by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute.

This past year was one of transition for us. Our director resigned. We discovered that our finances were not what we thought they were. This was not due to financial malfeasance, but rather improper recording and reporting. Thanks to Nancy Ratcliff and John V. Arey, Jr., we have recovered from what looked like impending disaster to financial accountability and a cushion of savings. This has enabled us to explore the possibility of recruiting more therapists and expanding our sites. This will not be a rapid expansion, but rather one that is thoughtful, deliberate, and focused on quality therapists who are qualified and ready to come on board with us. It is our belief that this approach of seeking licensed pastoral counselors who are able to provide caring, compassionate, and quality ministry provides a sound basis for helping and healing others through this arm of the annual conference.

To learn more about the M CCS clinical services and sites, workshops, and consultations, as well as to make contributions to the Samaritan Client Assistance Fund to aid persons without the financial means who seek professional pastoral counseling, visit the M CCS website at www.mccsvs.org.

Frank H. (Duke) Ison, *Chairperson*
John V. Arey, Jr., *Clinical Service Director*

7. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY

The year 2005 and the beginning of 2006 have been a busy time for deaf ministry. After transitioning our board to the NOW-L model, we began to make contact and become acquainted with our districts and district superintendents. Education is the key as we strive to teach our Western North Carolina Conference clergy and laity concerning needs and accessibility issues for the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing/hh. Nearly 700,000 people in North Carolina have hearing loss, with 16,000+ being deaf. Hearing loss affects one in four families.

Deaf ministry is not a one-size-fits-all concept; rather, it is an effort to educate and provide resources to people with all levels of hearing loss and their families and friends. Deaf ministry seeks to address four of the seven Western North Carolina Conference Vision for Ministry emphases: to intentionally related unchurched persons to Jesus Christ (and keep those already in the church connected), promote disciple-based Bible study, nurture unity in Christ that values diversity, and reach out to the poor and suffering in local communities. With these priorities in mind, we:

- Gave deaf ministry presentations in eight of our 14 districts, using a PowerPoint presentation and several handouts.
- Updated our deaf ministry brochure. It was included in the March 2006 *Missions Alive!* mailing and in packets distributed at "A Day Apart for the Young at Heart" for older adults, in May 2006.
- Became a source of information concerning d/Deaf/hh issues for our churches and members in both their church and daily lives, ministering to the whole person.
- Arranged for the Asheville Regional Resource Center and North Carolina Assistive Technologies to join us at annual conference under the wellness tent to demonstrate assistive listening devices and educate members and delegates in their use.
- Established the Tom Summey Memorial Fund. This scholarship/grant program will be used to train interpreters and computer-assisted note takers in local churches. Note takers would be used to help our late deafened, oral deaf, hard of hearing, and those with cochlear implants stay connected with our churches. Criteria will be established by fall 2006.
- Continue to encourage 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 a deaf ministry in their own churches.
- Embarked on the planning for our journey to a "Deaf Walk to Emmaus," with our first full table of deaf pilgrims, supported by the Blue Ridge Emmaus Community at their February 2007 Women's Walk.
- Pray that 2006 will see growth in the Bob Pitzer Minister's Education Fund, to help pay seminary tuition for d/Deaf and hard of hearing to become ministers.

From our hearts and hands to their eyes and hearts. We are faith touching lives. 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 UMC Deaf Ministry, P.O. Box 5644, Asheville, NC 28813; phone 828-665-2158 (voice or TTY); or see www.wnccumc.org/hhs/deafministry.htm.

Kay Dunlap, *Director*

8. DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER PASTORAL SERVICES

The Pastoral Services Department at Duke University Medical Center will be celebrating 50 years of offering pastoral care and clinical pastoral education in October 2006. The Western North Carolina Conference's vision and stewardship (coupled with that of the North Carolina Conference) provided a major portion of the initial funding for the creation of this department. As we look toward our next 50 years of ministry and education, we are most thankful for the support that you have offered in the past and for your continued support. Your funds toward the salary of a United Methodist chaplain continue to ensure this vital presence at Duke Hospital.

Hospitals provide such a powerful opportunity for churches to reach out to the larger community, in order to be about the mission of Christ to those who are vulnerable, suffering, and often isolated from their faith communities. I would like to share a couple of stories that I think illustrate the importance of continuing a United Methodist chaplain presence in this place.

A young couple (United Methodist) from another state came to Duke for the wife to be treated for a rare illness. They were new parents and came without their infant on the first trip. While visiting and praying with them, I learned that they would be returning for six weeks of treatment and wanted help finding a place for their infant to be in daycare while they spent their days in the clinics. Needless to say, such daycare is hard

to come by for a short duration! I contacted multiple United Methodist churches in the area, and one agreed to keep this baby. The parents were ecstatic! They experienced this as God's love for them as they endured a most challenging time. The parents attended church and were "adopted" and loved by this congregation for the time that they were here. I would see this as the United Methodist connection working at its best to embody the love of Christ.

On a research unit in the hospital where patients and families stay for weeks, one of our United Methodist churches provided snack items for a small food pantry for the family members to have as a resource while staying at Duke. The church put stickers on the food with the name of the church, so that families knew where this care was coming from. The families were appreciative, and the medical staff were so pleased also to feel the love and support of a local congregation. What a powerful witness to Christ's love.

Hospitals are in need of the embodied love of Christ through The United Methodist Church. We need the healing ministry of the church alive and well in the halls and treatment rooms of our establishments, encouraging those who suffer (both patients and families, and staff). I hope to find more ways to involve churches in the ministry of the hospital. I am grateful that the Western North Carolina Conference had such vision 50 years ago and continues to partner with us today.

I have stayed in touch with clergy by e-mailing district superintendents who have forwarded my contact information to their clergy. I have received referrals from your pastors and have followed up. Please continue to let me know how I can be of assistance to you and your people. I may be reached at 919-681-4784 (office), 919-970-8424 (pager), or 919-970-8215 (on-call chaplain 24/7)

Chaplains made over 15,000 visits at Duke last year. We provide 24/7 coverage by an on-call chaplain who is called to every death and every code (a crisis where a person quits breathing or their heart quits beating). We have provided Holy Communion for those not able to be seen by their own clergy. Chaplains lead a Sunday morning worship in the hospital chapel. We have a small fund (Fund for Compassion) that allows us to offer a limited amount of help with meals, parking, hotel rooms, and some travel expenses for those truly not able to afford these for themselves.

Our education of divinity students continues as we train around 30 chaplain interns per year in a basic unit of clinical pastoral education, which involves 100 hours of clinical pastoral education and 300 hours of offering pastoral care in the hospital. Students present verbatim reports (write-ups of pastoral visits) to their peers and supervisor, in order to improve their pastoral care skills. I visit with students often to mentor them in pastoral care-giving. Most of these students go on to serve in United Methodist churches, where they report that their experience here empowers them to be better pastors. Your encouragement of future pastors to participate in a unit of clinical pastoral education at Duke would be much appreciated.

I am thankful to be involved in this work and appreciate your partnership. May God continue to bless abundantly the work of the Western North Carolina Conference.

Deborah Ann Morgan, *Senior Clinical and Administrative Chaplain*

F. COUNCIL ON LAITY

The Council on Laity is prayerfully making every effort to support Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey and the conference vision of "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World." Each of the 14 districts, through the capable leadership of district superintendent and lay leader, is planning and carrying out ministries, programs, and training events which will help our churches meet the seven goals related to the vision.

Our COL meets four times a year at different locations across our conference. We have met at Triad Native American Church, Greensboro; First Church, Mocksville; and The Children's Home, in Winston-Salem. We welcome invitations to meet with any church, for worship, be it large or small, urban or rural, contemporary or traditional. We enjoy being a part of worship and fellowship with the body of Christ called United Methodist.

The COL continues the great tradition of the annual **Gathering of the Laity at Lake Junaluska, August 18-20**. Ray G. Boger is chair of this evangelistic outreach event. He and the program committee have invited J. Ellsworth Kalas, Janet Wolfe, Barbara Brokoff, and our own James C. Howell and Roger L. Hunter from the Western North Carolina Conference. The Laity Service Award program, directed by J. Wade Lowder, will be the feature of Saturday afternoon at the Gathering, followed by the Junaluska Singers concert. We highlight the lay speaker program, directed by Mitchell Matthews, as we hear from one of the selected representatives of lay speaking, also on Saturday.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women in the Methodist tradition, the council is sponsoring a breakfast for all clergy women of the conference on Thursday morning at 7:30 at Lambuth Inn.

The Council on Laity, with the endorsement of the Conference Ministries Advisory Council, has received a grant to implement **Accountable Discipleship** workshops across our conference in 2006. These workshops will directly address the goal of our conference to "Teach and learn Biblically-based discipleship and leadership." Dr. Steven W. Manskar, of the General Board of Discipleship, will lead three workshops: **September 16, at Providence Church, Charlotte; October 21, at Central Church, Asheville; and November 4, at St. Matthews Church, Greensboro**. We are targeting the pastor and the lay leader, along with two or three other key leaders from each charge, to attend. Brochures are available for registration, or you may register on the conference website. We pray that as the clergy and lay leadership work together on Christian formation, we will all learn to follow the **General Rule of Discipleship** (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 1118.2a) "To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

The council is diverse in its membership, but we are unified in the belief that we can work in partnership with the clergy and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to carry out the vision of this conference. In this effort we submit the proposal which follows to guide the process of the election of lay delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional conferences, which will be our task in our 2007 annual conference.

Betty Jo C. Hardy, *President and Conference Lay Leader*

Proposal: Election of Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**(Referred as Petition 14 to Forum Group 7)
(Adopted by conference on June 9, 2006)**

Paragraph 36, Article V, of *The Book of Discipline*, with reference to elected lay members of the General and Jurisdictional conferences, states:

The lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference without regard to age; provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in the United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional or Central conferences.

The Council on Laity, meeting on March 20, 2006, adopted and presents to the 2006 session of the conference for its adoption the following goals and principles for the election of delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional conferences at the 2007 conference:

We commit ourselves to an election process that will guide us in a fair and equitable way and continue to uphold our understanding of holy, Christian conferencing.

Goals

1. We believe each person desiring to be a delegate should be elected on the basis of the gifts and grace of the individual.
2. We affirm the freedom of each delegate to vote as he or she is led by the Holy Spirit.
3. We desire to create an atmosphere for the elections in which the Holy Spirit can work.
4. We promote the use of a booklet to identify persons desiring to be delegates. It shall contain a picture and a biographical sketch. No person shall be required to state how he/she will vote on any issue. Each potential delegate may have one page in a lay-delegate booklet, to include the name, address, picture, biographical information, and other information of their choosing about their positions on major issues facing The United Methodist Church. There would be no editing by the compiler. (Clergy candidates who run for the office of bishop are permitted to provide information of this nature in their solicitation of votes.) This booklet would be mailed to lay members of the conference in a timely manner, so as to allow for review and contact of candidates prior to the annual conference session.

Principles

In order to achieve these goals, we recommend the following principles to guide the election process:

1. That no person desiring to be a delegate use campaign hats, give away items, host parades, etc., to promote himself/herself, and that other persons desiring the election of a particular person be constrained by the above.
2. That no person desiring to be a delegate be coerced to vote yes or no for any one issue, and that the members of conference not be coerced to support a certain nominee because of his or her individual belief.
3. That no person involved with the election process use the names of other persons as supportive of their desires without written permission.
4. That the lay members of conference commit to an election process that "allows for the Holy Spirit to be present," and that we view this commitment as a holy covenant.
5. That we reject inappropriate, unethical electioneering by any person or group that would be condemned by the spirit of these goals and principles.

As we consider the needs of the future church, we recognize the need for the greater openness and inclusiveness in the selection of our delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences.

It is our sincere and earnest prayer that in the election of our delegates we will be guided first and foremost by the spiritual nature of our undertaking.

G. UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men of this conference have been involved in many areas of ministry and mission work in 2005. We have dealt with the destruction done by hurricanes in western North Carolina, and we continue to be supportive of the work going on there. Men from some of our districts have been to the Gulf Coast area. 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 we are grateful.

William R. Jarrett was presented the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award at our annual conference in June 2005. Rev. Jarrett was nominated by his men at Flag Springs Church, Asheboro.

The 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 seven scholarships to men and women pursuing second careers in ministry.

The 25th Annual UMMen Rally was held April 22-24, 2005, with the theme, "Are You Making a Difference?" Program participants during the weekend were Dr. Joseph Harris, general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men; Roger L. Hunter, pastor at Hartzell Memorial-McQueen's Chapel Charge, Statesville District; Charles C. Kyker, senior pastor of Christ Church, Hickory; and William C. Wyman, Jr., our conference treasurer-director of administrative services. Dr. Kyker led the Bible study during the weekend. Rev. Hunter and Leon Norman were presented Life Member awards. Ray G. Boger was honored with the John Wesley Award.

In the business session, the following officers were elected: Ray G. Boger, president; Walt Christian, Richard (Dick) Strachan, and Henry Goldston, vice-presidents; 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 was held July 15-17, 2005, and men from western North Carolina attended this national gathering. You can read information about this event by visiting the website for the General Commission at www.gcumm.org or the conference website, www.wnccumc.org.

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 UMM is trying to fulfill this purpose.

Ray G. Boger, *President*

H. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

James 1:22 admonishes us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. As United Methodist Women give of their time, talents, and resources, they truly demonstrate and live out this scripture. When a need arises, whether it be the sharing of financial resources or preparing health kits or flood buckets, United Methodist Women rise to the cause.

For the fifth consecutive year, the United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference led the nation in giving. We were first in the channels of Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. We were also first in total undesignated giving and in total giving. The local units again exceeded the \$1-million mark by giving \$1,088,282.85, an increase of \$3,054.50 over 2004. The caring and generosity of the Western North Carolina Conference UMW was evidenced in gifts of \$44,229.93 given for UMCOR, primarily for tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and Pakistan earthquake relief.

All conference events were well attended. "The Music Within" was the theme for the Spiritual Growth Retreat, where 1,325 UMWomen came together for a time "to know God." The School of Christian Mission, attended by 349 UMWomen, helped us to "expand our concepts of mission," as we studied about Children of the Bible, India and Pakistan, and Public Education. United Methodist Women also brought 3,302 health kits as their hands-on mission project. We were blessed to have Dr. Jan Love, deputy general secretary for the Women's Division, be the guest speaker for the Annual Meeting in September, with "A Portrait for the Future" as the theme.

We rejoiced with the chartering of four new units: Vida Nueva, in the Northeast District; Mt. Carmel, in the Salisbury District; Mt. Zion, in the Waynesville District; and Pinnacle, in the Marion District.

The scholarship program continues to give aid to persons seeking church-related careers. Ten students received scholarships. These students are enrolled at Greensboro College, High Point University, and Pfeiffer University.

We were honored for our conference to be represented at two Women's Division events in 2005. Joy Prim, of the North Wilkesboro District, was chosen to attend the College/University Women's Consultative Group that met in San Francisco. Tonya Lanier, of the Lexington District; Ann Aldridge, of the Marion District; Sara Williams, of the Northeast District; and Jill Koppenheffer, of the Winston-Salem District, attended the Public Education Forum held at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville.

United Methodist Women strive to be better leaders through training. In October, 163 district officers met for a day of leader development. Nine conference officers attended training in St. Louis in November.

The *Conference Gram*, as well as district newsletters, is published four times each year to keep the local woman informed of events and projects. The conference UMW website and listserv are also available to post the latest information.

How blessed we are to be a part of an organization that helps each of us to grow spiritually and to reach out to others all around the world, whether it be through prayer, financial giving, being involved to right social injustice, or participating in a hands-on mission project. May 2006 bring renewed commitment to our UMW Purpose.

Amy L. Johnson, *President*

I. UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

The conference Ministries with Young People program has remained faithful to its mission, despite limited financial support from conference askings, and, as a result of that faithfulness, has truly been blessed in the 2005-2006 conference year. We have experienced growth in many areas of our ministry and are excited about the new things that are coming our way.

This year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) adopted a mission and purpose statement that will continue to drive our conference youth ministry into its future. The mission statement says: *"The Mission of the WNC Conference Council on Youth Ministries is to find ways to encourage young people to follow Jesus, to become disciples, and to transform the world."* Our purpose statement says: *"As Conference Council on Youth Ministries members, we are to be SHEPHERDS who: Support, Help, Evangelize, Pray, Heal, Equip, Relate, Develop, Serve."* We are blessed to be able to fulfill our mission and purpose statements by the grace of God and the sacrificial support of various volunteer pastors and adult youth workers at our events, as well as through the youth and adults on the CCYM.

In living up to our purpose and mission statements, we continued to reshape the conference events that have been favorites for youth all over the conference. SUMMIT, our winter retreat in Boone, was reshaped this year to allow young adults to be a part of the event, making this one of several events that we offer to include young adults. Held in February, this event was attended this year by 1,600 youth and young adults, and it continues to grow each year.

One of the ways we are growing into the "support" and "serve" elements of our purpose is the development of our WNCC Adult Youth Worker Training Academy. Twelve courses are offered six different times over a two-year period, and interest continues to grow. Many volunteers leading our youth groups across the conference have jobs or training in something other than youth ministry. The academy is designed to equip these persons with the tools needed to develop their youth ministries, as well as to minister to their own personal needs. The training is also open to full-time youth directors and youth pastors who would like to network with other youth coordinators and gain new ideas for their youth ministry.

Choose2Share Christ, our faith-sharing training event, is held at Lake Junaluska in November. This was also redesigned to include young adults and adults and included several sessions of the Youth Workers Training Academy.

For the first time this year, both weekends of SpiritUs were "maxed out." This summer beach retreat, held at Oak Island, continues to be a favorite event of our youth. The Bishop's Confirmation Celebration, held in March each year, is a one-day event for youth going through the confirmation process. This is a great time of fellowship and connection for our soon-to-be or newly-confirmed members to put together all of they have been learning and to spend some time hearing an encouraging message from Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey.

UMY Splash and Lowes Motor Speedway Youth Rally are two more one-day events that continue to grow and are specifically designed with fellowship in mind, but also open the doors for youth to bring their unchurched friends to hear the message of the gospel in a non-invasive way.

Kaleidoscope, our event for middle-schoolers, is completely planned and staffed by the CCYM. This event is revamped every year as it reflects the nature, gifts, and interests of the members currently serving on the CCYM.

We are very thankful that December 31, 2005, was the day that Safe Sanctuaries policies and procedures were to be fully approved by all local churches in our conference. Many churches have also finished their trainings and implementation of procedures. We hope that this will reduce the risk of children and youth being abused in our churches. These policies and procedures are for the good of everyone in the local churches.

We were also blessed that in 2005 we were able to raise \$15,900 for the Youth Service Fund. This money is raised by youth for youth and is used in various ways throughout the conference and worldwide. This comes from offerings received at conference events and offerings from local churches. Our goal for 2006 is to raise \$17,000. We encourage all local churches to find a way to support the YSF ministry.

Our 2006 ministries with young people's theme has been, "The New Is Here." This is based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" There are several new ministries coming our way in the future years.

The first new conference event to look out for will be a retreat for 9-12th graders only. We have found that a lot of high-schoolers would like the tools to grow deeper spiritually in ways that would prepare them for college and beyond, as well as discern the Christian perspective on issues young people and society are dealing with. The development of this retreat has taken up a good amount of our time in CCYM this year, and we are excited to offer this opportunity to our youth.

We are currently in the planning process of creating a Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries. It would be the responsibility of this group to identify the needs of young adults throughout our conference and then to begin to address those needs.

Another thing that we are very excited about is Youth 2007, which will be held in Greensboro, July 11-15, 2007. This event is an international event, bringing United Methodist youth in from all over the world. We are very excited that our own conference will be the host conference for this event. This only happens every four years and rotates locations each time. Start getting your youth ready now!

As you can tell, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries is going to be busy this coming year. CCYM is made up of two youth and one adult from each of the 14 districts, as well as some at-large members, who come together to seek God's will for the youth of our conference. We will continue to equip youth and youth workers to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World."

John F. Howard, Jr., *CCYM President*
Katie S. Fralic, *Director of Ministries with Young People*