

Collins, D. Brad Farrington, Marianne M. Romanat, Judy H. Eurey, Jeffery A. Sweeney, John C. Fitzgerald.

Community College Ministry of Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College

Not submitted.

Mitchell Community College, Statesville

William C. Findt, Lynne M. Lepley, John Milholland, Dan Manning, Steve Scott, Paul Sink, Walter Taylor, Gary West.

North Carolina A&T State University

George Jones, Mary Ann- Cole, William Settle, Dorwin Howard, Pat Wall, Wofford Boyd, Otto Harris, Malcolm Mangum, Gale Rose, Solomon Quick, Jean Attaway, Micah Gaines.

University of North Carolina at Asheville

Not submitted.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Class of 2008: Viviane Avant, Phil Bostian, Greg Gillespi, Morgan Roseborough, Janice Martin. *Class of 2009:* Mary Lynne Calhoun, Beth Hardin, Chuck Morgan, Janet Lutz. *Class of 2010:* John Freeze, Heather Hall, Nick McEntire, Michael Montgomery, Joanna Krueger, Emily Phillips, Trent Thompson, Lewis Williams, Karen Kasting, Wayne Theurer. *Ex Officio or Permanent:* Eddie Bass, Steve Cheyney, Jim Dudley, George E. Thompson, Nancy Youmans, Jacob Pierce, Phil Tonnesen.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Not submitted.

Western Carolina University

2008 Class: Gene McAbee, Tom Frazier, Lee Gale, Frank Grice. *2009 Class:* Jed Tate, George Weekley, Libby McRae, June Benson. *2010 Class:* Erin Harkness, Travis Collins, Tony Oberley, Matthew Chadwick, Jeanne Pickerel, Mike Blackburn. *Students:* Michael Stillwagon, Manning Wimberly, Kerri Bernhardt, Sarah Messer.

Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

Not submitted.

CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

1. ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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

Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community celebrates 60 years of service in June 2008. On June 13, 1948, the first unit of the Methodist Home for the Aged was completed. The Reverend C. M. Pickens became our first resident on June 18, 1948.

In 1945, Reverend Pickens was appointed general superintendent of the developing Methodist Home. He had been a leading minister in the Western North Carolina Conference, preaching at some of the leading churches, and had served as presiding elder several times. He spent more than six years pushing for the development of the Home "like a ball of fire," as he was described. He said to everyone that "if they had enough faith, it could be accomplished." Reverend Pickens visited many churches in all districts, giving speeches on the goals for the Home as he was active in fund raising.

The Methodist Home was given a new name, "Aldersgate," in 1999 and has grown substantially over the past 60 years.

Facilities now include:

- **Epworth Place** is an eight-story congregate living facility with 140 accommodations, including Parker Terrace Assisted Living. Several renovations have been made to Epworth Place. The main dining room has been renovated for those preferring a casual dining atmosphere, and a formal dining venue was added, creating a more elegant formal dining experience. Informal cafe dining has been added. The main dining room has been renovated, creating a more elegant formal dining atmosphere. Informal cafe dining has been added for those preferring a casual dining atmosphere. Main Street attracts and creates interest for residents by providing a variety of services and offerings, including opportunities for arts and crafts, sewing, weaving, and ceramics, along with a game room.
- **Ray Hall Community Center** includes a chapel/multi-purpose center, wellness facility with aquatic center and exercise room, administrative spaces, and an elegant two-story living room with a fireplace and balcony overlook. The architectural style reminds residents of a grand brick country home, with an expansive front veranda and arched windows. The overall plan is designed around a courtyard, focusing resident activity spaces on a garden containing plantings, walking paths, and shaded seating areas, as well as a small pond.
- **Francis Residential Building** is a three-story apartment building (with 74 residences), located adjacent to the community building, utilizing brick details and patterns similar to craftsmanship employed during the early 1900s. The exterior facade is conceived by projecting window bays with dormers and shaded balconies.

- **Azalea View Cottage Community** is composed of 36 individual homes (referred to as cottages) and a one-story apartment building with seven accommodations.
- **Lake Ridge Cottage Community** is composed of 16 individual homes on the east side of the lake. Floor plans range in size from 1,700 to 2,000 square feet and typically have two bedrooms, two baths, living room, kitchen, den, and one- or two-car garages.
- **Wesley Glen Cottage Community:** Aldersgate has begun development of 50 new cottage homes, called Wesley Glen, on the east side of the campus. The four standard floor plans of these cottage homes range in square footage from 1,507 to 2,035. They are freestanding, two- and three-bedroom homes, with options such as fireplaces, sunrooms, and vaulted ceilings. Master bedrooms offer large walk-in closets and tray ceilings, and all homes have decks or patios and two-car garages with additional storage.
- **Cuthbertson Village Memory Support** (45 resident rooms) is at the leading edge of care for residents experiencing dementia and memory loss. The building is divided into three clustered neighborhoods, with country kitchen, living room, family room, laundry, activity rooms, and private resident rooms (15 rooms per neighborhood). The three clustered neighborhoods are connected to a commons area reminiscent of a 1930s and 1940s town square. The Town Square has a cafe, theater, pet store, general store, garden shop, and barber/beauty shops. All stores surround the square, which also includes an aviary.
- **Asbury Care Center** is a 100-bed licensed nursing care facility located on the campus to the east of Epworth Place. Completed in 1980, Asbury Care Center offers only private rooms. It contains support facilities such as a chapel; kitchen; beauty shop; and special medical offices for dentist, podiatrist, ophthalmologist, and physical therapy. It also offers community living areas, activity rooms, and craft facilities. Asbury also includes five assisted-living beds.
- **Non-Profit Status:** Aldersgate is a North Carolina not-for-profit corporation. Aldersgate is exempt from the payment of federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

J. Carroll Thomas, *Chairperson*
Joseph P. Snyder, *President and CEO*

Proposals: Aldersgate Boards

(Petition 8)

The Board of Advisors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., proposes:

1. That the following persons be confirmed as members of that board (* denotes new member):

<i>Class of 2011</i>		
Sandra H. Allen	Douglas H. Boyd (*)	Ray Cathey
Robyn A. Crigger	W. Scott Cooper	Lee Dukes (*)
Irma Ellwanger	Max G. Erwin	Ann R. Flouhouse
Lee P. Halbert (*)	Richard P. Holshouser	Bonnie Johnson
Susan S. Keever (*)	Karla H. Knotts (*)	Homer B. Lovvorn (*)
Dan B. McIntyre Jr.	Donald Nehrenberg (*)	

<i>Class of 2010</i>	
*Julia M. Hite	*Mary R. Norris

2. That the following persons be confirmed as members of the Board of Directors of Aldersgate (* denotes new member):

<i>Class of 2009</i>		
Ann Tyler (*)		
<i>Class of 2011</i>		
Joseph H. Cathey Jr.	LeRoy Deabler (*)	Margaret Fisher
Wanda F. Musgrave	C. Ronald Riley	

3. That the following listing be approved to replace the listing of officers and members of the board of directors of Aldersgate on page 34 of the 2007 journal of the Western North Carolina Conference:

J. Carroll Thomas, <i>Chairperson</i>	6051 Legacy Circle, Charlotte, NC 28277
Wanda F. Musgrave, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	P.O.Box 11677, Charlotte NC 28220
Joseph P. Snyder, <i>President and CEO</i>	3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

MEMBERS:

Terms to expire in 2009: Robyn A. Crigger, Zane E. Eargle, Telezee L. Foster, Dan B. McIntyre, Roy H. Wiggins, Ann Tyler.

Terms to expire in 2010: Michael G. Carle, W. Leonard Robinson, Michael R. Smith, Sam H. Smith, Jr.

Terms to expire in 2011: Joseph H. Cathey Jr., LeRoy Deabler, Margaret Fisher, Wanda F. Musgrave, C. Ronald Riley.

Chairperson: J. Carroll Thomas.

Immediate Past Chairperson: Robert W. Lawing Sr.

Chairperson-elect: William T. Jeffries.

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Arbor Acres' 2007 ministry highlights are many, but these are the most illuminating. The names are fictitious, but the highlights are factual:

- Mary, who spent her professional life serving The United Methodist Church, received the necessary financial assistance to enable her to find the "security, contentment, and life with meaning and purpose" (from the mission statement of Arbor Acres) that she has earned.
- Thirty-four residents, like Mary, with deep financial need, likewise enjoyed quality of life through Arbor Acres solely because of generous others: Mother's Day contributors, donors, and those caring enough to remember Arbor Acres in their estate plans.
- John and Jean, faced with mounting health-care needs, were comforted through the Fitzgerald Health Center.
- Bill lost his life companion and helpmate and found himself looking down an abyss of loneliness, only to discover that he is truly not alone.
- Lena, facing cancer, continued her chemotherapy, drawing courage from fellow residents and staff, and strength from accessible, well prepared meals.
- Roberta, overwhelmed by years of caring for her severely ill mother, found a place she could trust, where she could learn to let go with love.
- Georgia's dementia worsened, resulting in a planned move to the Memory Care facility. There she has blossomed, loved just as she is.
- Bob walked in the Heart Walk, Betty tutored a child living in poverty, and the Joneses planned a successful Meals-on-Wheels fundraiser. Like many of their neighbors, these volunteers found new meaning through service to others.
- Linda died with gentleness and dignity at age 102. Her son, Bill, also a resident, spoke at her memorial service in the fellowship hall, a highlight that reflects the light of love.

These are only the smallest fractions of the 2007 highlights, highlights generated as 425 senior adult residents—diverse in education, race, point of origin, and economic status—experienced life, as Mary came to know it, with security, contentment, and a deeper sense of meaning and purpose. Highlights of this kind eclipse such things as the great work undertaken by the board to develop a long-range plan for Arbor Acres' future. They outshine achievements measurable in exceptional annual fund receipts, in extraordinarily high census and waiting list demand, and in greatly reduced staff turnover, all of which are important, but none of which matters apart from the human story of Arbor Acres. In 2007, as in all years, Arbor Acres served with love and compassion, bringing hope and enhanced wellbeing to many in the name of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. This is Arbor Acres' mission, and its privilege.

W. David Piner, *President and CEO*
Michael L. Robinson, *Chairman, Board of Directors*

Proposals: Arbor Acres Board of Directors

(Petition 9)

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 2008</i>	
David W. Bailey	James H. Corrigan	Anita H. Ogburn
William L. Ball, Jr.	James Ferree	Susan S. Schwartz
Edward S. Beason	Richard Fulp	Althea Taylor-Jones
Richard V. Bennett	Emma Graham	Edwin L. Welch, Jr.
David E. Cassels	Dyeann Jordan	
	<i>Class of 2009</i>	
Judy M. Briggs	Linda G. Davis	Michael L. Robinson
Robert S. Chiles, Sr.	Gregory B. Hunter	Robert D. Turner
	Richard M. Marvin	
	<i>Ex-Officio</i>	

J. Lawrence McCleskey, *Resident Bishop*
C. M. Worthy, Jr., *High Point District Superintendent*
Frank H. Ison, *Greensboro District Superintendent*
N. Fred Jordan, Jr., *North Wilkesboro District Superintendent*
Elizabeth Lewis, *President, Resident Council*
Samuel H. Moore, Jr., *Northeast District Superintendent*
William T. Medlin III, *Winston-Salem District Superintendent*
Sylvia D. Wilhelm, *Lexington District Superintendent*

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME

The year 2007 marked 98 years that western North Carolina Methodists have heeded Jesus' call to serve Him by serving the "least of these" through the ministry of their Children's Home. From the beginning, these included the orphaned, the homeless, and the neglected, and now the abused and emotionally scarred as well. The same love and other miracles that have defined our ministry all those years continue to occur daily on both our Winston-Salem and Franklin campuses. We eagerly look forward to continuing this marvelous tradition as we approach our centennial anniversary in 2009.

A total of 430 individual children and family members were served last year through our diverse programs: residential care, foster care, on-campus school (day treatment), family counseling, community services, adoptions, and higher education. With the reopening of our refurbished Gray Cottage last July, we expanded our residential capacity and served about 30 additional youth there by year's end. "My Aunt's House," our new specialized program for homeless teen mothers, will indeed become a reality by the end of this year. It was awarded a five-year operational support grant totaling \$1,000,000—the largest ever for The Children's Home. This program will be housed in our old Reynolds Cottage (once known as the "baby cottage"), the major renovation of which is currently under way. While we expect residential occupancy there in late 2008, along with enrollment in its state-of-the-art child care center, we plan to begin serving this special teen population in temporary quarters on campus as early as May. Furthermore, it is significant that the accelerated revitalization of our farming operation continues not only to provide a viable food source, but also to afford our kids the opportunity to have jobs and develop a strong work ethic. Our faithfully committed trustees continue to strategically plan for our second century, including launching a capital campaign in conjunction with the celebration of our 100th anniversary, to help fund necessary campus improvements and program expansions to serve even more people.

Last year brought even greater blessings from our loyal United Methodist friends, in particular. A majority of the nearly 6,000 volunteer hours logged were by church folks, who pitched in and helped with buildings and grounds maintenance needs, and also provided personal growth opportunities for our kids. Financial support from our church constituency continued to be strong (for example our 2007 Children's Home Sunday offerings totaled about \$74,000). Such involvement mirrored the interest of our community at large, as demonstrated by about 650 folks' attending our annual campus Christmas Tree Lighting and viewing our kids' live nativity at our farm area via hayrides. (By the way, our kids' "live nativity float" in the local Christmas parade was judged "First Place"!)

We continue to welcome church and community folks to experience the beautiful resources of our main campus and to participate in and benefit from our various programs and services.

Please continue to support your Children's Home, the oldest of our conference's health-and-human services institutions, through your prayers, volunteerism, and gifts. It is truly for "the least of these."

George M. Bryan, Jr., *President/CEO*

Proposal: Children's Home Trustees

(Petition 10)

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 2009</i>	<i>Class of 2010</i>	<i>Class of 2011</i>
Lynne H. Berry	Jennifer P. Davis	Mildred S. Carter
Jane G. Hanes	Linda G. Davis	Rebecca K. Johnson
R. Harper Heckman	Bob L. Dunnigan	Donald L. Martin, Jr.
Jean R. Irvin	James W. Ferree	Martha Y. Martinat
Thomas W. Lambeth	Etta W. Marcellus	Richard J. Tamer
James H. Wilson	Wanda S. Merschel	Edwin L. Welch, Jr.
Bob H. Winchester		
Loy H. Witherspoon		

Ex Officio

J. Lawrence McCleskey, *Resident Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference*
 J. Hurley Thomas III, *Superintendent, Winston-Salem District*

4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Thirty years ago, Givens Estates embarked on a faith journey and began construction of the first 78 residential apartments to serve seniors with limited incomes and assets. Over the past three decades, our board of directors has carefully and strategically guided Givens toward becoming a comprehensive continuing care retirement community, with an emphasis on providing a strong foundation of care and service for older adults from all walks of life. Today, we have been blessed with the opportunity to work with SEMAR and SEJAC in developing the Laurels of Junaluska, a beautiful and unique community with 100 residences (36 one-bedroom apartments and 64 two-bedroom apartments), library, activity room, wellness area, multi-purpose area, and other indoor and outdoor common spaces. The Laurels is located

across from Lake Junaluska Assembly, in Haywood County, and the project and program are designed for older adults with low to modest means. We celebrate this significant expansion of our mission and ministry to the seniors of western North Carolina, and we enthusiastically welcome the new residents into the Givens Estates family.

In September of 2007, we paused to celebrate the tireless and faith-filled leadership of five long-time board members who collectively served our ministry for over 120 years. Richard A. Wood, Jr., Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr., William B. Cagle, Frances C. Waser, and Robert E. Shepherd provided Givens Estates with the vision to develop and grow over a 30-year period. Their presence and resolve gave us the courage to successfully manage our formative years; two major expansions; and extensive community outreach, including LifeMinistries, MemoryCare, MAHEC, the Vanderbilt Apartments, and now the Laurels of Junaluska. With the individual and collective leadership of these outstanding persons, Givens has become a full-service continuing care retirement community, with a commitment to quality care, service, and outreach. Their dedication has positively impacted our residents, their families, and our industry. They have endeared themselves to this community, leaving a legacy that will remain a vital part of our ministry for years to come. On September 23, we honored these important volunteers by dedicating our new Pulliam Chapel in their honor, and with a beautiful service of praise and thanksgiving for their servant-leadership and passion for the Givens ministry. Heartfelt gratitude was especially expressed by the total Givens community to Chair *Emeritus* Wood, who has served on the board for 33 years and as board chairman for 24 years. Words are inadequate to describe Mr. Wood's indelible imprint on our ministry.

Through a longstanding relationship with Mountain Area Health and Education Clinic (MAHEC), we continue to make progress with developing and constructing a family practice medical clinic, with an emphasis in geriatrics, on our campus. The clinic will serve persons in southern Buncombe County and will be a training site for UNC-Chapel Hill Medical School physician interns. Givens is also partnering with Mills River United Methodist Church, through LifeMinistries Outreach, to assist their congregation in developing health- and faith-centered ministries in their growing rural community. We are a vital shareholder in this critical ministry and are working with volunteers to enhance the quality of life for seniors. The Duke Endowment has been a sustaining benefactor in our efforts to share our mission and ministry in western North Carolina.

The support and partnership of many people has allowed Givens Estates to uphold a commitment to serve people from all walks of life. Our ability to sustain and carry out this commitment is grounded in a legacy of Christian service by our dedicated friends, residents, and staff. We are blessed with their passion!

Kenneth M. Partin, Chief Executive Officer

Proposal: Givens Estates Directors

(Petition 11)

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

Class of 2009

William F. Depp	Peggy C. Melville	Elaine T. Wolf
Doris P. Loomis	Virginia Robinson	George W. Wooten
Billy S. Martin	Patricia S. Smith	

Class of 2010

Steven E. Arnaudin	Robert E. Shepherd	G. Edward Towson II
Mark B. Clasby	Hal F. Starnes	Kathleen M. Wilson
Gregory D. Hutchins	Kenneth W. Swayze, Jr	

Class of 2011

Myron L. Coulter	Kathy Rabb	***
Louisa R. Goebel	Phillip J. Tate	***
Gordon C. Goodgame	Donald L. Watrous	***

Ex Officio

William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)	Frances C. Waser (Honorary Life)
Thomas E. Camp, III (Givens Trust)	Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr. (Honorary Life)
Lucian C. Rice (Medical)	Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Chairman <i>Emeritus</i>)
Ronald A. Sistrunk (Resident Council Rep.)	

Clergy

Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.	D. Michael Jordan	C. Sydnor Thompson III
Ben W. Curry	W. Lyn Sorrell	***
J. Lawrence McCleskey, <i>Resident Bishop</i>		
James T. Trollinger, <i>Assistant to the Bishop</i>		
John S. Boggs, <i>Asheville District Superintendent</i>		
Phillip B. Cole, <i>Marion District Superintendent</i>		
Stephen D. James, <i>Conference Director of Connectional Ministries</i>		
J. Alexander Ward, Jr., <i>Waynesville District Superintendent</i>		

5. UMAR–WNC, INC.

Through Our Doors, Lives Are Changing!

Since 1983, UMAR has provided quality services to adults with developmental disabilities. In 2008, UMAR continued to provide quality services and increase fiscal health, all while continuing to expand current services and develop new services in order to meet population needs that continue to grow and increase in their sophistication.

Highlights for 2007:

- Finished construction of the Barnabas Home. Located on the grounds of Mt. Zion Church, Cornelius, Barnabas is home to six men.
- Implementation of a supported employment program that provides one-on-one job development, training, and support.
- Awarded a HUD grant to construct a nine-unit apartment building on the grounds of Aldersgate CCRC.
- Began fundraising for a second Lake Norman-area home.
- Received a HUD grant and began construction of a replacement home for the Lincoln County Group Home (LCGH).

Anticipated Highlights for 2008:

- Celebration of UMAR's 25th anniversary!
- Achievement of national accreditation for program services and business systems.
- Fundraising for, and construction of, a second home in the Lake Norman area.
- Occupancy of the Ardell and Edna Lanier Home (Lexington District). The Lanier Home, funded through fundraising efforts of the Lexington District, will be home to six women.
- Applying to HUD for a grant to construct a second home in the Lexington District.
- Occupancy of the Lincoln County (LCGH) replacement home. UMAR took over ownership and operation of the LCGH in 2006. The home has benefited, programmatically and financially, from being part of the UMAR family.
- Further implementation of UMAR's social capital program. The emphasis of social capital is to integrate our residents into their communities through the development and leveraging of their network of relationships.
- The development of an arts program that will teach a variety of art media, resulting in direct or indirect integration and employment in the arts community.

Proposal: UMAR Trustees

(Petition 12)

The Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc., proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2008:

<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>	<i>Class of 2010</i>
Sallie Close	Dwight Marshall	Jim Cochran
Bill Eller	Carolyn Middlebrooks	Charlie Lieske
George Fleming	Linda Weisbruch	Ed Imbrogno
Libby Privette	Mike Wilson	Ginger Kelly
Morry Johnston	Bill Ervin	Adam Dunaway
	<i>Ex Officio with Voice and Vote</i>	
Arnetta E. Beverly	James H. Graves	
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
Theresa Hall	Tom Hollowell	Bob King
Aaron W. Moss		

6. CHRYSALIS COUNSELING CENTER

Our vision for the Chrysalis centers in Greensboro, High Point, and Lexington is to be a community in which *all* persons have access to quality, compassionate, and affordable health care which integrates body, mind, and spirit. We counsel individuals, couples, families, and children referred by churches and others who may be experiencing a multitude of mental health issues.

We also consult with churches and pastoral staff to provide mediation, education, and spiritual renewal for those who want to grow their connections to the health community.

The years 2007 and 2008 have witnessed an increase in services for persons with the emotional health issues of depression, anxiety, and marital conflict. Restrictions by managed care, the state mental health dilemma, and restricted health-care dollars in general mean that there are limited funding resources available from traditional entities.

High levels of mental stress impact our job performance, our relationship with our spouses and children, and even our ability to respond to God's call in our lives. We extend the invitation to churches in our

conference to be a part of building the Chrysalis ministry by (a) using your talent in joining the Chrysalis board of directors (call Dr. Gary Kling at 336-253-1759) and (b) working in your church to help build a base of education and funding which can provide immediate services to all individuals seeking help with emotional and spiritual needs.

Chrysalis Counseling Center goals for 2008 are:

1. To provide a therapist and office for the High Point District to serve the needs of churches and individuals in all of Randolph County.
2. To develop a Greensboro District pastoral care consultation group for clergy who want to enhance their skills in working with pastoral care needs in the congregational setting and grow their churches. CEUs are provided, as well as pathways toward certification as a pastoral care specialist. This will involve funding through grants and endowments, where available, so that clergy are not severely impacted by cost. Contact the director at 336-852-0626 if you or your pastor are interested.
3. To start a Samaritan Scholarship Fund to provide quality, professional counseling to persons who cannot afford it on their own. In order to provide affordable, professional counseling to the poor and others, Chrysalis will promote a fundraiser to raise at least \$30,000 in initial seed money in 2008. This, along with other contributions, will extend the light of God's grace to those who "sit in darkness" in the distress of confusion, anxiety, and depression.

If you have been helped at some time in your life by the intervention of care and counseling and you are convinced this is the burning but overlooked issue of our church, please support Chrysalis Counseling Center in this ministry in your church.

Gary L. Kling, *Executive Director*

7. 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 historically serves five districts that cover an 11-county area. In the past year, MCCS provided 7,008 hours of individual, marital, family, and group therapy. We provided 36 hours of consultation with various congregations. We also conducted 249 workshops and educational events for congregations. We have updated our website, a move that has generated a significant response. Additionally, we have started an on-line journal, *Cardia-gram*, which has produced issues for the first two quarters of 2007. The winter journal focused on depression, while the spring journal addressed the topic of clergy care. The journal can be accessed by visiting the MCCS website at www.mccsvs.org. MCCS is a service center that is accredited by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute.

Thanks to Nancy Ratcliff, who handles the finances for MCCS, and John V. Arey, Jr., who serves as clinical services director and as a delegate to the MCCS board. We have had an excellent year. We are at the point of seeking several additional counselors.

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 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 MCCS 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 MCCS website at www.mccsvs.org

James R. Westmoreland, *Chairperson*
John V. Arey, Jr., *Clinical Service Director*

Proposal: MCCS Directors**(Petition 13)**

The Board of Directors of Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the Annual Conference as members of that board:

Carroll Bostic	William T. Jeffries	Kenneth G. Roth, Jr.
Laurie A. Knoespel	Ken Porter	J. C. (Ted) Troutman III
James R. Westmoreland		

The superintendents of the Albemarle, Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, and Statesville districts are ex-officio members.

8. THE POTTER'S TOUCH

The Potter's Touch is a network of trained counselors and spiritual directors who seek to provide counseling and spiritual direction services for United Methodists in the Asheville, Waynesville, and Marion districts of the Western North Carolina Conference.

The Potter's Touch seeks to be an instrument of the church in answering Christ's call to engage the world through ministries of healing, reconciliation, nurture, and hope. Through our professionally trained counselors, support and healing are offered as we provide counseling, therapy, education, and consultation for United Methodists. Through our trained spiritual directors, we offer support for the process of discernment in one's life.

The Potter's Touch provides limited financial assistance for counseling and spiritual direction for United Methodists in this region, making these ministries more affordable for persons in need. As a non-profit agency, we receive support from the generosity of local churches, individual donor gifts, districts, foundations, and annual conference funds. Persons are encouraged to use insurance and self-pay as they are able.

We continue to expand our network of providers to better serve the Asheville, Waynesville and Marion districts. The Potter's Touch plans to add at least one additional provider in both the Marion and Waynesville districts in 2008, as we seek to provide additional service to these areas.

Our Providers*In the Asheville area:*

Susan Sihler, M.S.W., LCSW, Board Certified Diplomat, Counselor/ Spiritual Director; 828-281-4566 ext. 1.

Alice Myer, M.S.W., LCSW, Counselor and Spiritual Director 828-281-4566 ext. 3.

Wes Sharpe, M.Div., LPC, Counselor, 828-281-4566 ext. 2.

Don Kelley, Spiritual Director, 828-669-0756.

Katie Warren, Spiritual Director, 828-254-8564 or 828-251-1294.

In the Waynesville area:

Diane Stamey, M.Div., NCLMFT, NC Licensed Pastoral Counselor, 828-452-1544.

In the Mars Hill and Marion area:

Irene Libretto, M.S.W., LCSW, Counselor, 828-680-9095 ext 4.

Lynda T. Briggs, *President*

9. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY

Deaf ministry focuses on education, training, and spiritual formation, as it strives to serve/provide the whole Western North Carolina Conference with tools needed to help individual churches and districts serve the deaf and hard of hearing in their areas, including grants from two scholarship funds. We strive to minister to the whole person. 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, their families, and their friends. In addition to the work of the director, board members are actively involved in the ministry.

Deaf ministry seeks to address four of the seven conference Vision-for-Ministry emphases: (1) to intentionally relate un-churched persons to Jesus Christ (and keep those already in church connected), (2) to promote disciple-based Bible study, (3) to nurture unity in Christ that values diversity, and (4) to reach out to the poor and suffering in local communities.

With these priorities in mind, we:

- Are working toward a full table of deaf men and women pilgrims for Walk to Emmaus 2008 fall weekends as we continue to work toward making disciples for Jesus Christ within the deaf community.
- Provided computer-assisted note-taking services once again this year during annual conference, equipping those with hearing loss to fully participate in worship and other activities in Stuart Auditorium. This service also provides a demonstration of this technology to conference members, with the hope that they will consider using it in their churches.

- Published the second edition of our newsletter, *His Hands and Feet*, to highlight deaf ministry activities. They were mailed to nurture/outreach leaders, Christian educators, and those who support deaf ministry with their gifts and placed in the March issue of *Missions Alive!* They were also distributed at Harvest of Blessings. Check out our display at the Terrace Hotel for a copy and other resources.
- Continue to be 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.
- Were actively involved as a board in the preparation and planning for a large educational deaf ministry weekend of workshops, or a "show and tell," for our conference in May of this year. Designed for pastors, Christian educators, interpreters, and other leaders who are working or wish to work with d/Deaf/hh, this event, "Visualize Deaf Ministry: Ministering to People with Hearing Loss," was a celebration of ministry made visible. Led by deaf ministry pastors and leadership from across the country, it truly was a wonderful weekend of celebration, as we trained attendees in how to reach out to North American's most un-reached, least-visible group of people.
- Worked on an international level by working with a team and sending an interpreter to reach deaf children in Nakuru, Kenya, Africa.

We wish to thank all the wonderful churches, individuals, and organizations that continue to faithfully support deaf ministry. 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, or phone 828-734-9154 (V or text), or see www.wnccumc.org/hhs/deafministry.htm.

Kay C. Free, *Director*

COUNCIL ON LAITY

The Council on Laity continues to work throughout this conference for the transformation of individuals, congregations, and communities. We advocate for partnership in ministry with our clergy in churches of all sizes, locations, and cultural memberships. Our focus has been to strengthen the spiritual disciplines of laity and clergy through participation in covenant groups.

The Council on Laity is made up of the resident bishop; the 14 district lay leaders; the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women; the vice-chair of the Council on Youth Ministries; the chair, treasurer, and registrar of the Gathering of Laity; the chair of the Conference Ministries Advisory Council; the conference director of lay speaking; the director of the Laity Service Award; the conference prayer advocate; the conference Scouting coordinator; and 12 members at large. We are served by a representative from the Cabinet and a representative of the conference staff. We meet four times a year in various locations across our conference. Our first meeting of the year is held in conjunction with the Gathering of Laity in August at Lake Junaluska. Our subsequent meetings were on November 18, at St. Paul Church, Winston-Salem; on February 17, at Williamson's Chapel Church, Mooresville; and on May 18, at Milford Hills Church, Salisbury. It is always an enriching experience to worship with fellow United Methodist and share in our great diversity.

The Council on Laity sponsors the Gathering of Laity each year. The 43rd annual gathering is scheduled for August 15-17, 2008, at Lake Junaluska, with the theme, "Laity Transforming the World." Keynote speakers include Dr. John Ed Mathison, recently retired senior pastor of Frazer Memorial Church, Montgomery, Alabama; Dr. Maxie Dunham, former president of Asbury Theological Seminary and widely published author from the Kentucky Annual Conference; Angela A. Pleasants, pastor of own Central Church, Charlotte; and Lyn Powell, president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, who will give the same Laity Address given to the 2008 General Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, entitled, "Disciples Transforming the World." The Junaluska Singers, directed by Dr. Glenn Draper, will be in concert on Saturday afternoon.

The Council on Laity appreciates the devoted guidance and leadership we have received from Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, Lynne B. Caldwell, and Mark L. Barden this past quadrennium. We recognize the call from all areas of our church for deepening of our spiritual disciplines. We are committed to the Christian principles given in Bishop Rueben P. Job's book, *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. We recommend this little book to all. In it, you will find a way of living which can truly transform the world: Do no harm. Do Good. Stay in love with God. May it be so!

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN

We are excited in the Western North Carolina conference. All of our district-president positions are filled, and the districts are reaching out and organizing new fellowships. Our executive committee continues to meet quarterly in various locations throughout the annual conference. We are planning for our 2008 annual UMMen Rally, to be held at Lake Junaluska during the last weekend of April. For this rally, we are making an effort to reach out to young men and youth by having events which we believe will in-