

**2004 North Georgia Annual Conference Session**  
***A New Generation of Servant Leaders***  
**Athens Classic Center, Athens, GA**  
**Bishop G. Lindsey Davis, presiding**

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP UP**

**The purpose of this document is to help clergy and lay delegates communicate the business of the 2004 Annual Conference Session to their local church membership. Please note, this document is not intended to be an exhaustive report of all that occurred during the conference session. Our hope is to provide you with information which may have a direct impact upon your local church.**

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation**

- The Conference passed the following schedule of minimum base compensation for 2005: Full Connection Elder-\$31,500; Full Connection Deacon-\$31,500; Associate Member-\$30,000; Probationary Member-\$30,000; Full Time Local Pastor-27,300; Student Pastor-\$19,600.

#### **2. The Board of Pensions and Health Insurance**

- Past service rate for pre-1982 service was set to \$570 per year in 2005. This is an increase of \$25 from 2004.

#### **3. Conference Insurance**

- HealthFlex will change carriers from Cigna to United HealthCare Choice Plus Network on Jan. 1, 2005. Workshops will be held in October for plan participants. Although rates are going up 17%, the use of the clergy insurance reserve will keep the actual increase at approximately 7% (*if no other increases are passed along by the General Board this Fall*).
- Retired clergy, clergy spouses, and surviving spouses will share in the cost of the program according to the percentages adopted. No person whose total service before 1983 will be expected to contribute to the cost of the coverage.

#### **4. Council on Finance and Administration**

- Seventeen recommendations were approved. Seven of those recommendations include: **#1)** Special days with offerings but without quotas for a Homeless Offering <Feb.13>, a Mother's Day Offering <May 8>, a Golden Cross Offering <Aug.7>, a UMChildren's Home Work Day Offering <Sept 9>; and an Aldersgate Homes Offering <Dec.11>; **#2)** UMChildren's Home, Wesley Homes, Action Ministries, and Aldersgate Homes, Inc. may have one direct mail appeal for funds in 2005; **#3)** those serving on annual conference committees and task forces will be reimbursed the IRS approved volunteer rate of \$.14/mile; **#4)** an increase in the pension apportionment of 13% to address the unfunded past service (pre-1982) pension liability; **#5)** full-time clergy and each Charge pay their apportionments and health insurance premiums, in full on a monthly basis; **#6)** all unincorporated churches explore the advantages of incorporation and seek guidance from the Conference Chancellor if they move to incorporate;

#7) local churches institute or update risk management practices and procedures to protect church assets, employees, and volunteers.

## **5. Apportionments**

- Apportionment payments were up \$353,000 with 762 churches paying 100%.
- The Gainesville District paid 100% of their apportionments for the 4th year in a row.

## **6. The North Georgia Conference Budget**

- The Conference budget was increased by \*3.3%. This is the lowest increase in 10 years (*\*as of printing on Thursday evening, June 17, 2004*).

## **OUTREACH INFORMATION**

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### **1. Annual Conference Offerings**

- Offering for Murphy-Harpst was over \$36,000.

## **CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES INFORMATION**

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### **1. New Director**

- Mike Selleck has been named the new director of the Connectional Ministries Office.

## **CONFERENCE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

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### **1. Awards were given as follows:**

- *a) A Church for All God's Children – Smyrna First, Zoar; b) Religion & Race – Cub Scout Pack 247 of Norcross First, Still Waters Mission, Holy Dale; c) Church of Excellence in Outreach – Jones Chapel (Danielsville), North Decatur, Inman (Fayetteville), Morrow First, Mt. Carmel (Norcross), Walker (Greensboro), Prospect (Lawrenceville), Clarkston, Philadelphia (Conyers), Level Creek, Hoosier Memorial; d) Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns – Sandy Springs, Briarcliff; e) Denman Awards -- Walter Johnson and John Wolfe; f) Mother Church of the Year Award: Richard Hunter, Hillside UMC; g) Eleanor Richardson Award: Paul Hanna; h) J. Taylor Phillips Award for Moral Leadership - Randy Mickler.*

## **CONFERENCE GROWTH**

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### **1. Statistics**

- With 333,664 members in the North Georgia Conference, we continue to grow at a rate of 2% per year.

## **CLERGY RECOGNITION AND INFORMATION**

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### **1. Ordination of Clergy**

- 31 people were commissioned as probationary members of the Annual Conference.
- 3 people were ordained as Deacon, and 18 were ordained as Elder.
- Conference giving toward the Ministerial Education Fund allowed the Board of Ordained Ministry to give out more than \$108,000 in grants and loans.

## **2. Board of Ordained Ministry**

- Standing Rules were changed to add ten additional members to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

## **3. Recognition of retiring clergy**

- Ed Tomlinson introduced those retiring: Benny & Connie Abney, James B. Aiken III, Alan & Kit Benson, Mac & Vickie Brantley, Lloyd Chapin, Phil & Lu DeMore, Carol Fox, Helen & George Henry, Willie Golphin, Tom & Eva Jameson, Guy Kent, Patricia Looper, Jim & Peggy Mitchell, Jerry & Carol Newton, Sue Parnell, R. D. Pollard, Curtis R. Rivers, Patrick Shannon, Peter & Louise Strals, Larry & Sue Summerour, Charles Walls, and Judith Warner. This represents 578 years of service to the church.

## **4. A Service of Celebration and Remembrance**

- Our honored deceased: **Clergy**—Charles Copher, Charles V. Gerkin, Paul Victor Hall, George Samuel Kittle, Paul Loyd, Edgar Allen Padgett, John D. Quillian, Ira Newton Scott, Marion Julius Sherill, LeRoy Smith, Mildred R. Speer, Howard R. Staples, Jeffery A. Stone, Edward Walters, Alonzia Williams, Robert Neal Windom Sr. **Spouses**—Priscilla Adams, Agnes S. Bridges, Elizabeth B. Flurry, Mable Parker Gray, Martha Ann Kittle, Geraldine Moore, Judy Powell, Betty Alcie Sanders, Bernice Meeks Smith, Madelyn Staples, Marie Richardson Thompson, Margaret Tyson, Leander Waters, Vivian Watley,

## **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION**

### **1. New Churches**

- Persons starting New Churches: John and Shauna Kelly; Chris and Crystal Bryant; Troy and Emma Bryant; Aida Luz Beltran-Gaetan and Daniel Gaetan

### **2. Mission Churches**

- Persons starting Mission Churches: Eduardo Stevens and Janet Gordon; Ken Stephens; Daisie and Bill Colonna; Hyo Shik Kim and Buiong Ae Kim; Enrique Navarro.

### **3. Fresh Start Churches**

- Persons starting Fresh Start Churches: Rimes and Kathryn McElveen; Aubrey Thompson and Yvonne Prather; Susan and Tony Taylor.

### **4. New Director**

- Parks Davis will become the next executive director of Church Development.

## **COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION**

### **1. Office of Communications**

- Lay and clergy, please submit your email addresses to be kept up-to-date on conference news.

### **2. Wesleyan Christian Advocate**

- Please continue to support the WCA as its future is in jeopardy. Subscriptions have dropped from 41,000 to 14,000 over the last 30 years.

## **LAITY RECOGNITION AND INFORMATION**

### **1. Training**

- There have been 90 graduates of the Leadership UMC program over the last quadrennium.
- 34 lay missionaries have been trained.

### **2. New Leadership**

- Lyn Powell will become the new Conference Lay Leader and will become a part of the extended cabinet.

## **2004 SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Episcopal Nominee**

- The annual conference voted to endorse Jonathan Holston as our nominee for the Episcopacy.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **1. Special Offering**

- \$70,000 was raised to support the Student Internship program. Additional gifts may still be sent to the Conference Treasurer's Office.