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2017 Annual Conference Session Handbook

Report numbers marked with an asterisk () are on the Consent Agenda unless removed during Session Five. The Consent Agenda is listed on page 23.*

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to the 2017 North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. It has been a joy to get to know you and serve as your bishop since September. I am anticipating a wonderful time together at this 151st session of the Annual Conference as we worship, fellowship and learn from one another.



Our conference theme this year is “Show Your Work: Worship that Inspires Action.” We will celebrate the good work that has been accomplished through our United Methodist connection and we’ll be led in worship by excellent practitioners from our own North Georgia United Methodist churches.

We welcome as our worship leaders

- Sonny Sellers partnering with Erik Lee and the Chapel Roswell team,
- Cyndi McDonald and Atticus Hicks,
- Jane Brooks and Gerald Ricks, and
- Olu Brown and the Impact worship team.

Extensive planning has gone into the services with dozens more lending support and coordination. Jimmy Moor will be guest preacher for the Service of Remembrance.

This year we will collect a conference-wide special offering to benefit our conference’s Ministerial Education Fund. Each of us benefit from the education of our clergy and together we can ease the burden of the expense of that education. Join the effort by giving generously to our special offering.

Please join me in praying for all the clergy and lay members as we come together for our annual conference. It is my hope we will get a glimpse of what Bishop Robert Schnase describes in his book *Seven Levers*:

“Imagine gathering lay and clergy from all the congregations together in one place to reconfirm who we are, what we do, and why it matters. Imagine high-quality worship, preaching, teaching, and service that clarify our common mission, connect us with one another, stimulate best practices, renew our spirits, and help us rededicate ourselves to Christ and to the people God calls us to serve,” he writes. Let it be!

Grace and peace to you,

Anne Haupt-Johnson

Dear Members of the 2017 Annual Conference,

On behalf of the Athens-Elberton District and host committee, welcome back to Athens! Our theme this year is “Show Your Work: Creative Worship That Inspires Action.” Our time together begins with Laity Orientation and Clergy Executive Session at 10 a.m. **Tuesday, June 13**, and ends **Thursday, the 15th**. Information about the conference is in this handbook. The information and a registration link are available on the conference website, www.ngumc.org. For those attending annual conference for the first time, orientation to Athens and the Classic Center will be held downstairs in the Grand Hall rooms #4 & #5, 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 13.

Remember, each member to the 2017 Annual Conference is responsible for his or her own lodging arrangements.

- A list of area hotels is on the Conference website. Lower rates come by mentioning that you are a part of the North Georgia UM Annual Conference.
- If you made reservations last year, confirm them and verify the nights of stay. PLEASE cancel any reservations you do not plan on using.
- If you need assistance, contact the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 706-357-4434.

Use your Parking Permit in the handbook for complimentary parking at three sites: The Classic Center, the county parking deck across from the Classic Center, and the UGA North Campus deck (with shuttle services provided). Additional handicapped parking is available at covered meters. Regular street parking meter fees extend 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and they are strictly enforced with stiff fines.

Athens is filled with a variety of restaurants within walking distance of the Classic Center. As in past years, breakfast and lunch vendors will be available at the Classic Center. Certain meal event reservations (i.e., Laity, Order of Deacons, Extension Ministers, and Local Pastor) must be made online by June 5. Tickets will be distributed at a designated location at the Classic Center.

Our mission projects planned so far for this conference are a blood drive and a 5K race. The American Red Cross drive is Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13 and 14. A Red Cross registration link will be on the Conference website, available mid-April. A 5K race, sponsored by the N. Georgia Conference Council on Youth Ministries, is set for Wednesday morning.

Again, welcome. May God’s will prevail as we attend to making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Gary L. Whetstone, District Superintendent
Leon Jourolmon, Lay Co-Chair; Dianne Morrison, Lay Co-Chair
Chuck Hodges, Clergy Chair, Host Committee
Ray Cann, District Lay Leader; Johnny Fowler, Host Committee Chair Emeritus

Annual Conference Theme and Logo
Show Your Work: Worship That Inspires Action



Members of the 2017 Annual Conference will experience the theme “Show Your Work: Worship that Inspires Action” first hand!

In a nod to high school math class, when just showing up with an answer isn’t enough, we will see how time spent in preparation is an invaluable component in worship. We’ll consider how prayer, reading scripture, preparation and collaboration lead to excellent worship – worship that goes beyond lifting our praises in the moment, but inspires us to live as disciples every day.

Worship practitioners from across our conference are putting in hours of preparation so that together we can experience excellent worship as an Annual Conference.

A teaching time called “Show Your Work” is set to accompany each worship service, allowing the planners to share practical tips and insight on what went into the making of the service.

You’ll notice in the color version of our logo on the cover, the red circle (prayer and scripture) and blue circle (preparation) blend to become purple (excellent worship). The plus sign doubles as a reminder of the essential step of collaboration. Annual Conference worship teams have been working for months, collaborating with liturgists, servers, musicians and worship and visuals committees.

“Our goal is to have the best worship experiences we’ve had all year!” said Bishop Sue.

Not just during our Annual Conference session, but in congregations across our region, let’s show our work and offer worship that inspires action.

Worship Opportunities at 2017 Annual Conference

Morning Communion & Morning Prayer—Empire Room, 7:30 a.m.

A brief service of Word and Table with music will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Thursday morning will be a service of intercessory prayer, guided by words and images. Morning services will be offered in Empire Room of the Foundry Building.

Worship at Annual Conference will follow the basic worship pattern of Christian worship: **Gather, Proclaim, Respond, Send Forth**. What we experience this week will inspire our creativity and desire for worship that truly touches the lives of all who gather in our local settings week after week. The theme of “*Show Your Work: Worship That Inspires Action*” applies to worship at annual conference, too. The planning team for each service will offer a brief presentation about how they planned and implemented each worship experience. This will help us to envision how we can plan a variety of creative worship experiences in our local settings on any scale, with staff and/or volunteers, in any environment.

Worship experiences will flow in this pattern as listed below:

Gather: Opening Worship—Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.

Coming from every region of North Georgia, the lay and clergy leaders of the North Georgia Conference will gather to worship and conference. As rocks are brought forth during the procession, we will build an Ebenezer or “stone of help” reminding us of God’s presence and power among us, just as Samuel meant to signify when he “took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far the LORD has helped us,’” 1 Samuel 7: 12. The flowing water reminds us of our baptism, out of which all ministry grows. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, our own resident bishop, will preach. This opening time of worship is planned and led by Sonny Sellers of Griffin UMC, GRFN and Eric Lee along with the Chapel Roswell Band, AROS. Worship will be in Grand Hall.

Proclaim: Service of Remembrance—Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

This service remembers those who have faithfully proclaimed the Gospel and now rest from their labors as we remember the lives of the clergy, clergy spouses, and laypersons who have given leadership to the life of the annual conference. This service of proclamation is planned and led by Cyndi

McDonald, Mt. Carmel UMC, AROS and Atticus Hicks with the Oak Grove UMC's 9:35 Band, AMRY. Our preacher will be Jimmy Moor, retired clergy member of the annual conference. Worship will be in Grand Hall.

**Respond: Service of Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensure –
*Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.**

Ordination is the sign of setting apart individuals to servant leadership and grows out of the baptismal covenant as a response to God's call in our lives. Indeed, this a special moment in the lives of individuals and the church. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will be our preacher. The service of response is planned and led by Jane Brooks, OMS, Robert McMichael of Mt. Bethel UMC, AROS, and Gerald Ricks of Central UMC, ACPK. Worship will be in the Theatre.

**Please note that this service is on Wednesday, a different night than it has been in the recent past and plan accordingly when inviting guests to attend.*

Service of Commissioning for a Missionary – Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Commissioning and sending missionaries is a tangible, visible witness of our joint response to God's mission. The United Methodist Church has a great tradition of sending persons into mission. North Georgia is honored to share in commissioning a candidate from Zimbabwe with Bishop Sue presiding.

Send Forth: Service of Sending Forth—Thursday, 2:45 p.m.

The Spirit always sends us forth to serve. As we conclude our week together, we will go forth enthused and ready to lead and participate in vibrant worship in our local settings. Led in worship by Olu Brown and the worship team from Impact Church, ACPK, this worship service will celebrate all our work, bind us together with Christ in a celebration of Holy Communion, and send us forth inspired to show our work to all the world. Worship will be in Grand Hall.

The Annual Conference Worship Planning Team:

- Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Jane Brooks
- Conference Secretary: Donn Ann Weber
- Worship Advisor: Don Saliers
- Visuals: Cyndi MacDonald, Ellynda Lipsey, Deanne Lynch
- Logistics/Production: Robert Gilleo
- Communion Logistics: Terri Lemons
- Host Committee, Acolytes: Betsy Butler
- Worship Coordinators: Dave and Susan Allen Grady

Visuals in Worship

Throughout our business sessions and worship services the visuals team works to transform the Grand Hall and Theatre into sanctuaries in which we have a sense of meeting God.

The Ebenezer Font

A key element is the Ebenezer font, a water and stone feature on the Grand Hall stage. Samuel set a stone and named it Ebenezer, “Thus far the LORD has helped us” (1 Samuel 7:12). The feature was designed so that stones and glass beads could be added throughout the annual conference sessions. As we are joined to Christ in our baptism, we are joined to one another into a communion of saints. At the opening worship service on Tuesday, June 13, the district superintendents and district lay leaders will add glass stones to the font. Our ministry of clergy and lay together flows out of our common calling in baptism.

At the Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, June 14, family members will bring a stone with the name of the person being remembered. These dearly departed saints are Ebenezers, as we have seen God at work through their lives. Placing their named stones in the font signifies that the communion of saints extends beyond death.

At the passing of the mantle on Wednesday morning, June 14, those being ordained will add red stones to the font, signifying the call of the Holy Spirit on their lives. At the sending forth worship on Thursday afternoon, June 15, when we participate in Holy Communion, we will take with us stones from the Ebenezer font, reminding us that we are sent forth in ministry.

Entry Fonts

Two fonts are located at entrances of the Grand Hall, to remind that we enter as God's baptized people. As you enter, you are invited to touch the water and remember who you are and whose you are. As you leave the Grand Hall and walk by the fonts to exit be reminded that your baptism sends you out to proclaim and serve.

Four Areas of Focus Banners

The banners and paraments support the overall themes of our baptismal calling. The four banners in the business sessions remind us of the four areas of ministry focus from General Conference: engaging in ministry with the poor, improving global health, developing principled Christian leaders, and creating

new and renewed congregations. These were designed and quilted by members of Marietta First UMC, AMAR, and inspired by the art of Jan Richardson.

Worship Service Banners

The banners used in worship sessions are on loan from liturgical artist Tara Campbell (www.taracampbellart.com.) They are part of a series of paintings based on the hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” and include the images (left to right as displayed):

- "Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love"
- "Here I raise my Ebenezer"
- "Streams of mercy, never ceasing"
- "Safely to arrive at home"
- "Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above."

Altar Frontal

The altar frontal in the Ordination Service, “Proclaim,” was created from t-shirts of those being ordained and Christmas cards. The piece celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all those called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Stations

The four prayer stations were created by members of the conference youth delegation. The water-colored beads hanging above each station are reminders of water droplets flowing up and down. In our baptism, water flows down and we are anointed as priests (1 Peter 2:5). Our praises and intercessions rise and are welcome in the heavenly realms.

Beaded Votives and Cross

During the Service of Remembrance, a blue-beaded embellished votive candle will be on the altar in memory of each departed saint. At the end of the service, families are invited to the Atrium and receive a votive. The beaded cross was created and used in past annual conference sessions and was modified for use this year during the Service of Remembrance.

Prayer Room Labyrinth

We are thankful for John Rhodes of Harmony Grove UMC, AMRY for sharing his passion of contemplative directed prayer. The Prayer Labyrinth is located in the Empire Room of the Foundry Building.

Stations of the Cross

Christ and the Stations of the Cross is a sixteen-panel needlepoint exhibit created by women from Glenn Memorial UMC and Fort Street UMC to show our Lord's journey to the cross and beyond. This gentle medium was used to tell the story of betrayal and tragedy to glorious joy! You are invited to pray Stations of the Cross in the Prayer Room.

The Visuals Team Process

The visuals team appreciates Bishop Sue and the worship team setting a clear direction early in the planning process. This allows us time to create visuals that support the overall message of the worship service and conference.

We gather on a regular basis to share ideas and inspiring images. We attend worship planning meetings, and meet immediately afterwards to share our gut reactions and ideas. We use email and Pinterest to share inspiring images and encourage one another.

Sometimes the team creates visuals together. For example, the team members came together with ideas and supplies to create votive candles to honor those named in the Service of Remembrance. We worked together to develop a common process, and then divided the remaining candles among ourselves for completion.

Other elements are created individually. A team member makes a suggestion that draws from their experience and may take responsibility for that element. For example, the Ebenezer font reflects much discussion, sharing of inspiration images, and experience making paper stones. Deanne Lynch took on the project, designed a structure, and with volunteer help constructed the base.

This format allows for creativity and theological reflection. Often the person most excited about a visual element is the one who volunteers for that element. Giving one person final responsibility for a service or visual element reflects the profound trust we have in one another and the ways we have seen God at work in one another's ministry.

The Annual Conference Visuals Team
Ellynda Lipsey, Deanne Lynch, Pam McCurdy and Cyndi McDonald

Special Offering



Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the Ministerial Education Fund as the 2017 Annual Conference Special Offering.

The Ministerial Education Fund has helped thousands of men and women become pastoral leaders in The United Methodist Church. Chances are seminary students from your congregation or the pastor of your church was a recipient of MEF. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school.

Aligning with the theme of the 2017 Annual Conference, "Show Your Work: Worship That Inspires Action," this fund is one way United Methodists can show our support to those called to serve as clergy. Together we can help minimize debt of North Georgia United Methodists beginning in ministry.

"Receiving MEF in seminary meant that my conference cared about me and my development and training as a future clergy woman," said Joya Abrams, associate pastor at Impact UMC. "When your conference helps to fund your education, it means that a body of people believe in you. It helped to remind me of the depth of the connection."

MEF is a general church apportioned fund of which 25 percent is retained by our conference. But 100 percent of the giving to the Annual Conference Special Offering will go to United Methodist seminary and course of study students in the North Georgia Conference.

Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before Annual Conference 2017, but many choose the first Sunday in June: June 4, 2017. One person from each local church will present a check from their church during the Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, June 14, at 2 p.m.

Please give generously to the Annual Conference Special Offering.

Handbook Agenda
151st Session of the North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 13 - 15, 2017
The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia

Theme:
“Show Your Work: Worship That Inspires Action”

Location of reports within the agenda are subject to change
** Designates Order of the Day*

Sunday, June 11, 2017

8:00 am AAVS load in – Grand Hall
8:00 am Visuals set up – Grand Hall
TBA Cokesbury set up begins – Oconee 2
2:30 pm Volunteer meeting – Grand Hall 5
4:00 pm Set stage – Grand Hall
4:00 pm Assemble supplemental materials in tote bags – Ligotti Hall

Monday, June 12, 2017

8:00 am Prayer Room and labyrinth set up – Empire
8:00 am Display Set up begins – Foundry Building
8:30 am Common Table Gathering – Classic Center, Athena A-B
9:00 am AAVS Load-in – Theatre
9:00 am Common Table – Classic Center, Athena A-B
9:00 am Grow Day Camp – Young Harris Memorial UMC
11 am Registration set up begins – Foundry Building
11:30 am Extended Cabinet lunch & photograph – Parthenon 1
12:00pm Stage set – Theatre
12:00 pm Organ/piano set-up/tuning – Grand Hall
12:30 pm Pulpit/altar delivery – Grand Hall
12:30 pm Pulpit/altar/kneelers delivery – Theatre
12:00-5:00 pm Cabinet Meeting – Parthenon
1-4 pm Fresh Expressions (application only) – Grand Hall 4-5
1:30 pm Production/worship/staff walk-through – Grand Hall
2 – 6 pm UMCOR trailer – Foundry Parking Lot
2:30 pm Signage – Grand Hall
3:00 pm Associate Conference Secretaries meeting – Olympia 2
3:30 pm Training for childcare workers – Young Harris Memorial UMC

Monday, June 12, 2017, continued

- 3-6 pm On-Site Registration/Payment stations begin
Laity – Cypress 1; Clergy – Ligotti Hall 1
- 4:00 pm Walk through Business layout – Grand Hall
- 4:30 pm Sound check – music/organist – Grand Hall
- 6-9 pm Fresh Expressions (application only) – Grand Hall 4-5

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

- 6:30-9:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room
- 7:00 am Breakfast for Tuesday's presenters – Parthenon 1
- 7 am-9 pm Prayer Room/Prayer Labyrinth – Empire
- 7:00 am Extension Minister Breakfast – Athena A-B
- 7:00 am-2 pm Concessions open – Atrium
- 7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Empire
- 8am-1:30pm UMCOR Trailer – Foundry Parking Lot
- 8am-6 pm Cokesbury Bookstore – Foundry, Oconee 2
- 8:00 am Rehearsal for Commissioning/Ordination Service – Theatre
Group photographs with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- 8:00 am On-Site Registration/Payment stations continue
Laity – Cypress; Clergy – Ligotti Hall 1
- 8:30 am Clergy Brunch – Athena C-E
- 8:30am-5:45pm Child Care – Young Harris Memorial UMC
- 8:30am-5:45pm Grow Day Camp – Young Harris Memorial UMC
- 8:45 am Tellers meeting – Grand Hall 2
- 9:00 am Set stage to Executive session – Theatre
- 9:00 am Newcomer Orientation to Classic Center – Grand Hall 4-5
- 9:00 am Board of Ordained Ministry meeting – Parthenon 2
- 9:00 am Monitoring Training – Ligotti Hall 2
- 9:30 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall
- 10:00 am Lay Orientation – Grand Hall
- 10:00 am Clergy Executive Session – Theatre
- 12:00 pm Stage set to worship (Wednesday pm) – Theatre
- 12:00 pm Worship Rehearsal – Grand Hall
- 12-5 pm Blood Drive – Grand Hall 1
- 1:45 pm Pre-Service Music – Grand Hall

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, continued

***2:00 pm Session One – Grand Hall**

Opening Worship – Service of Word

Preacher – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Music – Eric Lee with Chapel Roswell Band, AROS

Planner – Sonny Sellers, Griffin First UMC, GRFN

“Show Your Work! – Opening Worship”

Opening of Conference – Grand Hall

Call to Order – 151st Session – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Welcome & AC Theme

Prayer

Opening Hymn “And Are We Yet Alive?”

Welcome by Host Committee

Organization of Conference

Annual Conference offering – Ministerial Education Fund

Committee on Episcopacy

Jurisdictional Conference Report

Georgia United Methodist Foundation

UM Connectional Federal Credit Union

Standing Rules Amendments – to present

Conference Committee on Nominations –to present

Consent Agenda – to present

Constitutional Amendments – to present and vote

Conference Chancellors Farewell & Welcome

Announcements

Prayer

5 – 6 pm UMCOR Trailer – Foundry Parking Lot

5:15 pm Adjournment

5:15 pm Rehearsal for Wednesday events – Grand Hall

No Evening session

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

6:30 am 5K Fun Run – sponsored by

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

6:30-9:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Wednesday’s presenters – Parthenon 1

7 am-9 pm Prayer Room & Prayer Labyrinth– Empire

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, continued

7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Empire

7:30 am-4 pm Concessions open – Atrium

7:30am-5:45pm Childcare – Young Harris Memorial UMC

7:30am-5:45pm Grow Day Camp – Young Harris Memorial UMC

7:30-6 pm Displays – Foundry Building

8:00 am On-Site Registration continues

8:00 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall

***8:15 am Session Two – Grand Hall**

Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Prayer

Laity Celebration

Conference Board of Laity

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Women

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Conference Board of Trustees

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Conference Treasurer/Director, Administrative Services

UM Commission on Higher Education/Collegiate Ministry

Commission on a Way Forward Update Video

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection

***10:30 am Passing the Mantle Liturgy and
Recognition of Retirees**

Announcements

Prayer

12:15 pm Adjournment

12-5 pm Blood Drive – Grand Hall 1

12:15 pm Worship rehearsal – Grand Hall

1:45 pm Gathering Music – Grand Hall

***2:00 pm Session Three – Grand Hall**

Service of Remembrance

Preacher: Jimmy Moor, retired clergy

Music: Atticus Hicks with Oak Grove UMC Band, AMRY

Planner: Cyndi McDonald, Mt. Carmel UMC, AROS

Offering: Ministerial Education Fund

ASL Interpreters

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, continued

Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Prayer

“Show Your Work! – Service of Remembrance”

Common Table: Four Areas of Focus

Four Areas of Focus: Connectional Ministries

Connectional Ministries

Communications

Worship Moves

Scouting Video

**Show Your Work! – Service of Licensing,
Commissioning and Ordination**

Announcements

Prayer

4:43 pm Adjourment

5:00 pm Rehearsals as needed – Theatre

5:00 pm Laity Dinner

6:45 pm Robing for all Candidates – Lower Theatre Lobby

6:45 pm Clergy Processional Gathering – Olympia & Parthenon
Pre-function area overlooking Atrium

7:00 pm Pre Service Music

***7:30 pm Session Four – Theatre**

Service of Ordination, Commissioning & Licensure

Preacher: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Music: Gerald Ricks with Central UMC Choir, ACPK

Planner: Robert McMichael, Mt. Bethel UMC, AROS

ASL Interpreters

Reception Honoring those Ordained and Commissioned – Atrium

Hosted by UM Connectional Federal Credit Union and

Board of Ordained Ministry

Thursday, June 15, 2017

6:30-9:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Oak Room

7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Thursday’s presenters – Parthenon 1

7am-4 pm Prayer Room/ Labyrinth – Empire

7:30 am Service of Intercessory Prayer – Empire

7:30 am Concessions open – Atrium

Thursday, June 15, 2017, continued

7:30 am-2pm Displays – Foundry Building

7:30am-4:45 pm Childcare – Young Harris Memorial UMC

7:30am-4:45pm Grow Day Camp – Young Harris Memorial UMC

7:30 am Rehearsal as needed – Grand Hall

7:45 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall

8am – 12 pm Onsite Registration – Foundry Building

***8:15 am Session Five – Grand Hall - Seersucker Thursday!**

8:15 am Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Prayer

Housing & Homeless Council

Action Ministries, Inc.

Four Areas of Focus: New Places for New People

Office of Congregational Development

Aldersgate/Collinswood

Council on Finance and Administration

CFA District Administrative Review Team

UM Children’s Home, Inc.

Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc.

Murphy Harpst Children’s Centers

Celebrating Churches of Excellence in Outreach

Georgia Pastors’ School

Denman Awards Presentation – clergy, lay, youth

Property Resolutions and Prayer

Service of Commissioning for GBGM Missionary

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

GBGM Representatives

Four Areas of Focus & Missional Initiatives

Bridges Updates

SEJ Siedschlag Award

Consent Agenda – remove if requested and/or vote

Standing Rules Committee to vote

Conference Committee on Nominations to vote

Future Dates of Annual Conference

(Site determined by previous vote of annual conference)

June 10 – 14, 2018 – Classic Center, Athens, GA

June 9 – 14, 2019 – Classic Center, Athens, GA

Moving Day June 22, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017, continued

“Show Your Work! –

Service of Word, Table & Sending Forth”

Monitoring Report

Consent Agenda – present items removed if needed

Journal/Handbook Committee

Recognitions

Announcements

Prayer

12:15 pm Adjourment

12:15 pm Worship rehearsal – Grand Hall

1:45 pm Gathering Music – Robert McMichael

***2:00 pm Session Six**

Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Prayer

Four Areas of Focus: Developing Principled Leaders

North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries, Inc.

Announcements

Prayer

Fixing of the Appointments

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Service of Word, Table and Sending Forth

Olu Brown, preacher and planner

Impact UMC Band, ACPK

**4:15 pm Adjourment of the 151st Session of the
North Georgia Conference**

2017 Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite business during the annual conference session by **adopting reports to be included in the Conference Journal without verbal action by the annual conference**. The following reports indicated by number, name of agency and page are offered as the 2017 Consent Agenda. Unless reports are **removed** from the Consent Agenda on **Thursday, June 15, during Session Five**, these reports will be accepted by consent of the annual conference at that time. Please read reports carefully prior to that session. Reports **removed** from the Consent Agenda will be presented for conference action on Thursday, June 15, at the end of Session Five.

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Registration and Assistance Committee

The Registration and Assistance Committee provides name badges to all persons attending annual conference. It also distributes and collects reimbursement forms for persons eligible for financial assistance.

Onsite registration begins **Monday, June 12, 3-6 p.m.** and continues **Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, June 14, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon.**

Registration is located in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building at the Classic Center: Laity – Cypress Room 1; Clergy – Ligotti Hall 1 (formerly High Shoals 1).

Registration

There are five styles of name badges. Appropriate styles of North Georgia Conference name badges are necessary for participation within the Bar of the Conference. Badges list name and indicate voting status within the conference. We recycle the plastic name badge holders. Do not place stickers on holders.

Name Badges categories with voting designations:

- 1. Top bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.**
 - a. Deacons in full connection ¶329.2 - active or retired
 - b. Elders in full connection ¶334.1- active or retired
 - c. Leave categories eligible to vote: Voluntary Leaves of Absence (personal, family, transitional) ¶353, Sabbatical Leave ¶351, Maternity or Paternity Leave ¶355, Medical Leave ¶356
 - d. Provisional members who have completed all their educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership; deacons and elders who have been elected to provisional membership, but not yet commissioned, are eligible to vote ¶35
 - e. Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election ¶35

2. Bottom bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.

- a. Local church lay members to annual conference ¶251.1; ¶32
- b. District at-large lay members ¶32
- c. Diaconal ministers ¶32
- d. Active deaconesses ¶32
- e. Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within bound of the annual conference ¶32
- f. Members of annual conference by virtue of current conference or district position ¶32

3. Top Bar only – eligible to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and all matters of ordination, character/conference relations of clergy:

- a. Associate members, active or retired ¶35; ¶321.1

4. Cross and flame only – eligible to vote on all matters except general and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots, constitutional amendments, character/conference relations of clergy:

- a. Clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence ¶354.7; ¶354.8
- b. Local Pastors who do not meet the criteria listed above in Number 1.e.

5. Vertical Bars – non-voting participants

- a. Clergy:
 - Affiliate members – ¶334.5; ¶344.4
 - Supply pastors – ¶16.2
 - Clergy serving on honorable location – ¶359.2
 - Clergy on administrative location – ¶359.3
 - Clergy from other conferences /denominations serving in North Georgia – ¶346.1
- b. Lay members:
 - Local church reserve and district at-large reserve members
- c. Guests:
 - Clergy spouses, including surviving spouses
 - Candidates for ordained ministry not under appointment in North Georgia during the 2016-2017 conference year
 - Agency, staff, etc., and other guests

Financial Assistance

Persons eligible for financial assistance must complete and submit a reimbursement form with receipts by 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 15th. Checks are issued approximately 30 days after annual conference. Reimbursement forms received after June 15 cannot be processed. Reimbursement forms are available in Clergy Registration.

A. Eligibility. Financial assistance is offered for the following:

1. Retired ministers not serving churches, retired clergy serving churches whose compensation does not exceed \$6,000 per year.
2. Widows or widowers of clergy persons who are not married to persons designated in #1 above.

B. Assistance Procedures.

1. Eligible persons must complete reimbursement form and attach receipts.
2. Leave the forms/receipts for **Meg Morrison** at the **Information Center at the top of the escalators. Deadline is 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 15th.**
3. Mailed forms cannot be accepted.
4. Checks are issued approximately 30 days after annual conference.
5. Eligible persons may be reimbursed for up to \$75.00 per day for a maximum of three nights lodging and meals. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement.

2017 Information for Conference Members and Visitors

Annual Conference Registration

The online process helps conference members register for annual conference, make reservations for meals, order the 2017 North Georgia Conference Journal, pay the \$30 Annual Conference registration fee and all meals requiring payment. No reservations or payment for meals will be accepted at annual conference.

Online registration: click on the orange registration button at this location: <http://www.ngumc.org/ac2017register>.

Onsite registration begins **Monday, June 12, 3-6 p.m.** and continues **Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, June 14, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon.** Registration is located in the Lower Level of the Foundry Building at the Classic Center. **Lay – Cypress Room; Clergy – Ligotti Hall** (formerly High Shoals Room).

Pick up name badges at either lay or clergy registration sites listed above. **Pick up meal tickets** in the Lower Lobby of the Foundry Building. **Payment stations** for cash, check or credit card are available in both registration areas on **Monday, June 12, 3-6 p.m.** and continues **Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, June 14, 8:00 a.m.-noon.**

Attending Annual Conference in Athens for the First time?

Newcomers can learn about the Classic Center buildings and the city of Athens at an orientation on Tuesday, June 13, 9:00-9:25 a.m., in Grand Hall 4-5 across from the Atrium.

Annual Conference Offering for 2017 – Ministerial Education Fund

Read more about this important special offering opportunity in this handbook. One person from each local church will present a check from their church during the Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Annual Conference Web Site

Information on the 2017 annual conference session is available on the North Georgia web site: www.ngumc.org/ac2017. Daily audio and video streaming is available from 2:00 p.m., June 13 through the close of conference on June 15.

5K Walk/Run for the Youth Service Fund. The 11th Annual North Georgia Conference 5K Walk/Run in historic downtown Athens will benefit youth

mission and service opportunities in the churches of our conference through the Youth Service Fund.

What is the Youth Service Fund? For decades, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries has raised funds to help support unique ideas that place emphasis on ministry with and for young people in local churches and their community. Our goal is to increase the awareness of this program and to encourage innovation as we move into a new decade of ministry with youth.

The race begins at **6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14**, on Washington Street near the Classic Center and follows a route through downtown Athens and along the river, ending behind the Classic Center's Foundry Building.

Classic Race Services, a company with 26 years' experience in managing races of various sizes is coordinating this year's 5K Run.

Please help support our youth in this effort by joining us for the run or by making a donation so that this ministry may continue for decades to come.

Online registration will be open through June 5. Find race details at www.ngumc.org/5KYouthServiceFundRun. For information on how to become a sponsor, contact Sam Halverson at 678-533-1445.

Blood Drive – Grand Hall 1

The Red Cross blood drive is scheduled 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, and Wednesday, June 14. The location is Grand Hall 1 across from the Atrium. Call to make your appointment at 1-800-REDCROSS or online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: NGACONF.

Childcare and Grow Day Camp

Childcare is available by pre-registration only. Childcare is exclusively for the infant, toddler and preschool-age children (6 months-rising kindergartner) of those clergy and lay members of the annual conference. The schedule coincides with morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch and snacks will be provided, except for infants. The program features age-appropriate activities designed with Christian formation in mind. The cost for childcare is \$120 for the first child and \$105 for the second child in a family. Child care workers have completed training and been background checked. For registration and additional information, visit the 2017 Annual Conference website at <http://www.ngumc.org/childcareAC2017>.

Grow Day Camp is coming to Annual Conference! As a sibling ministry of Glisson Camp & Retreat Center, Grow puts 90+ years of camp ministry experience into creating environments for children at local churches where

every moment – whether in morning chapel or 20 feet up a tree – is about practicing faith in Christian community. Grow will be hosted just down the road from the Classic Center at Young Harris Memorial UMC. The day camp is open to the Athens community for five days (Mon-Fri) for \$135 with reserved spaces for Annual Conference attendees to come for three days (Tue-Thu) for \$80 (includes camper lunches). Learn more and register for Grow at ngumc.org/AC2017.

Cokesbury Book Store

The Cokesbury Book Store, located in the Foundry Building Oconee 2, offers a selection of books and church supplies for sale.

Conference Journals 2017

Order 2017 Conference Journals can on the conference website www.ngumc.org/journal or during annual conference in the Foundry Building Lower Lobby. Orders with payment can also be mailed to: North Georgia Conference, Attention: Journal, 1700 Century Circle NE, Suite 100, Atlanta GA 30345. Cost: \$40 print version; \$10 digital download.

Concessions

Concessions located in The Atrium open at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. Lunch can be purchased 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in The Atrium.

Displays

Display tables are an extension of reports presented at the annual conference session. The displays interpret and celebrate the program ministries of the annual conference. Various conference boards, committees, commissions, councils, teams and related agency displays are located in the Foundry Building lobby, Oconee and Willow rooms. Maps of display locations are posted at the doors of the Foundry Building.

Family Restrooms

The Classic Center family restrooms are located on the upper and lower floors of the Foundry Building. Baby changing stations are located in the men's and women's restrooms located near the Athena Ballroom and the Grand Hall. Baby changing stations are also located in the women's restrooms on each level of the theatre lobby and near the Olympia Room. Location of space for nursing mothers is available at the Information Center.

Gluten-free Communion Elements

Gluten-free communion elements are available for worship.

Housing

Members make and confirm housing arrangements directly with hotels in the Athens area. Information is on the North Georgia Conference website <http://www.ngumc.org/ac2017>. Additional information is available from the Athens Convention/Visitors Bureau, 706-357-4410 or 800-653-0603, or on the website visitathensga.com.

Information Centers

Information centers for annual conference and Athens are located in The Classic Center at the top of the escalators and in The Atrium. Emergency messages are displayed electronically in the Classic Center Grand Hall.

Language Translation

Audio interpretation for Spanish and Korean is available in the Grand Hall. Please contact the appropriate person by Thursday, June 1.

Spanish: Juan Quintanilla, 678-533-1388, jquintanilla@ngumc.org

Korean: Hyo Kim, 678-533-1448, hyokim07@gmail.com.

American Sign Language Translation

American Sign Language (ASL) is available near the left side of the stage in the Grand Hall for the Opening Worship Service on Tuesday, June 13, and The Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, June 14. ASL is also available for the Ordination Service on Wednesday, June 14, near the right side of the stage on the lower level in the Theatre.

Meal Tickets

Members must pick up meal tickets that are purchased online before annual conference at the desk in the lower lobby of the Foundry Building near the lay and clergy registration areas.

Mission Project – UMCOR Kits

Mission project is UMCOR Layette Kit collection. United Methodist Women will assemble kits in their local circles, units and districts before conference.

The kits must be packed in boxes and labeled with number and type of kits included in each box. Clearly label any extra supplies sent. Monetary gifts to UMCOR will also be accepted as funds are always needed for shipping and

purchasing extra supplies. Please record the following information on clipboards at the trailer: number and type of kits along with the church name making the contribution. **Bring completed kits to the rear parking lot of the Foundry Building at the Classic Center. Unload kits at the trailer located in the parking lot on Monday, June 12, 2-6:00 pm, and Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 5-6:00 p.m.**

Monitoring at Annual Conference

The North Georgia Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), guided by the denominational commission, will provide monitoring during each session of the Annual Conference to collect data related to the gender, ethnicity and age range of those who provide leadership and speak from the floor of the conference. We are called to reflect God's diversity and encourage opportunities for all God's people to come to the table. Is the participation at Annual Conference reflective of our conference membership? Do these percentages reflect the numbers of different stakeholders in our pews and in our communities?

Monitoring will take place during this Annual Conference in order to help us see, understand and improve our inclusivity and recognition of diversity. With greater awareness and participation comes more faithful realization of our mandate to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Name Badge Lanyards

The North Georgia Annual Conference thanks Wesley Woods Senior Living for providing the name holder/lanyards. The conference also thanks the registration volunteers for distributing the name badges. Please recycle the name badges.

Parking and Transportation

Parking:

1. Complimentary parking for delegates will be available in parking spaces at the Classic Center, Court House parking deck, and the UGA North Campus parking deck.
2. Only delegates with state handicap parking permits will be allowed on the bridge leading to the Classic Center parking deck. **Annual Conference parking permits must be displayed** so they can be seen in all parking spaces for free parking. The UGA North Campus parking deck will accept either a parking permit or a conference name badge.

3. The upper deck at the Classic Center will be reserved on Wednesday, June 14, for retirees. The bridge entrance will be closed to through traffic until noon on Wednesday only.
4. Level one of the Classic Center parking deck will be used for nonconference parking all week during the conference.
5. The bridge to the parking deck will be closed each evening after conference is adjourned beginning Tuesday night through Thursday night during the conference.
6. Parking at the Classic Center is during the hours of the event. No overnight parking is allowed. Your vehicle may be towed if left overnight.
7. Spaces are reserved for persons with handicap permits during registration on the flat lot behind the 130 Foundry Street building.
8. The spaces in front of the theatre will be reserved for church vans and emergency vehicles.
9. On-street parking is strictly enforced Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. On-street parking rates are 75 cents per hour.

Transportation:

1. Church vans and Classic Center vans will be used to transport delegates to and from the UGA North Campus parking deck and the Classic Center as needed from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. They will load and unload in front of the theatre and the lower level of the UGA North Campus parking deck on North Thomas Street.
2. Anyone in need of transportation during the conference may go by the information center.
3. Foundry Street through traffic will be closed all week and a police officer will be on duty all day from Tuesday until the conference ends Thursday.

Prayer Room/Labyrinth

The Conference Prayer Room, located in the Foundry Building Empire Room, is open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. beginning Monday, June 12. A labyrinth will also be available daily in the Conference Prayer Room for personal prayer and meditation following morning Holy Communion. The labyrinth is a path of prayer, a walking meditation, and a ‘watering hole for the spirit’ that has been used in the Christian church since the 4th Century. The labyrinth is provided by Harmony Grove UMC in Lilburn.

“Christ and the Stations of the Cross” is a 16-panel needlepoint exhibit created by the women of Glenn Memorial UMC and Fort Street UMC to show

our Lord's journey to the cross and beyond. The panels show Jesus from his prayerful time in the Garden of Gethsemane through the streets of Jerusalem, along the road to Calvary and to the tomb. The final panel, unlike the "typical stations," depicts Christ in triumph over death telling Mary to share the good news of his resurrection! This gentle medium was used to tell the story of betrayal and tragedy to glorious joy! The exhibit will be on display in the Foundry Building Empire Room along with the Prayer Room.

Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® - Oak Room, Foundry Building

Your conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits invites all HealthFlex members to take the Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® during annual conference. The screening is available in Oak Room, Foundry Building. Times available are: Tuesday, June 13, 6:30-9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, June 14, 6:30-9:30 a.m. and Thursday, June 15, 6:30-9:30 a.m.

You will be evaluated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid disorders, anemia or excess iron, and prostate cancer. Results will be mailed directly to you.

It is highly recommended to make on-line appointments by May 30. Limited walk-in appointments are available. Twelve hour fasting is requested. Bring your HealthFlex insurance ID card. Active participants and spouses can earn \$100 each in HealthCash for taking the health screening.

Registration Fee

North Georgia Conference Standing Rule E.7 states that a \$30 registration fee shall be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired clergy and youth members are exempt from the assessment. Members may pay the registration fee online at www.ngumc.org/ac2017 or register onsite at lay and clergy registration in the Foundry Building.

Request for Video Duplication

Duplicated DVDs are not available for the 2017 Annual Conference Session. Please log on to www.ngumc.org/2017ACVIDEO for viewable and downloadable segments and celebrations of the 2017 annual conference.

Safety

Please be aware that Athens is an urban city. Use caution after dark, do not walk alone or leave valuables visible in parked/locked cars.

Special Needs and Medical Care

Direct special needs requests to the Information Center located in the Classic Center at the top of the escalators.

First aid and medical care is located in the lower level escalator lobby during sessions held in the Grand Hall. First aid is located in the Theater lobby main level for the evening service on Wednesday. Contact the Information Center for directions or assistance.

2017 Annual Conference Session Survey

The North Georgia Annual Conference Planning Committee would like to hear your feedback concerning your experience of the 2017 Annual Conference Session. Please take a few minutes to fill out a brief survey found at www.ngumc.org/session-survey.

Tote Bags and Handbook Supplemental Reports

Supplemental reports are provided in a packet of materials at registration. The North Georgia Conference thanks the United Methodist Children's Home for providing tote bags for the 151st annual conference session. The conference also thanks all the volunteers for collating the materials for the tote bags.

Map: Downtown Athens

Downtown Athens Restaurant Guide

visitAthensGA.com/restaurants

Athens
LIFE UNLEASHED
Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau

Brought to you by:

Quick Bites #

1. The National
2. Dawg Gone Good BBQ
3. The World Famous
4. Rook & Pawn
5. Ted's Most Best
6. Clocked
7. Iron Factory
8. Trappeze Pub
9. Highwire Lounge
10. Fuzzy's Taco Shop
11. Copper Creek Brewing
12. South Kitchen + Bar
13. Athens Bagel Co.

Table Service #

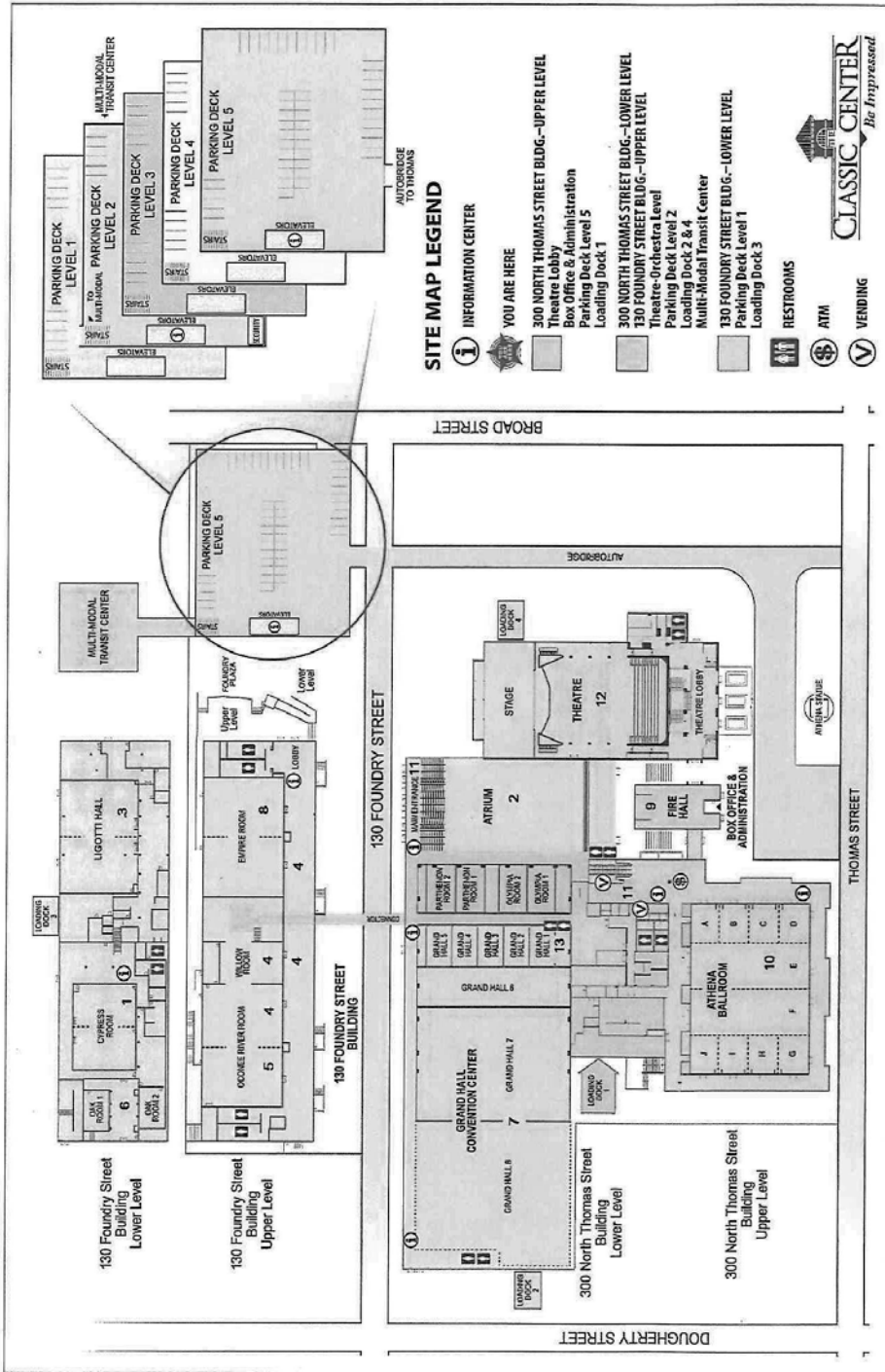
14. Bling Pig Tavern
15. Shokitini
16. Five Bar
17. Last Resort Grill
18. Wing Zone
19. Warfle House
20. The Branded Butcher
21. Rooftop by the Branded Butcher
22. The Globe
23. Transmetropolitan
24. Pauley's Crepe Bar
25. The Grill
26. Subway

27. Arden's Garden
28. A-OK Cafe
29. Zaxby's
30. Insomnia Cookies
31. Barberitos
32. Eddie's Calzones
33. Taqueria Tsunami
34. Mellow Mushroom
35. Amici
36. RU Hungry
37. Utage Sushi
38. Cozy Yum Yum
39. Athens Wok
40. Gigi's Cupcakes

41. DP Dough
42. Thai Spoon
43. Little Italy
44. Taste of India
45. Pouch Pies
46. Mother Pho
47. The Mayflower
48. Gyro Wrap
49. Five Guys
50. Ben & Jerry's
51. Walker's Pub
52. Starbucks
53. Taco Stand
54. Einstein Brothers

55. Pita Pit
56. Jittery Joe's
57. La Dolce Vita
58. Zombie Donuts
59. DePalma's
60. Porterhouse
61. The Grit
62. Taziki's
63. Hendershot's
64. Viva!
65. Seabear
66. Taqueria del Sol

Map: Classic Center



- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Laity Registration | 6. Quest Diagnostics | 11. Conference Information |
| 2. Concessions/After Ordination Reception | 7. Worship/Business Sessions | 12. Ordination/Commission Service |
| 3. Clergy Registration | 8. Prayer Room/Morning Communion | 13. Blood Drive |
| 4. Displays | 9. Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau | |
| 5. Cokesbury Bookstore | 10. Retirement Luncheon/UMW Breakfast/Laity Dinner | |

2017 Room Directory for the North Georgia Conference
 Look for location updates posted throughout The Classic Center

Board of Ministry	Parthenon 2
Business Sessions	Grand Hall 6-8 – lower level
Clergy Executive Session	Theatre – Tuesday
Clergy Registration	Foundry Building, Ligotti Hall
Concessions 7:30 am-4 pm	Atrium
Concessions lunch 11am-2pm	Atrium
Cokesbury Bookstore	Foundry Building, Oconee
Conference Secretary/Support	Olympia 2
Displays	Foundry Building – Lobby, Willow
Emergency Transportation	Information Center-top escalators
First Aid – Daytime	Grand Hall-lower level escalator
First Aid – Tues. Evening	Theatre Lobby
Food Trucks	Foundry Plaza
Handicap parking with permit	Classic Center Bridge-Thomas St. entrance
Health Kit Collection	Lower Foundry Parking Lot
Information Centers	Top of escalators and Atrium
Journal Sales	Foundry Building, Lower Lobby
Labyrinth, Prayer	Foundry Building, Empire
Lay Registration	Foundry Building, Cypress
Lay Orientation Session	Grand Hall-lower level
Lost & Found	Information Centers-top escalators
Monitor Training	Ligotti Hall 2
Morning Communion	Foundry Building, Empire
Newcomer Orientation	Grand Hall 4-5
Ordination Service	Theatre (Wednesday night)
Ordination Reception	Atrium
Parking Information	Information Center - top escalators
Prayer Room	Foundry Building, Empire
Processional Gathering	Olympia Prefunction overlooking Atrium
Quest Diagnostics	Foundry Building, Lower Level Oak Room
Race, 5K Display	Foundry Building, Upper Level
Registration/Assistance	Foundry Building, Lower Lobby
Shuttle Service to UGA Deck	Front of Theatre or inquire Information Center
Teller Meeting	Grand Hall 2 (Tuesday)
Tote Bag Assembly	Foundry Building, High Shoals (Sunday)
Worship	Theatre (Wednesday) and Grand Hall

2017 Meals and Gatherings

Look for location updates posted throughout The Classic Center

Monday, June 12, 2017

- 8:30 am Common Table –Athena A-B
- 11:30 pm Cabinet Lunch – Parthenon 1
- 12:00 pm Production/Worship Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2
- 1-4:00 pm Fresh Expressions – by registration only – Grand Hall 5
- 5-7:00 pm Young Harris College Reception – Athena A-B
- 6:00 pm Order of Deacons – Athens First UMC
- 6-9:00 pm Fresh Expressions – by registration only – Grand Hall 5
- 8-10:00pm Young Adults Late Night @ The Varsity1000 W Broad St, Athens 30606

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

- 7:00 am Breakfast for Tuesday's Presenters – Parthenon 1
- 7:00 am Extension Ministry Breakfast – Athena AB
- 7:00 am Wesley Renewal Movement Breakfast – Grand Hall 3 - 4
- 7am-2 pm Concessions – Atrium
- 8:30-10am Clergy Brunch – Athena C-E
- 11am-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Atrium
- 12:00 pm Production/Worship Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2
- 12:00 pm Cabinet Lunch – Parthenon
- 12:00 pm Clergywomen's Lunch – Athena F
- 5:15 pm Production/Worship Dinner – Grand Hall 2
- 5:15 pm United Methodist Ministers' Fellowship – Athena A-E
- 5:15 pm Candler School of Theology Dinner – Parthenon 1 - 2
- 5:15 pm Production/Worship Team Dinner – Grand Hall 2

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

- 7:00 am Bishop's Breakfast for Wednesday's Presenters – Parthenon 1
- 7:00 am UMW Breakfast – Athena A-E
- 7am-6 pm Concessions – Atrium
- 11-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Atrium
- 12-2 pm NG Black Methodist Church Renewal-Meet & Greet –Ligotti Hall
- 12:15 pm Cabinet Lunch – Parthenon
- 12:15 pm Retired Ministers Luncheon – Athena A-E
- 12:15 pm Fellowship of Local Pastors Lunch – Athena F
- 12:15 pm Youth Delegate Lunch – Athena GH
- 12: 00 pm Production/Worship Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2

2017 Meals and Gatherings

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, continued

12:15 pm NG Reconciling Ministries Network Lunch – Athena I-J

4:45 pm Production/Worship Team Dinner – Grand Hall 2

5:15 pm Laity Dinner – Athena A-F

5:45 pm Reinhardt University Dinner – Hilton Garden Inn

Following Ordination Worship: Ordination Reception – Atrium

Hosted by Board of Ordained Ministry and UM Connectional Credit Union

Thursday, June 15, 2017

7:00 am Bishop's Breakfast for Thursday's Presenters – Parthenon 1

7am-2 pm Concessions – Atrium

11am-2 pm Lunch Concessions – Atrium

12:00 pm Production/Worship Team Lunch – Grand Hall 1

12:15 pm Cabinet Lunch – Parthenon

12:15 pm CEF Luncheon – Georgian Hotel Arch Room

12:15 pm Clergy Spouses Luncheon – Athena A-D

12:15 pm Hispanic/Latino Luncheon – Grand Hall 5

Youth Meals. All youth are welcome and encouraged to join the rest of the youth delegation for meals during annual conference. With the exception of Wednesday lunch, we will gather at the youth delegation area, in front of the Grand Hall stage, at the beginning of each meal break before heading out for our meals.

Young Adult Gatherings. Check social media for lunch and other young adult plans during the annual conference session.

Additional meals and gatherings are scheduled by various groups. Please check directly with each sponsoring group for additional information.

Please look for location updates posted through The Classic Center.

Responsibility of the Clergy Member of the Annual Conference

Each clergy member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend pre-conference orientation session held in his/her district.
- 2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of his/her district superintendent. Attendance is not optional. “Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.8.)
- 3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2017 Conference Handbook and discuss with his/her lay member(s).
- 4) Read pre-conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Prior to annual conference, consult with his/her lay member(s) so that he/she might understand the various reports and their implication for the life of the Church. Keep in mind that the lay member(s) as well is/are obligated to express views and vote as each feels is best.
- 5) Participate fully at the annual conference and help in policy-making decisions.
- 6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
- 7) Serve as interpreter of the annual conference actions along with the lay member. (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 251.2).

Responsibility of the Lay Members of the Annual Conference

It is an honor to be elected as a lay member to the North Georgia Conference. This is an assignment of great responsibility. By virtue of this office, he/she is also a member of her/his church's council (§ 252.5.g), finance committee (§ 259.4), and the pastor-parish relations committee (§ 258.2.a). (*2016 Book of Discipline.*)

Each member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend pre-conference orientation session held in his/her district.
- 2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference. When he/she must be absent from the conference every effort should be made to see that the alternate lay member is able to be present.
- 3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2017 Conference Handbook.
- 4) Read pre-conference reports in the conference handbook provided at the district pre-conference session and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Consult with the pastor and church lay leader. While the lay member is obligated only to use his/her own best thinking in the conference, the dialogue with others ahead of time should prove helpful in clarifying issues.
- 5) Participate fully in the work of the annual conference policy-making decisions.
- 6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
- 7) Prepare a report for his/her local church. This report may be presented at a Sunday morning worship service and/or a more detailed report at a meeting of the administrative board/council. In either case it should be done as soon after annual conference as feasible, and "not later than three months after the close of the conference" (§ 251.2, *2016 Book of Discipline*). Consult with his/her pastor before conference about scheduling and time limit. The conference handbook, the North Georgia Conference web page, www.ngumc.org, handouts received at annual conference, and personal notes on the sessions can be used as a basis for the report. Mention major issues raised and any action and how they might affect the local church. Refer to conference preachers and share highlights from worship services. Discuss the positive aspects of the conference and try not to dwell on trivia.

Parliamentary Guidelines for Participation at Annual Conference

1. **The presiding bishop is the “chair” of the conference.**
2. **To address the conference:** move to a microphone and raise your hand until recognized by the chair; state your name, the name of your local church, and whether you are a lay member or clergy member.
3. **To request a conference committee review the business currently under consideration:** after recognition by the chair, state: “I move that the item currently before the conference be referred to ...” (state the name of the committee to which you think the matter should be referred or request referral to a committee to be recommended by the chair).
4. **To request clarification of business being conducted:** after recognition by the chair, state: “I request a point of information/clarification regarding ... (state the specific clarification you seek).
5. **To change the wording of a resolution, or business item, that is before the conference:**
 - a. Write down the specific wording of the proposed amendment/change, include handbook page and line number.
 - b. Raise your hand for recognition. When recognized by the chair, state the reasons for your proposed amendment/change.
 - c. After recognition by the chair, say, “I move to amend line_____, on page ___ by: (deleting or inserting) the following words: ...” Read only the exact wording proposed. **Have a written copy of the amendment ready for the conference secretary immediately after the motion is read.**
 - d. The chair will ask for a second, state the motion and ask for discussion.
 - e. Other persons may be recognized to discuss/debate the motion. The motion’s presenter is allowed a final chance to speak for the motion.
 - f. After “the question is called” and discussion is closed, the motion is voted on by the conference.

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Parking Permit
for Members of the
North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 13-15, 2017
June 12, 2017 for early registration
Athens, Georgia

To display: fold in half and place on dashboard of vehicle

This permit must be displayed for
Annual Conference Free Parking
AND
Special Rates at the
Annual Conference Pay Parking Decks
(See maps in Handbook)

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100. Africa University

Africa University (AU) ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee, eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt gratitude, the faithfulness and generosity of the North Georgia Conference (NGC) in helping Africa University to realize its mission. We thank the congregations of the NGC for strengthening their giving and investing 95.15 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016.

The support of the NGC is of vital importance to AU. Through AU, United Methodist congregations help young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. Students are equipped and they respond to the call to transform the world. The North Georgia Conference can point to a legacy in the contributions of the university's 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of graduates are still in Africa, serving in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen AU graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Great things are on the horizon for AU in the next quarter century. Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by: Restructuring its academic units to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce. Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding, alleviate poverty, and to improve public health, food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent. As part of the observance of the 25th anniversary, we invite the members of the NGC to set aside time in 2017 to celebrate their journey with AU. Please encourage your congregation to invest 100 percent of its asking to the AUF and other general church funds. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join AU's honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special "AU@25" event or an AU Sunday in your local church or area to increase awareness of AU's ministry and invite attendees to each give \$25 in honor of the 25th anniversary. Let these celebrations energize and expand the partnership between the North Georgia Conference and Africa University.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to faith, hope and renewal in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who serve in ministry in the North Georgia Conference.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor-Institutional Advancement

101. Candler School of Theology

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We've also partnered with the University of Georgia's School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly \$5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology.

Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Hauptert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

102. Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of six historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world’s premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman’s Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world’s largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Because of the support of this annual conference, Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become

1 active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this
2 institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth,
3 spiritual development and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

4 Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its
5 mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the
6 United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful
7 to this annual conference for your support of theological education, and for your
8 commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are
9 called and trained to lead us forward.

10 Albert D. Mosley, President
11
12

13 **103. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry** 14

15 The agency launched a new mission and vision at the start of 2017. The updated
16 mission and vision simplify our role as the primary leadership development
17 agency for the church. Nearly 700 students participated in Imagine What's
18 NEXT 2016, a three-day event for young adults to discern their call of lay or
19 clergy leadership and learn ways to connect that God-given call through the
20 work of the church.

21 The Young Clergy Initiative, a \$7 million initiative, has funded more
22 than 75 innovative projects across the church to attract young people to
23 ordained ministry. To be held in Portland, Oregon, November 3-5, Exploration
24 provides a platform for young adults to discern God's call to ordained ministry.

25 The agency supports more than 1,000 institutions of higher education
26 around the world. In addition, the Black College Fund (BCF) distributes on
27 average more than \$9 million per quadrennium to HBCUs for faculty
28 development, academic programs and scholarships. Five of its HBCU's
29 enrolled 22 Hispanic students as part of the Latino student access program in
30 2016. To date, the agency has worked with the Commission on Central
31 Conference Theological Education (CCTE) to distribute more than 250 grants
32 across 22 countries for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the
33 Central conferences.

34 GBHEM reestablished its publishing ministry in 2016 to engage, nurture
35 and advocate for the intellectual life of the church. In partnership with
36 Discipleship Ministries, the E-Reader Project has distributed nearly 1,500
37 devices to 22 theological seminaries in Africa and Asia.

38 The Candidacy Office is also developing an eight-year Clergy
39 Assessment Process and GBHEM's Effective Ministry Assessment (EMA)
40

leadership development tool. Course of Study and Specialized Theological Education launched Portuguese Course Study programs in 2016.

GBHEM also launched three new education options for part-time pastors in December 2016: an Extension of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO) located at United Theological Seminary, a satellite Course of Study program with Saint Paul School of Theology in Hays, Kansas, and a pilot Escuela de Cursos de Estudios (ECE), a Spanish Course of Study, in Denver, Colorado. GBHEM’s Clergy Lifelong Learning provides an innovative platform for ministry through the multilingual UMC Cyber Campus.

In addition, the office organized the 60th anniversary celebration of full clergy rights for women in August 2016 at the United Methodist Clergywomen gathering, which included 450 attendees from 27 countries, speaking six languages. The Office of Deacon Ministry Development and Provisional Membership led the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the “recovery” of full-member clergy deacons for the church.

104. Georgia Pastors’ School

The theme of our 2016 school, “Live, Laugh and Let Go,” focused on clergy self-care and finding balance in ministry. We were led by competent and inspirational faculty in Anthony J. Headley of Asbury Theological Seminary and Karen Scheib of Candler School of Theology. These leaders in the field of pastoral care led us all to reflect upon maintaining good boundaries in our ministry and family life and the importance of Sabbath as a discipline to keep us at our best. Comedian and evangelist Jamey Ragle led us into both laughter and incisive self-reflection through his evening messages. We were sent forth with boldness as Carolyn Moore brought an inspirational message.

Our 2017 theme is “The Discipling Church.” Our denominational mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” continues to guide the work of our local congregations and persists as one of the most exciting ways we can be “alive for Christ.” As we seek to discern what healthy disciple-making can look like in each of our churches, we will be aided by some of the leading voices in the field. James Harnish, author of the well-known studies, *A Disciple’s Path* and *A Disciple’s Heart*, became a prominent teacher of disciple-making while serving the Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. He continues to contribute new studies through Cokesbury. We will also be led by Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries at the United Methodist Church. Dotson began in this

1 post in June of 2016 and has already begun to offer visionary leadership to this
2 agency which will in turn bring excellent resources to our disciple-making
3 efforts throughout the connection. Our preacher for the week will be Telley
4 Gadson, the president of the National Black Clergy Women of the United
5 Methodist Church, who has a record of fruitful local church leadership.

6 The Board of Managers desires Georgia Pastors' School to be an
7 outstanding event for both clergy and their families, in addition to providing an
8 opportunity to obtain required continuing education units. We offer a family
9 oriented event and children are a priority for us. We will once again use the
10 services of "Kids Care Everywhere" for infant through 5th grade childcare and
11 our youth program will be staffed by competent leadership as well. Registration
12 is available exclusively online at www.georgiapastorsschool.org and room
13 reservations can be made through www.epworthbythesea.org. Walkup
14 registrations are always welcome, however advanced registration helps us be
15 best prepared. We thank both conferences for their continued support.

16 Tony Crosby, South Georgia Conference
17 Chair, Georgia Pastors' School Board of Managers
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19

20 **105. Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc.**

21
22 The Georgia United Methodist Foundation's mission is to help United
23 Methodist churches, ministries and individuals within Georgia sow seeds of
24 faith for future generations. We do this by encouraging faithful stewardship
25 through the following offerings:
26

27 Services for Churches and Ministries

- 28 • Endowments and Legacy Ministry Training to establish a permanent source
29 of income to support and sustain a church's ministry programs.
- 30 • Wills and Beneficiary Designation Clinics to help churches assist their
31 members in preparing wills and other healthcare and estate planning
32 documents.
- 33 • Investment Services to manage funds in a socially responsible manner.
- 34 • Certificate Program to provide higher investment returns than similar
35 instruments and to provide funding for loans to churches and ministries.
- 36 • Loans (at favorable rates) to churches and ministries wishing to refinance
37 debt, or build, expand or renovate facilities for sustaining ministry.
- 38 • Grants to support vital ministries of the Church.

- Services for Individuals 1
- Planned Giving Strategies to provide education that allows individuals to 2
develop planned giving strategies to benefit their families, as well as to help 3
sustain United Methodist churches and ministries. 4
- Free Consulting to meet with United Methodist members who wish to 5
discuss charitable gift ideas such as charitable funds, donor advised funds, 6
life income gifts and planned giving. 7
- Certificate Program to provide higher investment returns than similar 8
instruments and to provide funding for loans to churches and ministries. 9
- Scholarships to support future leaders of the Church. 10

For assistance with your stewardship needs, please contact the GUMF at 12
770-449-6726, 877-220-5664 or info@gumf.org or visit www.gumf.org. 13

William T. Daniel Jr., Board of Trustees Chair 14
Keith E. Lawder, President/CEO 15
Stephen A. Waldorf, Vice President of Development 16

106. UM Connectional Federal Credit Union 19

Your Board of Directors’ primary job is to set direction for and manage the 21
credit union, making sure it is operated in a sound and prudent manner and that 22
all decisions are guided by the best interests of the members. During 2016, we 23
continued to implement those strategies necessary to maintain growth along 24
with a strong financial picture while continuing to serve our members with 25
inexpensive financial services and outstanding member service. We believe in 26
“Helping Our Members Afford Life.” 27

- Our achievements include: 29
- Our major achievement this year was that we increased our asset size by 30
almost \$1.5 M to \$29,086,895.58. 31
 - At the same time, we also increased our membership to over 5,000 32
members. 33
 - Our Church Loan lending also increased this year by 28.2% for a net 34
growth of \$377,950.00. 35
 - Once again, we awarded four \$1,000 college scholarships to members 36
ages 17-35 located in our four conferences: Florida, North Georgia, 37
South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida Conferences. 38

- 1 • We continue to update the technological enhancements for our products
2 and services as they become available so that we can continue to provide
3 members with safe and secure ways to do business with our Credit
4 Union.

5 Of course, all of this could not have been achieved without our staff, my fellow
6 board members and other volunteers who helped make 2016 another great year
7 for your Credit Union. Most importantly, however, I want to thank you, our
8 members, for continuing to do business with your Credit Union.

9 James Mitchell, Chair

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106.a. Financial Report

	Summary as of 12/31/15	Summary as of 12/31/16
Assets		
Cash	\$344,865.70	\$320,264.41
Loans To Members	\$17,765,038.96	\$17,361,756.01
Loan Participation	\$1,337,580.02	\$1,715,530.97
Allowance for Loan Losses	-\$82,830.63	-\$60,828.76
Other Receivables	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments	\$7,606,814.67	\$9,110,076.21
Accrued Income	\$64,472.15	\$65,624.06
Prepaid Exp & Defer Charges	\$39,676.38	\$37,187.77
Fixed Assets	\$516,615.27	\$490,209.91
All Other Assets	\$47,075.00	\$47,075.00
Total Assets	\$27,639,307.52	\$29,086,895.58
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$7,369.53	\$16,039.18
Dividends Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Notes Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Taxes Payable	\$669.81	\$545.49
Accrued Expenses	\$43,273.15	\$26,954.49
Deferred Credits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Liabilities	\$4,385.58	\$914.45
Total Liabilities	\$55,698.07	\$44,453.61
Equity		
Shares of Members	\$24,968,184.56	\$26,404,174.97
Reserves	\$682,937.04	\$682,937.04
Undivided Earnings	\$1,874,687.09	\$1,932,487.85
Net Income	\$57,800.76	\$22,842.11
Total Equity	\$27,583,609.45	\$29,042,441.97
Total Liabilities/Equity	\$27,639,307.52	\$29,086,895.58

	Summary as of 12/31/15	Summary as of 12/31/16
Income Statement		
Interest on Loans	\$1,022,256.59	\$1,023,293.62
Income on Investments	\$70,234.35	\$83,960.01
Fees & Charges	\$153,306.68	\$139,637.06
Other Operating Income	\$102,702.11	\$85,156.20
Operating Income	\$1,348,499.73	\$1,332,046.89
Operating Expenses		
Compensation	\$496,058.71	\$531,265.94
Employee Benefits	\$153,605.76	\$163,597.52
Travel & Conference	\$59,014.73	\$54,614.67
Association Dues	\$18,309.00	\$17,533.00
Office Occupancy	\$45,846.90	\$47,091.20
Office Operations	\$105,961.19	\$96,358.68
Education & Promotion	\$54,093.91	\$37,586.83
Loan Servicing	\$28,957.77	\$52,507.37
Prof & Outside	\$195,088.98	\$198,370.52
Provision for Loan Losses	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Member Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Federal Operating Fee	\$4,948.86	\$5,029.80
Interest on Borrowed	\$118.08	\$0.00
Cash Short/Over	\$0.10	\$9.95
Annual Meeting	\$4,583.71	\$3,269.37
Miscellaneous	\$8,176.99	\$6,440.47
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,182,764.69	\$1,213,675.32
Income From Operations	\$165,735.04	\$118,371.57
Income Before Dividends	\$165,735.04	\$118,371.57
Dividends	\$107,934.28	\$95,529.46
Gain/(Loss) on Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Income	\$57,800.76	\$22,842.11

107. UMCommission | Higher Education + Collegiate Ministry
 Let's Keep Growing...

CURRENT WESLEYS
 Berry College, Rome
 Emory University, Atlanta
 Fort Valley State, Ft. Valley
 Georgia College, Milledgeville
 Georgia Southern, Statesboro
 Georgia Southwestern, Americus
 Georgia Tech, Atlanta
 Kennesaw State, Kennesaw
 Mercer University, Macon
 Middle Georgia State, Macon
 Paine College, Augusta
 SCAD, Savannah
 University of Georgia, Athens
 North Georgia, Dahlonega
 Valdosta State, Valdosta
 Wesleyan College, Macon

NEW + RELAUNCHING
 Augusta University, Augusta
 Coastal Georgia, Brunswick
 West Georgia, Carrollton

FUTURE MINISTRIES
 Albany State, Albany
 Atlanta University Center, Atlanta
 Columbus State, Columbus
 Gwinnett College, Lilburn

Worship + Discipleship	3,923 Fall 2016
3,075 Spring 2016	

UM-Related Colleges and Universities

Andrew College, Cuthbert	Clark Atlanta University	Emory University, Atlanta
LaGrange College, LaGrange	Oxford College, Oxford	Paine College, Augusta
Reinhardt University, Waleska	Wesleyan College, Macon	Young Harris College

WORSHIP + MISSION + OUTREACH + DISCIPLESHIP + LEADERSHIP + INNOVATION

www.UMCOMMISSION.org

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1 **200. Board of Ordained Ministry**

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3 The Board of Ordained Ministry expresses appreciation to Jane Brooks who
4 will leave the Office of Ministerial Services this year to assume a new
5 appointment as Assistant to the Bishop. We are grateful for her service. The
6 Board also thanks Ashley Jenkins, Assoc. Director for Vocational Discernment,
7 who will return to ministry in the local church. Ashley and a team of young
8 clergy will continue to work with OMS and the Board of Ministry in the critical
9 area of vocational discernment.

10 This year the Board of Ordained Ministry would like to celebrate a
11 couple of successes. First, the Residency in Ministry program encourages
12 provisional members to establish long-term collegial relationships with their
13 peers as they practice ministry together and grow in their effectiveness. Each
14 group has two mentors who stay with the group for the full three years of
15 residency. We are grateful for our leaders who invest hours in supporting
16 provisional members.

17 Second, recently developed group mentoring model brings candidates to
18 a Candidacy Summit offered twice a year to begin the process of discerning
19 their calls to ordained or licensed ministry. The group camaraderie, shared
20 experience and prayerful time have helped create connections among candidates
21 for ministry. We have a number of committed, skilled candidacy mentors.

22 This year the BOM began interviewing candidates in the area of
23 Leadership. The new interview area focuses on fruitfulness in ministry and
24 effectiveness in the local church. Candidates develop a personalized leadership
25 development plan at provisional interviews, then report on progress at full
26 connection interviews.

27 The Board of Ordained Ministry is pleased to present 13 candidates who
28 have been approved for election to provisional membership and commissioning,
29 along with four deacon candidates and 11 elder candidates who have been
30 approved for election to full connection membership and ordination.

31 The Board of Ordained Ministry welcomes Dana Everhart to the position
32 of Director of Ministerial Services, and the board expresses its appreciation to
33 Michelle Levan for her leadership as the Program Coordinator for OMS and the
34 BOM.

35 Glenn Ethridge, Chairperson
36 Jane Brooks, Director of Ministerial Services
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200.a. Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members

The purpose of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members is to provide support, love and encouragement to each other through the promotion of self-care and spiritual growth, and to create a sense of unity and fellowship. The fellowship will serve all local pastors and the Board of Ordained Ministry as an advisory resource group on needs and issues of local pastors and associate members. It will serve as a voice for local pastors and associate members in the North Georgia Annual Conference, will sponsor retreat time and will encourage small group participation with all clergy on the district level.

The 2016-2017 annual conference year has been a year of restructure and reconnection. During the year, we have revised and restructured our web presence via the NGUMC website and our presence on Facebook. We, with the help of Michael Murphy-McCarthy and Michelle Levan, created a “one point” e-mail connection for all NGUMC local pastors to convey conference info, give Course of Study updates and supply words of encouragement.

The Fellowship is proud to announce that during the 2016-2017 our conference has received three more Course of Study graduates:

Joe Perry graduated from the Advance Course of Study,

Leon Baxter graduated from Basic Course of Study,

William (Bill) Lloyd graduated from Basic Course of Study.

It is the goal of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members to continue to serve North Georgia Conference with quality pastoral leadership in all the churches to which we are appointed.

We thank our North Georgia Conference for the opportunity to serve you.

Joel Miller, Chair

200.b. Order of Deacons

Deacons connect the church and the world through word, service, compassion and justice. The Order of Deacons exists to support and hold accountable its members for the sake of the life and mission of the church. One of the strengths of our connectional system is the recognition that we are called to different purposes and equipped with different gifts.

Deacons serve in a variety of appointments that represent the breadth and depth of our callings and gifts. You will find North Georgia Deacons appointed to local churches, non-profit organizations, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, college

1 campuses, hospitals, Connectional Ministries, Global Ministries and much
2 more.

3 Over the past year a committee with members from the Order of Elders
4 and the Order of Deacons joined together along with our conference Lay Leader
5 to research the election process of other Annual Conferences in order to
6 propose a change in our standing rules regarding our General and Jurisdictional
7 election process.

8 In addition to working on this proposal, the Deacons met in the fall of
9 2016 at Daniel's Prayer Garden in Alpharetta for a day apart focusing on
10 spiritual renewal. The Order also gathered in April 2017 for a lunch to celebrate
11 the first group of Deacons who were ordained 20 years ago.

12 Shannon Karafanda, Chair

13 14 15 **200.c. Order of Elders**

16
17 The Order of Elders exists to support and hold accountable its members for the
18 sake of the life and mission of the church. As we strive to live in a covenant of
19 mutual care and accountability we are exploring ways to provide support and
20 fellowship for the Order.

21 Over the course of the year we have met with Bishop Sue Hauptert-
22 Johnson to hear her experience with and vision for the Order of Elders. We
23 have also dialogued with other annual conferences regarding their activities and
24 clergy participation. Additionally, we have participated in the tasks of
25 researching the election process of similar annual conferences and developing a
26 proposed process for the nomination of delegates to Jurisdictional and General
27 conferences in conjunction with the Order of Deacons, the Office of Ministerial
28 Services, the Lay Leader of the annual conference and others. This proposed
29 process will be presented at the Clergy Executive Session of the 2017 Annual
30 Conference.

31 This year we are parting from the tradition of hosting the clergy
32 luncheon. Though enjoyed by many and unifying for all orders – Elders,
33 Deacons and Local Pastors – it is our hope that the time will be used to
34 fellowship in a manner of your choosing with other clergy.

35 It is our belief that covenant relationship among colleagues strengthens
36 the life and ministry of the church and aids in the nurturing of our relationship
37 with God. To that end we will continue to work to discern meaningful ways to
38 come together for support, encouragement, vocational and spiritual growth.

39 Yvette D. Massey, Chair

201. Committee on Episcopacy

This past year our Episcopacy Committee had the privilege of welcoming our new episcopal family to the North Georgia Conference. In July of 2016, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson was elected as bishop at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska and assigned to the North Georgia Conference. Our committee began making preparations to welcome Bishop Sue, her husband, Reverend Allen, and daughter, Samantha. Our main focus this past year was to welcome them to the North Georgia Conference through hospitality, sharing and support.

In late July, our committee met and put together a plan to help make a smooth transition. One of our committee members helped provide temporary housing for the episcopal family in August as they prepared to transition into the area for the school year and while they were waiting to move into the episcopal residence. In conjunction with our Episcopal Residence Committee, we helped oversee minor repairs to the house. Committee members also provided touches of hospitality with gift cards to greet them in their home and flowers on Bishop Sue's first day in the office. Bishop Sue, Allen and Samantha expressed their appreciation for this warm welcome.

The next focus point for our committee was to encourage sharing between the committee and Bishop Sue. At our first few meetings in the fall, each member shared a bit about themselves and Bishop Sue shared with us about her family, faith journey and hopes for the conference. Through our sharing, we were inspired by the ways she has nurtured our conference to think creatively about new ways to reach new people. In fact, our committee decided to change how we offer devotionals. Instead of a personal reflection on scripture, the person leading our devotion will now do research about an imaginative and fruitful ministry in our conference that is reaching people for Jesus Christ in new ways. They will witness about that work in our devotional time. At each meeting, Bishop Sue has also expressed the value she places on receiving input from our committee, clergy and laity, in her efforts to make decisions. Our committee complimented her on the way she has hosted listening sessions with different clergy groups and districts throughout the conference. This sharing process has helped us learn about each other and how we can best support Bishop Sue.

Lastly, we worked at finding ways to support our bishop. The first task of the Episcopacy Committee in the *Book of Discipline* is "to support the bishop of the area in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church." (Par. 637.3) One crucial way our members supported our bishop was to listen to

1 peoples' insights, thoughts and concerns in the conference. At each meeting, we
2 then brought this feedback back to our bishop. Although we keep this
3 information confidential, we can say with confidence that our conference has
4 great trust and hope about the future of our church in North Georgia. We are
5 thrilled and blessed by God to have Bishop Sue, Allen and Samantha in the
6 North Georgia Conference.

7 Will Zant, Chair
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9

10 **202. Statistician Team**

11
12 Each year, results of the End-of-Year report are compiled, providing
13 information as to how the North Georgia Annual Conference has done
14 numerically and statistically during the previous year. The report is based on
15 data that each pastor is responsible to gather and record to the best of her or his
16 knowledge.

17 This 2016 End-of-Year report summary indicates that the North Georgia
18 Annual Conference continues to experience a slowly deteriorating growth
19 pattern over the last 12 years:

20 ■The highest annual number of those in worship attendance was reported to
21 be 133,680 in the year 2006. That number for the year 2016 was 112,482.

22 ■The highest number of professions of faith was reported to be 7,816 in the
23 year 2008. That number for the year 2016 was 5,422.

24 ■The highest annual number of members was reported to be 364,102 in the
25 year 2013. That number for the year 2016 was 360,771.

26 A total of 3,159 baptisms were reported in 2016. Positive growth reports
27 were recorded to reflect an increase to the number of persons engaged in
28 missions, the number of persons served by community ministries for daycare
29 and/or education, and the number of persons served by community ministries
30 for outreach, justice and mercy.

31 Recently, pastors received a message from the Vital Signs Dashboard
32 team, announcing the simplified entry of numerical data, to include three
33 weekly reports: "Average Worship Attendance," "Professions of Faith" and
34 "Baptisms." These three are identified as "vitaly important data points."

35 In *10 Quotes That Can Change Your Life*, the late Stephen Covey is
36 attributed with writing, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main
37 thing." Perhaps if we can focus on the increase in average worship attendance,
38 professions of faith and baptisms, then we can see consistent increases in that
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which is the “main thing” in the work of the Kingdom: *“To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”*

The completed 2016 statistical report is available for each church, each district and the North Georgia Conference as a whole at www.ngumc.org/eoy

I am grateful for the support team of cabinet and conference members, including the conference treasurer, controller, director of information technology, support specialist of information technology, district superintendents, district statisticians and each appointed pastor who completed their report in a spirit of integrity.

Darris Baker, Conference Statistician

203. Trustees of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

After two exceptionally busy years for the trustees, it is a pleasure to acknowledge a quiet and what we hope to become routine responsibilities for the trustees. First of all, we want to acknowledge and thank Tom Cook for his service to the trustees as our conference chancellor. Tom has established himself as a great resource for our denomination, leading denominational training events, as well as providing leadership to the conference and districts. We are indebted for his service. We welcome Jim Thornton, a current trustee until he assumes the role of conference chancellor.

With the support of the cabinet, the trustees initiated Requests For Proposals involving five real estate firms for “Property Management Services.” After thorough evaluation and interviews conducted by the conference treasurer and the dean of the cabinet, the trustees agreed in principle for the Norton Agency of Gainesville, Ga. effective 7/1/17 to secure, maintain and dispose of closed United Methodist Church properties in the North Georgia Conference, on behalf of the trustees. This action requires a revision to Standing Rule E.4., which was submitted to the Standing Rules Committee. See the revision for the rationale for requesting this action by the conference.

As a result of the action for the last two years by the conference, the trustees have begun the oversight of the Wesley Campership Fund. For this first year of 2016, the Wesley Campership Fund used \$40,920 for camperships for children in North Georgia by the North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries. The trustees have approved an expenditure of \$110,000 from the Wesley Campership Fund by North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries for 2017. The fund balance as of 12/31/2016 in the Wesley Campership Fund was \$2,329,303.

204.a. Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

The Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits works closely with Wespath Benefits & Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits) to provide pensions, welfare plans and health insurance. Since 1982 clergy pension and welfare plans have been denominational plans as directed by General Conference. Health insurance is reserved to the discretion of the conferences.

The North Georgia Conference elects to cover clergy appointed half time or greater in the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), the current denominational pension plan. Active and retired clergy may be covered by CRSP, the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), and/or the Pre-82 plan, depending on when their service in the pastorate occurred. As a result of 2016 General Conference action, we now cover appointed ordained clergy at ¾ time or greater in the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), the denominational welfare plan, providing disability coverage and death benefits. Churches or employers with clergy covered by these plans are direct billed monthly by the NGC for the cost of these plans.

For active full-time clergy and full-time conference lay employees, the NGC mandates participation in the HealthFlex Exchange offered by Wespath. This exchange consists of six medical plans, three dental plans and three vision plans, health reimbursement accounts, health savings accounts, medical reimbursement accounts and dependent care accounts. Wespath provides robust wellness initiatives and decision support tools to help participants make wise choices. Active health coverage is direct billed to churches monthly. For 2018 the cost of gold plans will increase 6.6% to 7%, and silver and bronze plans will increase 2.9% to 5.1%. Participants will take on that incremental cost.

Eligible retired clergy receive a health reimbursement account administered by OneExchange, Willis Towers Watson. Participants buy Medicare Part B supplements and Part D plans through OneExchange. The NGC provides a graduated annual amount for reimbursement based on service years. This arrangement has helped reduce retiree medical costs while providing flexibility and security for clergy.

In reviewing the success of OneExchange in providing a useful benefit at a defined cost, the board voted to provide this benefit to long term eligible retiring conference lay employees.

Motion: Beginning 1/1/2018 the NGC will offer the OneExchange Health Reimbursement Account to retiring conference lay staff under the same

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1 rates and rules as the clergy benefit (see 2012 Journal pages 360-362); most
2 notably the rate tiers for years of service:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Tier</u>	<u>Rate</u>
35+ years	100%	\$3,600
15-34	80%	\$2,880
15-24	60%	\$2,160
10-14	40%	\$1,440

8 The number of clergy on medical leave with disability benefits is rising.
9 We have 15 clergy receiving CPP benefits with more applying. The CPP plan
10 pays 70% of plan compensation plus CRSP DC pension contributions. The
11 conference pays for the medical plan and CRSP DB pension benefit. While the
12 conference board is tasked with caring for these folks, we would ask that you
13 reach out to those in your community, and pray for those who are not.

14 Please review the Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan available at
15 annual conference.

16 Charles F. Darden, Chair
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204.b. Recommendations of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits	1
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1. That the 2018 annuity rate for each year of service rendered by our	3
clergypersons prior to 1982 (the PSR) be set at \$716.	4
2. That the Annual Conference approves the 2018 Comprehensive Funding Plan	5
recommended by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.	6
3. That the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Adoption Agreement	7
with the Wespath Benefits & Investments cover clergy appointed one-half time	8
(1/2) or greater for 2018.	9
4. That the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) Adoption Agreement with	10
Wespath Benefits & Investments cover provisional and ordained clergy at	11
three-quarter (3/4) time or greater for 2018.	12
5. That the Defined Contribution for HealthFlex Exchange employer	13
contribution remain the same (see 2015 Journal p. 420).	14
6. That the OneExchange Health Reimbursement Rates for retired clergy	15
remain the same (see 2012 Journal p. 362).	16
7. That the \$10,000 benefit payment for the death of full-time active clergy	17
covered by CPP remain in effect for 2018.	18
8. That the annual conference adopt the Resolution Related to Rental/Housing	19
Allowances for Retired or Disabled Ministers of the Conference, so as to	20
designate the 2018 pension and disability payments as a rental/housing	21
allowance for income tax purposes, within the limits of the Internal Revenue	22
Code (see Resolution).	23
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204.c. Estimate of Benefits

North Georgia Conference Benefits Programs Estimated Funded Status-(projected 12/31/17)
 REVISED 4 18 2017

	<u>Pre 1982</u>	<u>Retiree Medical</u>
	<u>Funding Plan</u>	
Fund Balance 1/1/17 (on Conference balance sheet-"out of plan")	\$5,149,546	\$37,394,892
Funds Available	\$5,149,546	\$37,394,892
Less: Projected Net Liability 12/31/17	<u>\$9,100,064</u>	<u>\$42,826,280</u>
Funded Status	(\$3,950,518)	(\$5,431,388)
Add: Funds moved from Fund Balance to "In Plan" October 2016	\$4,000,000 (a)	
Add: 2017 Apportionments	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>
Funded Status	<u><u>\$1,049,482</u></u>	<u><u>(\$4,931,388)</u></u>

(a) this was moved from the Conference's Fund Balance in October 2016. It is not taken into account on the WTW actuarial valuation because the valuation was completed before the transfer. The \$5,149,546 Fund Balance reported is AFTER the \$4M transfer.

Note That this is a projection of the funding plan status as of 1/1/18.

North Georgia Conference**2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

Benefit Obligations Summary**Plan Contributions for 2018**

CRSP DB	\$3,034,546
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000
MPP	\$0
Pre-82	\$1,047,653
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$114,000
UMPIP Clergy	\$0
Other DC Obligations	\$74,325
Other DB Obligations	\$0
Health--Active Participants	\$10,820,160
Health--Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$112,013
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$1,430,556
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$0

Ongoing Funding Contributions

Pre-82	\$0
PRM	\$1,151,241

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Karen Fullerton	04/18/2017
Conference Treasurer	Keith Cox	04/18/2017
Conference Board of Pension Chair	Charles Darden	04/18/2017
Council on Finance and Administration Chair		



Opinion on North Georgia Conference 2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.



Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025
04/18/2017

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan


Accounts


Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2015	Market Value as of 12/31/2016
 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$7,761,007	\$4,165,354
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$4,165,354	Investment Objective	Intermediate-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
 H M E P DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$23,401,214	\$24,536,845
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM allocated amount	\$24,536,845	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE		\$2,100,333	\$2,191,821
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
NORTH GEORGIA SUPERANNUATE		\$128,946	\$5,949
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Non-Wespath Accounts

Non-Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2015	Market Value as of 12/31/2016
Active Benefits		\$4,824,501	\$0
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Intermediate-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 63.20%
			Fixed 36.20%
			Short-term 0.60%
<hr/>			
 GUMF Retiree Medical		\$0	\$13,292,456
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM allocated amount	\$13,292,456	Target Allocation	Equity 75.00%
			Fixed 25.00%
			Short-term 0.00%

 *A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.*

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan
North Georgia Conference
2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Incoming Money

Primary Sources

Estimated amount for 2018

Apportionments		\$3,396,250
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Annual Apportionment	\$3,575,000
x Apportionment Percentage	100%
x Expected Collection Percentage	95%

Direct Billing

Other Sources

CRSB DC Direct Bill

CRSP DB Direct Bill

Refer to the following "Allocate Funding Sources" pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

	Funding Sources	Crsb Dc Direct Bill
	Available Balance	
	Total Allocated	\$0
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	Crsp Db Direct Bill
	Available Balance	
	Total Allocated	\$0
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	Pre-82 Outside Assets
	Available Balance	\$4,165,354
	Total Allocated	\$3,285,918
	Remaining Balance	\$879,436
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	\$547,653
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	Apportionments
	Available Balance	\$3,396,250
	Total Allocated	\$19,973,610
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	\$500,000
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	\$114,000
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	\$8,000
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	\$13,125
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	\$112,013
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	\$1,430,556
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	\$1,151,241

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	Direct Billing
	Available Balance	
	Total Allocated	\$91,228,236
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	\$3,034,546
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	\$10,820,160
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	Prm In-Plan & Outside Assets
	Available Balance	\$37,829,301
	Total Allocated	\$0
	Remaining Balance	\$37,829,301
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	North Georgia Conference
	Available Balance	\$2,191,821
	Total Allocated	\$319,200
	Remaining Balance	\$1,872,621
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	\$20,000
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	\$33,200
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

	Funding Sources	North Georgia Superannuate
	Available Balance	\$5,949
	Total Allocated	\$0
	Remaining Balance	\$5,949
Plan Contributions for 2018		
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	
MPP	\$0	
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	
Health Active	\$10,820,160	
Health Additional	\$112,013	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	
CPP	\$0	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Plan Contributions for 2018		2018 Funding Needed
CRSP DB	\$3,034,546	\$0
CRSP DC	\$1,350,000	\$0
MPP	\$0	\$0
Pre-82	\$1,047,653	\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$114,000	\$0
UMPIP Clergy	\$0	\$0
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000	\$0
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000	\$0
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200	\$0
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125	\$0
Health Active	\$10,820,160	\$0
Health Additional	\$112,013	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,430,556	\$0
CPP	\$0	\$0

Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2018		2018 Funding Needed
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,151,241	\$0

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan--provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church
- A defined contribution (DC) plan--provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Eligibility requirement	50%+
Conference Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	550.00
CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)	
Required contribution for 2018	\$3,034,546
CRSP Defined Benefit (DC)	
Expected average future annual increases	1.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$1,350,000

Rationale for each change

Increases are not driving DC at previously expected rate

CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2016

Total plan liability	\$(1,422,046,473)
Total plan assets	\$1,530,170,830
Total plan funded status	\$108,124,357
Total plan funded ratio	108%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.7777%

North Georgia Conference**2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan****Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations**

Discount rate	%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	%
COLA increases for actives	%
Mortality	

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

North Georgia Conference**2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan****Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)**

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Required contributions for 2018	\$0

MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2016

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,122,459,580)
Total plan assets	\$3,508,946,228
Total plan funded status	\$177,299,252
Total plan funded ratio	105%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.0926%

Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2016

Total participant account balances	\$4,144,945,113
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$99,755,403

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan
North Georgia Conference
2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

Discount rate	6.25 %
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	RP2014, generational projection using MP2014

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit--approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)--the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Past Service Rate (PSR)	\$716
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	1.00 %
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	75 %
Discount rate	6.6250 %
Minimum contribution for 2018	\$696,194
Advanced funding contribution for 2018 payable in 2017	\$351,459

Rationale for each change

Funding plan shows .5 per cent per year but that is generally applied as 1 per cent every other year.

204.d. Comprehensive Funding Plan
North Georgia Conference
2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2016	\$(44,738,242)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$35,359,052
Funded status	\$(9,379,190)
Funded ratio	79 %
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2017	\$1,050,000
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2018	\$0

Funding strategy

Directing funds held outside of plan for purposes of fulfilling Pre-82 commitment to in plan status

Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2016

Total plan liability	\$(2,319,842,242)
Total plan assets	\$2,510,501,904
Total plan funded status	\$(66,877,747)
Total plan funded ratio	97%

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

North Georgia Conference**2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan****Health--Active Participants****Elections and Estimates**

	Final
Health plan offered to actives	Self Funded - HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2016	\$10,400,000
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2017	\$10,608,000
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2018	\$10,820,160
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health--Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment. Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

- Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)
- Clergy or lay on leaves of absence
- Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants

Coverage Obligations

Covered Category	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2015	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2016
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$351,480	\$973,440
Clergy or lay on leaves of absence	\$0	\$0
Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants	\$198,000	\$291,600
Total	\$549,480	\$1,265,040

Annual cost calculation

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2016		\$1,265,040
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	11.7500
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2016	=	\$107,663
Expected average future annual increases	x	2.00%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2018	=	\$112,013

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Willis Towers Watson as of 12/31/2016.
Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 12/31/2018.

PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 12/31/2016

Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$50,636,688
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$42,760,689
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$904,672
Annual plan benefit cost	\$1,430,556
Intention regarding PRM	Retain current plan benefit

Participant counts by category

Active participants	613
Active dependents	433
Retirees	315
Surviving spouses	98
Dependents of retired participants	182
Total participants	1,641

Key actuarial assumptions

Census date	01/01/2017
Discount rate	3.90 %
Expected return on assets	5.50 %
Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	6.50 %
Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	5.00 %
Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2023

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Elections and Estimates

Description of Benefit

	Final
Health plan benefit offered to retirees	OneExchange
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Annual plan benefit cost as of 2018	\$1,430,556

Funding Plan Contribution

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Funded status		\$(4,931,388)
Number of annual payments	÷	20
Portion of funded status payable	=	\$246,569
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	+	\$904,672
Ongoing funding contribution for 2018	=	\$1,151,241

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) “church plan” funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the North Georgia contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	1.60%
Estimated premium for 2018	\$0

Rationale for each change

The estimate for 2018 reflects the CPP holiday in the amount of \$1,250,000 which is still being collected through Direct Billing.

North Georgia Conference**2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan****United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)**

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

UMPIP Lay**Elections and Estimates**

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00 %
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$114,000

Rationale for each change

Estimates have run too high

UMPIP Clergy**Elections and Estimates**

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00 %
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$0

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Name	Estimated annual contribution
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C	\$20,000

Description

\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in CPP

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$20,000

Rationale for each change

No change in funding needed

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Clergy Retirement Gift	\$8,000

Description

Clergy Retirement Gift

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$8,000

Rationale for each change

Conference responsibility on this is a set cost of \$8,000

Name	Estimated annual contribution
MetLife Death Benefit	\$33,200

Description

MetLife Death Benefit

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$33,200

North Georgia Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Rationale for each change

Rates have not changed, Number of insured declines slowly.

Name	Estimated annual contribution
UNUM Lay LTD	\$13,125

Description

UNUM Lay LTD

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	5.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$13,125

Rationale for each change

allowance for age/compensation increases

205. Commission on Equitable Compensation Guidelines

205.a. Summary Report – 2017 Commission on Equitable Compensation

The report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation recognizes the importance of the work of clergy and the necessity of dependable remuneration, especially for clergy appointed to positions of minimum compensation. Our call is from God and as leaders in our churches it is appropriate that guidelines for both compensation and housing be clearly defined for both the church and the clergy so that we can work together and without confusion in our responsibilities for and to each other.

During our last annual conference report we noted that minimum salaries in the North Georgia Conference were 8% - 11% below the Southeastern Jurisdictional average for minimum salaries. This year we propose a 4% increase for 2018 as the second year in a multi-year strategy to rectify this inequity. Detailed numbers for each category of clergy may be found in the full report.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation acknowledges that many churches have elected to maintain and in some cases reduce the salary levels of both their clergy and lay staff. The commission recommends churches consider a salary increase of at least 2.5% for their clergy in 2018.

One of our primary areas of focus is to award grants to churches that assist in funding clergy compensation for churches that are experiencing during difficult times. Within the last few years the commission has determined it is best to award grants for a limited period of time with a decreasing amount over the life of the grant.

In addition to these direct grants, we also monitor and identify those churches that receive grant funding because they are not fully funding their pastor's compensation due to less than full payment of their pastor's pension and insurance premiums in the previous calendar year. Once again we remind all churches to please fund these items before submitting their apportionment payments as this exacerbates an arrearage situation.

All churches either by direct grant or arrearage situations are listed in the detailed report to the Annual Conference.

Kathy Lamon, Chair

205.b. Equitable Compensation Guidelines

Paragraph 625.1 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* provides that in each annual conference there shall be a commission on equitable compensation. The

purpose of this commission is found in ¶625.2, where it states: *It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference. For pastors receiving equitable compensation, once the base compensation supplementation has been paid by the annual conference, and the minimum base compensation and base compensation supplementation has been received by the pastor, the annual conference shall have no further financial obligation or responsibility to the pastor, the charge or anyone else regarding the pastor's compensation.* How this purpose is to be carried out can be found in the balance of ¶625.3-13. These guidelines detail how the North Georgia Conference will strive to accomplish this disciplinary task.

205.c. Conference Arrearage Policy

With *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶624, entitled *Payment Obligation*, the language was amended and new language added that explains the steps that should be taken when a church or charge is unable to pay any portion of the pastor(s) Full Compensation when due. Paragraph 624.2. allows for each annual conference to establish an arrearage policy to deal with the situations that arise or have arisen in the past. Paragraph 625.2.d. entitled *Equitable Compensation*, also references the conference arrearage policy. Paragraph 624.1 states:

"Each church or charge has an obligation to pay the base compensation, the benefits adopted by the annual conference, and other ministerial support (including housing) adopted by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the base compensation, support, and benefits adopted by the charge conference, the church or charge SPRC chair, finance chair, or treasurer, shall immediately notify, both in writing and verbally, the pastor, district superintendent and congregation. This communication shall indicate all avenues explored to meet the base compensation, support, and benefits, including requesting consideration for a short-term emergency subsidy grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund (¶625.7)"

The Commission on Equitable Compensation proposes that the North Georgia Annual Conference approve the following Arrearage Policy in accordance with ¶624.2 and ¶625.2.d of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.

205.d. Arrearage Policy:

Any church that is unable to pay its pastor(s)'s salary and/or benefits when due must notify the appropriate district superintendent within 24 hours of making that determination. Notification can include telephone call and/or email. Upon receipt of such notice, the district superintendent will notify the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation of the issue for its expeditious disposition.

Further, churches or charges with full-time clergy which are in arrears to the annual conference with respect to benefits payments (Pension and Insurance) will be reported in the annual conference *Handbook* and *Journal* as “churches receiving equitable compensation.” These specific churches or charges will be reported based on the following methodology:

1. If the total balance due as of December 31 of the current year is greater than the total balance due as of December 31 of the previous year by an amount exceeding a two months invoice amount, said church or charge will be reported as a church or charge having received Equitable Compensation Funds.
2. The amount recorded in the report will equate to the total difference between this year's total balance due and last year's total balance due.
3. Churches with benefits arrearage who pay their pastor(s) above minimum cash compensation have 18 months from January 1, 2017 to pay their previous year's benefits in full or reduce base salary to the conference minimum cash compensation.

205.e. Conference Pastors Payment

For many years the Commission on Equitable Compensation has recommended that our pastors be paid in advance. Beginning in 2017 this became a requirement as to not cause undue hardship on pastors and their families from a delay when appointed to a new appointment. Furthermore, any payment(s) due to the conference office or other designated office(s) for the pastor(s) pension and insurance be paid at the first of each month so as to be in compliance with paragraph 624.1 and the conference's arrearage policy. Since pension payments and insurance premiums are part of the financial support package, these should be paid prior to the payment of conference apportionments in the event the church financial condition will not allow for full payment of both.

205.f. Conference Standards for Pastoral Support

The following items are to be included in the definition of full clergy financial support for 2018:

1. Base compensation, which includes cash compensation payments, payments to cover or assist personal Social Security taxes of the pastor and any other cash benefits paid to the pastor.
2. Annual conference pension plan payments and life and health insurance premiums.
3. Provision for a parsonage or a housing allowance.
4. Reimbursement for travel/business expenses and continuing education, and any other expenses as may be required by the annual conference.

Note: Base compensation may be divided into salary and a utilities/furnishings allowance to minimize a pastor's tax liability. Local churches should be familiar with Internal Revenue Service requirements for pastors receiving nontaxable reimbursement when establishing compensation.

205.g. Minimum Compensation

The Commission recommends the following minimum compensation for the annual conference in the year 2018.

Category	2017	2018
(*) (**) (***) Full Connection	\$37,300	\$38,800
(*) (***) Associate Member	\$35,300	\$36,700
(*) (***) Provisional Member	\$35,300	\$36,700
(*) (***) Full Time Local Pastor	\$32,500	\$33,800

* This amount represents the total of Sections I and II of the "Clergy Financial Support Worksheet" as found on the conference website under Forms, Clergy and Financial Support.

** Full Connection refers to both elders and deacons.

*** The Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged with attempting to balance the needs of the clergy, the churches and the annual conference. As we looked at the minimum salaries across the Southeastern Jurisdiction, it was learned the minimum salaries in North Georgia conference are 8% - 11% below the jurisdictional average for minimum salaries. This 4% increase for 2018 is the second year in a multi-year strategy to rectify this inequity.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation acknowledges that over the past several years many churches have elected to maintain and in some cases reduce the salary levels of both their clergy and lay staff. The commission recommends churches consider a salary increase of at least 2.5% in 2018.

205.h. Accountable Reimbursement Plan

Local churches shall reimburse pastors for travel/business expenses and continuing education expenses under an Accountable Reimbursement Plan that complies with Internal Revenue Service regulations. These IRS regulations require that reimbursements made outside an Accountable Reimbursement Plan to be reported as taxable income. The local church shall budget sufficient funds to meet the anticipated cost of pastoral travel and business expenses based on the most current year’s actual expenses or the amount determined with the pastor.

205.i. Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

The local church shall budget sufficient funds to meet the pastoral continuing education expectation of the Pastor (Staff)-Parish Relations Committee as outlined in *The 2016 Book of Discipline* in paragraph 258.2g(8). This amount shall be no less than \$800 annually.

The 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 350 deals with Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth. The Commission would like to emphasize that this paragraph in the *Book of Discipline* states that each clergy’s continuing education and spiritual growth program should include at least one week each year and at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Additionally, such leaves shall not be considered as part of the minister’s vacations. For more information on this subject please refer to *The 2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 350, found on page 293.

205.j. Vacation Recommendations

The Commission recommends that all churches/charges of the conference provide their pastor(s) annual vacation periods of at least the following schedule and make necessary financial arrangements for pulpit supply during the pastor’s absence from the pulpit. Guidelines for vacation periods shall be based on the credited years of service as indicated in the Directory and Service Record published annually in the Conference Journal:

Credited Years of Service Vacation Recommendation

1 to 5 years	3 weeks (including 3 Sundays)
6 to 10 years	4 weeks (including 4 Sundays)
11 plus years	5 weeks (including 5 Sundays)

Vacation shall be calculated based on the conference year July 1-June 30.

205.k. 2018 Equitable Compensation

The Commission recommends the following items be included in the Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan for 2018.

Estimated Costs associated with a Full Connection Deacon or Elder:

	2017	2018
Minimum Total Compensation	(1) \$ 37,300	\$ 38,800
Minimum Housing allowance	(2) \$ 17,600	\$ 17,600
Pension	(3) \$ 9,200	\$ 9,400
Health Insurance	(4) \$ 13,500	\$ 13,500
Continuing Education	(5) \$ 800	\$ 800
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 77,000	\$ 80,400

- (1) May be broken out between gross base salary, other cash compensation, utilities allowance and parsonage-related allowances as identified on the Clergy Financial Support Worksheet in sections I & II.
- (2) Where parsonage is not provided. See 202.k. of this document for further explanation.
- (3) Actual cost may vary. The amount listed is an estimate from the Conference Benefits Office.
- (4) This is the amount charged to a church with 100-200 members.
- (5) This amount is the minimum as set by the Annual Conference. The basis for this recommendation is found in ¶ 258.2g(8) and ¶ 350.4 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.

205.l. Equitable Compensation Fund

The Commission on Equitable Compensation administers the Equitable Compensation Fund to assure each pastor receives a minimum compensation approved by the annual conference (Paragraph 625.3 *The 2016 Book of Discipline*). The Commission will make disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund in accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶342, ¶624 and ¶625.

All full-time clergy appointed to serve as pastor-in-charge are eligible to receive grants from the Equitable Compensation Fund under the North Georgia Annual Conference Equitable Compensation Plan.

Churches may not receive salary supplementation funds from both Congregational Development and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. A local church that demonstrates the ability to maintain a full-time pastor may apply to its district superintendent for a grant. It is recommended that the

Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation use available resources to limit the number of consecutive years a church can receive Equitable Compensation Funds.

Before a pastor can receive Equitable Compensation Funds, approval must be obtained from the bishop, cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. In order for a pastor to receive Equitable Compensation Funds for the coming conference year, the Commission must receive a request from the pastor's district superintendent by May 31. This request must include the following information: district, church name, pastor's name, and a breakdown of the funds that are being requested. If a request must be made for the period of January 1-June 30, this request must be received by the Commission by November 30. In extreme situations the cabinet may request funds at any time.

The Commission will assemble advisory material including but not limited to denominational resources, annual conference resources and such information helpful in understanding and establishing compensation in The United Methodist Church. The Commission will provide such material and/or consultants from the Commission upon request by district superintendents or committees on staff/pastor relations or in any event where such information would be beneficial in developing or maintaining an effective compensation package or program. The Commission will be responsible for making adequate requests from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration as needed for approval of budget and expenditures.

If Equitable Compensation Fund requests exceed the approved conference budgeted amounts for the Equitable Compensation Fund, the Commission is required to notify the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

The Commission shall report to the annual conference the charges and the clergy members receiving Equitable Compensation Funds or who have received disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund during the past calendar year such funds have been disbursed to the charge and the clergy member.

205.m. Evangelism / Stewardship Seminar

Any church or charge receiving Equitable Compensation Funds from the annual conference will be required to attend a seminar dealing with, but not limited to, stewardship and evangelism. The pastor(s) will be required to be in attendance, with other key leaders of the church or charge. This seminar will be conducted by Connectional Ministries in conjunction with the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

205.n. Guidelines and Standards for Housing Allowance and Parsonage

Every church must provide adequate housing for its pastor. The church or charge may meet this need by means of a parsonage or by providing a housing allowance sufficient to buy or rent a home in the area served by the church. The minimum housing allowance for 2018 is \$17,600. Any exceptions to this minimum must be approved by the district superintendent. The allowance should respect the Internal Revenue Service regulations and rulings. The housing allowance should be clearly established, recorded in the Charge Conference minutes and excluded from Box 1 but listed in Box 14 in the W-2 form provided to the pastor. It is recommended that if a pastor has any questions concerning his compliance with the IRS regulations, he/she should consult a professional tax consultant or a Certified Public Accountant.

205.o. Minimum Standards for Church-provided Parsonages

These guidelines are intended to offer direction and goals for local church leaders in decisions regarding the construction of new parsonages and/or the upgrading and maintenance of existing parsonages. While the Commission understands that many parsonages within the annual conference do not meet these minimum standards, it is expected that measures will be taken by the local church to bring their parsonage(s) within these standards by 2016. In addition to these standards, it is expected that everything in the parsonage will be in working order.

1. **Bedrooms:** The parsonage shall have three or four bedrooms of at least 120 square feet each with ample lighted closets in each. The master bedroom shall have its own bath. It is recommended that the master bedroom be located on the main level. At least one bedroom and bath shall be on the main level.
2. **Bathrooms:** There shall be at least two full baths in the house.
3. **Kitchen:** The kitchen shall be large enough for family eating space or a breakfast nook as well as built-in cabinets, double sink, cooking range, self-cleaning oven, and frost-free refrigerator with a large freezer and ice maker.
4. **Climate control:** Central heat and air are required, along with insulation to meet present day building codes. Energy efficient windows and doors are to be provided in order to conserve energy. Screens must also be provided for all windows.
5. **Office:** An office with adequate office equipment and furniture shall be provided either at the parsonage or at the church.
6. **Living/Dining Area:** There shall be common living space consisting of a living room, family/recreational room, and dining room for entertaining.

7. **Floor coverings:** The church shall provide proper floor coverings in the parsonage with either carpeting or hardwood flooring in living spaces and tiled or vinyl flooring in the kitchens and bathrooms.
8. **Window treatments:** The church shall provide blinds or shades for all windows. Curtains may be provided but are not required.
9. **Telecommunications:** The parsonage shall have connections for cable or satellite television, telephone and high-speed internet. If these services are desired and activated by the pastor, the fees for such services shall be paid by the pastor.
10. **Utility area:** There shall be an indoor utility area to include an automatic clothes washer and dryer provided by the church.
11. **Wiring/Plumbing:** All wiring and plumbing must conform to present day codes and are to provide for present and future needs in order that all appliances and computer equipment may be used safely. All receptacles must be properly grounded.
12. **Security and Safety:** The church shall provide smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Carbon monoxide detector/alarms should be installed near the furnace, kitchen and water heater areas and sleeping areas if said appliances use gas. All exterior doors shall have dead bolt locks. It is recommended that the church also provide a security system for the parsonage with the pastor paying for the monitoring services.
13. **Parsonage grounds:** Parsonage grounds should have foundation shrubbery, shade trees and adequate yard space for children. It is recommended that the church provide lawn maintenance service for the parsonage; if not, a powered lawn mower must be provided for the parsonage. The mower should be a riding mower if the yard is larger than ½ acre. Maintenance of the mower is the responsibility of the church. A fenced play area is recommended.
14. **Garage/Carport and storage:** A two-car garage or covered carport shall be provided and a minimum of 120 square feet of outdoor storage space shall be provided.
15. **Insurance:** An amount of insurance equal to at least 80% of the replacement value of the parsonage and church-owned contents should be carried by the church (fire and extended coverage). **The pastor must carry adequate insurance to cover the pastor and the pastor's family's personal belongings and furnishings. The church does not insure the pastor's personal belongings either at the parsonage or the church building.**
16. **Parsonage Updates:** All parsonages shall be updated or renovated to conform as nearly as possible to the suggested minimum standards in these

guidelines. Please note, all parsonages are expected to be in compliance with the minimum standards by 2016.

17. Any parsonages not meeting the standards must be approved for usage by the district superintendent on an annual basis.

205.p. General Guidelines for Parsonages

Guidelines for Privacy:

Although the parsonage is the property of the church, it must be understood that it is also the private home of the parsonage family. Courtesy dictates that the parsonage be visited only upon invitation by the parsonage family. Even the annual mandatory parsonage review and parsonage committee meetings must be scheduled with the parsonage family with at least a two week notice.

Guidelines for Care of Property:

The parsonage family shall take care of the house, furnishings and property, making it a policy to leave them in good condition. Best results will be obtained as the parsonage family and parsonage committee work together, feeling free to discuss the needs with each other. It is understood that there will be a natural depreciation of property and contents which calls for repairs and replacements periodically.

Guidelines for Parsonage Upkeep:

1. It is recommended that the church's annual budget include a parsonage fund equivalent to at least 3% of the value of the property for the purpose of repairs, maintenance, pest control and insurance. Unused yearly funds should be placed in an interest bearing account to be used for capital expenses of the parsonage to include the future purchase of a new parsonage where the current does not meet minimum parsonage standards.
2. The parsonage family shall be consulted in the selection of color schemes, window treatments and equipment.
3. The parsonage shall be kept well painted inside and out.
4. Every parsonage shall have a parsonage file. The parsonage file is to be maintained by the parsonage family and shall include all guarantees, repair parts lists, instructions for use of equipment, and an inventory of all church-owned contents. The file shall also include a maintenance log which will list when and from whom items were purchased, who to call for repairs, when and by whom improvements were made, and any other information helpful to future parsonage families. A pictorial record, preferably in video format, should be

taken as soon as possible on or after each moving day. This record will be invaluable for insurance purposes in case of fire or other catastrophe. It also would serve as a record of the parsonage's initial condition. An extra copy of the pictorial record and the parsonage file shall be updated and stored in a secure place away from the parsonage.

Guidelines for Pets and Guide or Service Animals:

Keeping animals outside the parsonage is recommended. It is understood, however, that family pets, guide or service animals kept inside the home bring much comfort and joy. Therefore, if they are kept inside the parsonage, the following guidelines must be met:

1. The church trustees must be kept informed of any pet inside or outside the parsonage.
2. Only a domestic pet, which will be defined as a small dog, cat, caged bird or aquarium fish can be kept in the parsonage. Guide and service animals are not to be considered pets. Any other animal requires the approval of the church trustees. Also, more than one indoor pet or service animal requires the approval of the trustees.
3. All damages incurred by any pet or service animal will be the responsibility of the pastor and will be reported to the church trustees and assessed. Payment for repairs should be immediate, but no later than moving day. Flea and tick treatment is required.
4. Upon the change of the parsonage family, if animals have been kept inside, the parsonage family must make an extra effort to thoroughly clean the entire parsonage to eliminate any evidence of the animals having been present, which includes fleas, ticks, pet hair, pet dander, stains, excrements, etc. This cleaning would include having all carpet / rugs professionally cleaned.

There shall be no smoking inside the parsonages.

Guidelines for Handling Unusual Damages:

The Pastor/Staff Relations Committee and the Board of Trustees shall have regular inspections of the parsonage (see *Mandatory Parsonage Review Guidelines* below). This will permit all parties to review the general condition of the parsonage in order to identify deficiencies of the parsonage and define programs and time schedules for improvement.

1. Any unusual damages caused by the parsonage family shall be reported to the district superintendent.

2. Unusual damages caused by the parsonage family shall be paid for by the pastor involved. Various approaches for repayment of damage repair expenses may be necessary, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Creating a repayment schedule which may follow the pastor to his/her next appointment.
 - b. In every case, the handling of such matters must be done in consultation with the supervising district superintendent.

Guidelines for Utilities:

Arrangements should be made by the pastor with appropriate companies to prorate all utility bills up through moving day. The moving pastor shall not have the utilities turned off. It is recommended that the church have the utility accounts in the church's name with the pastor paying the amounts due for the utilities to the church a week prior to the due date. This will prevent any transfer issues arising from pastors moving.

Mandatory Parsonage Review Guidelines:

1. A meeting concerning the parsonage will be conducted each year prior to charge conference.
2. This meeting will be held in the parsonage and will include a mandatory review of the entire parsonage—inside and out.
3. The attendance of the following individuals is expected: the pastor, the trustee chairperson, the parsonage committee chairperson, and the chairperson of the pastor/staff relations committee (see *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶2533.4). If the pastor has a spouse, he/she should also be included.
4. The specific date can be set any time during the year, but it must be set at least two weeks prior to the church's annual charge conference with all parties agreeing to the date set.
5. Even though this mandatory meeting takes place to satisfy a disciplinary requirement, it is recommended that other parsonage committee meetings be held to consider parsonage improvements and other concerns.
6. A parsonage report detailing the findings and recommendations made during the meeting will be completed and signed by all in attendance at the parsonage review. This report will be submitted to the district superintendent during the charge conference. One copy of the report shall be placed in the parsonage file at the parsonage and a second copy shall be kept is kept at the church or away from the parsonage grounds.

7. Any concern by either the pastor or church may be addressed at a later meeting. The district superintendent may become involved, if deemed necessary by either party.
8. Continual patterns of parsonage abuse will be documented and stored in each pastor's file.

Check lists when a parsonage is being vacated:

A check list shall be completed when a parsonage family is moving away from parsonage. It is the responsibility of the parsonage family to thoroughly clean the parsonage and grounds. It is not the responsibility of the church to clean.

The checklist when vacating a parsonage shall include checks for:

1. Windows cleaned inside.
2. Window blinds/shades cleaned.
3. Rugs and carpets vacuumed (shampooed if needed, professionally cleaned if pets or service animals were kept in the parsonage).
4. All hard surface floors cleaned.
5. All appliances cleaned.
6. All cabinets cleaned inside and out.
7. Basement, closets and shelving cleaned.
8. Light bulbs replaced as necessary.
9. Bathrooms thoroughly cleaned, including fixture, tile grout, shower doors/curtains, medicine cabinets, walls and floors.
10. Garage, carport and outside buildings swept and left orderly. The lawn shall be left in a well-maintained order.
11. All trash is properly disposed. (It is recommended that the church provide an extra refuse container during move week.)
12. A list of all items needing the attention of the parsonage committee. The checklist when moving into a parsonage shall be used by the incoming pastor to rate items on the move out list as excellent, satisfactory or poor.

205.q. Summary statement for parsonages

The parsonage is a witness of the church, and it is a symbol of the stewardship of the congregation; the parsonage should, therefore, receive the same kind of care as the church building. An occasional open house is suggested as a means of the church and the parsonage family sharing this witness and as a means of enhancing the relationship between the congregation and the parsonage family.

205.r. Pastors Receiving Equitable Compensation July 2016-June 2017

Clergy Eq. Comp.	Received	Classification
Danny Alexander	\$22,635	FE
Hubert Brown	\$47,694	FE
Beverly Casstevens	\$24,075	FE
Theresa Coleman	\$35,000	FE
Andrew Covington	\$ 9,000	FE
Robert Crawford	\$31,550	FE
Marcus Dixon	\$50,018	FE
Claudette Farmer	\$22,313	PE
Ronald Johnson	\$23,798	FE
Sungwon Nam	\$40,310	PE
Karen Lyons	\$29,628	FE
Carolyn Stephens	\$59,598	FE
Moses Woodruff	\$39,194	FE
Harold Hong	\$18,000	RE

205.s. Churches Receiving Equitable Compensation in 2016-2017

Church	District	Eq. Comp.	Appt. Rec'd 2016
Redemption Community &			
Poplar Springs	ACPK	\$31,550	0%
St Marks (Fairburn)	ACPK	\$50,018	18%
Flat Shoals	ADOX	\$47,694	100%
Cedar Grove	ADOX	\$22,635	25%
Connexion	ADOX	\$ 9,000	100%
Clarkston	AMRY	\$29,628	100%
Brookhaven	AMRY	\$59,598	100%
Walnut Grove	ATHN	\$35,000	24%
Bentley Hill	GRFN	\$23,798	103%
Riverdale FUMC	GRFN	\$39,194	100%
Korean Church of Newnan	LAGR	\$40,310	0%
Bethel (Hiram)	ROCA	\$24,075	67%
Metropolitan	ROCA	\$22,313	100%

205.t. Churches receiving equitable compensation due to less than full payment of their pastor's pension and insurance premiums in 2016:

Church	District	Amount	% Paid by Conf
Bowen	ADOX	\$18,220	74%
Woodlawn	AGST	\$ 9,832	30%
Fort Street	AMRY	\$10,720	38%
St. Paul (Summit St.)	GNSV	\$ 9,601	34%
Faith	GRFN	\$21,210	75%
Jones Memorial	GRFN	\$17,108	62%
Warren Temple	LAGR	\$17,136	73%
Moores Chapel	ROCA	\$ 6,415	25%

205.u. Statistics to assist Staff Parish Relations Committees in establishing a fair and equitable package for their pastor(s)

Salary and Housing Data for "pastors-in-charge" appointed to a church at minimum salary or above (Does not include associate pastors)				
Total Members	Number of Churches	Average Salary plus Utilities	Average Housing Allowance	# of Churches with Housing Allowance
4500 plus	11	\$158,759.55	\$41,833.56	9
2500-4499	18	\$126,366.33	\$30,464.94	16
1500-2499	25	\$98,112.44	\$25,518.32	19
1000-1499	29	\$80,997.03	\$22,769.39	23
750-999	28	\$82,232.86	\$21,827.79	14
500-749	36	\$66,704.39	\$22,201.68	19
300-499	83	\$53,640.12	\$18,486.95	43
200-299	43	\$49,397.12	\$18,637.27	22
100-199	57	\$44,282.61	\$19,288.33	18
99 and less	17	\$41,251.29	\$17,414.29	7

Average Salaries and Utilities for ALL those appointed to a church at minimum salary or above		
District	Average Salaries and Utilities	Number of Churches
Atlanta Districts	\$65,579.07	223
Non Atlanta Districts	\$60,054.20	232
All Districts	\$62,762.00	455

Average Housing Allowance by district for ALL those appointed to a church at minimum salary or above		
District	Average Housing Allowance	Number of Churches
Atlanta College Park	\$22,203.46	24
Atlanta Decatur Oxford	\$19,708.33	24
Augusta	\$20,732.57	21
Atlanta Marietta	\$23,378.74	31
Atlanta Emory	\$20,820.65	40
Atlanta Roswell	\$25,534.68	47
Athens Elberton	\$22,444.54	13
Gainesville	\$20,890.91	22
Griffin	\$20,907.28	18
LaGrange	\$20,513.65	20
Northwest	\$17,540.17	12
Rome Carrollton	\$20,180.00	12
Atlanta Districts	\$22,672.17	166
Non-Atlanta Districts	\$20,559.40	118
All Districts	\$21,794.33	284

206. Council on Finance and Administration

206. a. Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

North Georgia Conference apportionment payment percentage increased 1.0 percentage points to 94.7%, the highest percentage since 2001. This continues a trend of increasing payment percentages, which results from the reflecting the combined effects of maintaining or reducing the apportionment budgets, and improved economic conditions. Total apportionment payments were \$20,896,665, a decrease of \$748,496 from 2015. However, the 2016 budget was \$1,026,000 less than 2015. In other words, the Conference asked for less, and received less, though **not** proportionally less. Payments to Conference and General Advances, and to special offerings, totaled \$1,757,224 compared to \$1,915,978 in 2015.

The North Georgia Conference paid a total of \$6,165,061 in General Church apportionments in 2016, which reflects a payment rate of 91.8%. We remain the largest contributor of General Church apportionments.

The Athens-Elberton District achieved the highest percentage of apportionments paid, 100%. Atlanta-College Park was a close second at 99.3%. The Atlanta-Emory District achieved the highest percentage increase year over year, 5.0 percentage points. 86.3% of our churches paid 100% of their apportionments in 2016!

The Treasury and Benefits Offices continues to emphasize the provision of up-to-date financial administration information for local churches, including information from various government agencies. We focus on providing information on administrative best practices and benefits information via our website, while also interpreting applicable statutes and regulations and answering questions specific to individual churches, laity and clergy. In 2017, we are beginning to provide brief instructional videos on topics that have engendered interest and inquiry from local church staff over many years. We intend to increase video offerings as the year progresses.

The annual conference audit and the district office reviews will be substantially concluded prior to Annual Conference session. The conference audit for 2015 is posted on the North Georgia Conference website, and the 2016 audit will be posted upon completion.

1 **206.b. Investment Summary**

2
3 Conference funds are invested strictly in accordance with the Investment
4 Guidelines approved by the Annual Conference in 2016 and published on pages
5 55-60, volume I, 2016 Annual Conference *Journal*. The Conference Investment
6 Committee, comprised of members from both CBOP and CFA, meets to review
7 the investment performance and to insure compliance with the policy.
8 Investment maturities and rates of return vary based on projections of cash
9 needs, as well as on market fluctuations.

10 Gain on invested balances in 2016 was approximately 8.0% (primarily
11 unrealized).

12 Total investments at December 31, 2016 were \$60,898,707 of which
13 \$45,067,345 represents investments designated for health and pension benefits
14 programs.

15
16 **Thanks to Treasury and Benefits Staff!**

17
18 Staff from the Treasury, Benefits and Information Technology
19 departments consistently perform excellent work and strive to provide great
20 service to our churches and members.

21 Bruce Cooper

22 Peggy Freniere

23 Karen Fullerton

24 Keeancha Hawkins

25 Valerie Henry

26 Michael Murphy-McCarthy

27 Judy Woodall

28 Thanks to our great staff for their diligence and thanks to the members of
29 the Annual Conference for your ongoing support.

30 Keith M. Cox, Conference Treasurer
31 and Director of Administrative Services
32
33
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206.c. Exhibit I: Comparative on Receipts

Office of the Treasurer Exhibit I: Comparative on Receipts (YTD Through December 31, 2016)

District	2015			2016					
	Apport.	Payment	%	Apport.	Payment	%			
North Georgia Conference									
Ministerial Support	\$2,486,252	\$324,513	\$2,338,396	94.1%	\$2,681,227	\$365,116	\$2,572,479	95.9%	1.8%
Retired Ministers Pension & Insurance Benefits	\$6,241,492	\$850,374	\$5,861,780	93.9%	\$4,295,005	\$603,744	\$4,120,561	95.9%	2.0%
Conference Administration	\$1,717,690	\$238,484	\$1,616,389	94.1%	\$2,005,019	\$285,047	\$1,921,760	95.8%	1.7%
Conference Benevolences	\$2,039,648	\$273,176	\$1,916,253	94.0%	\$2,466,791	\$346,072	\$2,363,568	95.8%	1.8%
Capital Funding	\$238,494	\$9,623	\$244,933	102.7%	\$35,011	\$4,340	\$33,764	96.4%	-6.3%
Higher Education	\$1,199,997	\$166,697	\$1,129,165	94.1%	\$1,283,993	\$179,197	\$1,230,279	95.8%	1.7%
Church Development	\$2,264,502	\$322,427	\$2,126,107	93.9%	\$2,543,711	\$368,284	\$2,439,212	95.9%	2.0%
Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center	\$91,664	(\$28,297)	\$120,852	131.8%	\$0				
Group Sub-Total	\$16,279,739	\$2,156,997	\$15,353,875	94.3%	\$15,310,757	\$2,151,801	\$14,681,623	95.9%	1.6%
General Church									
Black College Fund	\$470,284	\$59,700	\$436,546	92.8%	\$464,058	\$53,441	\$428,774	92.4%	-0.4%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$1,178,922	\$158,573	\$1,087,893	92.3%	\$1,163,323	\$155,922	\$1,074,249	92.3%	0.0%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$92,261	\$12,160	\$84,228	91.3%	\$91,013	\$11,161	\$83,740	92.0%	0.7%
World Service Fund	\$3,433,973	\$478,361	\$3,165,114	92.2%	\$3,388,476	\$454,544	\$3,105,111	91.6%	-0.6%
Africa University Fund	\$105,225	\$13,544	\$99,019	94.1%	\$103,887	\$11,802	\$98,686	95.0%	0.9%
Episcopal Fund	\$1,029,920	\$139,029	\$944,565	91.7%	\$1,092,313	\$147,602	\$999,377	91.5%	-0.2%
General Administration Fund	\$414,505	\$54,044	\$379,604	91.6%	\$409,104	\$53,179	\$375,124	91.7%	0.1%
Group Sub-Total	\$6,725,090	\$915,412	\$6,196,968	92.1%	\$6,712,174	\$887,651	\$6,165,061	91.8%	-0.3%
Southeastern Jurisdiction									
SEJ's Mission and Ministry Fund	\$96,315	\$16,199	\$94,318	97.9%	\$52,647	\$6,784	\$49,982	94.9%	-3.0%
Group Sub-Total	\$96,315	\$16,199	\$94,318	97.9%	\$52,647	\$6,784	\$49,982	94.9%	-3.0%
Sub-Total	\$23,101,144	\$3,088,609	\$21,645,161	93.7%	\$22,075,578	\$3,046,236	\$20,896,665	94.7%	1.0%
Special Offerings			\$1,094,854				\$842,557	(\$252,297)	-23.0%
Conf. Advance Specials			\$582,415				\$480,590	(\$101,825)	-17.5%
General Advance Specials			\$238,709				\$434,077	\$195,368	81.8%
Total			\$23,561,139				\$22,653,890		-3.9%
			INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TOTAL FUNDS COMPARED TO PRIOR YEAR				(\$907,249)		

206.d. Exhibit II: Apportionments Payments by District

Office of the Treasurer Exhibit II

Apportionment Payments by District (Through December 31, 2016)

District	2015			2016				
	Apport.	Payment	%	Apport.	Payment	%		
Athens Elberton	\$1,522,414	\$1,495,188	98.2%	\$1,452,045	\$1,452,411	100.0%	1.8%	
Atlanta College Park	\$2,190,212	\$2,123,212	96.9%	\$2,132,213	\$2,117,657	99.3%	2.4%	
Atlanta Decatur Oxford	\$1,558,091	\$1,429,136	91.7%	\$1,461,734	\$1,333,638	91.2%	-0.5%	
Atlanta Emory	\$2,841,711	\$2,491,750	87.7%	\$2,686,247	\$2,487,509	92.6%	5.0%	
Atlanta Marietta	\$2,907,747	\$2,532,394	87.1%	\$2,876,285	\$2,573,834	89.5%	2.4%	
Atlanta Roswell	\$3,219,999	\$3,156,083	98.0%	\$3,072,623	\$2,967,959	96.6%	-1.4%	
Augusta	\$1,666,630	\$1,603,825	96.2%	\$1,579,286	\$1,505,128	95.3%	-0.9%	
Gainesville	\$1,892,226	\$1,845,102	97.5%	\$1,799,017	\$1,757,055	97.7%	0.2%	
Griffin	\$1,330,733	\$1,271,759	95.6%	\$1,238,845	\$1,202,177	97.0%	1.4%	
LaGrange	\$1,437,045	\$1,335,012	92.9%	\$1,365,087	\$1,273,348	93.3%	0.4%	
Northwest	\$1,258,004	\$1,197,918	95.2%	\$1,210,040	\$1,141,701	94.4%	-0.8%	
Rome Carrollton	\$1,276,332	\$1,163,782	91.2%	\$1,202,156	\$1,084,248	90.2%	-1.0%	
Conference Totals	\$23,101,144	\$21,645,161	93.7%	\$22,075,578	\$20,896,665	94.7%	1.0%	
Increase (Decrease) in Apport. Payments (2015 vs. 2016)					(\$745,299)			
Percent Increase (Decrease)					-3.4%			

206.e. Net Assets as of 12/31/15 and 12/31/16

North Georgia Conference
Fund Balances
As of 12/31/2015 and 12/31/2016

	Fund Balances 12/31/2015 Audited	Fund Balances 12/31/2016 Unaudited	Change
Unrestricted Undesignated			
CFA Reserve	\$2,452,103	\$2,815,811	\$363,708
Unrestricted Designated			
Connectional Ministries	190,666	253,361	62,695
Board of Ordained Ministries - Transitioning	190,363	144,363	(46,000)
Conference Ministerial Education Fund	448,483	270,354	(178,129)
Church Development			
Liquid	852,646	1,911,792	1,059,146
Non-liquid	181,019	164,349	(16,670)
Total Church Development	1,033,665	2,076,141	1,042,476
Disaster Response	39,207	35,311	(3,896)
Benefits Programs			
Current Benefits Reserve	7,353,934	8,629,944	1,276,010
Pre - 1982 Pension	8,547,850	5,149,546	(3,398,304)
Future Retiree Medical Reserve	(10,521,186)	(5,385,797) (d)	5,135,389
Total Benefits Programs	5,380,598	8,393,693	3,013,095
Board of Trustees			
Methodist Center Lease Fund	2,256,720	2,069,804	(186,916)
Capital Reserve-UM Center Replacement	618,990	524,497	(94,493)
Episcopal Residence	574,498	534,490	(40,008)
Total Board of Trustees	3,450,208	3,128,791	(321,417)
Board of Laity	142,629	147,466	4,837
Housing and Homeless Council	1,372,920	1,424,379	51,459
Charles Barnes Fund for Church Development	895,636	988,378	92,742
Simpson Bequest Fund	443,898	481,233	37,335
Camp Wesley Campership Fund	2,184,487	2,329,303	144,816
All Other Unrestricted Designated (a)	94,393	85,912	(8,481)
Total Unrestricted Designated	15,867,153	19,758,685	3,891,532
Total Temporarily Restricted (b)	2,701,680	2,656,507	(45,173)
Total Permanently Restricted (c)	338,795	165,636	(173,159)
Total Fund Balances	\$21,359,731	\$25,396,639	\$4,036,908

(a) Episcopal Office, Archives & History

(b) Milsaps Sustentation, Park Eye Fund, Park Medical Missions Fund, Retiree Needs, Pastor Sustentation, Butler Fund, Myrtle Black Home Mission Fund, Golden Cross, Peace with Justice, Youth Service Fund, Board of Mission Fund, Annual Conference Offerings, Christian Education Sunday, Native Am Awareness

(c) Superannuate Fund, Culpepper Fund

(d) Updated for actuarial valuation completed February 24, 2017.

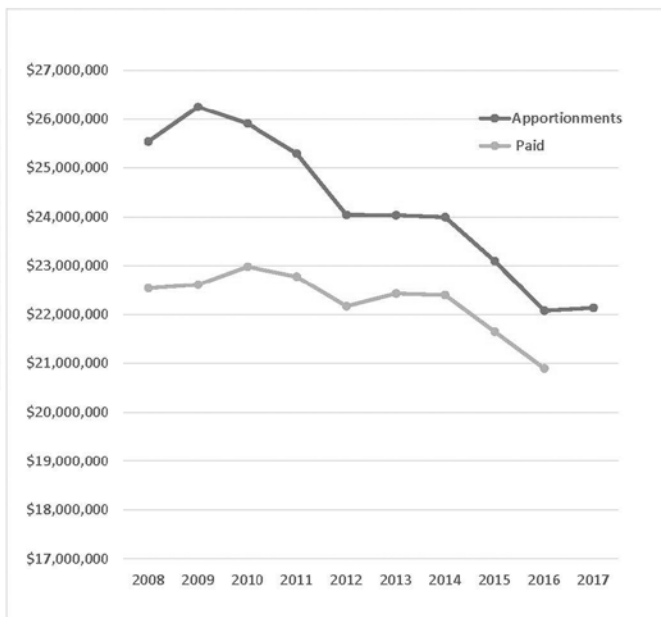
206.f. Ministry Percentage of Total Conference Budget

NGC Ministry Components of Conference Budgets											
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Recommended	2018	
Area I	\$2,574,423	\$2,694,543	\$2,524,607	\$2,568,108	\$2,608,100	\$2,486,252	\$2,681,234	\$2,654,781	\$2,894,590	\$2,894,590	
Area IV	\$1,869,526	\$1,630,015	\$1,325,143	\$1,829,112	\$2,071,164	\$2,039,648	\$2,466,795	\$2,451,795	\$2,346,295	\$2,346,295	
Area VI	\$1,227,231	\$1,091,761	\$952,232	\$1,019,087	\$1,099,586	\$1,199,997	\$1,284,000	\$1,384,000	\$1,459,000	\$1,459,000	
Area XII	\$2,290,196	\$2,033,999	\$1,930,992	\$1,920,755	\$2,100,014	\$2,264,502	\$2,543,694	\$2,595,000	\$2,544,800	\$2,544,800	
Total	\$7,961,376	\$7,450,318	\$6,732,974	\$7,337,062	\$7,878,864	\$7,990,399	\$8,975,723	\$9,025,576	\$9,238,645	\$9,238,645	
Total Conf Line Items	\$18,312,388	\$17,793,671	\$16,835,501	\$17,190,093	\$17,109,803	\$16,279,739	\$15,310,728	\$15,231,235	\$14,840,095	\$14,840,095	
Ministry %	43.48%	41.87%	39.99%	42.68%	46.05%	49.08%	58.62%	59.26%	62.25%	62.25%	

206.g. Apportionment History 2008-2017

North Georgia Conference Apportionment History 2008 - 2017

Year	Apportionments	Paid	%
2008	25,541,139	22,540,120	88.3%
2009	26,252,000	22,610,043	86.1%
2010	25,910,000	22,983,171	88.7%
2011	25,295,042	22,778,152	90.0%
2012	24,042,979	22,165,590	92.2%
2013	24,036,372	22,426,752	93.3%
2014	23,994,762	22,394,927	93.3%
2015	23,101,144	21,645,161	93.7%
2016	22,075,556	20,896,665	94.7%
2017	22,134,096		



206.h. Apportionment Distribution History

Year	N Ga Conf	%	General Church	%	SEJ	%	Total
2018	\$14,840,095	67.4%	\$7,124,709	32.4%	\$56,000	0.3%	\$22,020,804
2017	\$15,231,235	68.8%	\$6,847,497	30.9%	\$55,364	0.3%	\$22,134,096
2016	\$15,310,728	69.4%	\$6,712,179	30.4%	\$52,649	0.2%	\$22,075,556
2015	\$16,279,783	70.7%	\$6,725,092	29.2%	\$9,633	0.0%	\$23,014,508
2014	\$17,109,804	71.3%	\$6,741,997	28.1%	\$142,948	0.6%	\$23,994,749
2013	\$17,190,082	71.5%	\$6,588,951	27.4%	\$257,305	1.1%	\$24,036,338
2012	\$16,835,476	70.0%	\$6,897,437	28.7%	\$310,000	1.3%	\$24,042,913
2011	\$17,793,667	70.3%	\$7,191,405	28.4%	\$310,000	1.2%	\$25,295,072
2010	\$18,312,388	70.7%	\$7,288,497	28.1%	\$309,115	1.2%	\$25,910,000
2009	\$18,615,546	70.9%	\$7,284,077	27.7%	\$352,375	1.3%	\$26,251,998

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206.i. Investment Schedule

North Georgia Conference United Methodist Church
- Investment Schedule -

	<u>As of Dec. 31, 2016</u>
Investments	
Investment - General Board of	\$ 33,808,143
Investment - GA UM Foundation	25,000,228
Investment - GA UM Foundation CD Program	1,513,286
Investment - United Methodist Development	513,969
Investment - Vanguard/Wellington Trust	63,081
Total Investments	<u>\$ 60,898,707</u>

206.j. Investment Policy Statement

Investment Policy Statement North Georgia Annual Conference REVISED-9/21/16

Definition and Purpose

In recognition of its fiduciary responsibilities and the mandate of the *Book of Discipline* (§ 613.5) the **North Georgia Annual Conference** has developed the following Investment Policy Statement (IPS). This IPS shall comply with the policies related to conflict of interest and investment management of annual conference pension and pension related funds under § 1508 of the *Book of Discipline*. This IPS applies to the assets of the following entities:

- **Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB); Conference Board of Trustees (CBT); Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA); and other conference agencies.**
- **Address: 1700 Century Circle NE, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30345**
- **Contact person authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Investment Committee or Council: Keith M. Cox, Conference Treasurer**

The purpose of this policy is as follows: 1

- to establish the responsibilities of the **Investment Committee (Committee)**, as well as those of the service providers hired to help implement the Investment Policy; 2 3 4 5
- to clearly define investment goals and other operational guidelines; 6
- to establish asset allocation parameters, risk tolerance and an investment strategy that is consistent with the investment goals and guidelines; 7 8
- to establish effective communication procedures between the Committee and the investment managers; and 9 10
- to create a formal review process for reviewing this Investment Policy Statement. 11 12

The intent of this IPS is to provide guidelines that are specific enough to be meaningful but also flexible enough to take into account practical considerations. This IPS should be reviewed by the Investment Committee at least annually, or in circumstances where projected spending needs or investment circumstances change materially. 14 15 16 17 18

The standard of care when making decisions is the Prudent Expert Standard, defined as: 19 20

“... the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.” 21 22 23 24 25

Delineation of Responsibilities 26 27

(1)The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is responsible for establishing principles, policies, standards and guidelines for the investment of all monies, assets and properties of the conference. 28 29 30 31

(2)The Investment Committee shall perform all operational functions and make recommendations for changes to this investment policy to the CFA for approval. 32 33 34 35

(3)The CFA is ultimately responsible for the financial integrity and oversight of the Annual Conference financial resources. Under this IPS all operational and implementation of policy decisions are delegated to the Investment Committee. 36 37 38 39

1 The Investment Committee will report to the CFA, and the CBOPHB, at least
2 semi-annually. Any significant deviations from the goals determined by the
3 Investment Committee shall be reported to the Investment Committee and CFA.
4

5 **Organization of the Investment Committee**

6

7 The Committee members shall number **seven** and be headed by a chairperson
8 voted on by the Committee and approved by the CFA and CBOPHB. The
9 members' individual terms shall not exceed **eight years** and shall be staggered
10 to provide for continuity and experienced leadership. Committee membership
11 shall consist of a representative each from the CFA and CBOPHB.
12

13 Responsibilities of the **Investment Committee** are as follows:
14

- 15 • to define the **and develop investment goals, and other operational**
16 **guidelines;**
- 17 • to designate the investment managers and to discharge investment
18 managers;
- 19 • to require all portfolios be managed with appropriate consideration to the
20 social principles of The United Methodist Church;
- 21 • to monitor and evaluate the performance results and risk posture of the
22 investment manager(s);
- 23 • to establish effective communication procedures between the Committee,
24 the Council, the staff and the outside service providers;
- 25 • to monitor and control investment expenses;
- 26 • to delegate the execution and administration of certain Committee
27 responsibilities as appropriate to the Conference Treasurer who serves as
28 its staff;
- 29 • to carry out any other duties required for the legal operation of the
30 investments, including but not limited to hiring outside vendors to
31 perform various services.
32

33 **Statement of Purpose and Financial Requirements**

34

35 The purpose of the investments is to provide financial resources that support the
36 objectives of the **Funds** for which they were created. The responsible board or
37 agency is accountable for the use of the funds as designated by the annual
38 conference or restricted by the donors. To illustrate:
39
40

- the Board of Trustees Funds shall be used to provide for the care, maintenance or acquisition of the real property of the Annual Conference; 1
2
3
- the Board of Pension and Health Care Funds shall be used to provide for ongoing pension and health benefits obligations of the North Georgia Annual Conference; 4
5
6
- Program Funds shall be used to advance the ministries of the North Georgia Annual Conference. 7
8
9

Investment Managers and Benchmarks

To achieve its investment objectives and ensure alignment with United Methodist Social Principles, the Funds shall be allocated among one or more funds managed by Wespath, a division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and, the IPS shall adopt the published investment performance benchmarks for these funds.

Target Asset Allocations and Rebalancing Guidelines

The purpose of allocating among asset classes is to ensure the proper level of diversification and risk for each portfolio. The primary considerations in the asset allocation decision process are:

- maintaining inflation-adjusted purchasing power; 23
- growing the corpus of the funds to meet future obligations; 24
- achieving a minimum return in excess of inflation but with minimal annual fluctuations in the corpus; and, 25
26
- maintaining the longevity of the assets and their distributions while taking into consideration that there may be no additional contributions. 27
28
29

The following table outlines the names of the accounts with target allocation and the minimum and maximum allocation limits of each asset class:

General Fund

Target Allocation

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Equities of all types	35%	65%	70%
Fixed Income Securities	30%	35%	40%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0%	0%	35%

1
2
3 **Deposit Account**

4 **Target Allocation**

5

6 <u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
7 Equities of all types	35%	65%	70%
8 Fixed Income Securities	30%	35%	40%
9 Cash and Cash Equivalents	0%	0%	35%

10

11 **Healthcare Deposit Account**

12 **Target Allocation**

13

14 <u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
15 Equities of all types	35%	65%	70%
16 Fixed Income Securities	30%	35%	40%
17 Cash and Cash Equivalents	0%	0%	35%

18

19 **Equities**

20

21 The Manager should maintain the equity portion of the portfolio at a risk level
22 roughly equivalent to that of the equity market as a whole. Equity holdings may
23 be selected from the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, Standard and Poor's 500 Index
24 and the Russell 2000 Stock Index, and other equities listed on the New York
25 Stock Exchange and/ or the NASDAQ markets.

26

27 The securities should be aimed at appreciation potential and/or income
28 generation. The Manager is prohibited from investing in private placements,
29 letter stocks, options, short sales and margin transactions. No assets shall be
30 invested in securities whose issuers have filed a petition for bankruptcy or
31 hedge funds.

32

33

34 **Fixed Income**

35

36 Investments in Fixed Income securities will be managed actively to pursue
37 opportunities from a variety of sources. The Manager may select from
38 appropriate obligations guaranteed by the U. S. government and its agencies,
39 foreign government, utility stocks, preferred stocks, municipal obligations, and
40

corporate obligations. No funds may be invested in collateralized debt obligations, auction rate securities, or credit default swaps.	1 2 3
Mutual funds, commingled funds, and funds in general	4 5
When mutual funds or commingled funds are used as an investment vehicle, then it is understood the Investment Committee has adopted the specific investment policies of the Fund.	6 7 8 9
Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines	10 11
As an Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church we are committed to implementation of the socially responsible investment policies in <i>The Book of Discipline</i> .	12 13 14 15
“ <i>Socially Responsible Investments</i> —It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general Boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The Boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.”	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
Communication and Responsibility	34 35
The Investment Committee shall provide semi-annually to the CFA and CBOPHB a written account of the investment results, accounting summary and significant developments, if any.	36 37 38 39 40

1 The CFA and CBOPHB shall at least once per year review the
2 investment policy, the effectiveness of the Investment Committee and the
3 overall results of the investments, and will acknowledge in writing that they
4 have done so.

5 The investment manager shall provide the Investment Committee:

- 6 • Quarterly or as necessary:
 - 7 ➤ a report of the portfolio's holdings; and
 - 8 ➤ a review of the investment performance
 - 9 ➤ a commentary of investment results in light of the current
 - 10 investment environment and the goals and guidelines;
 - 11 ➤ a review of the key investment decisions and the rationale for these
 - 12 decisions;
 - 13 ➤ a discussion of the manager's outlook and what specific decisions
 - 14 this outlook may indicate;
 - 15 ➤ any recommendations as to changes in goals and guidelines in light
 - 16 of material and sustained changes in the capital market; and
 - 17 ➤ any significant change in the manager's investment outlook,
 - 18 ownership or key employees.
 - 19 ➤ A report of current investment mix and variance from target (if
 - 20 any)
 - 21 ➤ A report on changes in target allocation

22 **Records**

23
24
25 The CFA, CBOPHB and the Investment Committee shall keep a proper and
26 prudent paper trail of all important documents, meeting minutes and other
27 information relating to the management of the Fund. They shall be available at:

28
29 **Address: 1700 Century Circle Ste 100**

30 **Atlanta, GA 30345**

31 **Custodian of the Records: Conference Treasurer**

32
33 The recommendations and approved changes to the investment policy may be
34 incorporated directly into the policy as a revision and restatement or noted in
35 the addendum until such time as the investment policy is revised and restated.
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206.k. Council on Finance and Administration

The work of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) to develop a fiscally sound and responsive budget for the North Georgia Conference is both a blessing and a challenge. The prayerful consideration of our local churches who continue to demonstrate the strengths of our connectional system through their faithful response in giving is a definite priority. Likewise, the ministry needs of our Annual Conference and global work, which are a similar priority, demand we carefully examine the many deserving requests for funding which inevitably stretch the Conference's revenue expectations. The work of the CF&A this year began on February 13 as we began to receive 2018 budget requests. The context of our work was:

This context requires that financial prudence and spiritual balance combine to produce a responsible recommended budget that increases the budget percentage allocated to ministry and decreases the percentage of institutional costs. The members of the Council were able to achieve that goal. We were able to recommend an increase in program budgets, with Higher Education/Campus Ministry and Congregational Development receiving recommended increases. The recommended 2018 budget is \$22,020,804 or \$113,292 (0.5%) **less** than the 2017 budget. This decrease is in spite of a 4.0% increase in the 2018 General Church apportionments. The summary is as follows: Conference mission/ministry percentage of the budget is up, institutional/legacy costs are down, and General Church line items increased by 4.0%.

CF&A believes that we need to continue to plan for a future that includes the ability to fully fund our obligations without unduly burdening the future operating budgets of our local churches. As a part of this, we recommend the continuance of establishing reserves for matters such as retirement obligations, medical obligations, future campus / rental needs and general budgetary reserves, and our recommended budget includes these planning matters.

North Georgia United Methodists have faced and/or continue to face financial challenges to be sure. We continue to experience a declining number of churches, which highlights the need to focus on starting new congregations as well as to revitalize existing ones. The economy continues to improve, membership increased again in 2016, the Conference's balance sheet is the strongest that it has been in over 12 years, our faith remains strong, our outlook positive, our attitude joyous and our giving worthy of celebration! Together, we will continue to work in all ways and in all places to be obedient to the mission of the United Methodist Church: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the

1 Transformation of the World. Thank you for all you do for Christ through our
2 partnership in the UMC.

3 Sean Taylor, Chair
4
5

6 **206.1. 2017 Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations**
7

- 8 1. We recommend that each district continue to be responsible for funding
9 of conference expenses for its at-large delegates. Funding levels will be at
10 the discretion of the respective district superintendent.
11
- 12 2. We recommend that lay volunteers serving on Annual Conference
13 committees and task forces be reimbursed their mileage costs at the
14 prevailing IRS employee rate.
15
- 16 3. We recommend in addition to those observances set by the General
17 Conference (defined in *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶263), the following special
18 days, with offerings, but without quotas, be observed in 2018: Homeless
19 Offering (last Sunday in February), Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods
20 Senior Living (Mother's Day, second Sunday in May), Murphy-Harpst (third
21 Sunday in July), Golden Cross (third Sunday in August), United Methodist
22 Children's Home Amazing Grace Offering (third Sunday in September),
23 Aldersgate Homes (fourth Sunday in October), Action Ministries (first Sunday
24 in December).
25
- 26 4. We recommend that each of the following be permitted to have one direct
27 mail appeal for funds in 2018: the United Methodist Children's Home; Action
28 Ministries; Aldersgate Homes, Inc.
29
- 30 5. We recommend that all special day offerings be scheduled through the
31 Director of Connectional Ministries so as to avoid calendar conflicts.
32
- 33 6. We recommend the adoption of the apportionment formula approved at
34 Annual Conference 2006, and used each year since, as described in the 2018
35 *Recommended Budget Interpretation*, which is attached.
36
- 37 7. We recommend that all churches and conference-related agencies ensure
38 that their internal control systems are adequate to safeguard their assets as
39 well as to insure compliance with completing an annual audit pursuant to
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2016 Book of Discipline ¶258(4)(d). For churches whose operating budgets are less than \$500,000, we recommend that those churches consider utilizing the “Local Church Audit Guide” to fulfill their audit obligation.

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8. We recommend that local churches institute or update risk management practices and procedures to protect church assets, employees and volunteers. This includes expeditiously moving to comply with practices defined in the “Safe Sanctuaries” program and to monitor compliance with that program.

9. We recommend that all clergy either living in church-owned parsonages and/or that maintain personal belongings in a church-owned office, seek counsel from their insurance agent about securing insurance coverage for their personal property.

10. We recommend that all key third party providers of professional services be reviewed by the appropriate department/ministry for efficacy every three years. The review(s) will be forwarded to CFA for its input. (For those who have recently been reviewed, one will not be necessary until no later than 6/30/21)

11. We recommend that a joint committee of CFA, CBOT and the Cabinet continue to jointly study district office administration with the goal of ensuring that best practices are utilized. We further recommend that a report be made to Annual Conference about the results of the study during Annual Conference session 2018.

12. That Cabinet and extended Cabinet clergy appointed to the UM Center have housing-related allowances for 2018 designated as follows: Housing allowance (in lieu of parsonage)-\$32,749 per year; utility allowance-\$5,000 per year. (These are the same levels as 2009). For non-Cabinet clergy appointed to the UM Center, housing-related allowance shall be at a level no lower than the minimum recommended by the Commission on Equitable Compensation, but may be higher, as determined by the respective supervisor.

206.m. Recommended 2018 Budget

North Georgia Annual Conference
Budget Summary
2018 Budget - CFA Recommended

		2016 Approved Budget	2016 Expended	2016 Exp vs Appr %	2017 Approved Budget	2018 Recommended Budget	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) %	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) %
Area I	Min Support/Equitable Comp									
	Resident Bishop	81,400	77,954	95.8%	124,000	290,000	212,046	272.0%	166,000	133.9%
	Dist Supts Compensation	1,829,239	1,835,295	100.3%	1,847,531	1,871,550	36,255	2.0%	24,019	1.3%
	District AA's Pension/Insurance	100,000	66,400	66.4%	80,000	90,000	23,600	35.5%	10,000	12.5%
	Equitable Comp Fund	325,000	382,230	117.6%	325,000	310,000	(72,230)	-18.9%	(15,000)	-4.6%
	Board of Ordained Min	345,595	301,742	87.3%	278,250	333,000	31,258	10.4%	54,750	19.7%
	Total Min Support/Eq Comp	2,681,234	2,663,621	99.3%	2,654,781	2,894,550	230,929	8.7%	239,769	9.0%
Area II	Ret Min Pension and Ins									
	Retiree Health Ins Premiums	2,325,000	2,089,664	89.9%	2,225,000	2,125,000	35,336	1.7%	(100,000)	-4.5%
	Office Admin	275,000	264,391	96.1%	285,000	240,000	(24,391)	-9.2%	(45,000)	-15.8%
	Disability Premiums	195,000	191,591	98.3%	187,000	210,000	18,409	9.6%	23,000	12.3%
	Future Ret Medical Ins Reserve	0	0	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	0	0.0%
	Pre 1982 Pension Funding	1,500,000	2,000,000	133.3%	1,000,000	500,000	(1,500,000)	-75.0%	(500,000)	-50.0%
	Total Ret Min Pen and Ins	4,295,000	4,545,646	105.8%	4,197,000	3,575,000	(970,846)	-21.4%	(622,000)	-14.8%
Area III	Administration									
	Annual Conf Session and Rel	215,000	205,946	95.8%	185,000	190,000	(15,946)	-7.7%	5,000	2.7%
	Treasurer and Admin Services	600,000	613,204	102.2%	615,000	640,000	26,796	4.4%	25,000	4.1%
	Office of Ministerial Services	440,005	381,724	86.8%	401,159	371,450	(10,274)	-2.7%	(29,709)	-7.4%
	CFA	115,000	112,872	98.1%	115,000	115,000	2,128	1.9%	0	0.0%
	Cabinet Expenses	50,000	70,068	140.1%	50,000	75,000	4,932	7.0%	25,000	50.0%
	Board of Trustees	85,000	121,159	142.5%	92,500	110,000	(11,159)	-9.2%	17,500	18.9%
	Contingency	0	0			0	0	-		
	Total Administration	1,505,005	1,504,973	100.0%	1,458,659	1,501,450	(3,523)	-0.2%	42,791	2.9%

206.m. Recommended 2018 Budget, continued

North Georgia Annual Conference
Budget Summary
2018 Budget - CFA Recommended

	2016 Approved Budget	2016 Expended	2016 Exp vs Appr %	2017 Approved Budget	2018 Recommended Budget	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) %	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) %
Area IV	Conference Benevolences								
Connectional Ministries:									
Ministry Teams	310,000	253,343	81.7%	300,000	237,000	(16,343)	-6.5%	(63,000)	-21.0%
N Ga Camp and Retr Min	361,800	342,625	94.7%	361,800	361,800	19,175	5.6%	0	0.0%
Leadership ID and Dev	30,000	23,142	77.1%	30,000	30,000	6,858	29.6%	0	0.0%
CM Office Support	907,995	864,703	95.2%	877,995	840,495	(24,208)	-2.8%	(37,500)	-4.3%
Communications Office	247,000	219,753	89.0%	247,000	247,000	27,247	12.4%	0	0.0%
Total Connectional Min	1,856,795	1,703,566	91.7%	1,816,795	1,716,295	12,729	0.7%	(100,500)	-5.5%
Action Ministries	550,000	520,850	94.7%	575,000	575,000	54,150	10.4%	0	0.0%
Housing & Homeless Council	15,000	14,205	94.7%	15,000	10,000	(4,205)	-29.6%	(5,000)	-33.3%
Ministry of the Laity	45,000	42,615	94.7%	45,000	45,000	2,385	5.6%	0	0.0%
Total Conf Benevolences	2,466,795	2,281,236	92.5%	2,451,795	2,346,295	65,059	2.9%	(105,500)	-4.3%
Area V	Capital Funding								
Capital Acquisition	35,000	21,026	60.1%	50,000	25,000	3,974	18.9%	(25,000)	-50.0%
Meth Center - L/T Repl Reserve	0	0	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	-	0	0.0%
Debt Service	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	-
Total Capital Funding	35,000	21,026	60.1%	300,000	275,000	253,974	1207.9%	(25,000)	-8.3%
Area VI	Higher Ed & Campus Ministry								
	1,284,000	1,230,279	95.8%	1,384,000	1,453,000	222,721	18.1%	69,000	5.0%
Area XII	Congregational Development								
Program Expenditures	2,025,000	851,596	42.1%	1,910,000	1,979,800	1,128,204	132.5%	69,800	3.7%
Office Support	518,694	521,036	100.5%	625,000	565,000	43,964	8.4%	(60,000)	-9.6%
Total Congregational Dev	2,543,694	1,372,632	54.0%	2,535,000	2,544,800	1,172,168	85.4%	9,800	0.4%

206.m. Recommended 2018 Budget, continued

North Georgia Annual Conference
Budget Summary
2018 Budget - CFA Recommended

		2016 Approved Budget	2016 Expended	2016 Exp vs Appr %	2017 Approved Budget	2018 Recommended Budget	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2016 Exp Inc/(Dec) %	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) Amount	2018 vs 2017 Budget Inc/(Dec) %
	Undes Res and Comp Full Pmt	500,000	473,500	94.7%	250,000	250,000	(223,500)	-47.2%	0	0.0%
Total North Georgia Conference		15,310,728	14,092,913	92.0%	15,231,235	14,840,095	747,182	5.3%	(391,140)	-2.6%
VII	Black College Fund	464,063	428,774	92.4%	474,576	493,788	65,014	15.2%	19,212	4.0%
VIII	Ministerial Education	1,163,327	1,074,249	92.3%	1,189,738	1,237,903	163,854	15.2%	48,165	4.0%
IX	Interdenominational Coop	91,025	83,740	92.0%	93,046	96,813	13,073	15.6%	3,767	4.0%
X	World Service Fund	3,388,466	3,105,111	91.6%	3,522,504	3,665,107	559,996	18.0%	142,603	4.0%
XI	Africa University	103,884	98,686	95.0%	106,208	110,508	11,822	12.0%	4,300	4.0%
XIV	Episcopal Fund	1,092,309	999,377	91.5%	1,043,157	1,085,388	86,011	8.6%	42,231	4.0%
XV	General Church Admin	409,105	375,124	91.7%	418,268	435,202	60,078	16.0%	16,934	4.0%
Total General Church		6,712,179	6,165,061	91.8%	6,847,497	7,124,709	959,848	15.6%	277,212	4.0%
Area XVI	Southeastern Jurisdiction	52,849	52,849	100.0%	55,364	56,000	3,351	6.4%	636	1.1%
Total Budget		22,075,556	20,310,623	92.0%	22,134,096	22,020,804	1,710,181	8.4%	(113,292)	-0.5%

**206.n. Interpretation of
2018 Recommended Conference Apportionment Budget
(subject to approval by Annual Conference)**

The recommended Conference budget for 2018 is \$22,020,804, a **decrease** of \$113,292 versus the approved 2017 budget. Conference direct mission and ministry budgets comprise 62.2% of the Conference portion of the budget versus 59.26% in 2017.

This budget includes a 1.3% salary increase for the Cabinet and 2.5% salary increase for UM Center staff.

General Church apportionments reflect an increase of 4.0%.

CONFERENCE FUNDS:

AREA I. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

Episcopal Residence/Office/Discretionary	\$ 290,000
District Superintendents' Compensation	1,871,550
District AA Pension/Ins	90,000
Equitable Compensation Fund	310,000
Board of Ordained Ministry	<u>333,000</u>
Total Area I	<u>\$ 2,894,550</u>

The Episcopal Residence and Office Fund provides the conference share of financial support for the office and residence expense for North Georgia's Resident Bishop. In 2018, the General Church share of residence support is \$10,000, while the General Church's share of office support is \$84,558. The increase in Area I is primarily due to the reestablishment of the full-time Executive Assistant to the Bishop position (This position was full-time from 1999-2011).

The District Superintendents' Compensation line item represents salaries, health insurance and pension benefits for the twelve (12) district superintendents of our conference.

The Equitable Compensation Fund enables our conference to ensure all appointed clergy will receive Conference minimum compensation.

1 The Board of Ordained Ministry coordinates, with the Cabinet, deployment and
2 credentialing of clergy. Additionally, it coordinates the provision of support for
3 conference clergy through myriad services, continuing education activities,
4 seminars and counseling support, which is essentially a clergy-specific
5 expanded EAP program subsidized by the Annual Conference. This ministry
6 enables our conference to meet the high standards and expectations of local
7 church congregations.

8
9 **AREA II. RETIRED MINISTERS PENSION/INSURANCE**

10	Retired Minister Insurance Premiums	\$2,125,000
11	Benefits Office Staff and Admin Exp.	240,000
12	Disability Premiums	210,000
13	Retirees' Past Service Pension (Pre-1982)	500,000
14	Retiree Medical Supplement Liability	<u>500,000</u>
15	Total Area II	<u>\$3,575,000</u>

16
17 Retired Minister Pension/Insurance reflects funding in order to assure continued
18 “full funded” status despite actuarial risk factors.

19 Also included is the OneExchange defined contribution funding for the
20 Health Reimbursement Account for retired/eligible clergy and Conference staff.
21 The amount is based on claims expenses passed on to the Conference by
22 WesPath (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health
23 Benefits). The benefit per claimant is currently capped at \$3600/annum. This
24 program allows us to manage and address the retiree medical insurance **net**
25 unfunded liability, estimated to be \$5,300,000 as of 12/31/2016.

26
27 **AREA III. ADMINISTRATIVE FUND**

28 Annual Conference Session/Journal/Handbook \$ 190,000

29 This line item represents total direct Annual Conference session production
30 expenses including documentation.

31
32 The following Area III office "sub totals" include director and staff salaries and
33 benefits and office related expenses.

34
35 Office of Treasurer/Admin/IT Services \$ 640,000

36 This office develops, maintains and administers a comprehensive plan of fiscal
37 and administrative policies, processes and services for all the Conference's
38 administrative ministries. Additionally, the office provides workshops for
39 clergy and laity who serve as church treasurers, financial secretaries, business
40

administrators and finance committee chairpersons. This office also
administers all conference databases and computer equipment. The IT Director
and assistant also provide support for the district offices.

Office of Ministerial Services and Spiritual Formation \$ 371,450

This office provides for the many needs of those who have dedicated their lives
to God's service through the church, including maintenance of clergy service
records/files. This department also provides for credentialing and support of all
conference clergy.

BOT/"New" Methodist Center Operating Expenses \$ 110,000

This represents net operating expenses for the conference offices, including
insurance and telephone service for the new leased space.

Council on Finance and Administration \$ 115,000

This includes conference and district audit fees, legal fees and meeting
expenses for CFA.

Cabinet Expenses \$ 75,000

This represents expenses for Cabinet members related to Cabinet meetings,
including Annual Conference session and Pastor's School.

Total Area III \$1,501,450

AREA IV. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES

Connectional Ministries:

Administrative Support & Staff \$ 840,495

Communications \$ 247,000

Program/Ministry Teams \$ 237,000

Camp and Retreat Ministries \$ 361,800

Conference Leadership Development \$ 30,000

Sub Total Connect. Ministries \$1,716,295

The Connectional Ministries functions are responsible for equipping and
training local church leaders for effective ministry.

1	<u>Action Ministries</u>	<u>\$ 575,000</u>
2	This ministry continues the transformation of communities by counteracting	
3	social issues such as poverty, hunger and homelessness.	
4		
5	<u>Housing and Homeless Council</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
6	This line item will partially fund staffing and office expenses.	
7		
8	<u>Ministry of the Laity</u>	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
9	The Conference Board of Laity fosters awareness of the role of laity both within	
10	the local congregation and through their ministries, develops and promotes	
11	stewardship, provides for training of lay members, provides support and	
12	direction for ministry of the laity and provides organization, direction and	
13	support for the development of local church leaders.	
14		
15	Total Area IV	<u>\$2,346,295</u>
16		
17	AREA V. CAPITAL FUNDING	
18		
19	<u>CAPEX</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
20	This represents funding for office equipment, computers and replacement for	
21	three old PowerPoint projectors.	
22		
23	<u>UM Center Replacement Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 250,000</u>
24	This is included in order to build a reserve fund to either continue leasing the	
25	UM Center after lease expiration, or to have funding to consider building.	
26		
27	Total Area V	<u>\$</u>
28	<u>275,000</u>	
29		
30	AREA VI. HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY	
31		
32	Total Area VI	<u>\$ 1,453,000</u>
33	This line item represents support to the nine (9) United Methodist colleges (7 in	
34	NGA) and eighteen (18) Wesley Foundations (12 in NGA) on college campuses	
35	in Georgia. The balance goes to support office expenses and capital funding.	
36		
37		
38		
39		
40		

AREA XII. CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT		1
		2
Total Area XII	<u>\$ 2,544,800</u>	3
This budget includes funding for the following activities:		4
		5
<u>The Office of Congregational Development and Staff</u> - The salaries, benefits and expenses for personnel in the Office of Congregational Development.		6
		7
		8
<u>New Church Salary and Support</u> - These funds are used to underwrite the compensation packages of our new church pastors and also to provide some start-up funding.		9
		10
		11
		12
<u>Market Research</u> - These funds are used to maintain a contract with a demographic consultant and to provide partnership opportunities with districts to develop district strategies.		13
		14
		15
		16
<u>New Pastor Coaching</u> - These funds are used to conduct the NExT Clergy Leadership Development Program.		17
		18
		19
CONTINGENCY RESERVE	<u>\$250,000</u>	20
		21
SUB TOTAL		22
2018 CONFERENCE BUDGET	<u>\$14,840,095</u>	23
		24
GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS:		25
		26
AREA VII. BLACK COLLEGE FUND		27
Total Area VII	<u>\$ 493,788</u>	28
		29
This line item represents our denomination's support, via supplements, of the operations and capital funding of historically black colleges and medical schools related to the United Methodist Church, including Clark Atlanta University and Paine College.		30
		31
		32
		33
		34
AREA VIII. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND		35
Total Area VIII	<u>\$ 1,237,903</u>	36
This ministry provides our churches financial support for the recruitment and education of our future pastors and bishops. Please note that our conference retains 25% of the fund balance for use in our conference. The retained fund		37
		38
		39
		40

1 balance as of 12/31/2016 is \$270,354. Scholarship grants can total \$1,000 per
2 semester for undergraduate studies (certified candidates only) and \$3,000 per
3 semester for seminary students with a lifetime maximum per student of
4 \$26,000.

5
6 **AREA IX. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND**

7 Total Area IX \$ 96,813

8 This fund enables United Methodists to have a presence in the activities of
9 ecumenical organizations, and provides our United Methodist share of the basic
10 budgets of those organizations which relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of
11 the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and
12 Inter-religious Concerns. Included in this fund in 2018 is support for:

13

14 National Council of Churches	\$29,300
15 World Council of Churches	\$25,680
16 World Methodist Council	\$22,700
17 Pan-Methodist Commission	\$ 1,170
18 Ecumenical Office and Travel	\$12,605
19 Interreligious Relations	\$ 1,760
20 Other	\$ 3,598

21

22 **AREA X. WORLD SERVICE FUND**

23 Total Area X \$ 3,665,107

24 The World Service Fund enables our denomination to strengthen its evangelism
25 efforts, stimulate church growth, expand Bible studies and enrich spiritual
26 commitment. This fund allows us to share in a worldwide ministry, including
27 support for missionaries.

28
29 **AREA XI. AFRICA UNIVERSITY**

30 Total Area XI \$ 110,508

31 This fund supports the development of the first private university for young
32 men and women from all over Africa. Courses of study include agriculture,
33 theology, medicine and dentistry, education, technology and management.

34
35 **AREA XIV. EPISCOPAL FUND**

36 Total Area XIV \$ 1,085,388

37 This fund pays the annual salaries (approximately \$155,000) and benefits of
38 active bishops worldwide and some support for the retired bishops worldwide,
39 funds the majority of the expenses related to episcopal offices and a portion of
40

episcopal residence expenses. It also funds episcopal travel and moving expenses. 51 Jurisdictional and 18 Central Conference bishops receive support from this fund.

AREA XV. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

Total Area XV \$ 435,202

This area funds those General Church activities that are specifically administrative in nature, such as the General Council on Finance and Administration, General Conference session, Archives and History and Judicial Council.

SUBTOTAL 2018 GEN CHURCH BUDGET \$7,124,709

For more information on the General Church Budget go to:
http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_GCFA/reports/financial/2017-2020_Financial_Committment_Book_FINAL_071316_02.pdf

AREA XVI. JURISDICTIONAL MISSION & MINISTRY FUND

Total Area XVI \$ 56,000

This area supports the administrative functions of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

GRAND TOTAL 2018 BUDGET \$22,020,804

206.o. How Are Apportionments Computed?

Step 1: Conference determines annual budget, consisting of several ministries and programs, including retired ministerial support, regional ministries, new church development, General Church and Jurisdictional apportionments to the North Georgia Conference.

Step 2: At calendar year-end, the local church completes the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference. (For the 2018 recommended budget, the latest available reports are the 2016 year-end reports.)

Step 3: The Treasurer's Office accumulates all local church reports and determines each local church's **operating expenses**. **Operating expenses** consist of salaries, pension benefits, clergy housing-related expenses, expense reimbursements, current program expenses, expenses related to commercial insurance and other current operating expenses. Operating expenses (also referred to as "decimal" expenses) do NOT include: Elder HealthFlex insurance expenses (Table 2, Line 47 of the Year-End Report), payments on indebtedness, or capital-related expenditures. Also, expenses related to "self-sustaining" activities and local benevolences are NOT considered operating expenses.

Step 4: The Treasurer's Office totals the local church operating expenses for ALL 850+ North Georgia United Methodist churches. For year end 12/31/2016, this total was \$193,585,604 (an **increase of 0.907%** over 2015).

Step 5: We determine "the decimal." This is the conference budget divided by total church operating expenses (from step 4). The decimal for 2018 (recommended budget) is .114, or 11.4 %. This is a **reduction of 0.2 percentage points** from the 2017 budget. **This means that the Conference budget, expressed as a percentage of local church expenditures, in aggregate, is down 1.7% versus the 2017 budget (0.2/11.6).**

Step 6: We multiply an individual church's operating expenses by the decimal, arriving at the total gross apportionment. We then prorate the gross apportionment to 15 individual apportionment line items.

Step 7: Churches above 1000 members will have a "reasonableness test" applied to their apportionments (see formula below), and the Cabinet **might**

adjust the computed apportionments for certain churches within that size range. 1
This methodology was approved at AC 2006. 2

3
Step 8: We sum the apportionment for each individual district and send this 4
information to the district offices. District superintendents review the 5
apportionments as calculated, **and may make adjustments to the calculated** 6
amounts. Such adjustments should be made only after discussion with the 7
church's senior pastor. Note that the district's aggregate apportionments cannot 8
be changed. 9

10
Step 9: District superintendents notify local churches of their apportionment 11
amounts. This information is provided to the pastors via "Local Church 12
Apportionment Reports" at the summer/fall district set-up meetings. 13

14
Please note that churches that are considered "newly constituted" have five 15
years to transition into their full computed apportionment. In effect, the 16
difference between their *computed* apportionment and what they are *actually* 17
apportioned is subsidized by the other churches in the Conference for a five 18
year period. (This is accomplished generally by apportioning in increments of 19
20% of computed apportionments per year for 5 years: 20% in year 1, 40% in 20
year 2, etc.) 21

22
**Detailed Explanation of Step 7 as originally approved at 2006 Annual 23
Conference Session (and re-ratified each year since):** 24

25
In order to assure that our apportionment computation and allocation system is 26
as equitable as possible, we recommend that a "reasonableness test" be 27
implemented, which will work as follows- 28

- a. Existing apportionment formula and rules for year-end report completion 29
remain unchanged. 30
- b. After the apportionments have been computed for all churches, three (3) 31
comparative groups will be established: churches with membership from 32
1000-1999; 2000-2999; 3000+ 33
- c. The aggregate apportionments for each group will be divided by the 34
aggregate membership of each group in order to calculate an average 35
apportionment/member for each group. 36
- d. Any church whose apportionment/member falls below the average for its 37
group will be referred to the Cabinet for discussion about possibly being 38
moved up to the group average over a three (3) year period. Group 39

1 average calculations will occur each year based on the latest reported
2 membership statistics.

- 3 e. The Cabinet will review the apportionments for the churches in all three
4 groups and will, as a body, discuss and might make adjustments to each
5 church whose apportionment is below the average for its size range.
6 f. Apportionments added to the affected churches will not be offset by
7 reductions in other churches, and will be applied to Conference-specific
8 apportionment line items ONLY and will NOT be added to General or
9 Jurisdictional line items.

10
11 **Information Only**

12 Note: Information reported by our churches on the year end “Table III” report,
13 which is a report of revenues, indicates the following:

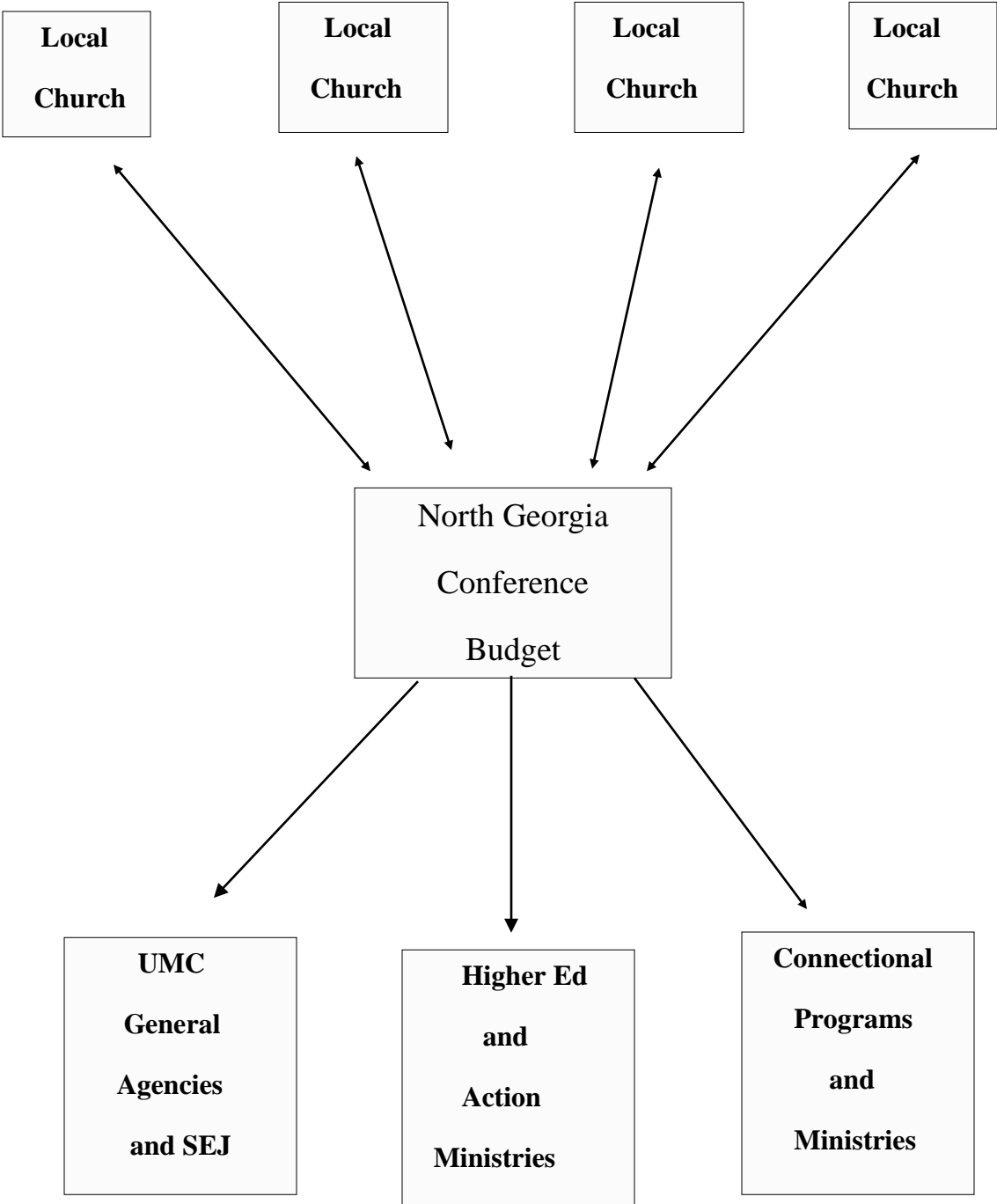
14

15 • Aggregate amount received through pledges	\$129,492,538
16 • Aggregate amount received through non-pledging, identified givers	\$126,262,201
17	
18 • Aggregate amount received from unidentified givers	<u>\$ 5,966,226</u>
19	
20 Total “normal” giving	<u>\$261,720,965</u>

21
22 **The recommended 2018 budget, expressed as a percentage of aggregate**
23 **“normal” revenues, is 8.4%.**
24
25
26
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206.p. How the Recommended 2018 Budget Was Developed

HOW THE 2018 RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT BUDGET WAS DEVELOPED



1 **NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE**
2 **COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

3
4 **HOW THE 2018 RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE**
5 **APPORTIONMENT BUDGET WAS DEVELOPED**
6

- 7
8 1. The "General Church" sets priorities and develops programs at the General
9 Conference Session for a four (4) year period (the quadrennium). The new
10 quadrennium began in 2017 and runs through 2020.
11

12 The financial support for those worldwide ministries is apportioned to the
13 Annual Conferences, which, in turn, apportions those amounts to the
14 local churches. The 2018 General Church Apportionments are
15 \$7,124,709 or 32.4 % of the 2018 total recommended conference budget.
16 This is based on the budget approved by General Conference for the new
17 quadrennium (\$604M).
18

19 The United Methodist Church is a worldwide, connectional denomination
20 and every United Methodist church has the opportunity to support, via
21 apportioned giving, our conference, regional and worldwide ministries.
22

- 23 2. Conference-based and conference-subsidized programs and ministries
24 requested funding based on their plans and priorities for the upcoming year.
25 These plans are developed by program "conferencing" via staff as well as
26 those serving on boards and committees, such as the Board of Church
27 Development, the Board of Laity, the Board of Pensions and Health
28 Benefits, the Board of Ministry, Action Ministries, et. al.
29

30 Representatives from several programs/ministries and their board
31 chairpersons, if applicable, presented their requests to CFA via email
32 and/or in person. CFA reviewed these requests on February 13, 2017.
33 Those requests were then put in the draft budget.
34

- 35 3. On March 10, 2017 CF&A met to review the draft budget. During this
36 meeting, CF&A made very minor adjustments to the draft budget based on
37 several factors, including: budget changes compared to change in local
38 church expenditures; departmental fund balances; apportionment collection
39 rates from prior years; feedback from the local churches, the Cabinet and
40

other members of the Annual Conference; CF&A made a decision to slightly reduce the Conference portion of the budget. However the percentage allocable to mission and ministry initiatives continues to increase. The total recommended budget for 2018 is **\$22,020,804**, a decrease of \$113,292 (-0.5%) from the approved 2017 budget.

Note that our General Church apportionments increased by 4.0%.

4. Through a series of district "pre-Conference briefings", district superintendents and/or conference staff make themselves available to the delegates to present highlights of the budget and take questions as time allows.
5. During Annual Conference Session, the budget will be presented to members of annual conference, who represent all local churches.

After the budget is approved, conference staff will calculate the local church apportionments, which represent each church's "share" of the conference and world-wide ministry and mission, using the apportionment calculation methodology described the "Budget Interpretation."

The apportionments will be provided to each district superintendent, who may alter individual apportionments within his/her district, but not the total amount for the district. It is expected that the DS will have conversations with the affected churches about any changes in the calculated apportionments.

Final apportionments are distributed, by church, by the DS at his/her appointed district setup meeting in late summer/early fall.

The Conference Treasurer's Office will NOT communicate apportionments to any church until after the 2017 district set up meetings have concluded! Once the set up meetings have concluded, 2018 apportionments will be posted on the conference website.

1 **206.q. District Administrative Review Team (DART)**

2
3 The 2015 Annual Conference approved the following recommendation from the
4 Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA):

5 **“We recommend that CFA, CBOT, CPPPC and the cabinet jointly study**
6 **district office administration with the goal of ensuring that best practices**
7 **are utilized.”**

8 The 2016 Annual Conference approved the following CFA
9 recommendation:

10 **“We recommend that a joint committee of CFA, CBOT and the cabinet**
11 **continue to jointly study district office administration with the goal of**
12 **ensuring that best practices are utilized. We further recommend that a**
13 **report be made to Annual Conference about the results of the study during**
14 **Annual Conference session 2017.”**

15 The original members of DART are: Cabinet - Bernice Kirkland, Doug
16 Thrasher, Carol Cook (Vice Chair); Trustees - Jim Thornton (former Chair),
17 Jeffrey Adams, JoEllen Wilson; CFA - Ellen Shepard, Harold Tarpley; CFA
18 Personnel - Jill Irvin, Deborah Marshall; Staff Resource - Keith Cox.

19 (Note: Jim Thornton was recently named incoming Conference Chancellor. As
20 a result, he is no longer a voting member of Trustees, and is therefore no longer
21 a member of DART. Similarly, Carol Cook will be rotating off the Cabinet and
22 will no longer be a member of DART after this annual conference.

23 Replacements will be designated after 2017 Annual Conference session).

24 The work of the DART committee began in earnest in the late fall of
25 2016, with a series of conference calls. We began by polling district
26 superintendents about how each of the North Georgia districts are administered.
27 Then we polled similar size conferences for specific information about how
28 they administered districts.

29 Once that information was compiled and shared with the DART
30 members, Keith Cox spent time with the North Carolina Conference Treasurer
31 in order to glean salient information about NC Conference’s transition to
32 centralized district administration. That information was shared with the DART
33 and will lead to further analysis, more research and most likely more
34 comprehensive recommendations.

35 Our first recommendation is to transition bookkeeping at the district level
36 to the Conference Treasurer’s office, effective 1/1/2019. This means that
37 apportionments for district support will be consolidated to a specific line item
38 within the conference budget. Bills will be paid by the conference staff, all
39 district superintendent reimbursements will be processed from the conference
40

office (this will necessitate a Standing Rule change in 2018) and the attendant costs of the independent CPA review of the district financial statements should be drastically reduced and ultimately eliminated. The current total annual cost for district reviews is \$36,000.

Future research will include: how to and where to physically house district offices; the evolving role of the district administrative assistants and how that may affect the form of district administrative support; how to provide high quality and efficient administrative support to the DS's so that they can focus on missional activities; how to assure that appropriate connection between the conference and churches, particularly small rural churches, will be maintained.

This is important work. Aggregate apportionments from the districts to our churches for 2017 total \$2,008,398. This is in addition to the conference (including General Church and SEJ) apportionments of \$22,134,096.

The goal of the DART is stated and is not primarily to reduce apportionments. However, it would not be surprising if the ultimate recommendations for district administration would result in an aggregate reduction in apportionments.

Carol Cook, Vice Chair

300. Ministry Focus of The United Methodist Church

300.a. The Four Areas of Ministry Focus

The Four Areas of Focus express the vision and yearnings of the people of The United Methodist Church. Narrowing our focus to these four areas allows churches to use their resources effectively as they live out God's vision for the church.

Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

Christ calls us to be in ministry with the poor and marginalized. Our emphasis is on "with" – standing with those who are regarded as "the least of these," listening to them, understanding their needs and aspirations, and working with them to achieve their goals. It also means addressing the causes of poverty and responding in ways that lift up individuals and communities. United Methodists believe working side by side with those striving to improve their situation is more effective long term than top-down charity. One of the four areas of mission focus for the church is Ministry with the Poor. In the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, we hear the biblical mandate to care for those in need: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

United Methodists seek to improve the quality of life and opportunities for all God's people. As John Wesley did, we also seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering.

The church engages in ministries to eradicate poverty by partnering with, and empowering, those in need. The Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church leads the way as the whole church works to be relationship-driven rather than resource driven.

Improving Global Health

Knowing that poverty and health are intertwined, The United Methodist Church has become a key player in fighting diseases such as malaria and AIDS and promoting initiatives that improve well-being. The church is nearing its goal of raising \$75 million to provide education, infrastructure, communication and prevention measures to defeat malaria. In the space of about five years, the death rate from malaria in Africa was cut in half, thanks to international efforts such as the denomination's Imagine No Malaria campaign. This fight can be won. As United Methodists, we care about the health and well-being of all people. In the Wesleyan tradition, the Christian faith is not a solitary journey.

We are part of a larger community — our church families, our neighborhoods, and the world.	1 2
The Global Health Initiative is major area of focus for the ministry of The United Methodist Church, which aims to combat diseases of poverty such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis as well as provide health education, advocacy and infrastructure. We have long been a key player in the fight against malaria through the hospitals, clinics and missions centers we have operated across Africa for more than 160 years.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Developing Principled Christian Leaders	10
The church needs leaders rooted in Christ, who have a vision for changing the world. Today’s young people have fearless hearts, vibrant ideas and a passion for ministry. Their talents should be nurtured to shape the church’s path into the future. The church must recruit young people — including women and people of color the world over — for ministry, equip them to be effective leaders and be open to where they want to lead us. We also must strengthen lay members, who are ministering at every level of the church. All Christians are called to a ministry of sharing God’s love in the world. Some have the vocation of leading the church in its work of forming disciples and equipping congregations to live out God’s mission in the world.	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
The United Methodist Church recognizes the critical importance of developing new leaders to guide the church through changing times. Principled, visionary and effective ordained and lay leaders help United Methodists grow in faith and in sharing God’s love with others.	21 22 23 24
The United Methodist Church is focusing on inviting and preparing young people, including women and people of color, to become clergy who lead the church in world-transforming ministry.	25 26 27
Training and sending laypeople is another focus. The early Methodist movement grew through the efforts of laity who led small groups, taught Bible study, provided outreach ministry and led the administrative life of the church. Developing and nurturing strong lay leaders is another important component of creating a church fully engaged in the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world.	28 29 30 31 32 33 34
Creating New and Renewed Congregations	35
Around the world, United Methodists are innovating with what it means to be the church, planting new congregations and revitalizing faith communities in every kind of setting. United Methodists seek to re-evangelize the world so that we can reach more people, especially the young and those from diverse	36 37 38 39 40

1 backgrounds. By being relevant and vital, United Methodists will touch more
2 lives and draw more people to Christ. If we are to remain faithful to our
3 commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality
4 to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new
5 faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.
6
7

8 **300.b. A Missional Initiative of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference** 9 **From The Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops**

10
11 The Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction recognize the unique strengths,
12 characteristics, and challenges of our Episcopal Areas. As leaders of the Church
13 in the SEJ, we see a timely opportunity to increase our strategic thinking and
14 action with regard to our context in the Southeast.

15 Further, it is our hope to continue to focus on the mission of making
16 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

17 In Article V Paragraph 27.1 of the constitution of the 2012 Book of
18 Discipline, the jurisdictions are given responsibility to: Promote the
19 evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church
20 and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.

21 To that end, the Bishops of the SEJ recommend the following: Forming a
22 Southeastern Jurisdictional Missional Initiative for the purpose of focusing on
23 the following: 1.) new forms of church beyond the walls, 2.) children and
24 poverty, 3.) unity and human sexuality, 4.) making disciples, 5.) structure,
25 finance and the future church, 6.) racism.

26 At the 2017 College of Bishops meeting in January, we will collaborate
27 with the Conference Lay Leaders, the Committee on Episcopacy, and Directors
28 of Connectional Ministries on this initiative.

29 It is our hope that our collaboration will offer input to the commission
30 being formed by the Council of Bishops. We also will connect this work to the
31 Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church.

32 We will assign a bishop and appropriate lay leaders to convene and guide
33 the work of these five initiatives. We hope to then invite every delegate here
34 this week to a gathering which will be held within the next eighteen months
35 where recommendations will be received from the leadership of the Initiative.
36 Expenses will be the responsibility of individual delegates. We encourage each
37 conference to provide scholarships as needed.

38 The Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops

39 July 2016
40

301. Office of Connectional Ministries

General Conference 2016 ushered in a new season in the life of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the North Georgia Conference. At the 2016 annual conference in June, Bishop B. Michael Watson retired after eight years as North Georgia’s resident bishop. At the same conference, Mike Selleck retired after 40 years of ministry, 12 of which he served as the Director of Connectional Ministries. In July, Herzen Andone succeeded Mike Selleck as the Director of Connectional Ministries. At the July Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, North Georgia’s Sharma Lewis was elected a bishop and assigned to lead the Virginia Annual Conference and Florida’s Sue Hauptert-Johnson was elected a bishop and assigned to lead the North Georgia Annual Conference.

In the ensuing eight months, the denomination’s leaders – bishops, conference lay leaders, district superintendents, conference treasurers, and directors of connectional ministry, congregational development and ministerial services across the connection – met at the Extended Cabinet Summit in Jacksonville FL in November 2016. The SEJ’s leaders – bishops, conference lay leaders, directors of connectional ministry, committee on the episcopacy – met in Memphis TN in January of 2017. At both meetings leaders prayerfully considered ways to renew and reclaim our commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, guided by the General Church’s Four Areas of Focus and the Southeastern Jurisdiction’s Six Missional Initiatives.

The Four Areas of Focus are:

- Engaging in Ministries with the Poor,
- Improving Global Health,
- Developing Principled Christian Leaders and
- Creating New and Renewed Congregations.

The SEJ’s Six Missional Initiatives are:

- New Forms of Church Beyond the Walls,
- Children and Poverty,
- Unity and Human Sexuality,
- Making Disciples,
- Structure,
- Finance and the Future Church and
- Racism.

Guided by these global and jurisdictional priorities, the Office of Connectional Ministries has embarked on a process of reviewing and aligning

1 our portfolio of ministries with the Four Focus Areas and the Six Missional
2 Initiatives.

3 Though much of the work and ministry of Connectional Ministries is
4 reflected in both the Four Focus Areas and the Six Missional Initiatives, e.g., at
5 the heart of Camping and Retreat Ministries is Developing Principled Christian
6 Leaders and the Next Faithful Steps Initiative helps to Renew/Revitalize
7 existing congregations, Connectional Ministries will be exploring and forming
8 future ecumenical partnerships with churches and other faith-based
9 organizations to address other issues that are relevant to the work of the Church
10 in the world today, e.g., racism, human trafficking and children and poverty.

11 At a time when the United Methodist Church is finding a way forward, it
12 is God's grace that can heal our differences and strengthen our witness to a
13 nation and world longing for wholeness and community. So, I am excited and
14 hopeful about our future witness to the world, believing that our work and
15 witness together sanctifies us and remembering the words of our founder, John
16 Wesley, *"If thine heart is as my heart, if thou lovest God and all mankind, I ask
17 no more: give me thine hand."*

18 Herzen Andone, Director

21 **301.a. Children's Ministry**

22
23 The Children's Ministry Connection provides support and educational
24 development for those in ministry with children in the local church across the
25 North Georgia Conference. Each district has an active Children's Ministry
26 Networking Group who regularly gather in their own districts to share
27 innovative ideas and encouragement. A mentoring program was implemented
28 for six months to partner experienced champions with small groups of new
29 directors and local church team leaders desiring to take their ministries to the
30 next level. Groups met online and face-to-face monthly then came together as
31 one large group at the end to give testimony of how growth continues among
32 these dedicated partners.

33 ROCK ON was a fall weekend retreat at Camp Glisson inviting 3rd -
34 6th graders to worship, play and engage in faith formation experiences over two
35 weekends. ROCK SOLID was a winter two-day retreat at Camp Glisson
36 inviting 5th graders to take next steps to claiming their faith journey through
37 developmentally appropriate practices and disciplines.

38 The second year of DONE IN A DAY was one training presented on the
39 same day in all twelve districts of the conference specifically to assist the local
40

churches to engage children in worship, in mission and in Sunday school. Video driven conversations led by those across the conference actively provided a wide range of practices and experiences from multiple teachers in each setting. These videos can be accessed at the NGUMC youtube channel or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHvkBOgTcYDb6-UyBGM35Wg/videos>.

Coaching those new to children’s ministry is a collaborative effort of local churches and Connectional Ministries to advocate and connect champions of faith formation in children. Sharing resources and partnering continues to be a strong charge of the connection through various blogs, an incredibly active Facebook page, and North Georgia’s CEF organization.

The dedication of Debby Fox, Michelle Lancaster and the Connectional Ministries team has engaged children's ministry in the local churches beyond the district level and truly offered the partnerships needed to make a way for laity to engage in higher education, move beyond best practices, and guide their volunteers and charges in the Wesleyan way of faith formation. The connectional partnerships across the conference would not be possible without this incredible support. See website <http://www.ngumc.org/childrensministries>.

DeDe Reilly, Chair

301.b. Conference Communications Office

The conference communications office is your connection to news, resources and inspiration from around the North Georgia Conference.

There are a variety of ways to intersect conference communications. With more than 30,000 visits each month, the conference website (www.ngumc.org) is the place to turn for news, event registrations, the conference calendar and resources.

Each week communications staff publish two e-newsletters especially for North Georgia United Methodists. Begin the week with the new “re:Vision” e-newsletter. Just as the name implies, it’s an email about vision, and features stories of clergy and laity taking risks, innovating or just trying something new in ministry. “Weekly Conference Update” is e-mailed on Thursdays and includes the week’s news plus a look at upcoming events. There are several other valuable e-newsletters aimed at youth leaders, disaster responders, and district e-newsletters as well. Check them out by clicking “Subscribe Now” at the bottom of any page on ngumc.org.

You’re invited to join the conversation, share resources and be the first to know breaking news by following the North Georgia Conference on social

1 media. Thousands of North Georgia United Methodists are part of the
2 community on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ngaumc), Twitter
3 (@connectNGUMC), Instagram (instagram.com/NGUMC), Pinterest
4 (www.pinterest.com/NGUMC) and YouTube (NGUMC).

5 “Snapshot” is our popular PDF newsletter for your church, your small
6 group, your Sunday school class or your congregation. This monthly round up
7 of North Georgia Conference news can be shared digitally, printed, or it may
8 also be attached to your own PDF newsletter and distributed through your
9 church communications pieces. Find it at www.ngumc.org/Snapshot.

10 Consider the conference communication staff a part of your team. Each
11 of the tools mentioned – from the information on the website, to articles in
12 newsletters, to social media posts – are available for your congregation to use.
13 Unless otherwise directed, your church may simply credit the source and writer
14 and use the content in your church’s context.

15 The conference communication staff are also available as part of your
16 church communications team when a church experiences a media crisis or
17 potential crisis—in other words, something that threatens the reputation of the
18 church, the denomination or the members. The communications office can help
19 crafting a response plan and offering support.

20 Not only is the work of the communications office available to you, it’s
21 also award winning! At the annual United Methodist Association of
22 Communicators meeting in New Orleans, La., the North Georgia Conference
23 received several awards in our division, including first place in
24 photography, second place in the e-newsletters for “Weekly Update,” and
25 second place in social media for the North Georgia Conference Facebook page.

26 Sybil Davidson

27 Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Communications
28
29

30 **301.c. Connectional Ministries Grants**

31
32 According to ¶ 608.3 in the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist
33 Church, Connectional Ministries shall provide encouragement, coordination,
34 and support for the ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness in districts and
35 congregations for the transformation of the world. One of the ways that this is
36 done is through the awarding of grants.

37 This past year, Connectional Ministries awarded grants of \$23,500 to
38 support innovative ideas for transformational ministry in our annual conference.
39 A few examples of grants that were awarded this past year are a year-long
40

community dialog on race relations in Rome, GA; a summer educational enrichment program that serves as outreach to the youth in a Southwest Atlanta community; and a conference-wide missional education experience offered by United Methodist Women.

There are two types of grants, which are available to every congregation in the annual conference. Awards are made to ministries that place emphasis on developing principled leaders of all ages and stages, ministry with the marginalized, global health, race reconciliation and congregational vitality.

The first type is the **Gap Grant**, which is awarded in an amount up to \$500. This grant is intended to help local congregations close a funding gap in a pinch. Local churches are eligible to receive these grants once every four years.

The second grant type is the **Connectional Ministries Grant**, which is awarded in the amount of \$500 or more to local congregations, and or conference related organizations. This grant is intended to help support innovative ministry ideas that are aimed at effectiveness and improved vitality.

Grants that meet the specified criteria and receive approval of the Connectional Ministries Executive Team are awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year. If you have an idea for ministry, you may find the application, requirements and other information at: www.ngumc.org/grants.

Tonya N. Lawrence
Associate Director, Vitality and Discipleship

301.d. Native American Ministries

The 2012 General Conference engaged in an Act of Repentance Service for the Healing of Relationships with Indigenous Persons. There was much hope created during this service. Unfortunately, there remains an underlying culture of misunderstanding, resentment and prejudice against Native Americans in the State of Georgia. With a terrible history in the treatment of Native Americans, the State continues to write history as viewed through the eyes of a victor of conquest. “We potentially have the opportunity to change the course of history by creating a future that does no harm but rather affirms and creates an environment of respect, mutuality and equality” between the church, the State, and indigenous peoples. Yet, our people who are marginalized by indifference and status quo continue to be invisible to those in authority.

The NGA CONAM sponsors an annual gathering in which we fellowship, worship Christ with a Native American style which begins with smudging for purification and continuing to the closing celebratory dance. Levi

1 Walker, Jr. (aka Atlanta Braves Chief Noc-A-Homa) has led our story-telling
2 time and our Native American Elders share in worship leadership. Of course,
3 we also share a traditional meal. Sharing the stories of the past provides a
4 visible path forward for our people.

5 North Georgia has many different tribes but we work together as one
6 people. At our Annual Gatherings, we typically have many tribal
7 representatives from the Southeast – Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw,
8 Seminole, Choctaw, Arawak – and from outside our area – Apache, Odawa,
9 Powhatan and Blackfoot.

10 One of the annual special Sundays authorized with an offering by the
11 General Conference is the Native American Ministries Sunday. The GBHEM
12 has college funds available for some of our Native scholars. Because Georgia
13 has no reservations or federally recognized tribes, our North Georgia CONAM
14 provides a scholarship to qualified NGA UMC applicants. A love offering is
15 received during the annual gathering for those applicants.

16 Our gathering is for all people, not just Native Americans. It is for those
17 who know or have heard they have Native American ancestry; those who (like
18 John Wesley) have a heart for ministry with Native Americans; and those who
19 are curious to see a Native American Christian worship service. We welcome
20 all to our gathering and our display table at Annual Conference. There will be a
21 signup sheet for anyone desiring to receive email updates and invitations to our
22 activities. Thank you for your support.

23 Rebecca D. Jones, Chairperson
24
25

26 **301.e. North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.**

27 For 92 years the Camp and Retreat Ministries of our North Georgia
28 Conference have been providing environments for the formation of the
29 Christian faith through practice. Now in our tenth decade, the need for
30 ministries that move disciples beyond learning about our faith to learning how
31 to practice our faith is greater than ever. We blend experiential faith formation
32 with the safe environment of intentional Christian community – and welcome
33 God’s presence – making personal and corporate spiritual transformation more
34 likely. In this way we support the local church in helping disciples practice
35 what Paul referred to in Romans 12 as “your spiritual worship.”

36 In 2016, these are the ways Camp and Retreat Ministries “Showed Our
37 Work”:

38 Glisson Camp and Retreat Center, elder sibling to all our new camping
39 ministries, continues to flourish and to grow. We followed 10% growth in
40

registered campers from 2014 to 2015 with 8% growth for 2016. The three Glisson programs hosted 3,033 campers last summer, the first time we've had more than 3,000 summer campers in our 90-plus years of ministry. This means Glisson has reached its part of our 2020 goal for reaching more summer campers four years early! And that's before we fully realize the expansion of our Outpost program that, with 566 campers last summer, has seen 78% growth since 2010. In addition, Glisson's year-round retreat ministry continues to grow, offering Christian hospitality to our conference children and youth retreats, our conference congregations, and many other churches and non-profits.

After rapid expansion for the past four years, Grow Day Camps maintained the number of its church partners at 32 in 2016. The program has matured over the nine years since its launch, serving 871 campers in 2016 compared to 78 campers in 2010. Grow continues to provide "turn-key" expansion of the children's ministries of its church partners, allowing them to reach more children for Christ each summer. An increased number of families availed themselves of the Young Harris UMC Grow site as an Annual Conference childcare option.

As an integral part of Grow Day Camps, the Experiential Leadership Institute (ELI) offers high school juniors and seniors an intensive week of discovering their gifts for leadership and of training in understandings of leader theory, group process and casting vision. ELI participants then put their learning to use as counselors for Grow Day Camps, practicing their newly acquired skills as they move toward mastery. ELI continues to grow at a sustainable rate, serving 58 participants in 2016 who gave over 5,500 volunteer hours as counselors for Grow Day Camps. Participants receive a \$500 leadership award toward the cost of participating in the ELI program, underwritten by sponsoring organizations. ELI sponsors in 2016 included the NGA Conference Board of Laity, LaGrange College and Young Harris College.

With all these ways to "Show Your Work" in forming faith, it is not coincidental that NGCRM was asked by the 2010 Annual Conference to double the number of summer campers served – from 2,500 to 5,000 – by the year 2020. The Annual Conference charged NGCRM with that goal "to advance the evangelism and discipleship efforts of the local church."

Plans are underway for a 2017 pilot of Shoreline Camps, the newest member of our family of camp ministries and the last ministry component for reaching our 2020 goal. Shoreline will partner with four districts in its inaugural year: LaGrange, Rome-Carrollton, Atlanta-College Park and Atlanta-Emory. Designed to utilize unused weeks at rented sites, Shoreline will be held at the Frank G. Lumpkin Boy Scout Camp on West Point Lake in LaGrange in 2017.

1 It is an honor to serve the Annual Conference through this time of
2 expansion of NGCRM’s family of ministries. May God continue to guide our
3 efforts and may we continue to “Show Your Work.”

4 Lee Highsmith, Chairperson
5 C. Russell Davis, Executive Director
6
7

8 **301.f. Safe Sanctuaries**

9
10 Since 1996, following the mandate of General Conference, United Methodist
11 congregations across the connection have been creating and implementing
12 policies and procedures to make sure that the children, youth and vulnerable
13 adults in our ministries and those clergy, staff and volunteers who work with
14 them are safe and protected. In the 20 years since the mandate to create Safe
15 Sanctuaries was adopted, clergy, church staff and laity have worked together to
16 develop best practices, adapt ministry settings and regularly train their staff and
17 ministry volunteers. Congregations have taken seriously the promise made at
18 every baptism that *With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example*
19 *of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in*
20 *the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life*
21 *eternal.* (United Methodist Hymnal)

22 Where does the North Georgia Conference find itself 20 years into the
23 Safe Sanctuaries mandate? Our congregations have worked hard toward
24 compliance. There is a team of 50 volunteer clergy and laity who serve as
25 conference trainers. There are an additional 24 clergy and laity who have been
26 trained to assist congregations in writing or rewriting their policies and
27 procedures. Aided by a Connectional Ministries produced Power Point
28 presentation that is updated regularly to reflect current statutes and best
29 practices, all congregations have resources available to them to be in full
30 compliance regardless of the age, size and location of their church. Further,
31 each district has a system to ensure, either annually or biannually,
32 congregations in the district are in compliance with the mandate. I am grateful
33 to the district secretaries who maintain those files, and keep me informed so
34 training can be targeted and churches continually challenged to be truly Safe
35 Sanctuaries.

36 Current data was gathered throughout 2016 and collecting the data was
37 completed during January 2017. Currently, there are 852 UM congregations in
38 the North Georgia Conference. Of those reporting during this charge conference
39 season, 600 congregations have a current Safe Sanctuaries policy on file in their
40

district offices. This includes all new, not-yet-constituted churches as well as those missional churches who are housed in local congregations. With the assistance of Hyo Kim and Juan Quintanilla for the Office of Congregational Development, Korean and Spanish translations of the training Power Point are being made available to our ethnic congregations. While 71.2% is not sufficient to ensure the safety of all those who participate or work in our congregations' ministries, it can be the benchmark against which our progress is measured.

What can you do to assist the conference with Safe Sanctuaries? Check on your congregation's compliance by contacting the person in charge of your policy. When was the last time your policy was updated? Is it time to schedule a training? Has your church registered with Trak-1?

Go to www.ngumc.org/safesanctuaries for resources and to contact trainers. Working together we can make North Georgia a conference of Safe Sanctuaries.

Debby Fox, Associate Director,
Connectional Ministries

Mimi Saunders, Safe Sanctuaries Rep,
Connectional Ministries Board

**301.g. North Georgia Annual Conference
Policy for Reducing the Risk of Abuse for
Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults
in District and Conference Ministry Programs and Events**

God calls us to make our ministries safe, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from abuse and exploitation. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults can be safe and grow strong.

We recognize that our children are all children and youth under the age of 18. Vulnerable adults are those 65 and older and those over 18 years of age with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Our Christian faith calls us to offer both hospitality and protection to those in our care, as well as to those who are committed to engaging in ministry as volunteers and employees.

Jesus said, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones...it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6 NRSV) We affirm our responsibility for the safety of children at each child's baptism by our congregational response, pledging:

1 “With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that
2 this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and
3 confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.”

4 (from the Book of Worship, Baptismal Covenant, Congregational Pledge 2)

5 The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that
6 “...children must be protected from economic, physical, and sexual exploitation
7 and abuse.”

8 Building on our theological and spiritual foundation, we must act in ways
9 that secure for children, youth and vulnerable adults a safe place in our
10 ministries. It is also our responsibility to assure that those who make the
11 commitment to work with our children, youth and vulnerable adults, as
12 volunteers or paid staff, are protected from the possibility of false allegations.

13 Although it is our fervent hope and prayer that abuse does not occur in
14 our district and conference programs, we must put into place sufficient
15 mechanisms to reduce the risk of abuse of children, youth, vulnerable adults,
16 and those who work with them. For that purpose, our ministries shall implement
17 the following procedures in district and conference ministry programs and
18 events.

19 RECRUITING/SCREENING WORKERS

20 All persons employed to serve in a supervisory capacity for children/youth
21 shall:

- 22 • Be at least 21 years of age. In certain circumstances, such as Camp and
23 Retreat Ministries leadership, 18 years shall be the acceptable minimum age
24 when combined with adequate training in the Conference policies and
25 procedures and competent oversight by a qualified adult.
- 26 • Complete an Application/Commitment Form.
- 27 • Provide three character references.
- 28 • Be interviewed by the director of the ministry/program.
- 29 • Consent to a criminal records check and a driver’s license record check. This
30 process can sometimes take up to two weeks; therefore; care should be taken to
31 recruit workers and collect necessary information for submission to proper
32 authorities with enough lead time to fully meet the policy requirements).

33 All volunteers serving in a supervisory capacity for children/youth shall:

- 34 • Be at least 21 years of age.
- 35 • Complete an Application/Commitment form.
- 36 • Be interviewed by the director of the ministry/program.
- 37 • Consent to a criminal records check and driver’s license records check.
- 38 • Provide three character references.

- All volunteers serving in a helping capacity for children/youth shall: 1
- Complete an Application/Commitment form. 2
- Be interviewed by the director of the ministry/program. 3
- Consent to a criminal records check and driver’s license records check. 4
- Provide three character references. 5
- In the event that a substitute worker needs to be brought in under last minute 6
circumstances, that person must: 7
- Complete an Application/Commitment form. 8
- Provide a character reference who can be contacted by the director 9
immediately. 10
- Complete a basic orientation/training provided by the director or other 11
supervisor before actually beginning work. 12

TRAINING 13

Training must be a mandatory component of each event’s design. The 14
design team shall be responsible for assuring that adequate insurance for the 15
specific event and/or activities either from the conference or the district is in 16
place. The design team must also have a person available at the event who is 17
designated to receive any report of allegations of abuse and follow through 18
according to the conference guidelines and the requirements of State law. All 19
workers shall be trained in safety, first aid and abuse prevention. 20

Training shall include information, explanation and discussion of: 21
22

- The Annual Conference Policy. 23
- Behaviors or other indicators which may signal problems. 24
- Requirements of Georgia law for reporting incidents of abuse. 25
- Procedures for response to incidents of abuse and for reporting incidents of 26
abuse. 27

All workers and leaders will sign a covenant to abide by the conference policy 28
at the conclusion of each training prior to an event. 29

REGULAR OPERATIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS 30

All district and conference ministries with children/youth shall be 31
governed by these guidelines: 32

- Two adults shall be present at all times. 33
- If both boys and girls are participants, then the adult leaders should also 34
include both men and women. 35

- 1 • The number of workers required for each event (above the minimum of two)
2 will be determined by the number and age of the participants and the nature of
3 the activities.
- 4 • Unauthorized visitors will not be allowed to remain with the group.
- 5 • Participants will not be allowed to leave the designated meeting area without
6 permission/supervision.
- 7 • During ministry events, one-on-one activities shall not be conducted “behind
8 closed doors” or in isolated area away from trained supervisory persons.
- 9 • All ministry events will be carried out in appropriate locations with adequate
10 equipment and trained adult supervisors present.

11 12 REPORTING INCIDENTS

13 All reporting of alleged incidents or actual incidents of abuse must
14 strictly follow Georgia law.

15 A worker who has reasonable cause to suspect that abuse has occurred
16 should secure the safety of the child, if possible, and then immediately report
17 the incident to the director/supervisor of the ministry event. It is never the
18 responsibility of a worker with children or youth to investigate allegations of
19 child abuse. The director/supervisor will then follow all appropriate procedures
20 for reporting to the child’s parents or guardian, authorities of the Annual
21 Conference and/or district, and local law enforcement or child protective
22 service agencies. In the event that the director/supervisor is the alleged
23 perpetrator, reports should be given to the district superintendent for the district
24 holding the event, or in the case of a North Georgia Conference sponsored
25 event, the Director of Connectional Ministries will receive the report.

26 27 CONCLUSION

28 We take our policies to reduce risk of abuse seriously and we are
29 committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children,
30 youth, vulnerable adults and those who work with them.

31 All conference and district ministry events are required to comply with
32 these policies.

33 Each conference ministry event shall be subject to review by the
34 executive committee of the Conference Office of Connectional Ministries and
35 the conference staff person related to that event.

36 Each district ministry event shall be subject to review by the executive
37 committee of the District Leadership Team or its equivalent.
38 Conference and district ministry events not sponsored by the Conference Office
39 of Connectional Ministries or the District Leadership Team or its equivalent
40

will be subject to review by the team, committee or board that initiates the event. Non-compliance with these policies shall result in potential loss of sponsorship by the Conference Office of Connectional Ministries, District Leadership Team, or the sponsoring team, board or committee.

The Conference Office of Connectional Ministries shall review these policies and procedures annually.

These policies and procedures were unanimously adopted by the 1998 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference. Implementation of the training procedures began by the 1999 session of the Annual Conference and continues in conference and district events. This policy was reviewed and updated for the 2017 session of Annual Conference.

301.h. Young Adult Ministry

Like the Apostle Paul encouraged his mentee Timothy, the *North Georgia Young Adult Ministry* seeks to encourage, connect and provide resources for young adult ministries and churches so that Christians ages 18-35 can answer their call to follow and serve Jesus Christ in exciting, relevant ways.

As we begin a new chapter in our ministry, we are excited about all God has in store for us. Rachel Fullerton and Robert King, the North Georgia Young Adult Ministry representatives, have formed a Young Adult Council. Our Young Adult Council gathered March 31-April 1 at Reinhardt University to worship together, envision ministry plans for the upcoming year and identify helpful resources to strengthen young adult ministries throughout the conference. The Council is made up of young adults ages 18 to 35 to help meet the needs in that range. Currently those on the council are Joya Abrams, James Bard, Rachel Black, Kevin Crawford, Elissa Marks, Ariel Murphy and Bill Stikes, along with Rachel and Robert.

At Annual Conference, we will be gathering at the Varsity in Athens (1000 W Broad St, Athens, GA 30606) for our Late Night @ The Varsity on Monday, June 12, from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Join us for a rich time of fellowship and connect with other young adults from around North Georgia.

We would love to connect with you! Make sure you follow us on social media: Facebook-NGUMC Young Adults , Twitter-@umcya using the hashtag: #youngadults or email us at ngumcyoungadults@gmail.com

Join us as we help young adults answer God's call and change the world!

Rachel Fullerton and Robert King
Young Adult Ministry Representatives

301.i. Youth Ministries

The conference youth ministries has focused on enabling local church and district youth ministries so that they might better embody Jesus and the love of God to the youth in those communities, helping youth and congregations experience what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) continues to meet monthly to plan and evaluate ministry events, beginning with a planning day in August. These youth and adults from all over the annual conference meet to discuss how they can be a support to the youth ministries in their areas and how we can support leadership training events for congregations. Lisa Springer, the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Andrew UMC, Marietta, has been the coordinator of the CCYM this year, and Shanna Jackson, a youth from Grace UMC in Covington, has been the CCYM president.

Similar discussions and guidance is offered by the Youth Ministry Advisory Board, comprised of fifteen area youth ministers of varying experience and from different size churches. The purpose of the board is to be the ears and eyes in the conference around youth ministry and the needs of teenagers and congregations, communicating ways they see that the Conference can be supportive and an answer to those needs. A number of exciting new ministries have developed from the Board, including some currently in the planning stages.

Our year began last year at annual conference as the youth took over the yearly 5K Fun Run. The Run, planned and led by the 2015-2016 Conference Youth Coordinator, Tonya Lawrence, was successful in raising awareness and funds for the Youth Service Fund. We are looking forward to continuing to offer this as a tradition in the Annual Conference events each year.

Conference youth continue to participate in The Bahamas Bridge. Many congregations have embraced a connection with the Bahamas Bridge either through the conference summer mission trips or through their own connections with Bahamas Methodist Habitat. This bridge is a focus of the youth ministries in our conference, as it is closer than many locations and offers security for those who visit. Throughout the year we have had many churches plan and carry out a trip to The Bahamas. We have not felt a need to plan a conference sponsored mission trip as in past years, since churches have been able to keep this bridge active on their own.

Confirmation resourcing was offered to churches through the Conference Confirmation Retreats, held at Glisson Camp and Retreat Center. One retreat was held in the fall (October) and a separate retreat was offered in the spring (March). The fall retreat focuses on group building and helping youth and adult

participants share their faith stories with their groups. It also studies grace, especially explaining John Wesley’s understanding of prevenient grace. The retreat in the spring explored our vow to support the church with “prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness,” helping youth understand the meaning and weight of such a commitment. The retreat also focused on the unique blessing we as United Methodists have in our connectional system. These retreat teams have been led faithfully by Anjie Peek-Woodworth and have grown substantially to two full camps each season. We are grateful to all the leadership in our conference who have spoken and offered guidance to our new students on these faith experiences.

Churches also found the conference spring retreat - the Spiritual Life Retreat - and the fall retreat - the Rooted Retreat - to be resources for the spiritual growth and teaching of their youth. Youth and adults in the conference serve on the design team and on staff for three weekends at Camp Glisson in early spring and two in the fall, helping participants understand ways to plan and carry out our faith development. The youth staff also served an important role in leadership at the two weekends of the Children's Retreat (also in the fall). The Spiritual Life Retreat team was led this past year by Kristen Andrews from Birmingham UMC (Milton), and the design team for the Rooted Retreats was led by Aaron Talbot, youth minister at Thomson UMC.

Adult training through the Youth Ministry Institute has helped 20 youth ministers in intensive youth ministry development since last August. These participants from local congregations find coaching, training and powerful insight through a choice of three cohorts designed for their individual needs in youth ministry. A grant from the conference has provided substantial help for congregations for this year-long commitment. Nikki Hobus, youth minister at Kennesaw First UMC, offers her leadership and expertise as the dean of YMI.

We are grateful for the leadership from so many youth and adults in our conference who have willingly allowed themselves to be used by God in showing the love of Christ to other youth. We are also thankful for the congregations that support our conference leaders. It is through the congregations that such a calling is nurtured and offered.

We will continue to support and enable local youth ministries, helping churches and districts experience the blessings of our connectional church.

Sam Halverson, Associate Director,
Connectional Ministries
Lisa Springer, Coordinator

302. Office of Congregational Development

Congregational Development shows its work by being the research and development arm of the North Georgia Conference as we seek to anticipate what new ways people will experience the Gospel in the future. To this end, in January 2017 we co-sponsored a Fresh Expressions Spark Day with Global Ministries. Over 250 participants were invited and inspired to consider ingenious ways to connect with people in their communities to create “New Places for New People.” A Fresh Expression Roundtable will be held on Monday of Annual Conference 2017 with additional Spark Days planned for the coming year to introduce these methods of meeting people where they are.

Following in the footsteps of Covenant UMC in Smyrna and New Church Atlanta, Sam Dawkins will lead a Vital Merger between the University of West Georgia Wesley Foundation and the St. Andrew UMC in Carrollton. In an ideal Vital Merger, the churches involved combine forces by selling their property and using those resources to create something new that will reach the future of that community. Bowen UMC and Henry M. White UMC in Atlanta have also taken the first steps toward a Vital Merger. The Nett UMC, a new church start in Gwinnett County, turned one year old in April. This diverse congregation will unite with Berkmar UMC to form The Nett at Berkmar in June 2017.

In partnership with Leadership UMC, Congregational Development deploys mystery worshippers across the conference to strengthen the welcome of our local churches. In 2017 we have offered monthly MissionInsite trainings to foster use of this comprehensive demographic system. The New Church Leadership Academy is being redesigned as NExT Leadership Academy as we look at New Expressions, and Existing Transformations. The SEJ Congregational Developers have also redesigned New Church Planter Boot Camp as a New Pathways training that will be offered annually for those called to plant new churches, new ministries or to follow the founding pastor of a new church start. Our office also provides coaching for pastors leading these projects. The national UMC School of Congregational Development will be held in Atlanta, August 17-20, 2017 at Peachtree Road UMC and will feature fruitful ministries from across North Georgia. We invite you to consider what new thing God is calling your church to do to reach new people in your community and beyond.

Show God’s Work in you!

Phil Schroeder, Director

2016-2017 Accomplishments in Congregational Development	1
• The Nett launched April 1, 2016 at Parkview High School in Gwinnett County under the leadership of Rodrigo Cruz. They average 85 adults, 12 youth and 40 children. Plans are being made to merge with Berkmar UMC in June 2017. AMRY	2 3 4 5
• Wesley West launched as a second campus on September 18, 2016. Worship attendance under campus pastor, Adam Hilderbrant, is 150, with 110 adults and 40 children. A 15-acre parcel of land nearby has been identified and should have been purchased before annual conference 2017 in partnership between the conference, the district and Wesley UMC in Evans. AGST	6 7 8 9 10
• The church currently named “New Church” at Candler Park, led by Anjie and Andy Woodworth, had 131 adults and 35 children at their most recent preview service. The Druid Hills UMC property has been sold. AMRY	11 12 13
• Covenant UMC has an average of 142 in worship under the leadership of David Moore. The Cumberland property has been sold and an offer on new property in Smyrna has been made. AMAR	14 15 16
• Chapel Roswell, a church within a church at Roswell UMC, has split into two services. They recently had over 500 in attendance. Roswell UMC is also looking into a Coffee House ministry. AROS	17 18 19
• Connexion @ North Covington UMC’s Coffee Shop, <i>Common Ground</i> , is breaking even but the church will go part-time in June 2017. ADOX	20 21
• The Fountain, meeting at Johns Creek Elementary and averaging 187, had a fruitful financial campaign for their future site. Pastor Andy Lett reports celebrating five years of ministry in their community March 4. AROS	22 23 24
• Two new church plants, Harvest Point and Life Springs, will receive a second pastor in June 2017. Plans are being made to coach these pastors through the transition of following the founding pastor. GRFN	25 26 27
• Harmony Grove Church of the Way, under the leadership of James Savage and Carter McGinnis, launched a worship service at Lovin Elementary in the Archer School District during Advent of 2016.	28 29 30
• Funds were approved to help the Dacula UMC under the leadership of Alex Stroud to launch a Food Truck ministry. AMRY	31 32
• Staff positions to foster growth have received funds from Congregational Development: an associate pastor at St. James, Alpharetta; a worship leader at Buford First; a preaching associate at Creekside; and an assistant pastor at Wesley Chapel in McDonough. ROCA, GNSV, AROS, GRFN	33 34 35 36
• The Vine at Flowery Branch, the Vine’s second campus, has been worshipping 171 adults and 48 children on average under the leadership of Andrew Erwin and David Walters.	37 38 39 40

302.a. Black Congregational Development

Black Congregational Development Mission and Vision Statement:

The Mission of the Black Congregational Development Committee is to strengthen all existing predominantly Black congregations and to grow and develop new predominantly Black congregations within the North Georgia Conference.

Our Vision is to identify, train and develop new and existing pastors and laity who seek to lead predominantly Black congregations to become healthy and growing vital congregations within the North Georgia Conference.

The Black Congregational Development team is pleased to report that we have accomplished the following:

- Initiated the seven-point strategic plan to identify, train and develop current and future leaders.
- Selected 14 individuals to participate in the first class of BCD interns after prayerful deliberation and vetting from a pool of over 100 nominations. Eleven individuals have successfully completed the first four modules.
- The Leadership Series consists of the following modules presented over a two-year period as follows: **Leadership**, 4/21/2016, facilitated by Bernice Kirkland, *“Effective Pastoral Leadership,”* AAA Model, hosted by Cliftondale UMC; **Preaching**, 8/18/2016, hosted and facilitated by Aaron Parker at Zion Hill Baptist Church, *“Taking Preaching to the Next Level;”* **Worship Planning, Technology and Innovation**, 11/01/2016, hosted and facilitated by Olu Brown and Impact UMC Team; **Community Engagement/21st Century Evangelism**, 2/23/2017, hosted and facilitated by Gregory Williams and Golden UMC; **Budgeting and Finance/Conflict Management**, 09/2017; **Serving Cross Cultural Appointments with Excellence**, 11/2017.
- The 2017 calendar and budget were approved.

In closing, the Black Congregational Development team continues to be excited and hopeful in the upcoming months and years of truly strengthening the North Georgia Conference by strengthening predominantly Black congregations here in North Georgia.

Michael T. McQueen, Chair

302.b. Committee on Latino Congregational Development

“The best thing of all is God is with us” John Wesley

One of the biggest challenges we face today is a growing Hispanic/Latino population. Approximately 17% of the total United States population (55 million people) is Hispanic, forming the second largest ethnic group after non-Hispanic white Americans. In Georgia alone, Hispanics constitute 9% of the population and represent a growth of more than 923,000 people. Currently we have 20 missions around the North Georgia Conference.

In 2016, the Latino Committee focused on four objectives:

1. Lay Ministry Training: The Hispanic Leadership Academy, in partnership with the United Theological Seminar, is a three-year training program for laity. Fifteen lay members learn from a total of 12 courses over the three-year period. Online courses are available as well. Graduating students will receive a Certificate of Ministry at the end of the study. Currently, three of these students are lay pastors in three missions.
2. New Hispanic Ministry: A new Hispanic ministry was started at Liberty Hill UMC. Within a five mile radius the Hispanic population is 13.5%.
3. Workshops: Two workshops have been held that are geared to helping develop systems for assimilation within the Hispanic congregation in an effort to move guests to members; members to small groups, leaders, etc.
4. Model for Sustainability: The Hispanic/Latino committee continues to seek ways to reach the growing Hispanic communities that will lead to some self-sustaining ministries. Most of our Hispanic ministries have been started as a mission of a local church.

In addition, we worked with the Undocumented Partnership Task Force to help educate churches on the struggles our undocumented neighbors face and the biblical and theological foundations that encourage us to partner with them for their betterment. The five lessons mentioned in the following link are designed for group discussions at churches, as well as individual self-study. These lessons are free of charge. We encourage you to use them in your church as you consider how you might partner with your undocumented neighbors in this important ministry of The United Methodist Church. The link: undocumentedpartnes.com. Once you are on the website, select Archives June 2016.

Juan Quintanilla, Associate Director

Dorcas Rodriguez, Committee Chair

302.c. Korean/Asian Committee of Congregational Development

The Korean/Asian Committee shows its work by reaching out to the growing population of Koreans and other Asians in the Metro Atlanta area as we seek to reach them with the Gospel. To this end, the committee focused on vitalizing existing churches and missions through leadership development. The committee offered several sessions of lay leadership trainings, a young adult leadership conference and the Korean pastors' training including MissionInsite training. This MissionInsite training will be offered to other Asian leaders as well in the coming year.

As one way of strengthening Korean churches and missions, the committee initiated the merger of two Korean congregations, the Korean Church of Sugar Hill and Sarang KUMC. Thus, Sarang KUMC relocated and merged with the Korean Church of Sugar Hill and it continues its mission there.

As a way of reaching the younger Korean generation, the committee has partnered with Immanuel Korean UMC to start a campus ministry at Kennesaw University. At UGA, the committee partnered with the Korean Church of Norcross and the Wesley Foundation at UGA to establish a campus ministry to reach Korean students. So far, the committee has established the campus ministry at Georgia Tech/Georgia State, UGA and Kennesaw. Through these campus ministries, the committee hopes to reach out not only to Korean students but also Asian students.

The committee has utilized the technology for a bi-lingual worship service where the interpreter is not available. This use of technology could be further utilized to have a multi-lingual service as the North Georgia Conference is becoming more diverse. As more and more congregations are striving to reach out beyond the walls of their own, the use of technology can enhance their efforts to be inclusive ethnically where the simultaneous interpretation is not available.

The committee wishes to express its gratitude to the North Georgia Conference for the prayers and support as we strive to make the disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted in showing works,

Hyo Shik Kim, Associate Director

400. Action Ministries, Inc.

Action Ministries is a faith based nonprofit charitable organization that believes every person deserves an opportunity to achieve their potential. Through an extensive network of partners and volunteers, Action Ministries has worked to mobilize communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief, housing and education for 54 years.

The need for these services and support remains high. Georgia continues to rank in the “Top 10” for homelessness, food insecurity and poverty in the United States. Committed to mission, partnership and community, Action Ministries served over 93,000 people in 2016 with the help of nearly 1,000 partners, and over 12,000 volunteers.

Action Ministries understands that this important work cannot be done alone, and is proud of the long term partnership with the North Georgia Conference. With many opportunities to put faith into action, 12 program sites across North Georgia and many mobile programs, Action Ministries now serves 50 counties. Faith, business, civic and other community partners engage in service each year to serve meals, pack food boxes, make lunches, tutor children, teach our neighbors and support families who are recovering from homelessness. On behalf of each community where we have worked to together, THANK YOU for being a *Life Changer!*

Action Ministries continues to expand its efforts to link food, housing and educational resources in new counties across Georgia and is committed to finding innovative ways to engage more faith partners in the coming year. Whether developing community-minded Christian leaders, creating spaces for new neighbors or engaging in ministry with the poor, Action Ministries is committed to being a resource for the congregations of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Together we are making a difference! For more information about our services or volunteer opportunities www.actionministries.net.

S. Kelley Henderson, Interim President and CEO

401. Aldersgate / Collinswood

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3 Last year was a year of celebration for Aldersgate and Collinswood as we
4 rejoiced in 25 years of ministry in the North Georgia Annual Conference with
5 persons with developmental disabilities. These 25 years have provided
6 opportunities to grow in our involvement with persons with disabilities, their
7 families, friends and congregations.

8 This year has been a year of change for Aldersgate and Collinswood as
9 two of our most influential supporters have left their positions. In January,
10 Marian Wilder resigned as president of the board after 25 years of service.
11 Marian was part of the group that originally led the effort to bring a ministry
12 with persons with disabilities into being. She has not completely left the
13 Aldersgate/Collinswood family as she continues to serve as an active member
14 of the board.

15 In March, Becky Bocian resigned after 12 years of dedicated service as
16 executive director. Becky was instrumental in every effort that has increased the
17 ability of the ministry to reach out to the disability community. She has helped
18 the ministry continue its assistance to persons with developmental disabilities
19 who participate in our independent living program, while promoting the use of
20 Camp Collinswood to those with special needs and beyond.

21 The board recognized the departures of Marian and Becky with
22 celebrations of their years of service. As we conduct a search for a new
23 executive director, the board is handling the daily operations of the ministry. In
24 this time of change and transition, we look forward to new opportunities to be
25 involved in the life of the conference through advocating for and with the
26 disabilities community.

27 We encourage church groups to visit and enjoy the wide range of
28 activities available at Camp Collinswood in a setting that is universally
29 accessible. All persons can enjoy the cottages, dining/meeting hall, pavilion,
30 lake front boat house, gazebo and dock, all of which are accessible to persons
31 with developmental disabilities. Consider using this beautiful and unique site on
32 Lake Oconee for your next church retreat.

33 This is a new day for the Aldersgate / Collinswood ministry and we
34 invite your involvement and support. *“Camp Collinswood on Lake Oconee*
35 *offers a place for rest, retreat and recreation for all people, especially those*
36 *with mobility issues.”*

37 Gue’ Hudson
38 President, Board of Directors
39
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402. North Georgia Conference Housing and Homeless Council

The purpose of the Housing and Homeless Council (HHC) is to help and support those who are serving our neighbors in need, specifically through the administering of capital and operational grants. The Council is an administrative agency of the North Georgia Conference, and is made up of lay and clergy representatives from each district, at-large members and ex-officio representatives.

The Council awards grants twice a year to churches and non-profit agencies across North Georgia who provide housing and other essential services to persons experiencing homelessness and poverty. From 1990 through 2016, the HHC has awarded grants totaling \$4,674,918. Council members conduct site visits to each applicant and make recommendations to the Council for funding.

The theme of the 2016 Homeless Offering was “I Have Called You by Name” and was collected on February 28, 2016. 100% of the Homeless Offering goes to ministries serving those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Total 2016 offering receipts were \$181,605. The Housing Trust Fund, held with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, ended the year with a value of \$1,351,221.00. Most of the administrative expenses of the Housing and Homeless Council are paid from this fund, which allows us to allocate 100% of the offering to our grants.

During 2016 the HHC awarded grants in total of \$193,108. (\$135,358 in capital and \$57,750 in operational). Homeless Offering funds which come in after grants are distributed in November are added to the next year’s grants.

We are so grateful to the many congregations who support the Homeless Offering. Your generosity allows us to support ministries both large and small across North Georgia, all of whom are doing daily work of serving our neighbors in need. We continue to be inspired by the countless ways both clergy and lay in our conference are ministering to those living in poverty, and we appreciate your continued support of their efforts.

Jo (Elna) Sheetz, Chair
Laura Rappold, Director

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		Capital Grants 2016
2	Abba House	\$5,000.00
3	Breakthru House	\$3,500.00
4	Bridging the Gap	\$7,800.00
5	County Line UMC	\$7,000.00
6	East Point First Mallalieu UMC	\$1,500.00
7	Essence of Hope	\$5,000.00
8	Family Promise of Gwinnett	\$10,000.00
9	Family Promise of Hall County	\$5,000.00
10	Garden of Gethsemane Homeless Shelter	\$8,000.00
11	Gateway House, Inc.	\$1,500.00
12	Glenn Memorial UMC-Habitat	\$2,000.00
13	Habitat for Humanity Gwinnett County	\$2,500.00
14	Habitat for Humanity – N Ctrl GA (Cherokee)	\$5,000.00
15	Habitat- North Central GA (Forsyth)	\$2,500.00
16	Habitat- Rome/Floyd	\$2,500.00
17	Isaiah House, Inc.	\$5,000.00
18	Meals by Grace, Inc.	\$2,500.00
19	MUST Ministries	\$10,000.00
20	MUST Ministries	\$5,000.00
21	New Beginnings for Gilmer County	\$2,800.00
22	Norcross Cooperative Ministry	\$2,500.00
23	Rainbow Village	\$10,000.00
24	Salvation Army Atlanta Metro Area Command	\$6,258.00
25	Smyrna First UMC- Habitat	\$5,000.00
26	Square Foot Ministry	\$5,000.00
27	St. James UMC (Atlanta)-Habitat	\$5,000.00
28	Trinity UMC (Atlanta)	\$5,000.00
29	Trinity UMC (Rome)	\$2,500.00

30		
31		Operational Grants 2016
32	Action Ministries Athens	\$1,250.00
33	Action Ministries Atlanta	\$1,250.00
34	Action Ministries Covington	\$950.00
35	Action Ministries Feed the Hungry	\$1,250.00
36	Action Ministries Gainesville	\$1,250.00
37	Action Ministries Housing	\$1,250.00
38	Austell First UMC	\$950.00
39	Bascomb Mission Thrift	\$1,250.00
40		

Bethlehem UMC	\$950.00	1
Brookhaven UMC	\$1,250.00	2
Central UMC	\$950.00	3
Chatsworth First UMC	\$950.00	4
Clarkston UMC	\$1,250.00	5
Colbert UMC- In the Middle Meals	\$500.00	6
Decatur Cooperative Ministry	\$950.00	7
Drake House	\$950.00	8
Elizabeth Lee UMC	\$750.00	9
Family Promise of Bartow County	\$1,250.00	10
Family Promise of White and Habersham Co.	\$950.00	11
Flat Shoals UMC	\$1,000.00	12
Fort St. Memorial UMC	\$950.00	13
Georgia Food and Resource Center	\$1,250.00	14
Hart Interdenominational	\$950.00	15
Haven House	\$950.00	16
Homestretch	\$950.00	17
Intown Collaborative Ministries	\$1,250.00	18
Jasper County Family Connection	\$950.00	19
Jerusalem House, Inc.	\$1,250.00	20
Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry	\$1,250.00	21
Liberty Hill UMC- Nehemiah Project	\$1,250.00	22
Metropolitan UMC	\$1,250.00	23
Midtown Assistance Center	\$1,250.00	24
Midway UMC	\$1,250.00	25
Mountain Top Boys Home	\$950.00	26
Mt. Zion UMC Atlanta	\$1,250.00	27
MUST Ministries	\$1,250.00	28
MUST Ministries	\$950.00	29
NETworks Cooperative Ministry	\$950.00	30
Newborn UMC	\$1,500.00	31
New Covenant UMC	\$1,250.00	32
Northeast Georgia Homeless Veterans	\$950.00	33
North Fulton Community Charities	\$1,250.00	34
Ringgold UMC	\$1,250.00	35
Rivertown UMC	\$850.00	36
Rock Spring UMC	\$950.00	37
Set Free Ministry	\$1250.00	38
Shepherd's Staff Ministries, Inc.	\$1,250.00	39
		40

1	South Hall Community Food Pantry	\$1,250.00
2	St. Luke UMC	\$950.00
3	Sweetwater Mission, Inc. (formerly C.A.M.P.)	\$1,250.00
4	Union Chapel UMC (New Hope Ministry)	\$950.00
5	United Methodist Children's Home	\$950.00
6	Village of Hope, Lawrenceville	\$1,250.00

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9 **403. Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers**

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11 The Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers, Inc., was chartered in 1939. It
12 is a corporation whose purpose is to provide a permanent endowment fund to be
13 securely invested and managed under the direction of the North Georgia
14 Conference in order "to provide a living for retired ministers, widows, and
15 dependent children of deceased ministers."

16 In the 78 years of its existence, the Foundation has supplemented the
17 retirement income of countless ministers and their families. As the conference
18 has better provided for these persons, the Foundation has seen itself as a
19 financial resource to support established programs for retired ministers not in
20 existence in the early years of the Foundation.

21 In recent years, the Foundation has contributed significantly to Wesley
22 Woods Senior Living where many ministers live and also has given an annual
23 contribution to the Retired Ministers' Health Insurance. Last year, the
24 Foundation made a major contribution of four million dollars to the annual
25 conference for pensions. This contribution was to be a part of the last monies
26 raised for the purpose of fully funding the pre-'82 pension liability of the
27 conference.

28 After the conference voted several years ago to sell all superannuate
29 homes, as they became vacant, the Foundation assumed that responsibility and
30 has invested and used the monies from the sales for retiree benefits in lieu of
31 housing. Just one property is still owned and maintained by the Foundation.
32 That one will be sold when the occupant no longer needs it.

33 As we go forward, we will continue to fulfill the purpose of the
34 Foundation in light of changing needs.

35 Bill McKoy, Chair
36 Ed Tomlinson, Executive Director

404. Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers, Inc.

Murphy-Harpst serves Georgia’s most vulnerable children, the majority of whom have a history of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Many have been exposed to drugs, experience homelessness, and some have been involved in human trafficking. Due to the severity of the abuse our children have experienced, the work we do is critical and can be extremely challenging.

Our vital partnership with the United Methodist Women, as well as the North Georgia Conference, has allowed us to serve children for 93 years and counting. Unique therapeutic approaches, such as equine therapy, art therapy, recreational therapy, spiritual development, and individualized counseling services allow us to provide a safe space where children feel good about who they are and discover who they can become.

Each year brings new beginnings for our children, and 2016 was another year of success and growth.

In 2016, Murphy-Harpst:

- Served 131 individual children and youth in residential care
- Increased residential staff:child ratio from 1:5 to 1:4
- Moved 60% of discharged residential youth to less-restrictive settings
- Reunited 12 birth families through our foster care program
- Facilitated 7 adoptions into new families through our foster care program
- Hosted over 1,000 volunteers on our Harpst Campus
- Provided 20,217 days of patient care

We are on track to meet and exceed these tremendous milestones in 2017. In February, we introduced our Transitional Living Program (TLP) for youth ages 16-21. Through TLP, our children are learning life and job skills to prepare them to live independently in the community while benefitting from the care and comfort Murphy-Harpst provides. We have the ability to support 15 youth and young adults in this program and anticipate reaching full capacity this year.

At Murphy-Harpst, we strive every day to provide the life and hope for our children that they deserve. We are blessed to be in service with the North Georgia Conference, and our volunteers, supporters and staff embody this year’s theme of **Worship That Inspires Action**. We cherish your prayers and partnership and invite you to come and experience the life-changing work at Murphy-Harpst!

Michael “Scott” Merritt, President & CEO

405. United Methodist Children's Home

We are all called to a ministry that requires us to recognize and embrace change. Our mission at The United Methodist Children's Home is to restore children and families from trauma through Jesus Christ. We are also committed to serving as many people through that ministry as possible and continually explore ways to accelerate and expand our ministry. As a 146 year-old agency of this annual conference we steward a proud legacy including a long-standing value of evolving our ministry over the years to adapt to changing needs to those we serve.

On January 17, 2017, our Board of Trustees made a forward-thinking decision to expand and accelerate our mission by selling our Decatur property. Full of gratitude for the 144 years of serving countless children on our Decatur property, it is estimated this decision will enable us to help 60 more people every day, every year, in perpetuity.

On April 17, 2017, the Decatur City Commission approved purchasing the Decatur campus. Proceeds of the sale, priced at \$40 million, will help UMCH reach more children and families in crisis in new communities across North Georgia.

The sale terms include:

- Retaining and preserving the historic Moore Chapel by UMCH
- Preserving the gravesite of UMCH's founder Rev. Dr. Jesse Boring, along with retention of the gym, pool, fields and other assets with an eye to public use.
- Honoring the unparalleled tenure of Bev Cochran, former CEO of UMCH, who led the ministry for 43 years from 1968 to 2012, by naming the existing administration building in his memory.

As we expand our ministry across the conference, UMCH continues to envision a world where every child lives in a loving, compassionate and nurturing home. Today, there are over 13,000 kids in the care of the State. The UMCH turns away over 30 children a week because we do not, yet, have enough foster homes.

We are partnering with churches to help faithful followers of Jesus engage children and families in their local communities. Through our Foster Care Coalition Model, this ministry has expanded from Decatur and Gainesville into more than 40 counties throughout the Annual Conference. We are able to do this by opening offices in Newnan and Augusta, allowing us to partner with even more churches. We're creating Foster Care Coalitions in places like McDonough, Athens, Carrollton, North Gwinnett, Dunwoody, Forsyth County

and Covington. As we do this, we continue to focus on the needs in Atlanta and Decatur—our long-time home. 1
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But this is only the beginning. Your United Methodist Children’s Home is exponentially expanding its foster care services into the entire Annual Conference as we grow from serving 115 kids a day today, to 500 kids a day by 2020. We cannot wait to come alongside you in this ministry. 3
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Celebrating our ministry, thank you for letting us partner with you so that together in 2016 we: 7
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- Placed 208 children into loving foster homes (up from 180 in 2015). 9
- Approved 54 new families to foster (up from 33 in 2015). 10
- Helped 15 children find their “forever family” through adoptions (up from 8 in 2015). 11
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- Provided a safe place for 25 at-risk families to live while they took advantage of our counseling and spiritual development programs (up from 23 in 2015). 13
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- Kept 58 young adults off the streets when they aged out of foster care and welcomed them to our Decatur campus, where they live safely, earn GEDs and college scholarships, work and develop healthy financial habits (up from 50 in 2015). 16
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- Provided 56,000+ days of care to children, youth and families in need (up from 34,000 in 2015). 20
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- Welcomed generous support from 4,400 individuals who invested time or money to support our programs (up from 4,082 in 2015). 22
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As we close the doors of the buildings on our Decatur campus, it will enable us to open countless doors for children and families we serve throughout North Georgia. 24
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Hal Jones, President and CEO, 27
Your entire UMCH team, and 28
Dave Allen Grady, Director of Church Relations 29

1 **406. Wesley Woods Senior Living, Inc.**

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3 Founded in 1954 as the first elder care ministry of the North Georgia
4 Conference, Wesley Woods was innovative at its inception and has remained a
5 groundbreaking industry leader. Providing safe, affordable housing and
6 resident-centered quality care to the 1,800 senior adults served by the 10
7 communities of homes throughout North Georgia, we steadfastly work to
8 achieve our mission to help people age with grace.

9 Did you know that 75% of those who call Wesley Woods home need
10 some form of financial assistance to remain in their homes, and more than 40%
11 are living below the poverty line? Through your personal generosity and the
12 blessing of the annual Mother's Day Offering, the Foundation of Wesley
13 Woods is able to provide significant benevolence care to those individuals who
14 outlive their financial resources, assuring that individuals of all income levels,
15 races and faiths can age with grace, dignity and purpose.

16 To that end, we work to ensure that regardless of income, the senior
17 adults we serve live active and meaningful lives independently for as long as
18 possible. Research shows that the supportive communities at Wesley Woods
19 offer a higher quality of life, and can even postpone or eliminate the need for
20 expensive care such as skilled nursing and repeat hospitalizations.

21 Through the wellness program that your generosity has helped launch,
22 residents are achieving incredible results. A whopping 47% of residents have
23 participated in the program with a 45% retention rate! And a total of 148
24 residents have shown improvement in 3 out of the 9 tests of mobility, strength
25 and balance. Compare that to the national participation rate of 12% and it's
26 clear that the program is making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

27 But wellness isn't just fitness. We believe that resident health and
28 wellness incorporates the spirit as well as the mind and body. As a result, we
29 plan to provide residents an opportunity to cultivate their faith through the
30 provision of a comprehensive, system-wide chaplaincy program. Often times,
31 aging can be a time of significant transition, loss and grief. A robust chaplaincy
32 program can provide counseling, prayer support, education and lifelong faith
33 development to our senior adults. We ask that you be in prayer with us as we
34 work to bring this critical ministry to all our residents.

35 Terry Barcroft, President/CEO
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500. Conference Board of Laity

As we gather in Athens under the theme of “Show Your Work,” I am honored to report that this theme is one that the laity of the North Georgia Conference already practices on a daily basis. As I travel throughout the annual conference, I am impressed with the commitment and love that the laity of this conference demonstrate through their service and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While each ministry of the Conference Board of Laity will be reporting during Annual Conference, I would like to highlight some of their accomplishments since we last gathered together.

Leadership UMC (LUMC) continues to operate as the premier training program for laity throughout the connection. This year at annual conference, the past graduates of LUMC will provide the opening music for the Lay Orientation session on Tuesday morning at 9:30. The 2017 LUMC graduating class will number 57, making it the largest graduating class in the program’s 15-year history.

Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) continues to flourish throughout the conference. Significant changes to the *Book of Discipline* by the 2016 General Conference regarding Lay Servant Ministries made for a year of changes and challenges. The leadership of LSM skillfully guided the committee through this process in addition to hosting 80 classes and certifying 32 lay speakers.

The North Georgia Scouting Ministry hosted several conference-wide events this year including their first ever United Methodist Academy of Scouting (UMAS) on April 22 at Peachtree Road UMC. This adult training event helped Scout leaders of all faith groups learn ways to build Duty to God activities into their Scout programs. Further, a significant step was made with the addition of a Girl Scout coordinator to the conference committee.

As we move forward, I am proud of the strong role of the laity within this conference and look forward to continuing to strengthen our commitment to the church and its mission.

Bill Martin, Conference Lay Leader

1 **501. United Methodist Men – *Uniting Ministry and Men***

2
3 We are *Inviting* and *Encouraging* Men to be *Engaged* in *Service* and
4 *Fellowship* with the purpose of *Developing Disciples* of Jesus Christ! United
5 Methodist Men continues to promote and grow men’s fellowship through
6 vibrant local ministries across the conference. We offer men the opportunity to
7 know Jesus through service, faith, worship, leadership, learning and fellowship.
8 We are increasing our efforts to reach and connect with congregations, both
9 large and small, while intentionally reaching out to men of all ages in inviting
10 participation in the ministries of the church. We are actively visiting and
11 connecting in person with men and providing training and material to support
12 our men in congregations all over the conference!

13 We adopted a virtual service model since we no longer have a brick and
14 mortar office nor a paid administrative staff. We are utilizing and perfecting a
15 model where we leverage telecom technology and social media with a series of
16 personal meetings, trainings and fellowship events. This new approach is
17 received positively with excitement and renewed sense of empowerment and
18 teamwork. We worked hard on conference leadership development and spiritual
19 growth to cement a solid foundation for the future. We made an increase in
20 chartered churches and local men’s ministry. Our goal for this year is a 10%
21 increase in charters and EMS members. We are reaching out to engage our
22 brothers in local ministries that have been inactive and disconnected over the
23 past several years. We have 11 of 12 active district leaders, five who have been
24 in their position a year or less. Augusta is our target district for 2017, and we
25 expect to renew and strengthen our connection with their leadership and sustain
26 it into the future.

27 North Georgia is actively engaged with the Southeast Jurisdiction (SEJ)
28 Young Men’s Ministry Think Tank that is designed to provide leadership for
29 increasing the presence and impact of young men 18-40 in this ministry. These
30 young men were adopted as leaders in our ministry today and we are excited for
31 the fresh vision, ideas and approaches they will bring. This think tank model
32 was designed in the SEJ and is being adopted nationwide. The North Georgia
33 delegate on that team is Odell Horne. Cary Loesing was elected to serve as the
34 Second Vice President, Nurture and Outreach.

35 Our men distributed over 40,000 pounds of produce from the Society of St.
36 Andrew to support food banks and soup kitchens throughout the conference.
37 Each holiday season men serve God’s people in need in every district in the
38 conference. We have made improvements at Camp Glisson, sponsored shoe
39 drives and provided firewood for heating the homes of those in need. We
40

continue to contribute to the Upper Room Prayer Line, train Prayer Advocates, grow our prison ministry and partner through organizations such as Kairos to reduce recidivism and MenD to eliminate domestic violence/abuse of women.

We provide on-site training with the GCUMM deployed staff to develop disciples, including *Missions and Visions*, *Understanding Men's Ministries*, and *Lead like Jesus*. Our Leadership Development team continues to deliver updated local and district leadership training hosted at churches around the conference. Through our outreach efforts we have provided Strength for Service and New Testament devotionals to military and first responders. We are engaged with Mobility International to establish the organization and infrastructure for an Atlanta-based flagship plant that assembles and ships Personal Energy Transportation (PET) carts to people in need.

Our ministries continue to support domestic and international mission teams who bring the Gospel to indigenous peoples in their own language. Men across the conference continue to support their churches, community and regions around the world. Our men prepare, serve and deliver meals to hungry, maintain the church and community facilities, build wheelchair ramps, and engage men through car maintenance ministries, spiritual growth retreats, Bible studies, Sunday school, prayer meetings, and other service areas.

This year we salute our dear Brother Norman Johnson who passed on March 15, 2017 after decades of leadership and service to North Georgia United Methodist Men, the Jurisdiction and at the national organization levels.

North Georgia will be represented at the 12th National Gathering of United Methodist Men, July 7-8, in Indianapolis. The theme is *Discipleship - the Contact Sport* with Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., keynote speaker.

Join us September 29-30, 2017 in Atlanta for *UMMen Igniting Faith Retreat*, at Peachtree Road UMC. The theme is *Freedom through Forgiveness* with Donald K. Reed, Andrews Chapel UMC, Jonesboro, keynote speaker. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will provide words of inspiration on Saturday.

Every day we work to respond quickly and decisively to the call from men for help and leadership by leveraging every tool and resource at our disposal. If you need something to grow your ministry, our promise is as follows: If we have it, you can get it. If we don't have it, we will find it. If we can't find it, we will build it. One in Christ.

Louis D. Johnson, Conference President

502. United Methodist Women

The North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women have been called to this time and place to “Show Our Works.” Embracing the 2016 theme, “A Fresh Wind Blowing,” propelled members into new beginnings and ways to move forward in serving with women, youth and children locally and throughout the world. North Georgia Conference members gathered in many places to worship and to serve.

March – “Faith, Fun, Everyone” was held at Snellville UMC with spiritual, social and justice workshops and collecting toiletries for the Snellville Co-op and the Metro Women’s Prison Transition Program.

June – The United Methodist Women Southeastern Jurisdiction Meeting was held in Charleston, SC. Approximately 100 members travelled to Charleston to participate in worship service, Bible Study, service projects and to witness the recognition of North Georgia members. Tonya Murphy and Grace Pyen were recognized as outgoing National Directors and Sue Raymond was elected to serve as National Director for 2017-2020. Bobby Solomon will serve on the National Program Advisory Group and Teresa Wynn will serve on the SEJ Planning Committee for 2017-2020. The gifts and talents of North Georgia Conference members are being used at all levels.

June – The North Georgia Conference Deaconesses and Home Missioners received special recognition at the Annual Conference Breakfast for their contributions and service to improve the lives of others. During the Annual Conference, 5877 UMCOR Health Kits were collected.

July – Mission u event was held at Fayetteville First UMC, a time of “Learning Together for the Transformation of the World” for adults, youth and children. Topics included: *The Bible and Human Sexuality*, *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action* and *Latin America*.

October – The 44th Annual Meeting of North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women was held at Cumming First UMC with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson as the worship speaker and communion celebrant. Over 300 members gathered to meet, greet and welcome Bishop Sue to North Georgia. The worship service was followed by a luncheon where districts shared some of the service projects that were completed during the year.

Tryphenia Speed, Conference President

600. Boston University School of Theology

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge and equipping leaders for the church and society. We celebrate our students, alums and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.

We welcomed Jonathan Calvillo as a new faculty member in sociology of religion, leading toward better understanding of congregations and faith identity. See our website of congregational resources:

<http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/>. The DMin program has deeply committed student cohorts who are ecumenical, culturally diverse and increasingly global. We multiplied funding for student scholarships and housing, including the Vincent Machozi Scholarship for African students. Religion and Arts Initiative sponsored a hymn-writing contest. The current exhibit focuses on ecological healing: “Sense of Place” by women print-makers from Ecuador and Maine.

Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community with congregational courses, Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic, travel seminars, ecumenical partnerships, and Partnership with Hebrew College.

Taking Action Globally and Locally: Campus action: Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet. Internships in global service and peacemaking: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

Renewed Commitment to Justice: Celebrating differences while joining together for action. Standing with Standing Rock: Several BUSTH students and alums joined indigenous peoples at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land. Deep conversations: Faculty, students and administrators have led conversations on issues that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey was featured in BU’s 2016 Annual Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment and change. Our graduating senior, Mariama White-Hammond (AME), led the Boston Women’s March, and some 75 STH faculty and students marched.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

601. Duke Divinity School

In the academic year 2016-2017, we have been delighted to welcome our new dean of Duke Divinity School, Elaine A. Heath. Dean Heath also serves as professor of missional and pastoral theology, and her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, new monasticism and emergence in church and theological education. Prior to coming to Duke, she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Dean Heath is the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional, missional communities in diverse social contexts, and she is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. She has published books for scholars, churches and laypeople; her most recent book is *God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church* (Upper Room). She is widely in demand as a speaker and teacher for annual conferences, retreats and leadership training. Since arriving at Duke in July, Dean Heath has begun work on a new strategic plan for the Divinity School. By the end of 2016, the initial listening and feedback phase had been completed and a task force convened to help guide the process of strategic goal-setting.

With Dean Heath's leadership, Duke Divinity School remains mindful of our mission to train, prepare and form men and women committed to God and enthusiastic about ministry. We endeavor to prepare leaders for a changing church and world who will have the spiritual formation, theological foundation and institutional flexibility to serve God in established churches, intentional communities or missional organizations, as the Holy Spirit guides them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2016, our total enrollment was 641 students: 418 are enrolled in the MDiv degree program; 52 in the M.T.S.; 8 in the ThM.; 45 in the ThD.; 71 in the DMin.; 16 in the M.A.C.P.; 23 in the M.A.C.S.; and 8 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 48 percent of our MDiv students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 11 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 24 other denominations or nondenominational churches. We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among The United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry.

Elaine A. Heath, Dean of Duke Divinity School

**602. Georgia Chapter of the Professional Association
of United Methodist Church Secretaries**

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Both the national chapter and the Georgia chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries were established in 1982 under the direction of the General Council of Finance and Administration. The purpose of the organization is to provide a supportive base, individual growth, professional development, continuing education and spiritual enrichment. The Georgia chapter serves both the North and South Georgia conference persons in ministry of administration, who are paid or volunteer, part time or full time.

The Georgia chapter holds a four-day conference each year. This coming conference will be held at LaGrange First UMC, LaGrange, Ga., September 21-24. Each event provides a variety of workshops and worship experiences. The goal each year is to provide training that will assist United Methodist office personnel an opportunity to earn one continuing education credit (CEU). Our goals include staying healthy in our positions and churches as we serve others.

We encourage members to become certified as a United Methodist secretary. The GCFA sponsors this event and it is now offered online. The Institute provides outstanding advanced professional training for United Methodist secretaries from across the denomination. A participant who completes the program and meets the requirements set forth by the General Council on Finance and Administration is eligible to apply for certification as a Professional United Methodist Church Secretary.

Georgia PAUMCS publishes a newsletter and has a networking “enews” set up for questions and answers. This networking tool allows administrative assistants to stay connected while we are called to ministry in our local churches, district offices, episcopal offices and agencies. We stay connected through our social media outlets posting information on trainings in the North and South Georgia conferences and other trainings as related to our ministry areas.

We are a connectional part of United Methodism. Georgia PAUMCS sets goals each year to become better and train better for the Kingdom of God. For more information, visit ga-paumcs.org.

Jackie Powers, Chapter President

1 **700. Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired,**
2 **Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the North Georgia Annual**
3 **Conference**

4
5 The North Georgia Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following
6 resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated,
7 or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

8
9 WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist
10 Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past
11 functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the
12 meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained,
13 commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

14
15 WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to
16 provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as
17 part of their gross compensation;

18
19 WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and
20 disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are
21 paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration
22 of previous active service; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its
25 predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing
26 allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and
27 are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

28
29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

30 ***See **NOTE** below for IRS limitations

31
32 **THAT** an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability
33 payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The*
34 *United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments
35 from Wespath Benefits & Investments (“Wespath”), during the period January
36 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 by each active, retired, terminated, or
37 disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its
38 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for
39 each such Clergyperson; and

1 THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this
2 rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or
3 disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the
4 *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespeth and from a commercial
5 annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a
6 Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from
7 any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a
8 retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to
9 any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the
10 Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part
11 of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to
12 perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and
13 that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan,
14 annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled
15 Clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or
16 her gross compensation.

17
18 ***NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a
19 Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state)
20 income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2),
21 and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing
22 allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body
23 of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such
24 year; (b) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a
25 home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings
26 and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.
27 Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult with his or her
28 own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be
29 claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

1 **800.a. 2017 Who Can Vote on Constitutional Amendments?**

2
3 **1. Top bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.**

- 4 a. Deacons in full connection ¶329.2 - active or retired
5 b. Elders in full connection ¶334.1- active or retired
6 c. Leave categories eligible to vote: Voluntary Leaves of Absence
7 (personal, family, transitional) ¶353, Sabbatical Leave ¶351, Maternity or
8 Paternity Leave ¶355, Medical Leave ¶356
9 d. Provisional members who have completed all their educational
10 requirements and have been elected to provisional membership; deacons
11 and elders who have been elected to provisional membership, but not yet
12 commissioned, are eligible to vote ¶35
13 e. Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree
14 and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment
15 immediately preceding election ¶35

16
17 **2. Bottom bar with cross and flame – eligible to vote on all matters.**

- 18 a. Local church lay members to annual conference ¶251.1; ¶32
19 b. District at-large lay members ¶32
20 c. Diaconal ministers ¶32
21 d. Active deaconesses ¶32
22 e. Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within bounds of the
23 annual conference ¶32
24 f. Members of annual conference by virtue of current conference or
25 district position ¶32

26
27 **3. Top Bar only – eligible to vote on all matters except constitutional**
28 **amendments and all matters of ordination, character/conference**
29 **relations of clergy:**

- 30 a. Associate members, active or retired ¶35; ¶321.1

31
32 **4. Cross and flame only – eligible to vote on all matters except general**
33 **and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots, constitutional**
34 **amendments, character/conference relations of clergy:**

- 35 a. Clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence ¶354.7; ¶354.8
36 b. Local Pastors who do not meet the criteria listed above in Number 1.e.

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5. Vertical Bars – non-voting participants	3
a. Clergy:	4
Affiliate members – ¶334.5; ¶344.4	5
Supply pastors – ¶16.2	6
Clergy serving on honorable location – ¶359.2	7
Clergy on administrative location – ¶359.3	8
Clergy from other conferences /denominations serving in North Georgia – ¶346.1	9 10
b. Lay members:	11
Local church reserve and district at-large reserve members	12
c. Guests:	13
Clergy spouses, including surviving spouses	14
Candidates for ordained ministry not under appointment in North Georgia during the 2016-2017 conference year	15 16
Agency, staff, etc., and other guests	17
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1 **800.b. Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments**
2 **The United Methodist Church**
3 **Voted General Conference May 2016**
4

- 5 I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but
6 not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to
7 the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution.
8 It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this
9 church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or
10 individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls
11 anywhere on this planet.
12
- 13 II. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution
14 affirms and protects The United Methodist Church’s commitment to
15 gender equity throughout our worldwide connection. “Gender” is the
16 disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g., ¶16).
17 The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific
18 groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.
19
- 20 III. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13. *Article I. 2*, “Delegates shall be elected
21 in a fair and open process by the annual conferences,” is unduly
22 vague. The addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of *The Book*
23 *of Discipline* helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be
24 elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being
25 appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without
26 delegates being properly elected has been a practice in some central
27 conferences.
28
- 29 IV. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the
30 central conferences should be held in the regular sessions of those
31 conferences, except when unexpected vacancies occur because of the
32 death or early retirement of one or more bishops.
33
- 34 V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of
35 Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work,
36 referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial
37 Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General
38 Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its
39 members.
40

Proposed Constitutional Amendments
2016 General Conference
The United Methodist Church

800.c. Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women’s and girl's equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

800.d. Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶4, *Article IV*, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

1
2 After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin,
3 status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,”
4 delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall
5 any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and
6 governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin,
7 ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”
8

9 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:
10 The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one
11 Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons
12 are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services,
13 participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as
14 baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become
15 professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United
16 Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church
17 shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the
18 Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition,
19 nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship,
20 and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin,
21 ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.
22

23 **AND**

24 **800.e. Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III**

25
26
27 On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United
28 Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional
29 Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item
30 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

31 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article*
32 *III*, (2016 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*)
33 amend by addition as follows:

34 After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open
35 nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be
36 elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”
37

38 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:
39
40

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

AND

800.f. Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, *DCA* p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*, amend by addition, as follows:

To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:
The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference,

1 provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a
2 regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where
3 an unexpected vacancy must be filled.
4

5 **AND**
6

7 **800.g. Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V**
8

9 On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United
10 Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional
11 Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item
12 446, *DCA* p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.
13

14 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*, amend
15 by addition, as follows:

16 After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that
17 adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to
18 hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general
19 superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”
20

21 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

22 The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren
23 Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be
24 bishops of The United Methodist Church.

25 The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the
26 active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union,
27 and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall
28 have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist
29 Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have
30 determined.

31 The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on
32 episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual
33 conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee
34 shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official
35 administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such
36 action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant
37 of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to
38 their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference.
39
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These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General
Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual
members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as
presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

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1 **900. 2016 Standing Rules for the 2017 Handbook**

2
3 **A. Introduction**

4
5 “The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and
6 regulations not in conflict with the Discipline of The United Methodist
7 Church.” (¶ 604) The standing rules of the conference expand and clarify these
8 structures and their modes of operation. (All references to the *2016 Book of*
9 *Discipline* hereafter shall be designated by the paragraph number.)

10 **A. 1. Rules** - Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedures of
11 the annual conference, subject to the rules of the preceding general conference
12 and the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

13 **A. 2. Amendments** - These standing rules may be amended by a two-thirds
14 (2/3) vote of the conference no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours following
15 their presentation to the conference; provided, a written copy of the proposed
16 amendment(s) shall be submitted to the conference secretary before being read
17 to the conference. Amendments shall take effect upon passage, except the
18 number of districts can only be changed at least one (1) year in advance.

19
20 **B. Standing Committees of the Annual Conference**

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22 The primary function of standing committees is to provide support that enables
23 the session of the North Georgia Annual Conference to operate efficiently.
24 These on-going committees do not have programmatic responsibilities
25 throughout the year other than preparing for the annual conference session.

26 **B. 1.** There shall be a committee on standing rules composed of ten (10)
27 persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, plus
28 the conference chancellor. The committee on standing rules is charged with the
29 annual task of addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the
30 standing rules of the annual conference in the following ways: to receive
31 requests for amendments, assure rules maintain internal consistency, make
32 editorial changes as needed, present changes to the conference and review
33 revised standing rules for publication in the conference journal. The committee
34 is also charged with the quadrennial task of examining the rules of the annual
35 conference for consistency with the new *Book of Discipline* and to recommend
36 any editorial changes to bring about that consistency.

37 **B. 2.** There shall be a committee on registration and assistance composed of ten
38 (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.
39 The primary functions of the committee on registration & assistance are to
40

conduct registration, along with the host committee, certify delegates and to issue badges accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee helps retired pastors receive financial assistance, and during the week of annual conference, the committee maintains a table to assist visitors with nametags and other needs. The registration and assistance committee is responsible for working with the host committee to organize and recruit volunteers.

B. 3. There shall be a committee on journal and handbook composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The journal and handbook committee is responsible for certifying daily proceedings at the annual conference session; assuring the journal meets disciplinary guidelines; organizing journal sales at the annual conference session; assisting the conference secretary and journal editor in the production of the handbook and journal as needed; assisting in proofreading the handbook and journal as needed before publication; organizing to invite advertising for handbook and journal if/when that is used.

The committee on the handbook and journal works with the conference secretary as needed to set the standards for the submission of information for the handbook and journal. The committee works with the conference secretary to ensure that the official records of the annual conference shall be kept in accordance with ¶ 606.3.

B. 4. There shall be a committee on resolutions composed of ten (10) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The charge of the resolution committee is to process all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. This committee makes sure that, with occasional exceptions, resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of the Annual Conference year are included in the handbook.

The resolutions committee is responsible for reviewing each resolution to determine if it can properly come before the annual conference, making revisions as needed in consultation with the submitter of the resolution, ensuring consistency with *The Book of Discipline* and North Georgia Standing Rule/Guidelines, submitting to the conference secretary by the deadline for the conference handbook, and presenting resolutions to the conference.

C. Annual Conference Session and Related Committees

C. 1. Annual Conference Committee on Nominations - There shall be an annual conference committee on nominations whose duty shall be to nominate

1 all lay and clergy members of the boards, councils, teams, commissions,
2 committees, and other agencies of the north Georgia conference. The
3 committee shall be composed of the bishop, who shall be the chairperson, the
4 district superintendents and extended cabinet, the conference lay leader and
5 associate conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the commission on
6 religion and race representative, the conference presidents of United Methodist
7 Men and of United Methodist Women, the chairpersons of the conference
8 young adult organization and the council on youth ministry, and not more than
9 five (5) members-at-large who shall be named by the bishop for inclusiveness.
10 The committee shall make its nominations not later than the second morning of
11 the annual conference.

12 The executive committee of the annual conference committee on
13 nominations, composed of the bishop, the conference lay leader, the director of
14 connectional ministries and three (3) other members of the annual conference
15 committee on nominations named by the bishop, will coordinate the
16 comprehensive nominations process of identification, recruitment, training,
17 selection and evaluation for the annual conference. Where vacancies in essential
18 elected positions occur between annual conference sessions, the executive
19 committee may fill the positions until the next annual conference elects. Task
20 forces may be used in keeping with the directions stated in standing rule H.1.

21 **C. 2. District Committee on Nominations** - There shall be a district committee
22 on nominations, composed of five (5) clergy and six (6) lay members. One (1)
23 clergy member shall be the district superintendent, who shall serve as the
24 chairperson. One (1) of the six (6) lay members shall be the district lay leader.
25 The district committee on nominations shall assist in identifying, recruiting and
26 recommending potential leaders to the conference committee on nominations.

27 **C. 3. Quadrennial Boards, Teams, Councils, Commissions, Committees** -
28 The membership of quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions,
29 committees, and other agencies shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) persons
30 plus ex-officio members. This rule shall not apply to standing committees or to
31 any board, council, team, commission, committee, or other agency whose
32 membership is otherwise determined by the conference or by *The Book of*
33 *Discipline*.

34 All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of
35 the annual conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and lay
36 unless *The Book of Discipline* provides otherwise.

37 No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same
38 board, council, team, commission or committee or agency for more than eight
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(8) consecutive years and after serving eight (8) years may not be later elected to the same board, commission, team, council, committee or agency for more than eight (8) years except as allowed by *The Book of Discipline*, for a lifetime total of sixteen (16) years maximum on the same board, council, team, commission, committee or agency. No person shall be nominated to serve concurrently on more than one (1) quadrennial board, council, team, commission or committee, except as an ex-officio member. However, one (1) exemption may be allowed for those serving on the board of laity, episcopal committee, congregational development, nominations, and the standing committees of the annual conference session (acknowledgments, registration and assistance, journal and handbook, resolutions, and standing rules). No district superintendent may be nominated as an elective member of any program agency or team of the conference. Persons nominated shall have agreed in advance to serve if elected.

When quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees are elected, they shall receive training, information and support for their responsibilities within sixty (60) days following the annual conference session, except in a year of episcopal transition when the window will be one hundred twenty (120) days. Chairpersons shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Under the direction of their respective chairpersons, each board, council, commission and committee shall elect a vice-chairperson and secretary. All team officers shall be nominated by the committee on nominations.

All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees shall include members which ensure balance, continuity, expertise, inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of *The Book of Discipline*, Part III Section VI, (¶ 140).

C. 3. a. For Persons Holding Chairs:

C. 3. a. 1) Chairpersons are expected to maintain a yearly calendar of scheduled and announced meetings for planning, budgeting, and evaluation;

C. 3. a. 2) Chairpersons are expected to plan meetings at such times and locations that encourage and allow for maximum attendance of the elected membership, giving particular mind to the academic schedules of youth and young adults.

C. 3. a. 3) Chairpersons are to submit proper budgets with supporting rationale and any other requested reports in a proper and timely manner.

C. 3. a. 4) Chairpersons are expected to provide consistent communication with members of their committee or board regarding agendas,

1 time/date/locations/ and related information that impact a member's ability to
2 serve well.

3 **C. 3. a. 5)** Chairpersons are expected to attend all called meetings of the
4 committee or board for which he or she is responsible. Missing (2) two
5 consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or
6 missing (3) three consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board
7 with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

8 **C. 3. a. 6)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will
9 prompt a letter from the conference nominations executive committee, releasing
10 the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact
11 subsequent nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations
12 executive committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

13 **C. 3. b. For Committee and Board Members:**

14 **C. 3. b. 1)** Elected members are expected to attend all called meetings of
15 the committee or board on which they are serving. Missing (3) three
16 consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with no
17 excuse, or missing (4) four consecutive properly called meetings of his or her
18 committee or board with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for
19 attendance.

20 **C. 3. b. 2)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will
21 prompt a letter of notification from the conference nominations executive
22 committee, releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not
23 negatively impact subsequent nominations or committee service) so the
24 conference nominations executive committee can immediately fill the vacated
25 position.

26 **C. 4. Annual Conference Planning Committee** - There shall be an annual
27 conference planning committee responsible for setting the agenda for sessions
28 of the annual conference, recommending the site of the conference annually,
29 and overall coordination of annual conference. Applications to host the
30 conference shall be for a period of four consecutive years in one site. The
31 application shall be submitted to the bishop not less than two and one-half years
32 before the proposed invitation date and must include adequate data to satisfy the
33 planning committee of the suitability of the proposed site, with special attention
34 to housing, food service, seating, congregating areas, parking and all standard
35 public services necessary to accommodate large numbers of people. All
36 facilities must meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines. All applications to host the
37 conference must include an itemized account of anticipated expenses. The site
38 must provide seating for all members of the conference, both clergy and lay,
39 and for visitors and guests.

The annual conference planning committee shall select one site for four years and must reconfirm the site selected for each of the four years of the approved application. When for unforeseen circumstances related to finances, logistics or other compelling reasons the annual conference is not able to hold annual conference at the agreed upon site, the annual conference planning committee is authorized to work with the conference council on finance and administration to secure an appropriate alternate site.

The annual conference planning committee shall consist of the following persons: the bishop; the annual conference lay leader; the associate conference lay leader(s); the conference secretary; the dean of the cabinet; the conference presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, conference youth organization, conference young adult organization, and the conference young adult committee representative; the chairpersons of the conference worship team, the conference committee on registration and assistance, and the board of ordained ministry; the director of connectional ministries; the director of ministerial services/assistant to the bishop, the chairperson of the conference council on finance and administration; the conference treasurer; and other persons selected by the bishop to assure proper representation of persons related to the work of the committee, such as the host district superintendent and the host pastor. The bishop or his/her designee shall be the chairperson of the annual conference planning committee.

C. 5. Conference Handbook & Information Packets - Material for publication in the conference handbook shall be submitted annually to the conference secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the opening date of the annual conference. Other material may be distributed to the members of the conference, at the discretion of the conference secretary, in a packet of supplementary materials. All printed materials requiring action by the annual conference shall be available in large print.

C. 6. Pre-Conference Briefings - Not more than twenty-five (25) days prior to the opening session of the annual conference, each district superintendent, in consultation with the district lay leader, shall convene, at such time and place as the two (2) of them together shall determine, the conference members residing in the district, both clergy and lay, for the purpose of examining the published reports and recommendations of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees and other agencies of the conference.

C. 7. Consent Agenda - In order to expedite the business of the conference, the consent agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the chairperson of the committee on standing rules, the director of connectional ministries, and the conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation

1 with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or
2 resolutions, may present in the conference handbook a written list of items
3 which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda shall
4 be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are
5 removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of
6 conference. Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda to be
7 placed on the regular agenda by a motion to remove supported by a second
8 from two (2) voting members of the annual conference. When an item has been
9 removed from the consent agenda, it shall be placed on the regular agenda at an
10 appropriate time as determined by the conference secretary.

11 **C. 8. Reports** - Reports shall be in writing, and an original, signed copy of the
12 same shall be in the hands of the conference secretary before being read on the
13 floor of the conference. When twenty-five (25) percent or more of the
14 membership of a board, council, team, commission, committee or other agency
15 shall request the privilege of presenting a minority report to the annual
16 conference, the chairperson of said board or other agency shall appoint a
17 committee to draft a minority report and shall submit the said minority report
18 along with the majority report to the conference.

19 **C. 9. Committee on Resolutions** - There shall be a committee on resolutions,
20 nominated and elected under the provisions of the standing rules. Any
21 resolution coming to the floor of the annual conference which has not been
22 before an official board, commission or agency of the annual conference, or a
23 resolution not previously printed in the conference handbook, shall be referred
24 to the committee on resolutions for study before the resolution is considered by
25 the annual conference.

26 **D. Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference**

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29 **D. 1. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members** - The names and
30 email addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts
31 and by charges, shall be published in the conference journal, and they shall be
32 compiled and made available to members of the conference, both lay and
33 clergy, as early as feasible following their election.

34 **D. 2. Lay Member Equalization Plan** - The lay membership of the annual
35 conference shall be equal in number to its clergy membership. Lay members
36 shall be elected by each charge conference as directed by the Constitution of
37 The United Methodist Church, Division Two, Section VI, Article I (§32). The
38 following are designated by the Constitution, (Loc. Cit.), to be members of the
39 annual conference: the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home
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missioners under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of the United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy membership, the following lay persons shall also be members of the annual conference: the associate conference lay leaders, the district directors of lay servant ministries, the district presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and the district presidents or equivalent officers of the district young adult organization and the district youth organization, four (4) young persons 18 years and under and five (5) young adult persons 18 years of age to 35 years of age.

Additional members shall be elected from each district by the district board of laity to achieve equalization of the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference.

The conference secretary shall advise the district superintendents annually, not later than November 1, of the number of additional lay members required to achieve equalization. The district superintendents shall assist the district board of laity to elect the necessary persons, to notify them of their election, and to forward their names and addresses to the conference secretary by January 1 of each year.

D. 3. Moving Day and Expenses - Moving Day for pastors shall ordinarily be Thursday of the week following the regular session of the annual conference; provided, if unusual circumstances prevail, the cabinet may change the date to a more suitable one; provided, further, the secretary of the cabinet shall have notice of the change published on the North Georgia website not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the annual conference. Departing clergy shall vacate their parsonages by one o'clock on the afternoon of Moving Day. District superintendents shall encourage the pastoral charges to pay moving expenses for newly assigned clergy moving within the bounds of the North Georgia Conference.

1 **D. 4. Care of Parsonages** - Clergy shall use care to maintain cleanliness and
2 good housekeeping of the parsonages in which they reside. In addition to the
3 annual inspection of the parsonage, Part V, Chapter Six, Section VI (§ 2533.4),
4 at a time of change in pastoral appointment, there shall be an inspection of the
5 parsonage by the pastor and the pastor/parish relations committee to determine
6 the condition of the parsonage. Where there has been obvious abuse,
7 replacement and/or repair shall be at the pastor's expense. If pets are a part of
8 the pastor's family, the expense for professional treatment for infestation and
9 odor shall be the pastor's responsibility prior to moving out. Any disagreement
10 concerning liability shall be addressed by a mediation committee to determine
11 the ratio of responsibility. The decision of the mediation committee shall be
12 binding on all parties. The mediation committee shall be composed of the
13 district superintendent, a person of the church's (charge's) choice, a person of
14 the pastor's choice, and a neutral person selected by the district superintendent.

15 **D. 5. Number of Districts** - There shall be twelve (12) districts in the North
16 Georgia Conference.

17 **D. 6. Service Year** - The conference service year shall be July 1 through June
18 30.

19 **D. 7. Local Church Reports** - Pastors shall submit their annual reports as
20 directed by the conference statistician. The conference statistician shall
21 reconcile the financial reports with the records of the conference treasurer.

22 **D. 8. Archives** - The depository for archival records of the North Georgia
23 Conference shall be the Candler School of Theology of Emory University
24 through its Pitts Theology Library.

25 26 **E. Finance and Property** 27

28 **E. 1. Budget Development** - All requests for appropriations shall be submitted
29 to the conference council on finance and administration, in writing, not less
30 than ninety (90) days prior to the opening session of the annual conference.
31 Requests shall include a detailed financial statement. Any persons or group
32 presenting a proposal to the annual conference for a program or activity which
33 is not included in the conference budget shall at the same time, present a
34 financial analysis including estimated cost and plans for funding. Before final
35 action by the annual conference, the conference council on finance and
36 administration shall review the financial aspects of the proposal and make its
37 recommendation to the conference regarding the proposal. Budgets submitted
38 to the conference for approval shall include itemized comparative figures for
39 the previous year, except in the case of new programs.
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E. 2. Fiscal Regulations - The conference fiscal year shall be January 1	1
through December 31. All monies for conference and district items shall be	2
remitted by December 31. The books of the conference treasurer and the district	3
treasurers shall be closed at the end of business on the fifth (5th) working day	4
following January 1. The conference treasurer shall make final settlement and	5
disburse all funds to the annual conference boards, councils, commissions or	6
other agencies within fifteen (15) days following the end of the fiscal year. The	7
conference treasurer shall report by districts and by charges all payments for	8
equitable salaries, mission appropriations and the temporary general aid fund.	9
The conference treasurer shall report monthly to the district superintendents all	10
conference askings paid by each local church in the district.	11
E. 3. District Superintendents' Financial Support - The support of the district	12
superintendents, including their salaries, pensions, and insurance (subject to the	13
same insurance rules for other clergy), shall be provided by the annual	14
conference, through the conference council on finance and administration.	15
Housing, utilities, office expenses, travel and district work funds shall be	16
provided by the respective districts. Expenses related to cabinet meetings will	17
be funded by the conference budget.	18
E. 4. Church Property - Each district superintendent shall furnish the	19
conference secretary annually, for publication in the Conference Journal, a list	20
of the real property situated within the district, belonging to but not currently in	21
use by The United Methodist Church.	22
E. 5. Salary Supplements - All supplementation of pastoral salaries from	23
whatever source shall be administered by the commission on equitable	24
compensation in accordance with guidelines developed by the commission and	25
approved by the annual conference, except that the conference board of	26
congregational development shall be authorized to administer salary	27
supplementation for pastors of new and redeveloping congregations, in keeping	28
with guidelines developed by the committee and approved by the annual	29
conference.	30
E. 6. Charters - Charters authorized by the North Georgia Conference shall be	31
reviewed by the conference chancellor before being filed with the Georgia	32
Secretary of State.	33
E. 7. Annual Conference Registration Fee – A registration fee of \$30.00 shall	34
be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual	35
Conference. Retired clergy and youth members are exempt from the	36
assessment.	37
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F. Conference Common Table (CCT)

F. 1. There shall be a Conference Common Table with responsibility to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the North Georgia Annual Conference. It shall give leadership and guidance in setting the vision and priorities of the annual conference and in conducting an on-going process of refining and revising that vision.

F. 2. The director of connectional ministries, in consultation with the resident bishop, shall chair the Common Table, which shall be composed of the following persons: resident bishop, director of connectional ministries, district superintendents, director of ministerial services/executive assistant to the bishop, director of congregational development, chairperson of the board of congregational development, conference treasurer, chairperson of the council on finance and administration, chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, secretary of the annual conference, conference chancellor, conference lay leader, the four associate conference lay leaders, conference president of United Methodist Women, conference president of United Methodist Men, president of the conference youth organization, the co-presidents of the conference young adult organization, chairperson of conference personnel practices and policy committee, chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, vice-chair of the board of connectional ministries, conference staff person assigned to missions, chairperson of the order of deacons, chairperson of the order of elders, chairperson of the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, the heads of most recently elected lay and clergy delegations to general conference, and such at-large members as the bishop shall nominate to provide for diversity and inclusiveness as regards race/ethnicity/national origin, age, and gender. The Common Table's membership shall be limited to fifty persons. The eligibility limitations of standing rule C.3. shall not apply to the Common Table.

F. 3. There shall be an executive committee of the Common Table composed of the bishop, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the dean of the cabinet, the chairperson of the board of connectional ministries, and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

F. 4. The Common Table could be called into session at such time as the chair, in consultation with the bishop, deems it necessary for the benefit of the conference's work, and may report each year to the annual conference regarding stewardship of the conference's vision and its commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

G. Connectional Ministries

G. 1. There shall be a director of connectional ministries who, in partnership with the bishop and cabinet, shall have the following primary responsibilities: To serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference, including the development, clarification, interpretation, and embodiment of the conference’s vision; to serve as leader of the continuous process of transformation and renewal necessary for the annual conference to be faithful to our Christian identity in a changing world; to ensure alignment of the total resources of the conference to its vision; and to ensure the connections among the local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries for the purpose of networking, resourcing, and communicating their shared ministry.

G. 2. The director of connectional ministries shall serve as an officer of the annual conference, and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.

G. 3. The director of connectional ministries shall supervise the conference staff related to the office of connectional ministries, coordinate the recruitment and training of conference program leaders, provide oversight and leadership in the conference’s program and ministry, and serve as chair of the Common Table and as executive officer of the board of connectional ministries.

H. Board of Connectional Ministries

H. 1. There shall be a board of connectional ministries responsible for the ministry programming of the annual conference. The board of connectional ministries shall have authority to form committees as the *Discipline* may require or for carrying out its responsibilities. The board of connectional ministries may enlist additional persons to assist in its work, and may also form time-limited task forces to address particular issues or emphases. The board of connectional ministries shall be accountable to the director of connectional ministries for oversight and budget.

H. 2. The board of connectional ministries shall be composed of not more than forty (40) duly elected members. These shall include the board officers (chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary), who shall be nominated by the conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Ex-officio members shall include a cabinet representative, a youth named by the conference youth organization, the chairperson or other representative of the

1 conference board of laity, the four conference associate lay leaders, and any
2 other member of a corresponding general board or agency who is a member of
3 or related to our annual conference. These shall be included but not counted
4 against the forty (40) member limit. To ensure continuity of experience and
5 leadership, members of the connectional ministries board shall be grouped in
6 classes so that normally no more than one-fourth will rotate off in any given
7 year.

8 **H. 3.** There shall be representatives on the board of connectional ministries
9 with responsibilities for the following program areas: evangelism (§ 630.3),
10 worship (§630.4), stewardship (§630.5), archives and history (§ 641.1), small
11 membership churches, global ministries (§ 633), global ministry secretaries,
12 disaster response (§ 633.4.b.22), refugee resettlement, health and welfare
13 ministries (§ 633.4.b.27), Bridges, Christian unity and interreligious
14 relationships (§ 642.1), church and society (§ 629), creation care, disability
15 concerns (§ 653), ethnic local church concerns (§ 632.1), Native American
16 concerns (§ 654), peace with justice, religion and race (§ 643.1), status and role
17 of women (§ 644), education (§ 630.2), adult and family ministries [to include
18 older adult (§ 651.1), co-leaders, one lay and one clergy, of the young adults
19 (§ 650.1), children’s ministries (§ 630.1.g)], youth ministries (§ 649.1), higher
20 education and campus ministries (§ 634.1), camp and retreat ministries
21 (§ 630.1.b), spiritual formation, safe sanctuaries, and faith formation.

22 **H. 4.** There shall be a conference youth organization as provided by § 649.1. It
23 shall relate to and be answerable to the connectional ministries board.

24 **H. 5.** The staff of the connectional ministries office will serve as members of
25 the connectional ministries board, and will not count against the forty (40)
26 person limit. The director of connectional ministries shall be the executive
27 officer of this board.

28 29 **I. Ministry of the Laity**

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31 **I. 1. Conference Board of Laity** - There shall be a conference board of laity
32 which shall provide for the ministry of the laity related to the objectives of the
33 General Board of Discipleship as set forth in §§ 1101-1126. The purpose of the
34 conference board of laity shall be as outlined in § 631.2. Funding for the board
35 shall be provided through the conference budget.

36 **I. 2. Membership of Conference Board of Laity** - The following shall
37 comprise the membership of the board: The conference lay leader, associate
38 conference lay leaders, the district lay leaders, the conference director of lay
39 servant ministries, the presidents and two representatives elected by each of the
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conference organizations of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the presidents of the conference young adult organization and the conference youth organization; and in addition, the conference scouting coordinator, the lay chair or lay vice-chair of the general conference delegation and up to four at-large members elected by the board, in consultation with the annual conference committee on nominations as needed from time to time for inclusiveness and/or operations; and as ex-officio, a district superintendent designated by the cabinet, the director of connectional ministries and the presiding bishop. Task forces may be utilized in keeping with the directives stated in Standing Rule H.2.

I. 3. Election of Conference Lay Leader and Associate Conference Lay Leaders – The conference lay leader and no more than four (4) associate conference lay leaders shall be elected quadrennially by the annual conference on nomination of the conference committee on nominations after consultation with the board of laity. The conference lay leader shall serve as chair of the conference board of laity. No person may serve as the conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. No person may serve as the associate conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. The conference lay leader and the associate conference lay leaders shall be members of the board of laity by virtue of their election to the offices they hold. Years of service as an associate conference lay leader shall not be considered in determining the eligibility of a person to serve as conference lay leader.

I. 4. Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries – There shall be a conference committee on lay servant ministries, which shall relate to the conference board of laity as specifically provided for in ¶ 631.6. The committee shall be structured by the conference board of laity and shall include as a minimum the conference director of lay servant ministries, the district directors of lay servant ministries, the conference lay leader and one or more associate conference lay leaders. Up to four (4) at-large members may be elected by the conference board of laity as needed for inclusiveness and/or operations from time to time. The conference director of lay servant ministries shall be elected for a four-year term by the conference board of laity after consultation with the conference committee on nominations. No person may serve as the conference director of lay servant ministries for more than eight (8) consecutive years.

J. Board of Congregational Development

J. 1. There shall be an annual conference board of congregational development. The annual conference board of congregational development shall be charged

1 with the responsibility of developing, implementing and continually updating a
2 comprehensive plan for planting new churches and working with existing
3 churches to create other new places for new people within the bounds of the
4 North Georgia annual conference. The responsibilities shall specifically include
5 establishing, nurturing, supporting and guiding new faith communities from
6 conception through birth and until the district superintendent, the new church
7 and the office of congregational development agree that the support is no longer
8 necessary.

9 **J. 2.** The board of congregational development shall work with the bishop,
10 cabinet and district strategic growth teams to determine locations for new places
11 of worship. It shall also have responsibility for the training, assessing and
12 recommending persons to the bishop and cabinet for appointment as necessary.

13 **J. 3.** The board of congregational development shall encourage local churches
14 to partner with the annual conference board of congregational development to
15 birth new places of worship.

16 **J. 4.** The board of congregational development shall serve as liaison with
17 jurisdictional and general conference board and agencies related to the work of
18 congregational development.

19 **J. 5.** The board of congregational development shall work with the North
20 Georgia Conference board of trustees for the purpose of managing, buying,
21 selling, and holding developmental properties owned by the annual conference.

22 **J. 6.** The board shall develop an annual budget for presentation to the annual
23 conference Council on Finance and Administration to support the work and
24 ministry of the board of congregational development.

25 **J. 7.** The director and chair of the board of congregational development shall sit
26 on the Conference Connectional Table. The director shall serve as an officer of
27 the annual conference and shall be a member of the bishop's extended cabinet.

28 **J. 8.** The annual conference board of congregational development shall be
29 composed of four (4) at large lay persons recommended by the director of the
30 board of congregational development and approved by the nominations
31 committee; four (4) clergy recommended by the director of the board of
32 congregational development and approved by the nominations committee;
33 chairperson of the committee on black congregational development, chairperson
34 of the committee on Latino congregational development, chairperson of the
35 committee on Korean/Asian congregational development, and an advocate for
36 multi-cultural/multi-ethnic congregational development; cabinet representatives
37 to the three committees of the board of congregational development as
38 appointed by the bishop; one cabinet representative to the board of
39 congregational development; a council on finance and administration
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representative; director of connectional ministries; conference treasurer; 1
 director of congregational development; and associate directors of 2
 congregational development or staff liaison for that specific area. This totals 23 3
 persons. 4

J. 9. The chair, vice-chair and secretary of the board of congregational 5
 development shall be recommended to the bishop and cabinet by the director of 6
 congregational development and submitted to the annual conference committee 7
 on nominations for inclusion in their report to the annual conference for 8
 election. 9

J. 10. The board of congregational development shall be organized with a 10
 chair, a vice-chair and secretary. The term of office shall be one quadrennium, 11
 but each may be elected for one additional term, provided no one shall hold the 12
 same office for more than 8 years. The board of congregational development 13
 shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the 14
 director of congregational development or the chair of the board. 15

J. 11. There shall be a committee on black congregational development 16
 composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of congregational 17
 development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by 18
 the annual conference or conference nominations team ad interim per Standing 19
 Rule C.1), 7 or more lay and clergy members with specific attention to age, 20
 gender and district balance as pursuant to the ¶610.5 and ¶605.3 and including 21
 at least one small membership black congregation representative (recommended 22
 by the director of congregational development in consultation with the 23
 chairperson of the committee and the cabinet representative and approved by 24
 the annual conference or conference nominations team ad interim per Standing 25
 Rule C.1). The ex-officio membership of the committee shall include: a cabinet 26
 representative, the congregational development or connectional ministries staff 27
 person for black congregational and leadership development, the conference 28
 commission on religion and race representative, the conference ethnic local 29
 church concerns representative, and the conference leadership ministry team 30
 chairperson. This committee shall make recommendations to the executive 31
 committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new black 32
 congregations and strengthening existing black congregations. The committee 33
 shall collaborate with each of the district strategic growth teams advocating on 34
 behalf of black church congregational development needs. It shall also be 35
 responsible for any training and resourcing needs that are important from a 36
 cultural perspective in planting new and strengthening existing black churches. 37
 The committee shall also be responsible for partnering with the office of 38
 connectional ministries, the board of ordained ministry and the office of 39
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1 ministerial services to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive black
2 church leadership development plan. It shall request funds necessary for this
3 training to be included in the board of congregational development budget. This
4 committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request
5 of the director of the board of congregational development, the committee staff
6 person, or the chairperson.

7 **J. 12.** There shall be a committee on Latino congregational development
8 composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of congregational
9 development in consultation with the cabinet representative and approved by
10 the annual conference or conference nominations team ad interim per Standing
11 Rule C.1), 3 or more lay and clergy members with specific attention to age,
12 gender and district balance as pursuant to the ¶610.5 and ¶605.3 (selected by
13 the director in consultation with the chairperson of the committee and the
14 cabinet representative and approved by the annual conference or conference
15 nominations team ad interim per Standing Rule C.1), a cabinet representative
16 and the staff person for Latino congregational development. This committee
17 shall make recommendations to the executive committee with regard to persons
18 and places for the planting of new Latino congregations and strengthening
19 existing Latino congregations. The committee shall collaborate with each of the
20 district strategic growth teams advocating on behalf of Latino church
21 congregational development needs. It shall also be responsible for any training
22 needs that are important from a cultural perspective in planting new Latino
23 churches. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the
24 board of congregational development budget. This committee shall meet at least
25 quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of
26 congregational development or the chairperson.

27 **J. 13.** There shall be a committee on Korean/Asian congregational
28 development composed of a chairperson (recommended by the director of
29 congregational development in consultation with the cabinet representative and
30 approved by the annual conference or conference nominations team ad interim
31 per Standing Rule C.1), 3 or more lay and clergy members with specific
32 attention to age, gender and district balance as pursuant to the ¶610.5 and
33 ¶605.3 (selected by the director in consultation with the chairperson of the
34 committee and the cabinet representative and approved by the annual
35 conference or conference nominations team ad interim per Standing Rule C.1),
36 a cabinet representative and the staff person for Korean/Asian congregational
37 development. This committee shall make recommendations to the executive
38 committee with regard to persons and places for the planting of new
39 Korean/Asian congregations and strengthening existing Korean/Asian
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congregations. The committee shall collaborate with each of the district strategic growth teams advocating on behalf of Korean/Asian church congregational development needs. It shall also be responsible for any training needs that are important from a cultural perspective in planting new Korean/Asian churches. It shall request funds necessary for this training to be included in the board of congregational development budget. This committee shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of the board of congregational development or the chairperson.

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K. Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference

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K. 1. There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to seventy-five (75) persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 635.1, including those who serve by virtue of their office.

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K. 2. There shall be a commission on equitable compensation as provided by ¶ 625.1, composed of twenty (20) persons with one (1) representative from each district. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

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K. 3. There shall be a board of pensions and health benefits as provided by ¶ 639.1 composed of twenty-four (24) persons arranged in classes and serving a term of eight (8) years to include representatives of both lay and clergy, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

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K. 4. There shall be a board of trustees of the annual conference, elected as indicated in ¶¶ 640 and 2512.1, composed of twelve (12) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, serving in four (4) year terms, except for the first board. It is recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, and one-third (1/3) lay men.

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K. 5. There shall be a council on finance and administration (CFA) as provided by ¶¶ 611-618, composed of five to twenty-one (5-21) persons, with one (1) lay person more than clergy included on the council. The council shall designate an audit committee comprised of one lay CFA member, one clergy CFA member and a CPA who is not a member of CFA. The council shall designate a personnel committee, whose responsibilities will include those defined in ¶613.13. The personnel committee shall be comprised of two (2) clergy CFA members, one lay CFA member, two lay human resources professionals who are not members of CFA and the conference lay leader. Members with voice and no vote are the conference treasurer and the cabinet representative. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

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1 **K. 6.** There shall be a committee on episcopacy as provided by ¶ 637.1,
2 composed of fifteen (15) persons. It is recommended that it be composed of
3 one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, one-third (1/3) lay men,
4 provided that one (1) lay person be the conference lay leader. One-fifth (1/5) of
5 the membership shall be appointed by the bishop. The lay and clergy members
6 of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall be ex-officio members.

7 **K. 7.** There shall be an episcopal residency committee as provided by ¶ 638.1.

8 **K. 8.** There shall be a committee on investigation consisting of four (4) clergy
9 in full connection, three (3) professing members, and six (6) alternate members,
10 three of whom shall be clergy in full connection and three of whom shall be a
11 professing members. The committee shall be nominated by the presiding bishop
12 in consultation with the board of ordained ministry (for clergy members) and
13 the conference board of laity (for lay persons) and elected quadrennially by the
14 annual conference. If additional members or alternates are needed, the annual
15 conference may elect members to serve for the remainder of the quadrennium.
16 Committee members shall be in good standing and should be deemed of good
17 character. The committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity
18 ¶ 2703.

19 **K. 9.** There shall be a North Georgia Loan Guarantee Committee, comprised of
20 two (2) members of the cabinet, the chair and the director of the board of
21 congregational development, two (2) members of the council on finance and
22 administration, one (1) lay and one (1) clergy and two (2) members representing
23 areas of expertise appointed by the bishop in consultation with the chancellor,
24 conference lay leader, executive director of the conference board of church
25 development and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

26 **K. 10.** There shall be a diaconal committee on investigation as provided by
27 ¶ 2703.2.

28 **K. 11.** There shall be an administrative review committee as provided by ¶ 636.

29 **K. 12.** There shall be a North Georgia United Methodist housing and homeless
30 council which shall be composed of no more than 36 persons nominated by the
31 conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference.
32 Each district shall be represented by no fewer than two members, one of which
33 shall be a clergy member in that district and one of whom shall be a lay person
34 who shall be a member of one of the churches in the district that they represent.
35 In addition, the following other persons shall be members: a district
36 superintendent designated by the cabinet; a member of the connectional
37 ministries staff designated by the director of connectional ministries; the
38 director of the council, who shall be a non-voting member; representatives of
39 Persons in Poverty and Resettlement.
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L. Districts

L. 1. District Conference Membership - The membership of the district conference shall consist of (a) all active and retired clergy and diaconal ministers serving appointments or holding charge conference membership within the district and (b) all local church elected, at-large, and ex-officio, lay members of the annual conference from the district.

L. 2. District Board of Laity – There shall be in each district of the annual conference a district board of laity composed of the district lay leader who shall serve as chair, the associate district lay leaders, the district superintendent, the chair of district connectional ministries or equivalent, the district presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, one (1) youth and one (1) young adult named by the youth and young adult groups respectively, the district director of lay speaking and such other persons as the district lay leader and the district superintendent together may select. The district board of laity shall elect annual conference at-large delegates from the districts.

L. 3. Election of District Lay Leader and Lay Leadership – The district lay leader, the district associate lay leaders and the district director of lay speaking shall be elected annually, on nomination of the district nominating committee, after consultation with the district board of laity, by the membership of the district conference at the district orientation meeting before the annual conference session. It is recommended these officers will serve quadrennially and will be elected for their first term at the district orientation meeting immediately preceding the start of the new quadrennium. Replacements for these positions shall be elected at the annual district orientation meeting as needed.

M. Conference Related Agencies

M. 1. There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc., board of trustees, nominated by the Foundation to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 2. There shall be a Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers Board of Trustees, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

M. 3. There shall be an Action Ministries, Inc., board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

1 **M. 4.** There shall be an Aldersgate Homes board of directors, nominated in
2 accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
3 confirmation by the annual conference.

4 **M. 5.** There shall be a United Methodist Children's Home board of trustees,
5 nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or
6 denied confirmation by the annual conference.

7 **M. 6.** There shall be a Wesley Woods, Senior Living, Inc., board of trustees,
8 nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or
9 denied confirmation by the annual conference.

10 **M. 7.** There shall be a board of North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries,
11 nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or
12 denied confirmation by the annual conference. North Georgia Camp and Retreat
13 Ministries, Inc. is the entity through which camping ministry for children and
14 youth shall be carried out. The director of North Georgia Camp and Retreat
15 Ministries is accountable to the conference director of connectional ministries.

16 17 **N. Joint Ministries of North and South Georgia Conferences**

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19 **N. 1.** There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus
20 Ministry. North Georgia at-large membership shall be eleven (11) persons who
21 shall be selected from throughout the conference. Members shall be nominated
22 by the annual conference committee on nominations. In addition, North Georgia
23 ex-officio members shall be the resident bishop of the North Georgia Episcopal
24 Area, the executive director of the Commission, the presidents of the United
25 Methodist colleges and universities and the dean of Oxford College, campus
26 ministers/directors and chaplains, a connectional ministries staff person, a
27 district superintendent, the presidents of the Conference United Methodist Men
28 and United Methodist Women, the president of the Georgia Wesley Student
29 Movement, and (if applicable) all members of the General Board of Higher
30 Education who are members of churches of the North Georgia Conference.

31 **N. 2.** There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Pastors' School board of
32 managers, composed of persons by virtue of office and at-large members named
33 by the annual conference committee on nominations. The purpose of the
34 Georgia United Methodist Pastors' School shall be to provide an annual school
35 for continuing education for United Methodist clergy of the North and South
36 Georgia annual conferences, while modeling and promoting a spirit of
37 cooperation and goodwill between the two annual conferences and members
38 thereof. The Georgia Pastors' School shall be governed by a board of managers
39 composed of 30 clergy from both annual conferences. The members shall be
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named to the board of managers according to nominating guidelines established by each annual conference. The officers are nominated and elected from the board of managers. The chairperson and dean of the pastors' school shall rotate between the two annual conferences from quadrennial to quadrennial.

O. United Methodist Related Institutions of Higher Education

O. 1. There shall be boards of trustees of United Methodist related schools, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

O. 2. There shall be boards of directors of Wesley Foundations, nominated in accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

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1 **900. Proposed and Amendments to the Standing Rules**

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3 **(Bold type indicates new text and ~~strike through~~ indicates deleted text.)**

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5 **Proposed New Standing Rule C.10**

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7 **Rationale:** This section of standing rules provides for a standard process for
8 clergy and lay members to elect delegates to the General and Jurisdictional
9 conferences. The North Georgia Annual Conference is given the responsibility
10 to help shape the future of the United Methodist Church when it selects and
11 prepares its delegation for General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

12 The Elections Procedures Committees’ purpose is to guide the orderly
13 process of electing delegates, including recommending changes to the Standing
14 Rules, and to set the methods of voting for delegates. The committees’ hope is
15 to call the annual conference to a prayer-centered process of spiritual
16 discernment in preparation for the delegate elections. The hope is that this
17 process will create opportunities for the Spirit of God to call forth from among
18 us faithful witnesses who will become the agents of God’s purpose for the
19 future of the church.

20 Submitted by: Bill Martin, Conference Lay Leader; Shannon Karafanda,
21 Chair, Order of Deacons; Yvette Massey, Chair, Order of Elders; Joel Miller,
22 Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors.

23
24 **900.a. New Standing Rule C.10.: Election Procedures Committees**

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26 **C.10. Elections Procedures Committees.**

27 **There shall be two Election Procedures committees. There shall be one**
28 **committee for the laity and one committee for the clergy. The Lay Election**
29 **Procedures Committee shall be nominated by the Executive Committee of**
30 **the Conference Board of Laity and approved by vote of the Conference**
31 **Board of Laity. Those approved to serve on the Lay Election Procedures**
32 **Committee shall not nominate themselves for General or Jurisdictional**
33 **Conferences. The Clergy Election Procedures Committee shall be**
34 **nominated from the Fellowship of Local Pastors (limited to Local Pastors**
35 **who are eligible to vote under the current *Book of Discipline* rules), Order**
36 **of Deacons, and Order of Elders. There shall be two local pastors, two**
37 **deacons, and two elders. The Clergy Election Procedures Committee will**
38 **be diverse in both race and gender.**

C.10.a. Election Parameters.	1
C.10.a.1). The annual conference will approach the election process centered in prayer and scripture.	2 3
C.10.a.2). The annual conference will commit ourselves to being open to the call of God upon the lives of people who represent the diversity and strength of the local congregations of the North Georgia Annual Conference in terms of age, gender, race, ethnic background, language, orders of clergy, geography, theological perspective and experience.	4 5 6 7 8 9
C.10.a.3). The Elections Procedures committees will create guidelines by which the annual conference can gather and share pertinent information about nominees which will assist the voting members of the annual conference in their selection of delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences.	10 11 12 13 14
C.10.a.4). The Elections Procedures committees will educate nominees on the time and financial requirements for General and Jurisdictional conferences.	15 16 17
C.10.a.5). The Elections Procedures committees will encourage the annual conference to pray for the delegates before and during General and Jurisdictional conferences.	18 19 20 21
C.10.b. Lay Election Procedures Committee.	22
Lay persons desiring nomination and election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences will follow the process outlined below which is in keeping with the guidelines established by the Lay Election Task Force authorized by the 2007 North Georgia Annual Conference.	23 24 25 26
C.10.b.1). Any person who has been a member of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election, has been an active participant in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election and is a member within the North Georgia Annual Conference at the time of the General and Jurisdictional conferences is eligible for nomination. 2016 <i>Book of Discipline</i>, Part I, Section VI ¶ 36.	27 28 29 30 31 32 33
C.10.b.2). A nomination form will be posted on the North Georgia Annual Conference website on January 1 preceding the annual conference session of delegate elections. The nomination form will close on January 31 at 11:59 p.m. The nomination form will request a picture, biographical sketch and 250 words to be used as the candidate sees fit, but not necessarily for stating the position on issues.	34 35 36 37 38 39 40

1 **C.10.b.3).** At a location and time established by the Lay Election Procedure
2 **Committee, there shall be a Candidate Forum sponsored by the**
3 **Conference Board of Laity. Official candidates who have completed**
4 **the nomination form and meet the requirements established in**
5 **Section C.10.b.1). will be invited to participate in this forum. An**
6 **equal time allotment, established by the Lay Election Procedure**
7 **Committee, shall be granted to each official candidate to speak to**
8 **those gathered.**

9 **C.10.b.4).** A second Candidate Forum will be conducted during the Annual
10 **Conference Lay Orientation Session. Official candidates who have**
11 **completed the nomination form and meet the requirements**
12 **established in Section C.10.b.1). will be invited to participate in this**
13 **forum. An equal time allotment, established by the Lay Election**
14 **Procedures Committee, shall be granted to each official candidate to**
15 **speak to those gathered.**

16 **C.10.b.5).** Before the morning sessions of Annual Conference, beginning on
17 **days following the first laity election ballot, the Lay Election**
18 **Procedures Committee will distribute a Laity Election Summary**
19 **report. This summary shall report the election results through the**
20 **last ballot read by the bishop on the previous day by listing the**
21 **candidates and the number of votes received in the order of the last**
22 **ballot reported. No other lists of results shall be distributed to the**
23 **laity during the election process after the first ballot.**

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25 **C.10.c. Clergy Election Procedures Committee.**

26 **The ordained clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional**
27 **conferences shall be elected by those who are eligible to vote according to**
28 **the *Book of Discipline*, Part I, Section VI, ¶ 35. All eligible clergy interested**
29 **in serving as a delegate will follow the procedures outlined below.**

30 **C.10.c.1).** A nominee form will be posted on the conference website on
31 **January 1 preceding the annual conference session of delegate**
32 **elections. The nomination form will request demographic**
33 **information and answers to questions to be determined by the Clergy**
34 **Election Procedures Committee. The nominee must electronically**
35 **submit a recent digital photograph during the on-line registration**
36 **process.**

37 **C.10.c.2).** Nomination forms filled out on the North Georgia Annual
38 **Conference website will be electronically dated upon completion. In**
39 **order to include the nominee's biographical information and**
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photograph in the conference handbook, the nomination form on the	1
conference website will not be available after January 31 at 11:59	2
p.m. preceding the annual conference session of delegate elections.	3
C.10.c.3). Submissions will be printed in alphabetical order in the	4
conference handbook and be placed on the North Georgia Annual	5
Conference website.	6
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C.10.d. Election Process.	8
C.10.d.1). Prior to the opening of each ballot, the bishop or person	9
designated by the bishop will lead the conference in a time of silent	10
meditation and prayer.	11
C.10.d.2). Members of the annual conference will vote on electronic devices	12
with laity voting for lay members and eligible clergy voting for clergy	13
delegates.	14
C.10.d.3). When the bishop or persons designated by the bishop announces	15
the results of election ballots, the names and ballot numbers of	16
persons receiving 25 or more votes will be projected on screens in	17
preparation for the next ballot.	18
C.10.d.4). For the laity, any candidate who receives ten (10) or more write	19
in votes, will have their name added to subsequent ballots.	20
C.10.d.5). The order of election of delegates will be General Conference,	21
Jurisdictional Conference, and Reserve Delegates for Jurisdictional	22
Conference. Those elected delegates to Jurisdictional Conference	23
will serve as reserves for General Conference.	24
C.10.d.6). At specific points in the election process, the Elections Procedure	25
committees will report to the Annual Conference on the	26
inclusiveness and diversity of the elected delegation in consultation	27
with the Committee on Religion and Race and the Status and Role of	28
Women.	29
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C.10.e. Policy for Tie Breaks.	31
In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available	32
position on the General and/or Jurisdictional delegations, a runoff election	33
will occur to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those	34
in the runoff are open for votes. The names, with their corresponding	35
number of votes, will be read in the order of their election. The person with	36
the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate	37
delegation.	38
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1 **900.b. Proposed Amendment of Standing Rule E.4.**
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3 **Rationale:** To consolidate the functions of security, maintenance and
4 disposition of closed Conference UM properties under the authority of the
5 Conference Board of Trustees, via a local, professional property
6 management/commercial real estate firm. By accessing the services under the
7 CBOT umbrella, all of the functions noted will be improved and the cost
8 associated with the services will benefit from scale. Further, this relieves the
9 individual district governance structures (unions, trustees, district
10 superintendents, etc.) from being forced to deal with closed properties on an *ad*
11 *hoc* basis.

12 Submitted by Conference Board of Trustees
13

14 E.4. Each district superintendent shall furnish the conference secretary
15 annually, **no later than February 1 of each year**, for publication in the
16 Conference Journal, a list of the real property situated within the district,
17 belonging to but not currently in use by The United Methodist Church. **Each**
18 **district superintendent shall supplement said list in the event the district**
19 **superintendent shall determine that the action of a charge conference in its**
20 **district prior to the end of Annual Conference will result in the closing of a**
21 **local church and the need to dispose of that local church's property. In the**
22 **event of an ad interim procedure, as set out in 2016 BOD ¶2549.3, the**
23 **Conference Board of Trustees shall supplement the list with that**
24 **information. The compilation of those lists shall be transmitted by the**
25 **Conference Secretary to the Annual Conference Board of Trustees no later**
26 **than February 15 of each year and supplemented as herein set out. The**
27 **Conference Board of Trustees shall review said list and add or subtract**
28 **properties based on its knowledge of the current status of properties not in**
29 **use. The Conference Board of Trustees shall report the most current**
30 **information regarding unused property, including properties to be**
31 **discontinued, along with recommendations to the Annual Conference with**
32 **recommendations for disposition. To assist it in managing and disposing of**
33 **unused properties, the Conference Board of Trustees may employ**
34 **professional management personnel or entities. Funding for such assistance**
35 **shall be retained from the sale or rental of any properties within the**
36 **authority of the Conference Board of Trustees.**
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900.c. Proposed Amendment to Standing Rule K.1

Rationale for Amendment: The Committee on Clergy Effectiveness shall be created to support and document efforts to achieve clergy effectiveness before the bishop and district superintendents request that a clergy person be placed on Administrative Location.

Submitted by Jane Newman Brooks, Director of Ministerial Services and Assistant to the Bishop.

K.1. There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to seventy-five (75) persons nominated by the bishop was outline in ¶ 635.1, including those who serve by virtue of their office.

K.1.a. Purpose. There shall be a Committee on Clergy Effectiveness which shall be a resource to the Bishop and Cabinet to assist clergy who are having significant difficulty with effectiveness in ministry. To assist the Bishop in carrying the responsibilities of ¶ 334.3 and ¶359.1b, the committee will meet with the referred clergy person to identify concerns and design collaboratively a corrective plan of action for a return to more effective ministry.

K.1.b. Membership. There shall be eight members who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The members of the committee shall not be members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The majority of the committee shall be clergy, and at least one member shall be a layperson. In addition, the Director of the Office of Ministerial Services and a district superintendent appointed by the bishop shall be ex-officio members without vote. In the event the district superintendent of the referred clergy person is an ex-officio member of the committee, that district superintendent shall recuse himself or herself, and the bishop shall appoint another district superintendent to sit on the committee for that case only. In the event any member of the committee is appointed to or attends the same local church as the referred clergy person, that member of the committee shall recuse himself or herself, and the bishop shall appoint another clergy person or layperson to sit on the committee for that case only.

K.1.c. Terms of Service. The committee membership shall be divided into two classes of four years each. To promote continuity, four of the initial members shall be elected for two year terms, and four of the initial members shall be elected to four year terms. Notwithstanding conference rules of longevity regarding total length of service in an elected position,

1 members may not be appointed to serve two consecutive terms on the
2 committee.

3 **K.1.d. Officers.** The committee shall elect a chair and a secretary every two
4 years.

5 **K.1.e. Referrals.** The Bishop and the Cabinet shall refer to the committee
6 those clergy who are experiencing a pattern of diminished effectiveness in
7 their ministry. The committee shall meet with the referred clergy person
8 and his/her district superintendent, and shall develop a plan to enable and
9 support the restoration of effectiveness. The committee shall continue to
10 meet with the referred clergy person until such time as he or she has
11 established a pattern of effectiveness, or, in the opinion of the majority of
12 the members of the committee, until the committee determines that the
13 referred clergy person is not making sufficient progress. The committee
14 shall report its conclusions to the Bishop and Cabinet.

15 **K.1.f. Method.** The committee, the referred clergy person, and his/her
16 district superintendent together shall develop a plan for the attainment of
17 agreed upon goals that will demonstrate renewed effectiveness for
18 ministry. The work of the committee may include psychological testing,
19 health screening, random or directed drug testing, retreats, counseling,
20 mentoring, educational opportunities, or other programs as needed to
21 assist the clergy person in attaining effectiveness in ministry. A letter
22 detailing the agreed upon goals and plan of work shall be sent to the
23 referred clergy person from the Office of Ministerial Services immediately
24 following the meeting in which the plan is developed. Progress shall be
25 demonstrated and documented at each meeting.

26 **K.1.g. Meetings.** The committee shall meet at least two times per year and
27 the chair shall give reasonable notice of the meeting dates to all members
28 as well as to the Bishop and Cabinet.

29 **K.1.h. Financial Support.** The committee shall determine its financial needs
30 in order to be effective, and shall submit any request for funding to the
31 Office of Ministerial Services to be included in its budget.

900.d. Amendment to Standing Rule N.1

Rationale: The Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry amended its charter in the fall of 2016 to streamline its membership with the goal of becoming more effective in its work. The proposed change in the North Georgia Standing Rules is offered to reflect those changes.

Submitted by the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry.

~~N. 1. There shall be a Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. North Georgia at-large membership shall be eleven (11) persons who shall be selected from throughout the conference. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. In addition, North Georgia ex-officio members shall be the resident bishop of the North Georgia Episcopal Area, the executive director of the Commission, the presidents of the United Methodist colleges and universities and the dean of Oxford College, campus ministers/directors and chaplains, a connectional ministries staff person, a district superintendent, the presidents of the Conference United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, the president of the Georgia Wesley Student Movement, and (if applicable) all members of the General Board of Higher Education who are members of churches of the North Georgia Conference.~~

N. 1. There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry. The commission shall have twenty-three (23) voting members, ten (10) elected by the North Georgia Conference and eight (8) elected by the South Georgia Conference. Proposed members shall be nominated by the Committees on Nominations from the two annual conferences after receiving input from the commission regarding possible nominees. Half of the elected members from each annual conference shall be laypersons. The presiding bishop of each annual conference shall designate one district superintendent from that annual conference to be a voting member of the commission. The director of Connectional Ministries of each annual conference shall designate one staff member from the Office of Connectional Ministries to be a voting member of the commission. The executive director of the commission shall be a voting member of the commission.

Presidents and chaplains (or position equivalent to chaplain) of United Methodist colleges and universities in Georgia, the Dean of Oxford

1 **College, and the directors of Wesley Foundations/Fellowships in Georgia**
2 **shall all be ex officio members of the commission without vote. Members of**
3 **the Division of Higher Education from the North and South Georgia**
4 **conferences, if any, shall be ex officio members of the commission without**
5 **vote.**

6 **Leadership positions of the commission shall be held by members**
7 **from both annual conferences.**

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