



See the Possibilities of a Seed

Daily Advocate.

A joint publication of the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Advocate

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Today's Agenda

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion (Room 203)
 9 a.m. Morning Praise and Prayer
 9:30 a.m. Business Begins
 Methodist Homes
 Adoption of Consent Calendar
 Resolutions to Church Closing and Charge Line Change
 Council on Finance & Administration
 Date and Location of the 2025 Session of Annual Conference
 Expressions of Appreciation and Omnibus Motion
 11:30 a.m. Sending Forth and Fixing of the Appointments

Business of AC ends today



The Rev. Claire van Den Berg and other delegates vote Tuesday on amendments to the UMC constitution. The four amendments were all passed by the required two-thirds vote at General Conference but require ratification by at least two-thirds of the total voting members of all annual conferences combined.

Photo by Matt Brodie



'Committed'

Wofford College President Nayef H. Samhat gives a report on the four South Carolina United Methodist-related colleges and universities: Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford.

By Jessica Brodie

After three days of business and worship that saw passage of five resolutions, voting on four amendments to The United Methodist Church constitution, ordination or commission of more than a dozen deacons and elders, Annual Conference wraps up its work today.

This morning, the body will have the chance to vote on six church closings and the merger of two churches into one new church.

Next, Annual Conference is slated to vote on the 10.3 million budget for 2026. The budget is \$1.4 million less than 2025's budget. An \$800,000 rebate from 2023 separating

churches will be applied, so churches will only be apportioned \$9.5 million of that \$10.3 million budget.

The day will conclude with A Service of Lament to Hope and Fixing of the Appointments led by South Carolina Bishop Leonard Fairley.

A full list of appointments will be handed out at the end of the session and will also be published in the next edition of the *Advocate* newspaper. That edition goes online Friday evening at <https://www.advocatesc.org>.

To subscribe, stop by the booth in the exhibition hall, see Page 2 of this publication or visit <https://www.advocatesc.org>.

Bishop calls special session Oct. 18 on Jeremiah Team recommendations

By Jessica Brodie

Bishop Leonard Fairley has called a special session of Annual Conference this fall to review recommendations from the four Jeremiah Teams.

Set for Oct. 18 at 9 a.m., the Annual Conference Committee has determined the session will be virtual, which Fairley said would be best financially and otherwise.

Their work is ongoing, so the teams' exact recommendations are not yet known, but the body will be voting on any recommendations the teams bring forward.

"Please pray for us as we continue to press forward in this work," Fairley said.

The call for a special session came after the four heads of the Jeremiah Teams—the Revs. Millie Nelson Smith, James Friday,

Cathy Mitchell and Fairley—gave updates on the work they have done so far, as well as their initial insights.

Fairley said as we begin to live into our current reality, "We have to begin to see with different eyes."

"I still believe it is possible, somehow, to do more with less," he said. "I know it sounds like an oxymoron, but I believe that."



Photo by Matt Brodie

'...By Our Love'

On behalf of Connectional Ministries, youth delegates give out stress balls with a message reminding the body what Jesus said: They will know us by our love (John 13:35). T-shirts with the same message are also being distributed, and all were invited to wear their shirts today to symbolize our connection as United Methodists.



Photo by Matt Brodie

A raise for clergy

The Rev. Jon Hoin gives the report Tuesday of the Committee on Equitable Compensation, noting they are requesting a 2.5 percent cost-of-living increase for 2026 to ensure pastors can continue to pay their bills given the large amount of inflation seen in the past few years. "Just know the funds you provide allow ministry to happen in places where we would otherwise not be able to have a presence," Hoin said.

Chancellor updates body on Scouting bankruptcy, need for church incorporation

By Jessica Brodie

Conference Chancellor Kay Crowe offered the Report of the Chancellor on Tuesday afternoon, updating the body on her work for the annual conference, which includes serving as a resource for lawyers representing the conference and churches in litigation; working with conference trustees by preparing leases, deeds, contracts and other documents; and assisting in drafting resolutions and resources for the conference and churches.

Crowe also shared that a 96-page ruling from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in the Boy Scout bank-



Crowe

ruptcy case was recently received. The decision may be appealed, but it has affirmed the complete bankruptcy plan, which Crowe called "very good news."

As well, she continues to recommend that local churches incorporate as a South Carolina nonprofit corporation, but she noted that Section 2529 of the *Book of Discipline* must be complied with in that process. This section requires that the local churches must be organized and operated in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* and cannot sever the connectional relationship to the UMC without the consent of the Annual Conference.



Photo by Matt Brodie

Remembering the saints

The Rev. William F. Malambri preached a memorial service late Tuesday afternoon on "In the Presence of God," celebrating the lives of 52 clergy and spouses who died over the past conference year. Here, participants process.

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