



See the Possibilities of a Seed

# Daily Advocate.

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

Monday, June 9, 2025

## Today's Agenda

7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Blueprint for Wellness Screening (Hall 1)
8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Packet Pick-Up for Registered Lay & Clergy
8 a.m.	Wespath Clergy Presentation with Q&A for Compass (Room 102 B-C)
9 a.m.	Opening Worship Service
10 a.m.-until	Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Hospitality (Room 202)
10:15 a.m.	Conference Organization (Welcome, Greetings, Introductions, etc.) Organizational Motions Consent Calendar Committee on Standing Rules Committee on Nominations Report of Committee on Episcopacy President of Epworth Children's Home
Noon	Lunch Recess African American Clergy women's Luncheon (Room 102 A-B-C) Hood Alumni Luncheon (Room 102 A-B-C) Retiree Luncheon (Room 202 A-B) Stewardship Training (Room 104 A-B)
12:30 p.m.	Diakonia Luncheon (offsite)
2 p.m.	Council on Finance and Administration Committee Resolutions and Appeals The Report of the Cabinet Report of the Conference Lay Leader
4:15 p.m.	Board of Ordained Ministry (and local pastor licensing)
5 p.m.	Evening Praise and Prayer Dinner Recess
6 p.m.	Black Methodists for Church Renewal Dinner (offsite) Duke Theological School Alumni Dinner (offsite) Candler School of Theology Club Dinner (offsite)

## AC2025 See the Possibilities of a Seed

First day of business kicks off today for four-day event



During the Laity Orientation Sunday, Bishop Leonard Fairley lifted up the importance of laypeople and clergy working together. "Collaboration is key," Fairley said, noting while there still may be rivers to cross and mountains to climb as a denomination, all things are possible through Christ Jesus.

Photo by Jessica Brodie

### By Jessica Brodie

Annual Conference returns to Greenville this year for its first conference conducted by a new resident bishop since 2012.

Bishop Leonard Fairley took the helm in South Carolina Sept. 1 after the conference completed 12 years under Bishop L. Jonathan Holston.

Fairley, who brought a word for the Commissioning, Ordination and Retirement Service Sunday night on "What God Sees in You," is slated to bring a powerful and inspiring opening worship service today, the first day of business for the four-day conference.

Today will see a host of organizational and introductory motions and reports, including the presentation of the consent calendar, a report from the Committee on Nominations, the reports of the Cabinet and the Conference Lay Leader, and consideration of the resolutions before the body this year.

Key on this year's agenda is the conference Council on Finance and Administration's recommendation of a proposed \$10.3 million budget

for 2026. CF&A will give the first reading of its budget today, with voting slated for Wednesday.

The budget is 11.8 percent (\$1.4 million) less than 2025's \$11.7 million budget and estimated to be 11.76 percent of average net funds. It is the lowest budget for the conference in years.

"This significant reduction is to reflect the apportionments estimated to be sustainable by the conference's remaining churches," CF&A said in their written report to annual conference.

This year, the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals received five resolutions, all included in the Annual Conference packet (see article, next page). There is a possibility that the body might also see some voting today on one or more of the constitutional amendments to The United Methodist Church's constitution, but those are officially on the schedule for Tuesday.

Today will conclude with a report from the Board of Ordained Ministry that also celebrated those commissioned and ordained at last night's service, as well as those who have completed the Licensing School of Pastoral Ministry and licensing them as local pastors.

## AC2025 in brief

- South Carolina Resident Bishop Leonard Fairley to preach opening worship Monday
- Rev. William F. Malambri to preach memorial service Tuesday
- Theme is "See The Possibilities of a Seed," from Jeremiah 29:5-7
- \$10.3 million budget up for approval
- Five resolutions (four properly before body)
- Voting on four amendments to the UMC denominational constitution
- Report from the Ministry Advisory Team on work of four Jeremiah Teams
- More info at [www.umcsc.org/ac2025](http://www.umcsc.org/ac2025)

### A joyous occasion

AC2025 kicked off Sunday with a Commissioning, Ordination and Retirement Service presided by Bishop Leonard Fairley. The evening ordained three full elders and one full deacon, commissioned eight as provisional elders and commissioned two as provisional deacons. As well, 32 retiring clergy were honored. Here, Fairley stands with the four ordinands.



Photo by Matt Brodie

## Body to consider slate of resolutions today

By Jessica Brodie

Four resolutions are expected to go before Annual Conference today.

While a total of five were presented for consideration at this year's conference, only four are deemed "properly before the body."

The four slated for consideration are as follows: Our Responsibility for Personal Health; Upholding the Dignity of All Mothers; Supporting South Carolinians Living with Dementia; and Recommit to Collegiate Ministry as a Priority of the Church.

One resolution offered to the conference, LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Ministry, was referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals per Standing Rule 70a, as it was not initiated by a board, council, commission or committee but instead by a group of lay and clergy United Methodist individuals. That resolution asks the conference to create a conference-level South Carolina Inclusion Team to support LGBTQ+ people, amplify their voices, monitor committees and policies, and equip local churches with helpful LGBTQ+ resources.

Of those properly before the body, Our Responsibility for Personal Health was submitted by the Church and Society

Work Area of Connectional Ministries and resolves that United Methodists in South Carolina honor their bodies with respect and care; seek a balanced lifestyle that nurtures physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being; pursue wholeness by cultivating healthy relationships, practicing forgiveness and extending compassion; become educated in order to make wise decisions about well-being; support each other in making healthy choices; and trust in God's providence and guidance.

Upholding the Dignity of All Mothers, also submitted by Church and Society, invites South Carolina United Methodists to commit to working to ensure all mothers, regardless of their race or ethnicity, receive compassionate and equitable health care; advocating for policies that eliminate disparities and promote the well-being of all women; working to dismantle systemic racism and discrimination within the health care system; supporting community programs that provide education, resources and support to expectant and new mothers, particularly those in marginalized communities; advocating for access to quality health care for all mothers; and empowering women with the knowledge

needed to make informed decisions on maternal health, family planning and reproductive rights.

Supporting South Carolinians Living with Dementia, also submitted by Church and Society, commits to supporting our neighbors living with dementia through education and awareness, compassionate care, family support, community involvement, and faith and spiritual support.

Finally, the resolution to Recommit to Collegiate Ministry as a Priority of the Church asks the conference to encourage congregations to prayerfully consider how they may be uniquely equipped to support their nearest United Methodist collegiate ministry and connect their graduating high school with the appropriate campus ministry; encourages the conference to continue to support campus ministry financially to the best of its abilities; encourages district superintendents to advocate for campus ministry; invites campus ministries to advise their respective districts on how connection can continue to be cultivated; and encourages the bishop to continue in his advocacy for this ministry.

The full text of all resolutions can be found in your conference packet.

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