



SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Organized 1972

Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South Carolina Conference (1866)

Kenneth L. Nelson
Secretary of the Annual Conference

4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 104
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
(O) 803-786-9486 (F) 803-735-8777
Toll Free: 1-888-678-6272
E-mail: conferencesecretary@umsc.org

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS:
THE NEED FOR SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

WHEREAS, United Methodists are called to love our neighbors and visit those in prisons;

WHEREAS, many South Carolinians, including a large number of United Methodists, struggle with mental illness and are at risk of being confined in the state's jails and prisons;

WHEREAS, South Carolina Circuit Court Judge J. Michael Baxley issued an order on January 8, 2014 after six weeks of trial finding that the South Carolina Department of Corrections is failing to provide adequate mental health services to men and women in its custody;

WHEREAS, the Court found that "individuals have died in the Department of Corrections for lack of basic mental health care, and hundreds more remain substantially at risk for serious physical injury, mental decompensation, and profound, permanent mental illness;"

WHEREAS, Judge Baxley stated that, having served as a state court judge for 14 years and seen over 70,000 cases, "this case, far above all others, is the most troubling;"

WHEREAS, the dangerous conditions to which men and women with mental illness at the Department are exposed have been well-documented since 2000 through studies authorized by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, the South Carolina General Assembly, the United States Department of Justice, and the South Carolina Department of Corrections itself;

WHEREAS, the Bible instructs Christians everywhere to care for the suffering; feed the hungry, heal the sick, visit the prisoner, clothe the naked, and provide care for the least of these, including those who suffer mental illness regardless of their station or location in life.

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on the director of South Carolina Department of Corrections to take all measures necessary to correct the long-standing deficiencies in its mental health program that degrade men and women and expose them to inhumane conditions;

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on Governor Nikki Haley to request that the General Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to enable the Department of Corrections to provide adequate mental health services and to correct the deficiencies in its mental health program;

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on the members of the South Carolina General Assembly to appropriate sufficient funds to enable the Department of Corrections to provide adequate mental health services and to correct the deficiencies in its mental health program.

RESOLVED, that the Bishop of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church should convey the concern and desire of United Methodists throughout South Carolina as expressed in this resolution to the South Carolina Department of Corrections, the Governor, and the South Carolina General Assembly by correspondence and other appropriate means.

Respectfully Submitted,
John W. Culp, Sr., Clergy Member
Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Clergy Member

Adopted June 4, 2014
In Session in Florence, South Carolina

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
President of the South Carolina Conference

Kenneth L. Nelson
Secretary of the South Carolina Conference