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Bells Abbeville Charge Conference 2022

Bells United Methodist Church, Abbeville

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The United Methodist Church Anderson District Office

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
P.O. Box 1057, 515 South McDuffie Street
Anderson, SC 29622
Phone 864-226-6649 Fax 864-225-1399

Rev. Steve A. Patterson, Jr.
District Superintendent

September 8, 2022

TO: Clergy and P/SPRC Chairperson
FROM: Rev. Steve A. Patterson, Jr.
Anderson District Superintendent
SUBJECT: 2022 Annual Evaluation of Pastor/Deacon

One of the duties of the Pastor (Staff)-Parish Relations Committee is to do an annual evaluation of the clergy for the purpose of enhancing effective ministry and for identifying continuing education needs and plans (P.258.2(g)5, *The Book of Discipline*). While this formal evaluation is important, on-going feedback throughout the year is also helpful for the clergy.

The enclosed form is designed to encourage honest dialogue between the SPRC and the clergy, so that there is support and accountability. Evaluation resources, including the fillable evaluation PDF (download prior to filling), are located here: www.umcsc.org/sprc.

Evaluation Steps

1. The SPRC Chair provides a blank evaluation form to all SPRC members. Each person fills it out and sends it back to the chair. The Chair compiles the input into one form.
2. The pastor may use the form to do a self-evaluation, to reflect on ministry and provide helpful information to the SPRC. The pastor sends his/her self-evaluation to the Chair.
3. An SPRC meeting is held with the pastor, to discuss the committee's evaluation and the pastor's input or self-evaluation.
4. After this discussion, the pastor may excuse him/herself so that the SPRC can complete the final evaluation. All SPRC members and the pastor sign the final form.
5. The Chair should keep a copy, give a copy to the pastor, and then send a copy of the final evaluation and the self-evaluation to the District office.

It is of extreme importance that this information be kept confidential.

Please complete the form and return to the District Office by **November 15, 2022**.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter in the life of your church and your clergy staff.

Pastor's Report (Addendum)

In retrospect the year has been fruitful. Considering COVID and the pandemic and the inherent challenges, Bells has transitioned well in all aspects. The metrics evaluated through worship attendance, missions, volunteerism, and financial contributions reveal a year of commitment and growth. From my viewpoint the challenge and opportunity ahead for the church will be in strengthening discipleship and outreach.

I am optimistic about the upcoming year. As the year current year comes to a close with the annual Charge Conference, I have confidence that the church will continue to strengthen through a renewed commitment to discipleship, evangelism, and missions. These emphases reflect the heart of the and it's commitment to the members and the greater community. Continuing the development of a long range vision will greatly benefit the church as the church continues to transition affirming younger members in leadership roles.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Allen
October 25, 2022

The State of the Church

Bells UMC is a vibrant church with a commitment to fostering missions, discipleship and community. The church leadership is balanced with senior and young adult leaders. The dedication, commitment, and loyalty to one another is commendable. The emphasis to local ministry is notable with programs like the Live Nativity, Autumn Revival, and VBS.

Pastoral Ministry

Each week we gather for worship and Bible Study. As the pastor, I am committed to teach the scriptures and encourage the congregants in the application of Biblical truths. The day-to-day ministry includes offering counsel and guidance to organizational leaders in the coordination of the ministries within the church. The Sacraments are celebrated each month in worship. An Autumn Bible Study and Lenten Bible Study offer a mid-week opportunity to gather and focus on in-depth Bible Study. The opportunities for community involvement are ever increasing through community ministries and networking. Each year we are blessed with the gift of newborns. Encouraging young parents and the family brings fulfillment. Also the year includes the passing of saints to their eternal home. Both experiences and the opportunity for pastoral care remind me of the balance of life and the importance of cross-generational ministry. The visits to members in their homes is enjoyable and a complement to the ongoing ministries of the church.

Continuing Education

The commitment to ongoing education and personal development is a high priority. In November 2021 I enrolled in the Basic Course of Study. To date I have completed five of ten courses required. The courses COS 222, 223, 224, 323, and 424 have been both challenging and rewarding. The courses have significantly benefitted me with a greater understanding and appreciation of the church. The courses have been valuable in shaping weekly worship with a deeper understanding of the elements and components that thread through worship. I will continue with the Course of Study in 2023.

Signed

James Scott Allen

Printed Name

James Scott Allen

Date

10-24-2023

Report of Pastor 2022

The report of the pastor in charge shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline (§§ 234, 340). This report should cover as fully as possible the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent, and chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.

Church <u>Bells 270634</u>	Charge <u>BELLS CHARGE 270634</u>
District <u>Anderson District</u>	Conference <u>South Carolina Conference</u>
For the period beginning 10/18/2021 and ending 10/25/2022.	

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. Infants baptized since last report

Name	Date
Drayton Carwile	10/02/2022

b. All others: children, youth, and adults baptized since last report.

Name	Date
None	

2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report (Record names and dates).

a. On profession of faith or restored

Name	Date
Michael Farhat	09/25/2022
Sami Farhat	09/25/2022

b. From other United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

c. From other non-United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or withdrawal

Name	Date
None	

b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

d. By death.

Name	Date
Bob Campbell	01/02/2022
Barbara Jean Fisher	07/31/2022
Elizabeth Ferguson	09/11/2022

4. Have the membership rolls been audited? Yes

- a. If not, why not?
- b. Who has moved from your community since the last Charge Conference?
- c. What has been done to relate them to another church?

5. The pastor shall give a report on the State of the Church (Please do not duplicate report of the Church Council or other committees. Only the highlights, from the pastor's perspective, the major issues or events related to the health of the church). (Attach as a supplement.)

6. The Pastor shall give an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (§ 340): Elders, provisional elders, and local pastors have a fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service. Please describe how you have fulfilled your calling this year in the following ways: (Attach as a supplement.)

- a. Preach and teach the Word.
- b. Provide pastoral care and counsel.
- c. Administer the sacraments.
- d. Order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry.
- e. Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (§ 351).

Continuing Education Report for James Scott Allen to the Charge Conference

Name: James Scott Allen Scott Current Status: OF

Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634)

District: Anderson District

¶ 350, The Book of Discipline, Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

1. Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. This shall include carefully developed personal programs of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities. These practices embody the Wesleyan emphasis on lifelong growth in faith, fostered by personal spiritual practices and participation in covenant communities. Each annual conference, through the chairs of the Clergy Orders and Fellowship or other leaders designated by the bishop, shall provide spiritual enrichment opportunities and covenant groups for deacons, elders, and local pastors.

2. A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers' vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.

3. A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the church council, and the district superintendent. Annual conferences are encouraged to assist with pulpit supply and other temporary support for such leaves.

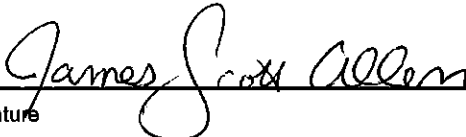
¶ 318 The Book of Discipline 1. Full-Time Local Pastors—1. Full-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed full-time local pastors are persons... (c) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) shall have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 1421.3d), or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate; (d) who, when they have completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary listed by the University Senate, are involved in continuing education (¶ 350); (e) who shall not be enrolled as a full-time student in any school.

¶ 318.2 Part-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed as part-time local pastors are persons... (d) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate

¶ 318.3 A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time local pastor within twelve, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor's opportunity to meet said requirements.

NOTE: Part-Time Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or other approved theological education, must be involved in continuing education.

Year	Course	CEUs	Description (optional)
2022	COS 222 - Theological Heritage II: Early Church	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 223 - Worship and Sacraments	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 224 - Administration and Polity	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 322 - Theological Heritage III: Medieval Reformation	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 424 - Ethics	2	Basic Course of Study
2021	Leading and Adapting During Covid Pandemic	2	Confirmed by the Bishop and Cabinet
2018	UMC Licensing School	0.8	


10-24-2022

 Pastor Signature Date


10-25-22

 SRRC Signature Date

 District Superintendent Signature Date

Annual Report of Trustees - 2022

The trustees are amenable to the Charge Conference and as such are required to make an annual report. Additional reports should be made as requested by the Charge Conference or Church Council.

Church Name: Bells (270634) Charge Name: BELLS CHARGE (270634) Town: District: Anderson District
To the Charge Conference for the year ending

1. Organization for 2022 took place at a meeting on January , 2022 by electing the following officers:

Name	Term Expires
Chair Ryan Hanna	12/31/2022
Member Fay Campbell	12/31/2021
Member Paul Cann	12/31/2020
Member Forest Grice	12/31/2022
Member Ray Hilley	12/31/2020
Member Darry Waites	12/31/2020
Member John Thomas Wilson	12/31/2020

2. Number of church buildings 2; Number of parsonages 1.

3. Value of church...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Structure	Market Value	690,000.00
			Total \$ 690,000.00

4. Value of parsonage(s)...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Structure	Market Value	200,000.00
			Total \$ 200,000.00

5. Value of other assests (cash, investments, other property, etc...)

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Other	Cash, Investments, Property	General Fund, Bonds, CD	73,000.00
			Total \$ 73,000.00

6. Incorporation of Local Church

- Is the local church incorporated? No Date Incorporated
- Who is the church's registered agent on record with the SC Secretary of State? (The Registered Agent should be the Trustee Chair.)
- Have the Articles of Incorporation been reviewed? No Articles of Incorporation Reviewed Date
- Have the By-laws been reviewed? No By-laws Reviewed Date

7. Name or names in which the title to each piece of property is recorded as shown by civil land records:

Item	Name	Where Filed?	Book	Page
Church	Bells UMC	Safety Deposit Box		

8. Deeds

- Who is the custodian of the deeds and other legal papers? Trustees
Where are they kept? First Citizens Bank
- Does each deed contain a trust clause? No
Has a current copy been submitted to the District Superintendent? No

If not, attach a copy of the deed to this report and complete the Quit Claim deed and attach a copy of it to this report.

c. Is the title to church property held in the names of individual trustees or a local church cooperation? yes

9. Received during year for constructing and improving church building and parsonages, and how expended:

Received From	Amount	Disbursements	Amount
N/A	0.00		0.00

10. Present Indebtedness:

Item	Amount
N/A	

11.

a. Insurance

Item Insured/Insurance	Replacement Value	Amount of Coverage	Type of Coverage	Company	Deductible	Expires When
Church Buildings	950,000.00	950,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Parsonages	225,000.00	225,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Church Furnishings and Equipment	115,000.00	115,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Parsonage Furnishings and Equipment	25,000.00	25,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022

b. Have the buildings been inspected for fire hazards within the past year? Yes

c. When was the last appraisal made? 10/02/2022

d. By whom? Ryan Hanna

e. Is the amount of insurance adequate? Yes

f. Does the church's insurance cover professional liability? Yes Amount 500,000

g. Does the church's insurance cover all programs that occur in the facilities (i.e. Scouts, community groups, AA, etc)? Yes

h. Does your church sponsor a scouting ministry? No

If yes, please include identifying information:

Type of Troop: Number: Scout Council:

Attach copies of any signed agreements you have with Scouting entities.

Attach copies of any insurance policies that cover the church for scouting activities.

i. Who is bonded?

Harold Campbell Lena Dunlap Tuck Hanna

12. Detailed list of income producing property and permanent funds:

Item	Date Received	Amount	Where Invested	Income	How Income is used for Ministry
No records					

Attach supplement if needed for "How Income is used for Ministry" entry.

13. Has an annual accessibility audit for the church been conducted? Yes

Date: 10/02/2022



Signed
Chair or Secretary, Trustees

Bells (270634) on the BELLS CHARGE (270634) in the Anderson District

[Charge Conference Home](#) | [Additional Lay Member\(s\) to AC Equalization Letter](#) | [Information and Help](#) | [Active Leadership](#)

Add/Edit Minutes Church

I. Mission

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Achieving a bold mission requires setting intentional goals. Please be prepared to dialogue about the following questions at Charge Conference. If your church doesn't have formal goal, then discuss programs/ministries that fulfill the mission of the church.

A. What were your key goals for making and nuturing disciples for this past year?

Bells UMC continues to develop and nurture its members through Christian education, missions, and service opportunities. We are building upon strong foundations in UMW, UMM, Sunday School, and Community Missions.

B. How are you making progress towards reaching the goals stated above?

These organizations have established consistnt attendance with increased support in our renewal following the COVID pandemic.

C. Among these goals, what are you most excited about?

The spirit of the people and depth of commitment. I have observed a deeper commitment to prayer and discipleship.

D. Church Vitality

While numbers are not the only factor of vitality, they are helpful in providing clarity of our church's present reality. Below is the reported data from your church's last two year-end Statistical Tables.

Year	Avg. Worship Attendance	Total Professing Members	Avg. Sunday School Attendance	Total Number of People in Christian Formation Groups	Rec'd on Profession of Faith Through Confirmation	Rec'd on Profession of Faith (not in Confirmation)
2021	60	234	22	74	8	0
2020	54	238	18	96	0	0

E. Tools for Planning

What is your church's specific plan to reach new people for Jesus Christ? What tools are you using to foster growth (i.e. Forward Focus, Natural Church Development, SHIFT, Ken Callahan's "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church", etc.)?

Resuming quarterly rallies and offering outreach programs like **Churns and Bluegrass** a summer gathering at Lake Secession with a Bluegrass band and homemade ice cream.

II. Nurture

A. Does your church have a visitation program? Please describe.

We do not have a formal visitation program per se. The key leaders, Sunday School teachers, and pastor take the initiative in outreach and in reach.

B. Does your church have a congregational care program (i.e. Stephen's Ministry, divorce care, counseling center, grief group, etc.)? Please describe.

No not at this time.

III. Outreach and Witness

A. How is your church reaching out in service to the community and the world?

Local Food Bank, VBS, Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, Angle Tree, Samaritan's Purse, and School Sponsorships.

The number of persons from your church serving in mission/community ministries reported in your church's last year-end Statistical Tables.

35

B. How has your church engaged in ministry with children, youth, and young adults beyond you local church this year (i.e. Scouts, Child Care, Basketball League, school partnerships, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church?

Bells UMC is integrally involved in Diamond Hill Elementary School through donations and volunteerism. These experiences are a direct link which is meaningful and encouraging to members who have children who are enrolled in the school. The members who teach and serve in staff roles are affirmed as well.

C. Has your church engaged in ministry with other United Methodist Churches, with ecumenical partners, and in cross racial/cultural experiences (i.e. pulpit or choir exchanges, joint projects, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church?

UCMAC - United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County is an ecumenical group which includes area Methodist Churches. Bells UMC sponsors a food bank in Lowndesville where area churches send volunteers.

VI. Stewardship

A. What percentage of apportionments were paid in 2021?

100

What do you expect to pay in 2022?

100

B. If you are not paying 100% of your apportionments, please explain why, and what are your plans to move toward 100% payment?

C. Are you up to date on Direct Billing?

Yes No

If not, what is your current balance and plan to address it?

Full Balance - to be paid at year-end.

Do you plan to enroll in the Conference Forgiven Plan?

Yes No

D. Has a 2021 Audit been completed and report submitted to the District Office?

Yes No

Submit

Delete

Cancel

BELLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2022 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Administrative Council Chair Report

Bells continues to focus on building deep relationships with Christ and sharing God's love with the community, those that we meet each day, and the world that needs to know about Christ now more than ever before.

Our Youth group continues to meet monthly at the homes of different members who volunteer to host the group. The Youth Group participates in VBS, Christmas Caroling, and other activities.

We have begun several new traditions at Bells over the past couple of years. One is our Lake Service each year where several members have been baptized and reaffirmed their baptism. This is a special Sunday for our church each year. Each week a particular church member(s) is highlighted for prayer, cards, calls, and visits. This has been a very meaningful ministry to encourage members in need of extra love and prayers. Members are also encouraged to pray at 8:17 PM each night for our church, community, and country.

Updates and repairs have been decided upon and made as needed. However, we have been cautious to begin any new costly projects during such uncertain times within The UMC Conference.

The Children's Program here at Bells has continued to serve the children of our church and community. Jennifer Maxwell diligently serves in this area to provide activities for children throughout the year. We had a church full of children during VBS who were filled with excitement for learning about God. Events such as Trunk or Treat, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Thankful for Talents Sunday, Back to School Bash, and a birthday party for Jesus are a few of the highlights our children look forward to each year. The Children's Program continues to be an outreach to the community.

The UMW continues to plan monthly Sunday lunches for the church to enjoy together. This group of ladies meets monthly to fellowship together. These ladies are always willing to serve the community and the church when any need arises.

Several other actions completed (by the board) are the development of a Safety Team to address safety concerns during church events and Church Clean Up Days to keep the building and grounds in good shape.

The items shared in this report are a few highlights of actions taken by the Council during the past year. These and other activities are presented in more detail through other committee reports included as part of the Bells UMC Charge Conference reports.

We have had a good year and the state of our church is strong. Our members are faithful to support our church and church family. We will remain faithful to follow the **Word of God**. He will lead Bells Church forward in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth W. Riddle
Administrative Council Chair

Church Bells (270634)

District Anderson

Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634) Pastor James Scott Allen

2022 Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

7-AL. Members at Large of Church Council
No records

Charge Committee on Staff/Pastor Parish
Relations (*minimum 5 - maximum 9, plus a Lay
Member to AC and Lay Leader*)

Committee of Nominations and Leadership
Development

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

Class of 2024
No records

Class of 2024
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

C. Lay Member to Annual Conference
Harold Campbell

*Note: If not marked, designate Youth (12-18) as Y, Young Adults
(19-35) as YA, Secretary as SEC, and Lay Leader as LL*

D. Lay Leader
Emily Wilson LL

Committee on Finance (Members at Large)
Harold Campbell Lena Dunlap Tuck Hanna
Ryan Hanna Beth Riddle

Trustees (*recommended minimum 3 - maximum
9*)

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

Class of 2024
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

Recommended: One third of trustees are to be women.

Accountable Reimbursement Policy

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Church Council of the **Bells United Methodist Church** (270634) at a meeting held on **10/25/2022**.

Under Internal Revenue Code Section 62(a)(2)(A) gross income does not include reimbursed business expenses or adequately accounted business expense allowances for employees. Internal Revenue Service Regulation 1.162-17(b) provides that an employee "need not report on his tax return" expenses paid/incurred by him solely for the benefit of his employer for which he is required to account and does account to his employer and which are charged directly or indirectly to the employer. Further, IRS Regulation 1.274-5(e)(4) provides that "an adequate accounting means the submission to the employer of an account book, diary, statement of expense, or similar record maintained by the employee in which the information (as to each element of expenditure amount, time and place, business purpose, and business relationship) is recorded at or near the time of the expenditure, together with supporting documentary evidence, in a manner that conforms to all the 'adequate records' requirements" as set forth in the regulations.

Therefore, the **Bells United Methodist Church** (270634) hereby established an accountable reimbursement policy pursuant to IRS Regulations upon the following terms and conditions for **Reverend James Scott Allen**.

1. Expenses deemed ordinary and necessary shall be made solely for the benefit of the church and shall be paid directly, whenever possible by the **Bells United Methodist Church** (270634) or indirectly and reimbursed to the person or entity who does pay the expense.
2. The church payroll person must be given an adequate accounting of the expense, which means that there shall be submitted a statement of expense, account book diary, or other similar record showing the amount, date, place, business purpose, and business relationship involved. Appropriate documents, cash receipts, cancelled checks, credit cards sales slips, and contemporaneous records must be attached to a monthly expense report. Copies of the documentary evidence and expense report shall be retained by both the clergy and the church.
3. Reimbursements or advances must be paid out budgeted church funds. Budgeted amounts not spent must not be paid as a salary bonus or other personal compensation in any fiscal year.
4. The church may pay amounts in advance of the clergy's actual expenditure on either an "as needed" basis or by standard monthly expense "allowance." However, an adequate accounting of the advances by expense report must be made in the month following an expenditure. Any excess advance must be returned to the church within 30 days of the issuance of the advance.
5. It is understood by the various parties that all elements of this resolution must be carefully followed to prevent the church salary-paying unit from being required by regulation to list total payment of the following items on IRS information reports (W-2/1099-MISC) as "includable compensation." The primary responsibility of expense reporting is the clergy to the church payroll person.
6. By previous or concurrent resolution, duly adopted by the Church Council of the **Bells United Methodist Church** (270634) at a meeting held on **10/25/2022** the following ordinary and necessary expenses as suggested for the employment needs of the clergy, are included in this accountable reimbursement policy for calendar year 2023.

Description of Expense	Amount
Continuing Education	750.00
Expenses for Annual Conference	500.00
Church Travel Expense (mileage, meals, parking, telephone, lodging)	<u>3,000.00</u>
Accountable Reimbursement Policy Total	\$ 4,250.00

Church Council Person

Date

*Church Council action is required for an increase to the total during the year, but such an increase cannot be funded by taking money from the minister's cash compensation. Circumstances dictate that the above expenses will vary from church to church and from time to time. Nonetheless, expenses assumed by the clergy in excess of the total are not excludable from reported compensation. They may or may not be deductible from taxable income on the clergy's tax return.

Copies: Church Minutes File, Named Clergy, District Superintendent

Revised May 2022

Recommendation from Church Council for
Ministerial Support to be paid for Calendar Year 2023

James Scott Allen BELLS CHARGE (270634) Anderson District

Status OF Service Time Full Time Pensions Participant IN

Is a parsonage available? Yes

If yes, does the pastor live in the parsonage? No

Calculated for the year, effective from 01/01/2023 until 12/31/2023, MSF properly replaced, or this appointment ends.

Church/Institution	Bells	Totals
Number	270634	
Housing Allowance in lieu of parsonage	0.00	0.00
Adoption Agreement on file with Pensions Office		
Gross Compensation	51,327.00	51,327.00
Medical Plan	TBD	TBD
Vision Plan	TBD	TBD
Dental Plan	TBD	TBD
FSA	TBD	TBD
HSA	TBD	TBD
Dependent Care	TBD	TBD
Tax Deferred Personal Contribution	3,000.00	3,000.00
Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	6,000.00	6,000.00
Taxable Compensation	TBD	TBD
Add Back Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	6,000.00	6,000.00
Cash Compensation Paid to Pastor*	TBD	TBD
* excluding housing allowance in lieu of parsonage		
Billable Compensation	64,159.00	64,159.00
Direct Bill Percentage	100	
Direct Bill		
Charge Health Insurance Cost	12,900.00	12,900.00
Defined Contribution "CRSP DC" <i>3% for FT and % from Adoption Agreement for eligible PT of Billable Compensation</i>	1,925.00	1,925.00
Defined Benefit "CRSP DB" <i>Based on Full Time Service</i>	5,964.00	5,964.00
Welfare Plan <i>3% of Billable Compensation capped at 200% of DAC</i>	1,925.00	1,925.00

Total Direct Billing Cost	22,714.00	22,714.00
Compensation Package		74,041.00

Signatures and Equitable Compensation/Congregational Development Notes (if applicable) on back of next page.

Recommendation from Church Council for
Ministerial Support to be paid for Calendar Year 2023

Name James Scott Allen Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634) District Anderson District

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

Pastor

District Superintendent

Staff-Parish Relations Chair

Date Adopted

* Signature of Administrative Board/Council Chair indicates that the Council has reviewed and voted on this salary.

30363

Approved by Church

Missing District Approval unless signed

Charge Conference Parsonage Report 2022

Date: 10/14/2022

Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634) Pastor: yes

Address of Parsonage: 2526 Flat Rock Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620

1. It is mandatory that the committee inspect the parsonage once a year. Date of Inspection 10/02/2022
2. Has the committee reviewed the current Parsonage Guidelines available at Cabinet Resources - South Carolina United Methodist Conference (umcsc.org)? Yes
Date of Review 10/13/2022
3. Does the parsonage have the items listed under Section I & II of the current Parsonage Guidelines? Yes
4. From the inspection, please note below any needed furnishing and/or appliances which need to be replaced, and any repairs or additions that need to be made to conform to the Parsonage Guidelines or to ensure the structural integrity of the parsonage.
 - A. Recommendations:
No issues found during inspection.
 - B. Steps taken to meet each recommendation:
5. Has the pastor been made aware of his/her responsibilities should damage occur because of pets being kept in the parsonage (see Parsonage Guidelines, Section III.K)? Yes Initials:
Pastor _____
Chair _____
6. Have all discarded items been removed from the premises? Yes
7. Has there been periodic pest extermination in the parsonage? Yes
8. Parsonage Guidelines require a mold inspection every four years. Has the parsonage been tested for mold? No
9. Parsonage Guidelines require adequate funds for maintenance. Last Date Tested
 - A. Are there sufficient funds budgeted for repairs and maintenance of the parsonage? Yes
 - B. Are there funds for cleaning carpet when there is a change in the appointment? Yes
 - C. Are there funds for painting the interior? Yes
10. For insurance purposes are there at least two copies of the inventory of parsonage furnishings?
 - A. Does pastor have a copy? No
 - B. Is there a copy in the church's safety deposit box or with the Trustees? No
11. Has the chairperson compiled, in notebook or file form, pertinent information as to purchase date and place, warranty, repair information, etc... for all items purchased for the parsonage? Yes

Pastor Comments

Chairperson of P/SPR/Parsonage Committee's Comments

Signature of Pastor

James Scott Allen

Signature of P/SPRC Chairperson

Signature of Board of Trustees Chairperson

Fry Hill



Report of the Finance Committee

The report of the Finance Committee shall be made on this form, or one revised and adapted by the Annual Conference. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of the committee on finance

Bell's UMC Church 270634 Charge
Anderson District South Carolina Annual Conference

For the period beginning 10/18/21 and ending 10/25/22
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

I. ORGANIZATION

1.a. Has the committee been organized according to the 2012 Book of Discipline (§258.4)? Yes No

b. Names of Officers?

Chairperson Harold Campbell Vice Chairperson Beth Riddle
Treasurer(s) Tuck Hanna Financial Secretary _____

II. BUDGET AND COMMITMENT PLAN

2.a. Has the committee submitted to the Church Council, or its equivalent, a complete budget for the ensuing year? Yes No

If not, why not?

b. Did the committee give the Church Council an opportunity to request financial support for recommended ministries (§258.4)? Yes No

If not, why not?

3. How frequently does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer send members and contributors regular reports of their giving?
 Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually Annually No, we do not send reports

4. Is giving by individual participants in the local church regularly reviewed? Yes No;

If not, why not?

Not necessary

5. What are the plans for raising sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the Church Council (§258.4)?

We are currently meeting budget with weekly contributions.

6. Does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer report regularly to the Church Council on the giving trends in the church/charge? Yes No

If not, why not?

III. THE HANDLING OF CHURCH FUNDS

7. Does the Treasurer regularly make reports to the Committee on Finance and the Church Council on the financial position of the church (§258.4b)? Yes No

If not, why not?

8. Are all benevolences and other connectional funds remitted monthly to the conference treasurer (§258.4b)?

Yes No

If not, why not?

Yearly, we wait until December to see what we can afford. We have consistently paid 100 percent of apportionments

9.a. What bank(s) have been designated by the Church Council as a depository (§258.4d)?

First Citizens of Abbeville

b. Are all accounts FDIC insured and in amounts at or below the current FDIC insurable limit? Yes No

If not, why not?

c. Are all accounts in the name of the church? Yes No

If not, why not?

10.a. Has the committee established written financial policies to document the internal controls of the local church (§258.4d)? (Attach as a supplement.) Yes No

b. Have these policies been reviewed by the committee and found to be adequate and effective (§258.4d)?

Yes No

11. Are the church offerings counted by a counting committee in accordance with the mandates of the Discipline (§258.4a)? Yes No

If not, why not?

12. Are all funds deposited promptly in accordance with procedures developed by the Committee on Finance (¶258.4a, d)? Yes No

If not, why not?

13. Are financial officers of the church bonded (¶258.4b)? Yes No

If not, why not?

14. a. Have the financial records of the church and all its organizations been audited for the prior fiscal year (¶258.4c)? Yes No

b. If not, why not?

c. Were there any recommendations or exceptions? Yes No

d. If there were recommendations or exceptions, how has the church addressed them?

Signed J. Harold Campbell
Printed Name: J. Harold Campbell
Date: 10/19/22

Report of the Finance Committee

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual Conference Delegates	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Babies (Flower, Bible)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bulletins	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Bus or van rental	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Wednesday Night Ministry	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Abbeville County Ministries (UCMAC)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Children's Ministry	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Christmas for Shut-ins	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Church Pars., Equip, Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Copy Machine	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Crisis Ministries	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Curriculum	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Custodian Supplies	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Grounds	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Homecoming Speaker (plus mileage)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Insurance	3,290.00	3,290.00	3,290.00	3,290.00
Misc. Administrative Exp.	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
Mother's Day/Father's Day	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Music Supplies	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Payroll Tax Est.	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
Revival (Speakers) mileage	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Salary, Accompanist/Director	2,680.00	2,680.00	2,680.00	2,680.00
Salary, Custodian	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Salary, Secretary	2,380.00	2,380.00	2,380.00	2,380.00
Salary, Treasurer	2380.00	2380.00	2380.00	2380.00
Graduates	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Speakers (others)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Supplies for meals	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Audio/Visual	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
UMYF	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00
Upper Room	375.00	375.00	375.00	375.00
Utilities	8200.00	8200.00	8200.00	8200.00
VBS	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00
Worship Supplies	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Pastors' Continuing Ed.	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Annual Conf. (pastor)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Church Travel & Expenses	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
Pastors' Salaries	45643.00	47012.00	48422.00	51327.00
Pension/Insurance	28960.00	28960.00	24430.00	25899.00
Total	128,083.00	129,452.00	126,332.00	130,706.00
Apportionments	10262.00	10,692.00	11463.00	11570.00
Extra mile for colleges & homes	354.00	376.00		
Total	\$ 138,699.00	\$ 140,520.00	\$ 137,795.00	\$ 142,276.00
Needed Per Week	2667.29	2702.31	2649.90	2736.08

Apportionments	2020	2021	2022	2023
World Service	\$1,261.00	\$1,364.00	\$1,544.00	\$1,487.00
Conference Benevolences	\$1,386.00	\$1,478.00	\$1,530.00	\$1,599.00
Episcopal Fund	\$373.00	\$404.00	\$457.00	\$440.00
Dist. Supt. Compensaton	\$700.00	\$743.00	\$833.00	\$883.00
Pension Fund (Ins. Admin/Retiree Health)	\$1,019.00	\$842.00	\$664.00	\$547.00
Equitable Compensation	\$320.00	\$340.00	\$355.00	\$386.00
Conference Insurance				
Dist. Admin.	\$464.00	\$492.00	\$544.00	\$561.00
Dist. Parsonage/Office	\$737.00	\$790.00	\$883.00	\$903.00
Conference Admin.	\$878.00	\$970.00	\$1,071.00	\$1,126.00
Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$20.00
Gen. Conf. Admin.	\$150.00	\$162.00	\$183.00	\$177.00
Senior College Scholarship	\$566.00	\$601.00	\$630.00	\$649.00
Spartanburg Methodist College	\$350.00	\$372.00	\$390.00	\$402.00
Campus Ministry	\$368.00	\$391.00	\$435.00	\$460.00
Methodist Homes Res. Assist.	\$298.00	\$240.00	\$265.00	\$273.00
Congregational Developments	\$526.00	\$569.00	\$630.00	\$653.00
Camps/Retreats Ministry	\$181.00	\$192.00	\$212.00	\$218.00
Ministerial Education	\$426.00	\$461.00	\$522.00	\$502.00
Interdenominational Coop.	\$33.00	\$36.00	\$41.00	\$39.00
Black College Fund	\$170.00	\$184.00	\$208.00	\$200.00
Africa University Fund	\$38.00	\$41.00	\$47.00	\$45.00
Total:	\$10,262.00	\$10,692.00	\$11,463.00	\$11,570.00
Extra mile for colleges & homes	\$354.00	\$376.00		
Total:	\$10,616.00	\$11,068.00	\$11,463.00	\$11,570.00
Local Budget	\$128,083.00			\$130,706.00
Total:	\$138,699.00			\$142,276.00
Needed Per Week	\$2,667.29			\$2,736.08

Students - Jr. & Sr. High School and those currently attending college

Church: Bells (270634) Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634) Anderson District

Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone 1	Phone 2	Age	School
Billy Mann	1101 Nation Rd	Abbeville	SC	29620					Clemson University
Emalee Mann	1101 Nation Rd	Abbeville	SC	29620					Dixie High School
Alex Taylor	2273 Hwy 284	Abbeville	SC	29620					Greenville Technical College
Add New									

Church: Bells (270634)

District: Anderson

Each Church Council is responsible for the development and implementation of their Safe Sanctuary Policy.

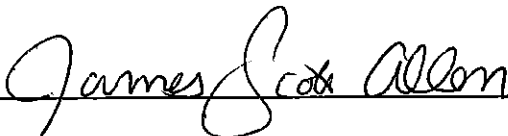
1. Do you have a Safe Sanctuary policy filed in the District Office? Yes
Date 10/11/2021
2. Have you made changes in your Safe Sanctuary Policy since last Charge Conference? If yes, please attach a copy. No
3. Has the Church Council reviewed your Safe Sanctuary Policy this year? Yes
Date 06/20/2021
4. When was the training last conducted?
Date 06/20/2021



Chairperson, Church Council



Chairperson, Trustees



Pastor

Annual Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy

A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE EVENT IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15 (NRSV) Jesus also 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)

WHEREAS, The Hebrew people treasured their place of worship as a holy place, a sanctuary, a place where they could worship in safety and harmony. (See Psalms 20:1-2 and Psalms 27:4-5) This scripture provides examples of how the sanctuary is to be a community of protective nurture and harmony, holy and safe.

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church regarding rights of children states, "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse." Social Principles (Paragraph 162C, 1996, 2000, 2004)

WHEREAS, The General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted a Resolution in 1996, and readopted it in 2004, calling upon all local congregations and every Annual Conference to strive to make our churches safe places protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse, and provided a list of steps for local churches, Annual Conferences, and the General Board of Discipleship and the Council of Global Ministries to follow. The Book of Resolutions 2004 (Paragraph 65, Page 201)

WHEREAS, The South Carolina Annual Conference adopted the Sexual Ethics Policies and Procedures on May 30, 1994, and by 1997, Policies and Procedures for Reducing the Risk of Children/Youth Sexual Abuse in the Church was written as it pertained to local and conference church events relating to both employees and volunteer workers, and the Conference strongly recommended each local church have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Church Conference will require every local church to have a Safe Sanctuary Policy by December 31, 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Church Conference provide guidance to local churches to write and implement a Safe Sanctuary Policy by providing training, workshops and sample policies to meet criteria as outlined in The Book of Resolutions 2004, and that this will be coordinated at the district level by the Congregational Specialists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will require accountability of each church annually at Charge Conference beginning in the year 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place for all district and conference events to include training and screening procedures including, but not limited to, having application forms, interviews, reference checks and background checks for all staff and volunteers by December 31, 2008, and that this will be coordinated through Connectional Ministries by the Board of Education.

BELLS CHARGE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 25, 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT---INCOME VS. EXPENDITURES

OCTOBER 19, 2021 – OCTOBER 25, 2022

INCOME-----	\$162,787.88
EXPENSES-----	\$135,876.39
	+\$ 26,911.49

Note:

Not included in "Expenses" is 2022 Apportionments in the amount of 8,597.25 (3 Quarters). A financial review is pending and Apportionments will be paid based on that review.

Considering unpaid Apportionments, in a normal/routine year, the difference between "Deposits" and "Payments" would have been plus \$18,314.24

Submitted by Tuck Hanna, Treasurer

Tuck Hanna

BELLS CHARGE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 25, 2022

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Submitted by Tuck Hanna, Treasurer

Tuck Hanna

Charge Conference Official Roll and Attendance Record

This form, intended for the entire year, is the official roll of officers and members of the Church Council and/or the Charge Conference. The names should be entered alphabetically. The columns under ATTENDANCE RECORD are to be used to record attendance at the meetings of the Church Council and/or Charge Conference. Insert the dates of the meetings in the cells provided for this purpose.

BELLS CHARGE

Anderson District

South Carolina Conference for Calendar Year 2023 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND THE CHARGE CONFERENCE.

Chairperson, Church Council / Leadership Team Chair Beth Riddle (Bells)

Vice-Chairperson

Recording Secretary Amanda Taylor (Bells)

Name	Church	Positions	ATTENDANCE RECORD																			
			Dates																			
Campbell, Fay	Bells	Trustees																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Ch. Finance*																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Lay Mem to AC*																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Carwile, Stephanie	Bells	Pres. UMW*																				
Carwile, Stephanie	Bells	Com on Nom & Lay Ldrshp																				
Giles, Lisa	Bells	Music Director																				
Greenway, Joyce	Bells	Lay Mem to AC (Alt)																				
Hanna , Ryan	Bells	Ch. Trustees*																				
Hanna, Tuck	Bells	Church Treasurer*																				
Hanna , Tuck	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Hilley, Ray	Bells	Trustees																				
Mann, William	Bells	Ch. PPRC*																				
Maxwell, Jennifer	Bells	Children Ministry																				
Riddle, Beth	Bells	Ch. Church Council*																				
Riddle, Beth	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Taylor, Amanda	Bells	Recording Sec																				
Willis, Laura	Bells	Pres. UMW*																				
Willis, Laura	Bells	Ch. Worship																				
Wilson , Emily	Bells	Lay Leader*																				
Zugsberger, David	Bells	Community Missions																				

Continuing Education Report for James Scott Allen to the Charge Conference

Name: James Scott Allen *Scott* Current Status: OF

Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634)

District: Anderson District

¶ 350, The Book of Discipline, Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

1. Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. This shall include carefully developed personal programs of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities. These practices embody the Wesleyan emphasis on lifelong growth in faith, fostered by personal spiritual practices and participation in covenant communities. Each annual conference, through the chairs of the Clergy Orders and Fellowship or other leaders designated by the bishop, shall provide spiritual enrichment opportunities and covenant groups for deacons, elders, and local pastors.

2. A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers' vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.

3. A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the church council, and the district superintendent. Annual conferences are encouraged to assist with pulpit supply and other temporary support for such leaves.

¶ 318 The Book of Discipline 1. Full-Time Local Pastors—1. Full-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed full-time local pastors are persons... (c) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) shall have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 1421.3d), or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate; (d) who, when they have completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary listed by the University Senate, are involved in continuing education (¶ 350); (e) who shall not be enrolled as a full-time student in any school.

¶ 318.2 Part-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed as part-time local pastors are persons... (d) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate

¶ 318.3 A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time local pastor within twelve, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor's opportunity to meet said requirements.

NOTE: Part-Time Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or other approved theological education, must be involved in continuing education.

Year	Course	CEUs	Description (optional)
2022	COS 222 - Theological Heritage II: Early Church	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 223 - Worship and Sacraments	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 224 - Administration and Polity	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 322 - Theological Heritage III: Medieval Reformation	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 424 - Ethics	2	Basic Course of Study
2021	Leading and Adapting During Covid Pandemic	2	Confirmed by the Bishop and Cabinet
2018	UMC Licensing School	0.8	

Pastor Signature

Date

SPRC Signature

Date

District Superintendent Signature

Date

BELLS CHARGE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 25, 2022

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Submitted by Tuck Hanna, Treasurer



Annual Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy

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Church: Bells (270634)

District: Anderson

Each Church Council is responsible for the development and implementation of their Safe Sanctuary Policy.

1. Do you have a Safe Sanctuary policy filed in the District Office? Yes
Date 10/11/2021
2. Have you made changes in your Safe Sanctuary Policy since last Charge Conference? If yes, please attach a copy. No
3. Has the Church Council reviewed your Safe Sanctuary Policy this year? Yes
Date 06/20/2021
4. When was the training last conducted?
Date 06/20/2021

Chairperson, Church Council

Chairperson, Trustees

Pastor

LOCAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH POLICY STATEMENT ON MISCONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE

Bells United Methodist Church affirms the 2016 Book of Resolutions, Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the Church, which states that sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship and sexual harassment within the church as incompatible with biblical teachings of hospitality, justice and healing. In accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶161F, all human beings, both male and female, are created in the image of God, and thus have been made equal in Christ. As the promise of Galatians 3:26-29, states all are one in Christ, we support equity among all persons without regard to ethnicity, situation, or gender.

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship occurs when a person within a ministerial role of leadership (pastor, educator, counselor, youth leader or other position of leadership) engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, co-worker or volunteer.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender (2016 Book of Discipline ¶161J).

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Similarly, sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue.

Misconduct of a sexual nature within the life of the Church interferes with its moral mission.

Bells United Methodist Church stands in opposition to the sin of misconduct of a sexual nature in the Church and society at large and commits itself to fair and expedient investigation of any charge of sexual misconduct within the church and to take action deemed appropriate and in compliance with the Book of Discipline.

Further, Bells United Methodist Church bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, male or female, which is free of misconduct of a sexual nature and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ.

Some instances of sexual harassment can be resolved easily and informally between the parties. In all other instances, misconduct of a sexual nature should be reported to the chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the pastor in charge. If the conduct involves a clergy person, it should be reported to the district superintendent or the presiding bishop.

Date approved: _____

Church Council chairperson signature: _____

Charge Conference Parsonage Report 2022

Date: 10/14/2022

Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634) Pastor: yes

Address of Parsonage: 2526 Flat Rock Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620

1. It is mandatory that the committee inspect the parsonage once a year.

Date of Inspection 10/02/2022

2. Has the committee reviewed the current Parsonage Guidelines available at Cabinet Resources - South Carolina United Methodist Conference (umcsc.org)? Yes

Date of Review 10/13/2022

3. Does the parsonage have the items listed under Section I & II of the current Parsonage Guidelines? Yes

4. From the inspection, please note below any needed furnishing and/or appliances which need to be replaced, and any repairs or additions that need to be made to conform to the Parsonage Guidelines or to ensure the structural integrity of the parsonage.

A. Recommendations: No issues found during inspection.
B. Steps taken to meet each recommendation:

5. Has the pastor been made aware of his/her responsibilities should damage occur because of pets being kept in the parsonage (see Parsonage Guidelines, Section III.K)? Yes Initials: Pastor _____ Chair _____

6. Have all discarded items been removed from the premises? Yes

7. Has there been periodic pest extermination in the parsonage? Yes

8. Parsonage Guidelines require a mold inspection every four years. Has the parsonage been tested for mold? No

Last Date Tested

9. Parsonage Guidelines require adequate funds for maintenance.

A. Are there sufficient funds budgeted for repairs and maintenance of the parsonage? Yes

B. Are there funds for cleaning carpet when there is a change in the appointment? Yes

C. Are there funds for painting the interior? Yes

10. For insurance purposes are there at least two copies of the inventory of parsonage furnishings?

A. Does pastor have a copy? No

B. Is there a copy in the church's safety deposit box or with the Trustees? No

11. Has the chairperson compiled, in notebook or file form, pertinent information as to purchase date and place, warranty, repair information, etc... for all items purchased for the parsonage? Yes

Pastor Comments

Chairperson of P/SPR/Parsonage Committee's Comments

Signature of Pastor

Signature of P/SPRC Chairperson

Signature of Board of Trustees Chairperson

Accountable Reimbursement Policy

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Church Council of the **Bells United Methodist Church (270634)** at a meeting held on **10/25/2022**.

Under Internal Revenue Code Section 62(a)(2)(A) gross income does not include reimbursed business expenses or adequately accounted business expense allowances for employees. Internal Revenue Service Regulation 1.162-17(b) provides that an employee "need not report on his tax return" expenses paid/incurred by him solely for the benefit of his employer for which he is required to account and does account to his employer and which are charged directly or indirectly to the employer. Further, IRS Regulation 1.274-5(e)(4) provides that "an adequate accounting means the submission to the employer of an account book, diary, statement of expense, or similar record maintained by the employee in which the information (as to each element of expenditure amount, time and place, business purpose, and business relationship) is recorded at or near the time of the expenditure, together with supporting documentary evidence, in a manner that conforms to all the 'adequate records' requirements" as set forth in the regulations.

Therefore, the **Bells United Methodist Church (270634)** hereby established an accountable reimbursement policy pursuant to IRS Regulations upon the following terms and conditions for **Reverend James Scott Allen**.

1. Expenses deemed ordinary and necessary shall be made solely for the benefit of the church and shall be paid directly, whenever possible by the **Bells United Methodist Church (270634)** or indirectly and reimbursed to the person or entity who does pay the expense.
2. The church payroll person must be given an adequate accounting of the expense, which means that there shall be submitted a statement of expense, account book diary, or other similar record showing the amount, date, place, business purpose, and business relationship involved. Appropriate documents, cash receipts, cancelled checks, credit cards sales slips, and contemporaneous records must be attached to a monthly expense report. Copies of the documentary evidence and expense report shall be retained by both the clergy and the church.
3. Reimbursements or advances must be paid out budgeted church funds. Budgeted amounts not spent must not be paid as a salary bonus or other personal compensation in any fiscal year.
4. The church may pay amounts in advance of the clergy's actual expenditure on either an "as needed" basis or by standard monthly expense "allowance." However, an adequate accounting of the advances by expense report must be made in the month following an expenditure. Any excess advance must be returned to the church within 30 days of the issuance of the advance.
5. It is understood by the various parties that all elements of this resolution must be carefully followed to prevent the church salary-paying unit from being required by regulation to list total payment of the following items on IRS information reports (W-2/1099-MISC) as "includable compensation." The primary responsibility of expense reporting is the clergy to the church payroll person.
6. By previous or concurrent resolution, duly adopted by the Church Council of the **Bells United Methodist Church (270634)** at a meeting held on **10/25/2022** the following ordinary and necessary expenses as suggested for the employment needs of the clergy, are included in this accountable reimbursement policy for calendar year 2023.

Description of Expense	Amount
Continuing Education	750.00
Expenses for Annual Conference	500.00
Church Travel Expense (mileage, meals, parking, telephone, lodging)	<u>3,000.00</u>
Accountable Reimbursement Policy Total	\$ 4,250.00

Church Council Person

Date

*Church Council action is required for an increase to the total during the year, but such an increase cannot be funded by taking money from the minister's cash compensation. Circumstances dictate that the above expenses will vary from church to church and from time to time. Nonetheless, expenses assumed by the clergy in excess of the total are not excludable from reported compensation. They may or may not be deductible from taxable income on the clergy's tax return.

Copies: Church Minutes File, Named Clergy, District Superintendent

Revised May 2022

Recommendation from Church Council for
Ministerial Support to be paid for Calendar Year 2023

James Scott Allen BELLS CHARGE (270634) Anderson District

Status OF Service Time Full Time Pensions Participant IN

Is a parsonage available? Yes

If yes, does the pastor live in the parsonage? No

Calculated for the year, effective from 01/01/2023 until 12/31/2023, MSF properly replaced, or this appointment ends.

Church/Institution	Bells	Totals
Number	270634	
Housing Allowance in lieu of parsonage	0.00	0.00
Adoption Agreement on file with Pensions Office		
Gross Compensation	51,327.00	51,327.00
Medical Plan	TBD	TBD
Vision Plan	TBD	TBD
Dental Plan	TBD	TBD
FSA	TBD	TBD
HSA	TBD	TBD
Dependent Care	TBD	TBD
Tax Deferred Personal Contribution	3,000.00	3,000.00
Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	6,000.00	6,000.00
Taxable Compensation	TBD	TBD
Add Back Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	6,000.00	6,000.00
Cash Compensation Paid to Pastor*	TBD	TBD
* excluding housing allowance in lieu of parsonage		
Billable Compensation	64,159.00	64,159.00
Direct Bill Percentage	100	
Direct Bill		
Charge Health Insurance Cost	12,900.00	12,900.00
Defined Contribution "CRSP DC" <i>3% for FT and % from Adoption Agreement for eligible PT of Billable Compensation</i>	1,925.00	1,925.00
Defined Benefit "CRSP DB" <i>Based on Full Time Service</i>	5,964.00	5,964.00
Welfare Plan <i>3% of Billable Compensation capped at 200% of DAC</i>	1,925.00	1,925.00
Total Direct Billing Cost	22,714.00	22,714.00
Compensation Package		74,041.00

Signatures and Equitable Compensation/Congregational Development Notes (if applicable) on back of next page.

Recommendation from Church Council for
Ministerial Support to be paid for Calendar Year 2023

Name James Scott Allen Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634) District Anderson District

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

Pastor

District Superintendent

Staff-Parish Relations Chair

Date Adopted

* Signature of Administrative Board/Council Chair indicates that the Council has reviewed and voted on this salary.

30363
Approved by Church
Missing District Approval

Charge Conference Official Roll and Attendance Record

This form, intended for the entire year, is the official roll of officers and members of the Church Council and/or the Charge Conference. The names should be entered alphabetically. The columns under ATTENDANCE RECORD are to be used to record attendance at the meetings of the Church Council and/or Charge Conference. Insert the dates of the meetings in the cells provided for this purpose.

BELLS CHARGE

Anderson District

South Carolina Conference for Calendar Year 2023 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND THE CHARGE CONFERENCE.

Chairperson, Church Council / Leadership Team Chair Beth Riddle (Bells)

Vice-Chairperson

Recording Secretary Amanda Taylor (Bells)

Name	Church	Positions	ATTENDANCE RECORD																			
			Dates																			
Campbell, Fay	Bells	Trustees																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Ch. Finance*																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Lay Mem to AC*																				
Campbell, Harold	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Carwile, Stephanie	Bells	Pres. UMW*																				
Carwile, Stephanie	Bells	Com on Nom & Lay Ldrshp																				
Giles, Lisa	Bells	Music Director																				
Greenway, Joyce	Bells	Lay Mem to AC (Alt)																				
Hanna , Ryan	Bells	Ch. Trustees*																				
Hanna, Tuck	Bells	Church Treasurer*																				
Hanna , Tuck	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Hilley, Ray	Bells	Trustees																				
Mann, William	Bells	Ch. PPRC*																				
Maxwell, Jennifer	Bells	Children Ministry																				
Riddle, Beth	Bells	Ch. Church Council*																				
Riddle, Beth	Bells	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)																				
Taylor, Amanda	Bells	Recording Sec																				
Willis, Laura	Bells	Pres. UMW*																				
Willis, Laura	Bells	Ch. Worship																				
Wilson , Emily	Bells	Lay Leader*																				

Zugsberger, David	Bells	Community Missions																		
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Church Council Official Roll and Attendance Record

This form, intended for the entire year, is the official roll of officers and members of the Church Council and/or the Charge Conference. The names should be entered alphabetically. The columns under ATTENDANCE RECORD are to be used to record attendance at the meetings of the Church Council and/or Charge Conference. Insert the dates of the meetings in the cells provided for this purpose.

Bells Anderson District

South Carolina Conference for Calendar Year 2023 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND THE CHARGE CONFERENCE.

Chairperson, Church Council / Leadership Team Chair Beth Riddle

Vice-Chairperson

Recording Secretary Amanda Taylor

Name	Positions	ATTENDANCE RECORD											
		Dates											
Campbell, Fay	Trustees												
Campbell, Harold	Ch. Finance*												
Campbell, Harold	Lay Mem to AC*												
Campbell, Harold	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Carwile, Stephanie	Pres. UMW*												
Carwile, Stephanie	Com on Nom & Lay Ldrshp												
Giles, Lisa	Music Director												
Greenway, Joyce	Lay Mem to AC (Alt)												
Hanna , Ryan	Ch. Trustees*												
Hanna, Tuck	Church Treasurer*												
Hanna , Tuck	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Hilley, Ray	Trustees												
Mann, William	Ch. PPRC*												
Maxwell, Jennifer	Children Ministry												
Riddle, Beth	Ch. Church Council*												
Riddle, Beth	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Taylor, Amanda	Recording Sec												
Willis, Laura	Pres. UMW*												
Willis, Laura	Ch. Worship												
Wilson , Emily	Lay Leader*												

Charge Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee 2023

Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634)

District Anderson

Refer to Paragraph 258.2 in *The Book of Discipline*, 2016.

Ch. PPRC William Mann Class of 2022 Bells	Lay Mem to AC Harold Campbell Class of Bells	Lay Leader Emily Wilson Class of Bells
Com on Pastor Parish Relations Carol Waits Class of 2021 Bells	Com on Pastor Parish Relations Harold Campbell Class of 2021 Bells	Com on Pastor Parish Relations Joyce Greenway Class of 2021 Bells
Com on Pastor Parish Relations Rebecca Botts Class of 2021 Bells	Com on Pastor Parish Relations David Zugsberger Class of 2022 Bells	

Church Bells (270634)

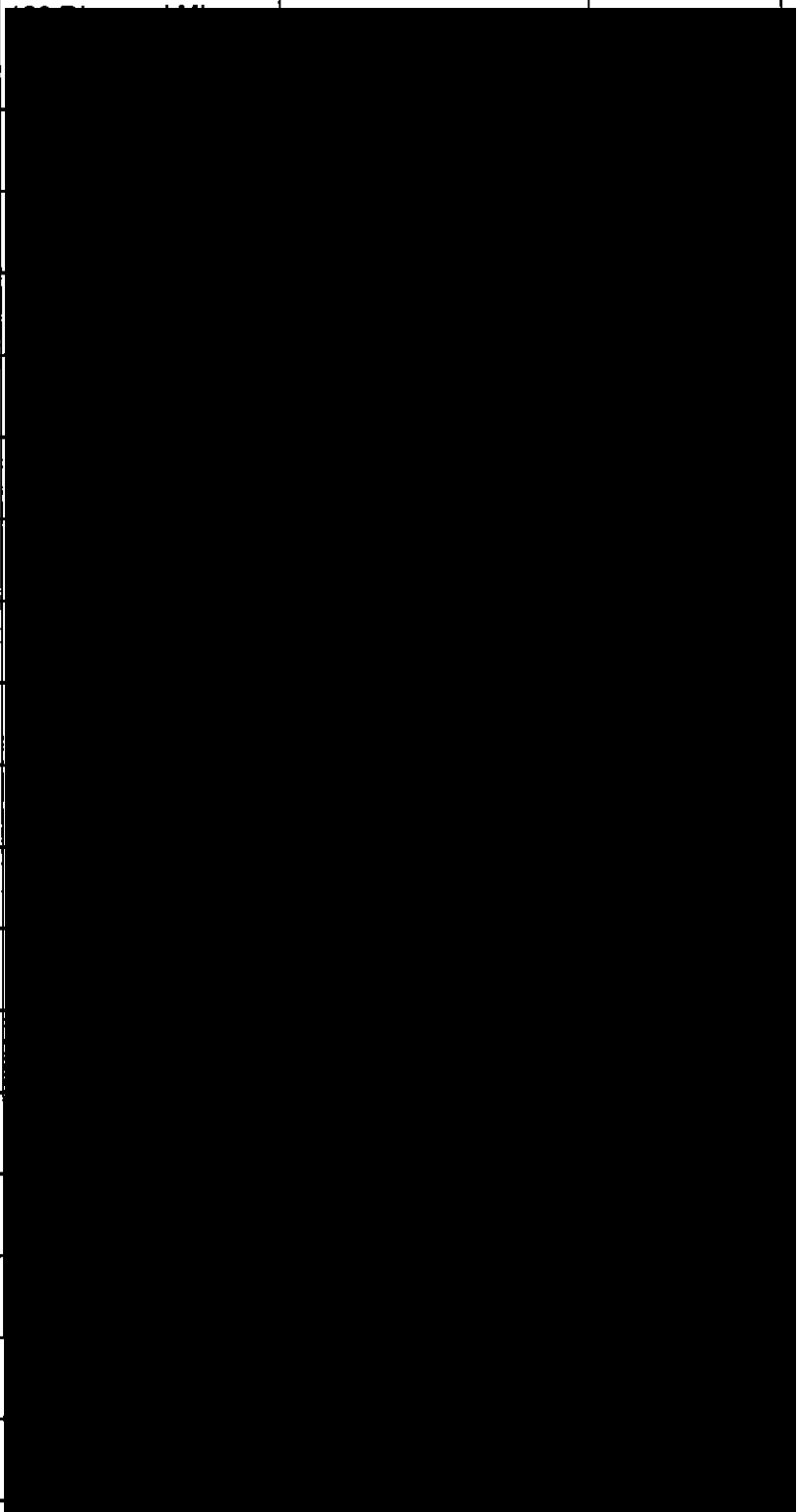
District Anderson

Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634) Pastor James Scott Allen

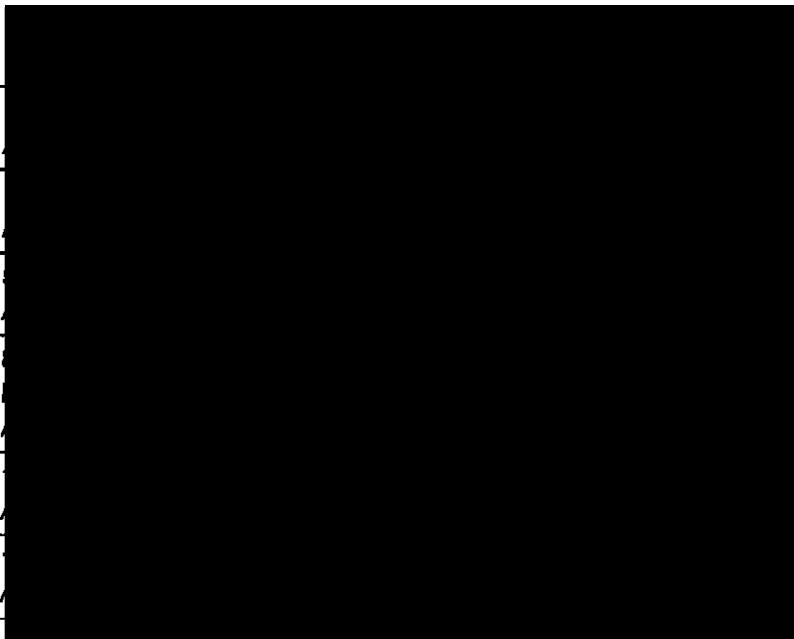
2022 Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

for 2023 *Indicates required positions per Book of Discipline 2016, ¶¶ 252.5, 654, and Annual Conference Resolution

Positions	First Name	Last Name	Address	Email	Phone(s)
Ch. Church Council*	Beth	Riddle			
Lay Leader*	Emily	Wilson			
Ch. PPRC*	William	Mann			
Ch. Finance*	Harold	Campbell			
Ch. Trustees*	Ryan	Hanna			
Church Treasurer*	Tuck	Hanna			
Lay Mem to AC*	Harold	Campbell			
Lay Mem to AC (Alt)	Joyce	Greenway			
Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry	Marge	Zugsberger			
Care Ministry	Jim	Hodges			
Care Ministry	Paula	Hodges			
Community Missions	David	Zugsberger			
Pres. UMW*	Stephanie	Carwile			
Pres. UMW*	Laura	Willis			
Ch. Worship	Laura	Willis			
Children Ministry	Jennifer	Maxwell			
Older Adult Ministry	Linda	Waits			
Super. Church School	Julius	King			



Dis. Relief Coord.	David	Zugsburger
Prayer Coordinator	Alyssa	Mann
Recording Sec	Amanda	Taylor
Church Historian	Gale	King
Membership Sec	Susan	Hilley
Financial Sec.	Beth	Riddle
Music Director	Lisa	Giles



Church Bells (270634)

District Anderson

Charge BELLS CHARGE (270634) Pastor James Scott Allen

2022 Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

7-AL. Members at Large of Church Council
No records

Charge Committee on Staff/Pastor Parish
Relations (*minimum 5 - maximum 9, plus a Lay
Member to AC and Lay Leader*)

Committee of Nominations and Leadership
Development

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

Class of 2024
No records

Class of 2024
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

C. Lay Member to Annual Conference
Harold Campbell

*Note: If not marked, designate Youth (12-18) as Y, Young Adults
(19-35) as YA, Secretary as SEC, and Lay Leader as LL)*

D. Lay Leader
Emily Wilson LL

Committee on Finance (Members at Large)
Harold Campbell Lena Dunlap Tuck Hanna
Ryan Hanna Beth Riddle

Trustees (*recommended minimum 3 - maximum
9*)

A. Previously Elected
Class of 2023
No records

Class of 2024
No records

B. Nominees Class of 2025
No records

Recommended: One third of trustees are to be women.

Annual Report of Trustees - 2022

The trustees are amenable to the Charge Conference and as such are required to make an annual report. Additional reports should be made as requested by the Charge Conference or Church Council.

Church Name: Bells (270634) Charge Name: BELLS CHARGE (270634) Town: District: Anderson District
To the Charge Conference for the year ending

1. Organization for 2022 took place at a meeting on January , 2022 by electing the following officers:

Name	Term Expires
Chair Ryan Hanna	12/31/2022
Member Fay Campbell	12/31/2021
Member Paul Cann	12/31/2020
Member Forest Grice	12/31/2022
Member Ray Hilley	12/31/2020
Member Darry Waites	12/31/2020
Member John Thomas Wilson	12/31/2020

2. Number of church buildings 2; Number of parsonages 1.

3. Value of church...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Structure	Market Value	690,000.00
			Total \$ 690,000.00

4. Value of parsonage(s)...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Structure	Market Value	200,000.00
			Total \$ 200,000.00

5. Value of other assests (cash, investments, other property, etc...)

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Other	Cash, Investments, Property	General Fund, Bonds, CD	73,000.00
			Total \$ 73,000.00

6. Incorporation of Local Church

- Is the local church incorporated? No Date Incorporated
- Who is the church's registered agent on record with the SC Secretary of State? (The Registered Agent should be the Trustee Chair.)
- Have the Articles of Incorporation been reviewed? No Articles of Incorporation Reviewed Date
- Have the By-laws been reviewed? No By-laws Reviewed Date

7. Name or names in which the title to each piece of property is recorded as shown by civil land records:

Item	Name	Where Filed?	Book	Page
Church	Bells UMC	Safety Deposit Box		

8. Deeds

- Who is the custodian of the deeds and other legal papers? Trustees
Where are they kept? First Citizens Bank
- Does each deed contain a trust clause? No
Has a current copy been submitted to the District Superintendent? No
If not, attach a copy of the deed to this report and complete the Quit Claim deed and attach a copy of it to

- b. Does each deed contain a trust clause? No
 Has a current copy been submitted to the District Superintendent? No
 If not, attach a copy of the deed to this report and complete the Quit Claim deed and attach a copy of it to this report.
- c. Is the title to church property held in the names of individual trustees or a local church cooperation? yes

9. Received during year for constructing and improving church building and parsonages, and how expended:

Received From	Amount	Disbursements	Amount
N/A	0.00		0.00

10. Present Indebtedness:

Item	Amount
N/A	

11.

a. Insurance

Item Insured/Insurance	Replacement Value	Amount of Coverage	Type of Coverage	Company	Deductible	Expires When
Church Buildings	950,000.00	950,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Parsonages	225,000.00	225,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Church Furnishings and Equipment	115,000.00	115,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022
Parsonage Furnishings and Equipment	25,000.00	25,000.00	Replacement	Southern Church Mutual	0.00	04/24/2022

- b. Have the buildings been inspected for fire hazards within the past year? Yes
- c. When was the last appraisal made? 10/02/2022
- d. By whom? Ryan Hanna
- e. Is the amount of insurance adequate? Yes
- f. Does the church's insurance cover professional liability? Yes Amount 500,000
- g. Does the church's insurance cover all programs that occur in the facilities (i.e. Scouts, community groups, AA, etc)? Yes
- h. Does your church sponsor a scouting ministry? No
 If yes, please include identifying information:
 Type of Troop: Number: Scout Council:
 Attach copies of any signed agreements you have with Scouting entities.
 Attach copies of any insurance policies that cover the church for scouting activities.

i. Who is bonded?

Harold Campbell Lena Dunlap Tuck Hanna

12. Detailed list of income producing property and permanent funds:

Item	Date Received	Amount	Where Invested	Income	How Income is used for Ministry
No records					

Attach supplement if needed for "How Income is used for Ministry" entry.

13. Has an annual accessibility audit for the church been conducted? Yes

Date: 10/02/2022

Signed
Chair or Secretary, Trustees

Continuing Education Report for James Scott Allen to the Charge Conference

Name: James Scott Allen Scott Current Status: OF

Charge: BELLS CHARGE (270634)

District: Anderson District

¶ 350, The Book of Discipline, Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

1. Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. This shall include carefully developed personal programs of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities. These practices embody the Wesleyan emphasis on lifelong growth in faith, fostered by personal spiritual practices and participation in covenant communities. Each annual conference, through the chairs of the Clergy Orders and Fellowship or other leaders designated by the bishop, shall provide spiritual enrichment opportunities and covenant groups for deacons, elders, and local pastors.

2. A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers' vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.

3. A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the church council, and the district superintendent. Annual conferences are encouraged to assist with pulpit supply and other temporary support for such leaves.

¶ 318 The Book of Discipline 1. Full-Time Local Pastors—1. Full-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed full-time local pastors are persons... (c) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) shall have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 1421.3d), or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate; (d) who, when they have completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary listed by the University Senate, are involved in continuing education (¶ 350); (e) who shall not be enrolled as a full-time student in any school.

¶ 318.2 Part-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed as part-time local pastors are persons... (d) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate

¶ 318.3 A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time local pastor within twelve, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor's opportunity to meet said requirements.

NOTE: Part-Time Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or other approved theological education, must be involved in continuing education.

Year	Course	CEUs	Description (optional)
2022	COS 222 - Theological Heritage II: Early Church	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 223 - Worship and Sacraments	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 224 - Administration and Polity	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 322 - Theological Heritage III: Medieval Reformation	2	Basic Course of Study
2022	COS 424 - Ethics	2	Basic Course of Study
2021	Leading and Adapting During Covid Pandemic	2	Confirmed by the Bishop and Cabinet
2018	UMC Licensing School	0.8	

Pastor Signature

Date

SPRC Signature

Date

District Superintendent Signature

Date

Report of Pastor 2022

The report of the pastor in charge shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline (§§ 234, 340). This report should cover as fully as possible the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent, and chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.

Church <u>Bells 270634</u>	Charge <u>BELLS CHARGE 270634</u>
District <u>Anderson District</u>	Conference <u>South Carolina Conference</u>
For the period beginning 10/18/2021 and ending 10/25/2022.	

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. Infants baptized since last report

Name	Date
Drayton Carwile	10/02/2022

b. All others: children, youth, and adults baptized since last report.

Name	Date
None	

2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report (Record names and dates).

a. On profession of faith or restored

Name	Date
Michael Farhat	09/25/2022
Sami Farhat	09/25/2022

b. From other United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

c. From other non-United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or withdrawal

Name	Date
None	

b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.

Name	Date
None	

d. By death.

Name	Date
Bob Campbell	01/02/2022
Barbara Jean Fisher	07/31/2022
Elizabeth Ferguson	09/11/2022

4. Have the membership rolls been audited? Yes

a. If not, why not?

b. Who has moved from your community since the last Charge Conference?

c. What has been done to relate them to another church?

5. The pastor shall give a report on the State of the Church (Please do not duplicate report of the Church Council or other committees. Only the highlights, from the pastor's perspective, the major issues or events related to the health of the church). (Attach as a supplement.)

6. The Pastor shall give an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (§ 340): Elders, provisional elders, and local pastors have a fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service. Please describe how you have fulfilled your calling this year in the following ways: (Attach as a supplement.)

a. Preach and teach the Word.

b. Provide pastoral care and counsel.

c. Administer the sacraments.

d. Order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry.

e. Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (§ 351).

Signed

Pastor's Report (Addendum)

In retrospect the year has been fruitful. Considering COVID and the pandemic and the inherent challenges, Bells has transitioned well in all aspects. The metrics evaluated through worship attendance, missions, volunteerism, and financial contributions reveal a year of commitment and growth. From my viewpoint the challenge and opportunity ahead for the church will be in strengthening discipleship and outreach.

I am optimistic about the upcoming year. As the year current year comes to a close with the annual Charge Conference, I have confidence that the church will continue to strengthen through a renewed commitment to discipleship, evangelism, and missions. These emphases reflect the heart of the and it's commitment to the members and the greater community. Continuing the development of a long range vision will greatly benefit the church as the church continues to transition affirming younger members in leadership roles.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Allen
October 25, 2022

The State of the Church

Bells UMC is a vibrant church with a commitment to fostering missions, discipleship and community. The church leadership is balanced with senior and young adult leaders. The dedication, commitment, and loyalty to one another is commendable. The emphasis to local ministry is notable with programs like the Live Nativity, Autumn Revival, and VBS.

Pastoral Ministry

Each week we gather for worship and Bible Study. As the pastor, I am committed to teach the scriptures and encourage the congregants in the application of Biblical truths. The day-to-day ministry includes offering counsel and guidance to organizational leaders in the coordination of the ministries within the church. The Sacraments are celebrated each month in worship. An Autumn Bible Study and Lenten Bible Study offer a mid-week opportunity to gather and focus on in-depth Bible Study. The opportunities for community involvement are ever increasing through community ministries and networking. Each year we are blessed with the gift of newborns. Encouraging young parents and the family brings fulfillment. Also the year includes the passing of saints to their eternal home. Both experiences and the opportunity for pastoral care remind me of the balance of life and the importance of cross-generational ministry. The visits to members in their homes is enjoyable and a complement to the ongoing ministries of the church.

Continuing Education

The commitment to ongoing education and personal development is a high priority. In November 2021 I enrolled in the Basic Course of Study. To date I have completed five of ten courses required. The courses COS 222, 223, 224, 323, and 424 have been both challenging and rewarding. The courses have significantly benefitted me with a greater understanding and appreciation of the church. The courses have been valuable in shaping weekly worship with a deeper understanding of the elements and components that thread through worship. I will continue with the Course of Study in 2023.

Printed Name

Date

Bells United Methodist Church
Abbeville, SC
Emily Wilson
October 25, 2022

I was honored to have been elected as Lay Leader at Bells United Methodist Church this past year. I am thankful for the experience that this position has given me as well as the push nearer to Christ through this role at Bells. I am more than happy to continue to serve our church in this capacity as I continue to learn and grow in my walk with Jesus. I often meet with Preacher Scott, mostly informally, to discuss church matters and areas of strengths in our church along with opportunities for growth. This past year, I participated in Charge Conference, Church Council, and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. I have assisted in worship services where I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve alongside Preacher Scott for baptisms and communion. I have also led the Order of Service in Preacher Scott's absence.

Although I am interested, I have not had the opportunity to attend any trainings or conferences this year as my family has grown again, now to a family of six. However, I am very interested in these opportunities when the time is right for my family. I am open to any and all trainings and workshops that will allow me to learn more and better equip me as the Lay Leader at Bells UMC. I hope to one day be able to step in and serve in worship as I am led and called to do so.

There are many aspects to celebrate in the life of our congregation and ministry this year. We have had baptism, and two new members, and we continue to have visitors enter our church doors. We have the unique opportunity to witness to one another and all those we come in contact with. Our children's Sunday School Classes are growing as there are more and more children born at Bells each year, and our adult Sunday School Classes are holding strong. Our children's ministry is one to be proud of as they participate in many events throughout the year and draw in guests from our community. These events include but are not limited to The Live Nativity, The Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes, Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Back to School Bash, and so much more. We have added a Youth Sunday School Class and continue to worship together and grow in Christ through our Fall Bible Studies, which will be beginning shortly. We have had countless visitors who are coming more regularly. Our choir has grown in number and we have introduced new activities such as lakeside afternoon music services, the UMW Fall Bazaar, and serving at our local Food Pantry in Lowndesville.

There are several challenges that we still face that will greatly impact our Church's ministry next year. These include an active youth group, and a young adult Sunday School Class. We have thankfully had a young couple to step up and host youth, but we just don't have a lot of youth who come to that youth group meeting on Sunday mornings. We have more attendance when we do things outside of the Sunday church hours, but we have to find a happy medium: a time when the young people will come and the leaders can serve. This is also difficult because most of our youth are not active church members. Strategically thinking about how to grow this ministry is definitely a priority of mine, as I have led youth as well and can empathize with these challenges. We have most recently attempted to deal with this challenge through having

different families in the church host youth outings. The Young Adult Sunday School Class has been very inconsistent although we have plenty of members who have volunteered to help with childcare during this time. I believe that we can encourage this group if we can find an engaging Bible Study or curriculum. The will is there but the follow-through is a challenge. Another challenge that Preacher Scott and I have discussed is communication and outreach outside of the Nation Community. Sometimes we just assume the word will get out about what is going on at Bells because there are so many neighbors and family members involved, but we must approach this area with more intentionality. I think we can make more announcements during church, post more in our bulletin, and share more on our social media. Our children's ministry leader has also begun a Children's Church sign-up so that children can enjoy the service until children's moment and then go out and focus on scripture at their level while their parents can focus on the message in the sanctuary and truly work on growing their personal relationship with Christ without worrying about keeping their children engaged and/or quiet. This is a huge benefit, especially when we have visitors at Bells UMC.

I'm thankful that Scott has been with us through these past few years and has challenged us to grow in ways that we have not considered before. With our fearless leaders, willing members and praying church community, I have no doubt that Bells UMC will grow physically and spiritually as we reflect on our strengths and challenges and make intentional plans to build-on, grow, and stretch ourselves and our church to further the Kingdom of God.

Bells Circle Report 2022

The women at Bells are hard workers when it comes to our church and our community. We hold monthly Sunday lunches to fund our local projects. We also have helped several church members during times of illness due to Covid and house fires. We have contributed to local schools for student needs. We have supplied bounce rentals for VBS and bought new tables for the social hall.

This year we had a Bazaar which we will put a portion towards a new sound system for our church.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Hilley

BELLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2022 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Administrative Council Chair Report

Bells continues to focus on building deep relationships with Christ and sharing God's love with the community, those that we meet each day, and the world that needs to know about Christ now more than ever before.

Our Youth group continues to meet monthly at the homes of different members who volunteer to host the group. The Youth Group participates in VBS, Christmas Caroling, and other activities.

We have begun several new traditions at Bells over the past couple of years. One is our Lake Service each year where several members have been baptized and reaffirmed their baptism. This is a special Sunday for our church each year. Each week a particular church member(s) is highlighted for prayer, cards, calls, and visits. This has been a very meaningful ministry to encourage members in need of extra love and prayers. Members are also encouraged to pray at 8:17 PM each night for our church, community, and country.

Updates and repairs have been decided upon and made as needed. However, we have been cautious to begin any new costly projects during such uncertain times within The UMC Conference.

The Children's Program here at Bells has continued to serve the children of our church and community. Jennifer Maxwell diligently serves in this area to provide activities for children throughout the year. We had a church full of children during VBS who were filled with excitement for learning about God. Events such as Trunk or Treat, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Thankful for Talents Sunday, Back to School Bash, and a birthday party for Jesus are a few of the highlights our children look forward to each year. The Children's Program continues to be an outreach to the community.

The UMW continues to plan monthly Sunday lunches for the church to enjoy together. This group of ladies meets monthly to fellowship together. These ladies are always willing to serve the community and the church when any need arises.

Several other actions completed (by the board) are the development of a Safety Team to address safety concerns during church events and Church Clean Up Days to keep the building and grounds in good shape.

The items shared in this report are a few highlights of actions taken by the Council during the past year. These and other activities are presented in more detail through other committee reports included as part of the Bells UMC Charge Conference reports.

We have had a good year and the state of our church is strong. Our members are faithful to support our church and church family. We will remain faithful to follow the **Word of God**. He will lead Bells Church forward in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth W. Riddle
Administrative Council Chair

Bells (270634) on the BELLS CHARGE (270634) in the Anderson District

[Charge Conference Home](#) | [Additional Lay Member\(s\) to AC Equalization Letter](#) | [Information and Help](#) | [Active Leadership](#)

Add/Edit Minutes Church

I. Mission

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Achieving a bold mission requires setting intentional goals. Please be prepared to dialogue about the following questions at Charge Conference. If your church doesn't have formal goal, then discuss programs/ministries that fulfill the mission of the church.

A. What were your key goals for making and nuturing disciples for this past year?

Bells UMC continues to develop and nurture its members through Christian education, missions, and service opportunities. We are building upon strong foundations in UMW, UMM, Sunday School, and Community Missions.

B. How are you making progress towards reaching the goals stated above?

These organizations have established consistent attendance with increased support in our renewal following the COVID pandemic.

C. Among these goals, what are you most excited about?

The spirit of the people and depth of commitment. I have observed a deeper commitment to prayer and discipleship.

D. Church Vitality

While numbers are not the only factor of vitality, they are helpful in providing clarity of our church's present reality. Below is the reported data from your church's last two year-end Statistical Tables.

Year	Avg. Worship Attendance	Total Professing Members	Avg. Sunday School Attendance	Total Number of People in Christian Formation Groups	Rec'd on Profession of Faith Through Confirmation	Rec'd on Profession of Faith (not in Confirmation)
2021	60	234	22	74	8	0
2020	54	238	18	96	0	0

E. Tools for Planning

What is your church's specific plan to reach new people for Jesus Christ? What tools are you using to foster

growth (i.e. Forward Focus, Natural Church Development, SHIFT, Ken Callahan's "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church", etc.)?

Resuming quarterly rallies and offering outreach programs like ♠??Churns and Bluegrass♠?? a summer gathering at Lake Secession with a Bluegrass band and homemade ice cream.

II. Nurture

A. Does your church have a visitation program? Please describe.

We do not have a formal visitation program per se. The key leaders, Sunday School teachers, and pastor take the initiative in outreach and in reach.

B. Does your church have a congregational care program (i.e. Stephen's Ministry, divorce care, counseling center, grief group, etc.)? Please describe.

No not at this time.

III. Outreach and Witness

A. How is your church reaching out in service to the community and the world?

Local Food Bank, VBS, Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, Angle Tree, Samaritan♠??s Purse, and School Sponsorships.

The number of persons from your church serving in mission/community ministries reported in your church's last year-end Statistical Tables.

35

B. How has your church engaged in ministry with children, youth, and young adults beyond you local church this year (i.e. Scouts, Child Care, Basketball League, school partnerships, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church?

Bells UMC is integrally involved in Diamond Hill Elementary School through donations and volunteerism. These experiences are a direct link which is meaningful and encouraging to members who have children who are enrolled in the school. The members who teach and serve in staff roles are affirmed as well.

C. Has your church engaged in ministry with other United Methodist Churches, with ecumenical partners, and in cross racial/cultural experiences (i.e. pulpit or choir exchanges, joint projects, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church?

UCMAC - United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County is an ecumenical group which includes area Methodist Churches. Bells UMC sponsors a food bank in Lowndesville where area churches send volunteers.

VI. Stewardship

A. What percentage of apportionments were paid in 2021?

100

What do you expect to pay in 2022?

100

B. If you are not paying 100% of your apportionments, please explain why, and what are your plans to move toward 100% payment?

C. Are you up to date on Direct Billing?

Yes No

If not, what is your current balance and plan to address it?

Full Balance - to be paid at year-end.

Do you plan to enroll in the Conference Forgiven Plan?

Yes No

D. Has a 2021 Audit been completed and report submitted to the District Office?

Yes No

Submit

Delete

Cancel

Church Council Official Roll and Attendance Record

This form, intended for the entire year, is the official roll of officers and members of the Church Council and/or the Charge Conference. The names should be entered alphabetically. The columns under ATTENDANCE RECORD are to be used to record attendance at the meetings of the Church Council and/or Charge Conference. Insert the dates of the meetings in the cells provided for this purpose.

Bells Anderson District

South Carolina Conference for Calendar Year 2023 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND THE CHARGE CONFERENCE.

Chairperson, Church Council / Leadership Team Chair Beth Riddle

Vice-Chairperson

Recording Secretary Amanda Taylor

Name	Positions	ATTENDANCE RECORD											
		Dates											
Campbell, Fay	Trustees												
Campbell, Harold	Ch. Finance*												
Campbell, Harold	Lay Mem to AC*												
Campbell, Harold	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Carwile, Stephanie	Pres. UMW*												
Carwile, Stephanie	Com on Nom & Lay Ldrshp												
Giles, Lisa	Music Director												
Greenway, Joyce	Lay Mem to AC (Alt)												
Hanna, Ryan	Ch. Trustees*												
Hanna, Tuck	Church Treasurer*												
Hanna, Tuck	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Hilley, Ray	Trustees												
Mann, William	Ch. PPRC*												
Maxwell, Jennifer	Children Ministry												
Riddle, Beth	Ch. Church Council*												
Riddle, Beth	Com on Finance (Mem at Large)												
Taylor, Amanda	Recording Sec												
Willis, Laura	Pres. UMW*												
Willis, Laura	Ch. Worship												
Wilson, Emily	Lay Leader*												
Zugsberger, David	Community Missions												

Treasurers Report

Currently Under Review

**Bells United Methodist Church
Children's Ministries**

February – We made Valentines and went and bought candy and delivered it to the shut ins and the older senior's in the church.

April – We had an Easter Egg Hunt and had snacks and the Easter Story for the children.

May – We celebrated Mother's Day and we celebrated our graduates from 4K to College students. We bought each graduate a devotion book or bible appropriate for their age.

June – 5-9 We had our VBS. The Theme was Treasured. We had about 80 children and about volunteers helping. We had VBS this year in the evening and we had a lot more helpers. We had all of our youth group helping with VBS. At our closing for VBS we had waterslides and a hot dog supper.

July - We had blessing of the backpacks on the 31st because school started back early this year on the 2nd. We had youth night at the lake the 30th, taco bar, swimming, games, s'mores, and corn hole we had about 10 attend.

August – We had Back to School Bash. We had a foam party with hot dogs and snacks. The kids played volley ball and also kickball. We had about 50 at this event. We had blue grass and ice-cream at the lake that we had a great turnout for the children and the adults.

October – We took the youth bowling and out to eat. We had 10 to 15 go and we had 4 adults go also. We went on the 9th after church and returned about 5 that evening. We are also getting ready to give out Operation Christmas Child Shoebox.

November – Collection of the shoebox will be the second week of November. Then we will have Thankful for our talents on the 13th of November. The children will sing, read scripture, play a musical instrument, take up the offering. They will basically lead our Sunday service. This is such a great opportunity for the children. We also want to have a bonfire and smores with a devotion at the lake for the youth.

December – Our Christmas program will be this moth as well as other Christmas gatherings that we have involving our children.

Submitted by Jennifer Maxwell

	2020	2021	2022	Change
Annual Conference Delegates	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Babies (Flower, Bible)	100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Bulletins	350.00	350.00	350.00	-
Bus or van rental	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Wednesday Night Ministry	100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Abbeville County Ministries (UCMAC)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Children's Ministry	600.00	600.00	600.00	-
Christmas for Shut-ins	75.00	75.00	75.00	-
Church Pars., Equip, Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Copy Machine	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Crisis Ministries	100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Curriculum	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Custodian Supplies	300.00	300.00	300.00	-
Grounds	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	-
Homecoming Speaker (plus mileage)	100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Insurance	3,290.00	3,290.00	3,290.00	-
Misc. Administrative Exp.	800.00	800.00	800.00	-
Mother's Day/Father's Day	50.00	50.00	50.00	-
Music Supplies	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Payroll Tax Est.	800.00	800.00	800.00	-
Revival (Speakers) mileage	400.00	400.00	400.00	-
Salary, Accompanist/Director	2,680.00	2,680.00	2,680.00	-
Salary, Custodian	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	-
Salary, Secretary	2,380.00	2,380.00	2,380.00	-
Salary, Treasurer	2380.00	2380.00	2380.00	-
Graduates	300.00	300.00	300.00	-
Speakers (others)	200.00	200.00	200.00	-
Supplies for meals	600.00	600.00	600.00	-
Audio/Visual	750.00	750.00	750.00	-
UMYF	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00	-
Upper Room	375.00	375.00	375.00	-
Utilities	8200.00	8200.00	8200.00	-
VBS	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00	-
Worship Supplies	400.00	400.00	400.00	-
Pastors' Continuing Ed.	750.00	750.00	750.00	-
Annual Conf. (pastor)	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Church Travel & Expenses	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	-
Pastors' Salaries	45643.00	47012.00	48422.00	(1,410.00)
Pension/Insurance	28960.00	28960.00	24430.00	4,530.00
Total	128,083.00	129,452.00	126,332.00	3,120.00
Apportionments	10262.00	10692.00	11463.00	(771.00)
Extra mile for colleges & homes	354.00	376.00	415.00	(39.00)
Total	\$ 138,699.00	\$ 140,520.00	\$ 138,210.00	2,310.00
Needed Per Week	2667.29	2702.31	2657.88	

Apportionments	2020	2021	2022	Change
World Service	\$1,261.00	\$1,364.00	\$1,544.00	(\$180.00)
Conference Benevolences	\$1,386.00	\$1,478.00	\$1,530.00	(\$52.00)
Episcopal Fund	\$373.00	\$404.00	\$457.00	(\$53.00)
Dist. Supt. Compensaton	\$700.00	\$743.00	\$833.00	(\$90.00)
Pension Fund (Ins. Admin/Retiree Health)	\$1,019.00	\$842.00	\$664.00	\$178.00
Equitable Compensation	\$320.00	\$340.00	\$355.00	(\$15.00)
Conference Insurance				\$0.00
Dist. Admin.	\$464.00	\$492.00	\$544.00	(\$52.00)
Dist. Parsonage/Office	\$737.00	\$790.00	\$883.00	(\$93.00)
Conference Admin.	\$878.00	\$970.00	\$1,071.00	(\$101.00)
Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$1.00
Gen. Conf. Admin.	\$150.00	\$162.00	\$183.00	(\$21.00)
Senior College Scholarship	\$566.00	\$601.00	\$630.00	(\$29.00)
Spartanburg Methodist College	\$350.00	\$372.00	\$390.00	(\$18.00)
Campus Ministry	\$368.00	\$391.00	\$435.00	(\$44.00)
Methodist Homes Res. Assist.	\$298.00	\$240.00	\$265.00	(\$25.00)
Congregational Developments	\$526.00	\$569.00	\$630.00	(\$61.00)
Camps/Retreats Ministry	\$181.00	\$192.00	\$212.00	(\$20.00)
Ministerial Education	\$426.00	\$461.00	\$522.00	(\$61.00)
Interdenominational Coop.	\$33.00	\$36.00	\$41.00	(\$5.00)
Black College Fund	\$170.00	\$184.00	\$208.00	(\$24.00)
Africa University Fund	\$38.00	\$41.00	\$47.00	(\$6.00)
				\$0.00
Total:	\$10,262.00	\$10,692.00	\$11,463.00	(\$771.00)
				\$0.00
Extra mile for colleges & homes	\$354.00	\$376.00	\$415.00	(\$39.00)
				\$0.00
Total:	\$10,616.00	\$11,068.00	\$11,878.00	(\$810.00)
Local Budget	\$128,083.00	\$129,452.00	\$126,332.00	
Total:	\$138,699.00	\$140,520.00	\$138,210.00	
Needed Per Week	\$2,667.29	\$2,702.31	\$2,657.88	

BELLS CHARGE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 25, 2022

UNITED METHODIST MEN REPORT

OCTOBER 19, 2021 – OCTOBER 25, 2022

- Sponsored an “Old Fashion Christmas” celebration, complete with a freshly cut cedar tree found in one of our member’s pasture. The tree was decorated with old decorations donated by members. Christmas music, treats and a visit by Santa were some of the highlights.
- Held UMM meetings the first Sunday morning of each month. Breakfast and devotionals were on a voluntary basis by the members
- Provided setup and assisted in providing lunch for those attending a baptism service on Lake Secession
- Assisted with the July Homecoming meal
- Trimmed/pruned landscaping plants around the church and removed a dead tree at the cemetery.
- Currently reviewing potential church maintenance projects to undertake in an effort to assist trustees in church upkeep.

Submitted by Tuck Hanna

LOCAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH POLICY STATEMENT ON MISCONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE

Bells United Methodist Church affirms the 2016 Book of Resolutions, Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the Church, which states that sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship and sexual harassment within the church as incompatible with biblical teachings of hospitality, justice and healing. In accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶161F, all human beings, both male and female, are created in the image of God, and thus have been made equal in Christ. As the promise of Galatians 3:26-29, states all are one in Christ, we support equity among all persons without regard to ethnicity, situation, or gender.

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship occurs when a person within a ministerial role of leadership (pastor, educator, counselor, youth leader or other position of leadership) engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, co-worker or volunteer.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender (2016 Book of Discipline ¶161J).

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Similarly, sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue.

Misconduct of a sexual nature within the life of the Church interferes with its moral mission.

Bells United Methodist Church stands in opposition to the sin of misconduct of a sexual nature in the Church and society at large and commits itself to fair and expedient investigation of any charge of sexual misconduct within the church and to take action deemed appropriate and in compliance with the Book of Discipline.

Further, Bells United Methodist Church bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, male or female, which is free of misconduct of a sexual nature and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ.

Some instances of sexual harassment can be resolved easily and informally between the parties. In all other instances, misconduct of a sexual nature should be reported to the chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the pastor in charge. If the conduct involves a clergy person, it should be reported to the district superintendent or the presiding bishop.

Date approved: 10/27/22

Church Council chairperson signature: _____

Beth Rindale

Bells United Methodist Church
Abbeville, SC
Emily Wilson
October 25, 2022

I was honored to have been elected as Lay Leader at Bells United Methodist Church this past year. I am thankful for the experience that this position has given me as well as the push nearer to Christ through this role at Bells. I am more than happy to continue to serve our church in this capacity as I continue to learn and grow in my walk with Jesus. I often meet with Preacher Scott, mostly informally, to discuss church matters and areas of strengths in our church along with opportunities for growth. This past year, I participated in Charge Conference, Church Council, and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. I have assisted in worship services where I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve alongside Preacher Scott for baptisms and communion. I have also led the Order of Service in Preacher Scott's absence.

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ministry is definitely a priority of mine, as I have led youth as well and can empathize with these challenges. We have most recently attempted to deal with this challenge through having different families in the church host youth outings. The Young Adult Sunday School Class has been very inconsistent although we have plenty of members who have volunteered to help with childcare during this time. I believe that we can encourage this group if we can find an engaging Bible Study or curriculum. The will is there but the follow-through is a challenge. Another challenge that Preacher Scott and I have discussed is communication and outreach outside of the Nation Community. Sometimes we just assume the word will get out about what is going on at Bells because there are so many neighbors and family members involved, but we must approach this area with more intentionality. I think we can make more announcements during church, post more in our bulletin, and share more on our social media. Our children's ministry leader has also begun a Children's Church sign-up so that children can enjoy the service until children's moment and then go out and focus on scripture at their level while their parents can focus on the message in the sanctuary and truly work on growing their personal relationship with Christ without worrying about keeping their children engaged and/or quiet. This is a huge benefit, especially when we have visitors at Bells UMC.

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