

Faithful Response to the Current Economic Crisis

The current economic situation has raised concerns across our society. I and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration ask every United Methodist to look within their church and community and discover ways they can help those who are deeply challenged by our current economic crisis. We remain hopeful and fully expect we will not only overcome this temporary business cycle, but will ultimately be stronger for it. The 2009 conference approved budget is what Holston needs to achieve the vision God has given us for mission and ministry for 2009. We assure you that the Extended Cabinet, Conference Staff, and the Council on Finance and Administration are being proactive in our effort to sustain a faithful response to our mission at home and around the world.

First, we want you to know that your conference executive staff and cabinet freely chose to forego their conference approved and projected salary increases for 2009. Second, the conference staff is united in seeking ways to reduce expenses and delay purchases where possible. Thirdly, the Council on Finance and Administration has been in contact with all conference agencies, reviewing the current situation, and is united with the Conference Personnel Resources Committee to help us make potential adjustments should they be necessary.

It is our prayer, hope, and expectation that the people of Holston will continue to demonstrate their tradition of faithfulness in giving; so that all the line items in our budget may be paid at the highest possible rate.

Yours in Christ,

James E. Swanson, Sr.
Resident Bishop, Holston Annual Conference

Rev. Gary W. Grogg
Chairperson CCF&A