

HISTORY OF UNITED MINISTRIES (GREENVILLE URBAN MINISTRY)

Elizabeth L. Templeton

United Ministries grew out of work which began in the mid-sixties at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church. The church created a committee called the Inner City Ministry which had oversight of two community centers, Anderson Road and Verner Springs. The centers focused primarily on youth activities.

In June 1970 the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to bring the community center work under the guidance of the United Methodist Urban Work Committee of the conference. This expanded involvement at conference level resulted in the creation of Greenville Urban Ministry. The Rev. Harlan Wilson, former associate minister at Buncombe Street UMC and the pastor for three years at Faith UMC in Greer, was appointed executive director. A twenty-five member interracial and interdenominational committee was organized "to provide support and strength to the new ministry."¹

At its inception, Greenville Urban Ministry was supported by the Greenville District of the United Methodist Church, small and rural churches, and Buncombe Street UMC. The Rev. Mr. Wilson's initiating plans included "the immediate expansion of work at the Anderson Street Mission and the Verner Springs Mission and also for work in West Greenville in the industrial belt."²

Anderson Road Mission

Mrs. James T. Duff directed the Anderson Road Mission. In 1970 the mission served twenty-five families and forty-five children. There was a thrift shop and a Mothers Club which met Wednesdays for sewing and food preparation classes taught by Clemson Extension. Jim Fair, an athletic scholarship student at Furman, led a summer recreation program. Volunteers carried children to dental and medical clinics, to the YMCA to swim and to cultural events.³ The children joined the children of Verner Springs Mission at the Civitan Camp for a day camp, sponsored by Greenville Urban Ministry.

The Anderson Road program received quite a boost when Rob and Carolyn Johnson came to Greenville Urban Ministry through a UMC General Board of Mission US-2 assignment. They began a comprehensive child development program which worked with twenty

pre-school children, five days a week, five hours a day. Ms. Johnson said of the program, "We are trying to give the children the things they need to be prepared to enter regular schools."⁴

"The Johnsons opted for the kinds of programs that they felt the community could take over, staff, and keep in operation when their time . . . ended."⁵ They set up a food pantry at Anderson Road Mission when the food program at CAP [now SHARE] ended. Mr. Johnson developed a basketball program. They provided church school, Bible stories, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.⁶

In 1973 the child development program moved from Anderson Road UMC to Christ UMC on Easley Bridge Road. The move enabled the program to expand to thirty children and to increase the hours. The program was licensed, separately incorporated as Crescent Child Development, Inc., but was unable to sustain itself financially after the first year. It closed in 1974.

Anderson Road's emphasis turned to after school activities as well as a summer program. In 1977 the Anderson Road basketball team joined the United Methodist basketball league with Furman student volunteers as coaches. By 1983 United Ministries' relationship with Anderson Road formally ended.

Verner Springs Mission

In 1970 the Verner Springs ministry was run by Mrs. Leonard Price. For use of the building, the federal office of Economic Opportunity financed a child care program which continues today as Head Start. Sergeant Heyward Mahon led a Scout troop.

In 1976 the Rev. Mr. Wilson met with Greenville District (UMC) trustees to ask them to take over the Verner Springs property.⁷ In the mid-1980's the Rev. George Duffie, UMC district superintendent, offered ownership of the Verner Springs property to United Ministries. The executive director, the Rev. Beth Templeton, suggested the property be given to Habitat for Humanity and today the Verner Springs area is a major Habitat for Humanity development site as well as the location of a Head Start facility.

Industrial Parish

The "industrial parish," consisted of Arrington, Poe, Dunear, Woodside, Brandon, Christ, Holyrod Memorial, and Bethel United

Methodist Churches.⁸ The purpose of this parish was to link several churches on the west side of Greenville. Mr. Wilson reported, "These churches . . . no longer have a neighborhood congregation. They no longer serve the old-time mill village. Rather their congregations have moved out into the city over wide areas. Now these churches, we hope, will be linked in a study that will examine their need to minister to those that now live in the church community."⁹

This seed, planted by Harlan Wilson, grew into the Greenville Crescent Cooperative Ministry, directed by the Rev. Clarence O. Pittman, in 1977.¹⁰

Drug Abuse Programs

Greenville Urban Ministry expanded its original programs to include addressing the realities of drug abuse. The Rev. Jim Hunter, the chairperson of Greenville Urban Ministry's Board and the Rev. C.S. Sanders held counseling and educational sessions about drugs at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. Project HOPE, housed at Pilgrim Rest, worked with twenty-five to thirty heroin addicts and became separately funded and incorporated. Greenville Urban Ministry coordinated with Project HOPE by providing Hope Line, a telephone service, staffed by the Furman Collegiate Educational Service Corps (CESC). Twenty-three Furman students worked shifts daily after 3:00 pm. Hope Line volunteers, using a peer contact approach, listened and discussed problems with people who called for advice.

Project HOPE and Hope Line worked with the Commission on Drug Abuse Control, the Community Organization on Drug Abuse Control, and the City Council to create "Hope City," using the former West McBee Avenue branch library as a "central location in the fight against drug abuse."¹¹ Hope City's director, C.S. Sanders, estimated there were 780 people in Greenville County with serious drug problems.¹²

Six Woodside

For a time Greenville Urban Ministry was located at Six Woodside Avenue. Formerly the parsonage of Woodside UMC, Six Woodside became a small multi-service center. The house provided space for Emergency Assistance (10-1, Monday through Friday), the Nutrition Project, pastoral counseling by John Miller, pastor of Brandon and Woodside United Methodist Churches, and personnel from

the Greenville Baptist Association and the Greenville Mental Health Center.¹³

Christian Service Center

The occupancy of another location resulted in far-reaching effects for Greenville Urban Ministry. Greenville Urban Ministry located briefly at First Baptist Church on McBee Avenue after the congregation decided "to give the church to Greenville social ministry and welfare agencies when the congregation . . . [moved] into its new \$2.7 million church to be finished by late November [1973]."¹⁴

The lead agency for coordinating the social ministry and welfare agencies was Christian Service Center, a cooperative urban ministry funded in 1973 by Enoree Presbytery, Buncombe Street UMC, Fourth Presbyterian, St. Mary's Catholic, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Berea Friendship UMC, Clear Springs Baptist, and the Greenville Baptist Association.

The plan was for the Christian Service Center to pay one dollar a year for space at First Baptist with other agencies paying \$2.50 per square foot to cover utilities, maintenance, and janitorial services. The other agencies included the Retired Senior Volunteer Project, Literacy Association, Senior Action, Inc., and downtown Greenville Tec. The Christian Service Center Board of Directors, chaired by Mr. Brantley Phillips, contracted with Harlan Wilson for half time and the Greenville Urban Ministry committee concurred.¹⁵ Mr. Wilson said of the endeavor, "I think it is a genuine effort by a substantial group of dedicated churchmen to help the church meet the needs of people with a multiplicity of needs."¹⁶

Unfortunately the multi-service center at First Baptist never developed because the major tenant, Greenville Tec, "had to close its downtown operation in December 1973."¹⁷

However the First Baptist offer resulted in a program partnership between Greenville Urban Ministry and the Christian Service Center. On November 15, 1974, the two began Emergency Assistance with Mrs. Cheryl Campbell Whisnant as director. Emergency assistance was housed at Triune United Methodist Church.

In the meantime, Greenville Urban Ministry adopted bylaws which stated its purpose as:

"relat[ing] the Christian Gospel to the urban community by serving as:

1. A structure for mission analysis and response by individuals, groups, local churches and regional church structures.
2. A catalyst for interdenominational and interfaith cooperation and response to mission challenges.
3. An advocate for desirable community and system change.¹⁸

With the two agencies having shared a director and a program, and with Greenville Urban Ministry's expanded by-laws, complete merger was accomplished. Greenville Urban Ministry became in reality as well as in intent an ecumenical agency with funding from six denominations. By 1990 that number increased to eighteen different denominations and/or faith groups who supported United Ministries.

Emergency Assistance Program

The Emergency Assistance Program, which began in cooperation with the Christian Service Center, was designed to serve as a clearing-house, a central record-keeping office, and a place of referral for agencies and churches when they needed help to meet emergency needs. The program also had a food pantry, a clothing closet, and provided help with utility bills and rent.¹⁹ The 1975 budget allotted \$600 to Emergency Assistance.

Emergency Assistance is the only extant program at United Ministries continuing from the early days of Greenville Urban Ministry. From its meager 1975 budget it has grown until in 1990, Emergency Assistance provided \$132,623 in direct assistance and interviewed 9,228 clients for rent, utilities, HEAT (heating assistance for elderly people and toddlers), medications, and food. The program continues to serve as a resource and referral entity for churches and agencies.

Emergency Assistance opened satellite pantries in Greer, Travelers Rest, the Golden Strip area, and at Southernside Community Center in the 1980's. United Ministries used either federal funds or grants from the United Methodist Church Hunger Fund to begin the satellites. Of the four, the Travelers Rest pantry, which opened in September 1983 is the only one which grew and is still strong. It serves the northern part of Greenville County, using volunteer interviewers and food donated from churches in the Travelers Rest, Cleveland, Slater, and Marietta areas.

The board and staff of United Ministries sought to fund Emergency Assistance in a number of creative ways. The flea market/garage

sale/Emergency Assistance sale which began in 1975, collected used items and sold them. The site and format changed throughout the years but the fund raiser continued to be a significant annual activity until 1988. "The Green Scene," an auction, filled the fund raising need in 1989. CROP walks were held for international and local hunger relief in 1979 and in 1984-1987. Ingles Grocery stores helped by donating one percent of the total of cash register receipts given to United Ministries by participating churches and individuals. When the Ingles tape collection began in March 1982, United Ministries received \$26.50. By the time the promotion ceased in June, 1985, the program had grown to a monthly collection averaging \$500²⁰. Both Piedmont Natural Gas (1983) and Duke Power (1985) began matching programs to help with heating assistance. The Good Samaritan Run, held at Pebble Creek Country Club, challenged runners for three years (1983-1985) while raising funds for Emergency Assistance.

Nutrition Project

The Nutrition Project (Congregate Dining) began on October 1, 1973, with funding from Title VII of the Older Americans Act which was administered by the South Carolina Commission on Aging. The program provided a hot midday meal, Monday through Friday, to senior citizens who gathered at Greenville Senior Action, Liberty Senior Center, and Easley Senior Center. The meals were prepared by an outside vendor and a van was provided for transportation to the dining sites.

Through the next fifteen years, at various times, dining sites existed at Greer First Presbyterian, Fountain Inn Senior Center, David Hellams Community Center, Juanita Butler Community Center, Fieldcrest Housing Project, Mountain View Housing Project, Mauldin United Methodist Church, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Arrington UMC, Sterling Adult Day Care Center, Piedmont First Baptist Church, Sans Souci Baptist Church, Travelers Rest First Baptist Church, Southernside Community Center, Fountain Inn on Weston Street, and Trinity Presbyterian Church in Travelers Rest.

When United Ministries released the management of the Nutrition Project in 1988 to Senior Action, Inc., there were nine dining sites serving over 73,000 meals a year.

Block Partnerships

The Rev. Mr. John Freeman, Associate Director, said of urban work:

... Evangelism is not just a specialized aspect of ministry, but it is indeed the ground of all ministry. Its arena is the worship service, the crusade, the seminary consultation, but it is also the block-partnership, the emergency assistance program, the Job Corps volunteer relationship. Wherever people are addressed in their wholeness, wherever the praise of God supplants personal glory, wherever obedience to Jesus Christ is fulfilled, then evangelism takes place.²¹

Block partnerships were an avenue of ministry. After Mr. Wilson visited the Greater Birmingham Ministry and witnessed the enabling role done by church groups, he led Greenville Urban Ministry to bring together core groups from low-income communities and core groups from middle class churches, usually suburban. The two groups, forming a block partnership, attempted to bring about changes in the low-income community.

The first block partnership, August 1974-May 2, 1976, was between the Viola Street Community Club and St. Mary's Catholic and Trinity Lutheran Churches.

The Viola Street block partnership opened a medical clinic October 1974. The clinic offered "people a free basic health examination and [provided] referral and support for those who required further medical attention."²² After the clinic fulfilled its mission, it closed.

By November 1978 there were four other block partnerships: Paris Community with Lee Road UMC and Prince of Peace Catholic Church; Sterling Community with Christ Church; Greenline-Spartanburg Community with Christ Church; and Washington Street (Southernside) with Buncombe Street UMC.²³ Block partnership outreach activities involved recreation activities, neighborhood clean-ups, and leadership building.

Addressing human needs took on new direction in 1977. Greenville Urban Ministry began an Outreach program, sending staff into targeted neighborhoods to provide information and assistance to the economically deprived and elderly residents living there.

The Outreach staff was provided by the Manpower Division of the Governor's office, using Title VI funds of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Program. Willie D'Ays, Pamela Hurd, Priscilla Williams, Selene McCall, Rebecca Hunter, and Wes Hunter met "a long-felt need to have more contact in the field."²⁴ The outreach projects provided in-house help with food, utilities, and rent. Outreach workers made referrals to employment, Big Brother, medical, food stamps, and family services. They worked with dining site participants and did the footwork of community surveys.

Project H.E.L.P.

Greenville Urban Ministry also responded to "the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the community" by once again involving itself in child care.

Begun in 1976, Project H.E.L.P. (Help Educate Little People) enriched the experiences children were having at Mt. Emmanuel Baptist and Tabernacle Baptist Churches. Project H.E.L.P. was funded with a \$19,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The program aided children in church-related day care centers, which were generally crowded and lacked leadership for early education ventures. In 1977 with a second year grant of \$23,610, Springfield Baptist, Allen Temple AME, and Mountain View Baptist Churches also joined the program.

Volunteers, trained by the Child Development Assistance Team which was directed by Jayne Crisp, worked with four year olds in Project H.E.L.P. centers to condition them for school. Volunteers stressed motor and language skills, self-confidence, and familiarity with tools such as crayons and scissors. Project H.E.L.P. and its Child Develop Mobile provided special toys for fun and learning.

Project H.E.L.P. contracted with the City of Greenville in 1978 for building and playground improvement at four of the five child care centers.

A 1979 Appalachian Regional Commission grant enabled six day care centers to have paid professional teachers. The centers, Mt. Emmanuel Baptist, White Plains Baptist, Golden View Day Care Center at Piedmont Manor, Springfield Baptist, Cedar Grove Baptist, and Mountain View Baptist, enjoyed the benefits of trained teachers until 1982 when the grant ended.

Funded by United Way, Project H.E.L.P. volunteers continued working alongside the teachers paid by the ARC grant. Volunteers also worked in the Steps Up program, a diagnostic screening program designed to identify children with severe handicaps.

When fire codes in infant centers were strengthened in 1985, United Ministries joined the Community Planning Council to develop a major child care study in 1986 entitled, "Our Children, Our Future." The study recommended:

1. to develop a centralized child care coordinating program
2. to provide more support for child care providers through upgrading licensing, education, and accrediting standards
3. to implement a variety of alternative types of child care, i.e., after school enrichment programs, corporate sponsored programs, sick child care, care for children with special needs
4. to encourage efforts to secure additional infant/toddler programs
5. to promote subsidies for low-income child care
6. to promote inter-agency communication related to fire, health, and licensing regulations
7. to become more aware of child care issues and problems as they affect the total development of the county.

The study resulted in the formation of Greenville's Child, Inc., in 1988. Dr. Jean James took Project H.E.L.P. to Greenville's Child when she left United Ministries to become executive director of the new endeavor which was funded through a Ford Foundation grant.

Other Ministries

Other channels of service in the 1970's were transportation of elderly people to medical appointments (1979-1984) and dialysis patients to treatment; a crime-prevention effort through which 15,000 booklets about crime prevention, titled "Teens in Trouble" were distributed to middle school students; and a criminal justice task force. This task force addressed coordination among local criminal justice agencies, efforts to correct sentencing inequities, and magisterial reform.²¹ The Rev. Fred Reese, chairing the task force, contracted with the Rev. David S. Templeton, Jr., to spend a month in the Greenville Detention Center as a chaplain to assess needs. As a result of the October

1979 recommendations, the Greenville Detention Center continues to have a part-time chaplain supported by local churches.

In addition to the other projects already mentioned, Mr. Wilson was also concerned with the family. A Family Breakdown committee began work in September 1979. Out of this task force grew a family festival, "The Time of Your Life," December 7-14, 1980, chaired by Ms. Kathy Jennings, assistant circuit solicitor. The festival was "a time to live and learn that the prevention of the breakdown of families must be an active concern of everyone."³⁶ Activities included sermons, library events, recreation, food promotions for families, mental health seminars, a museum exhibition, sing-alongs, choral concerts, nursing home parties, and displays at McAlister Square.

By the time Mr. Wilson left in January 1981 he had moved the location of Greenville Urban Ministry four times: from (1) a house behind Triune UMC to (2) Six Woodside as well as an office at First Baptist to (3) the upstairs of Triune United Methodist Church to (4) a rented office building, 712 Laurens Road, which was handicapped accessible.

A Time of Transition

When Mr. Wilson returned to parish ministry, Greenville Urban Ministry went through a time of transition. Ms. Larue Bettis, former Project H.E.L.P. coordinator and then Emergency Assistance coordinator became acting director until the arrival of the Rev. Joe Cal Watson as executive director. He remained for six months, after which Ms. Bettis was again named acting director. During this period the Board of Directors decided to change the name of Greenville Urban Ministry to prevent confusion with Greenville Urban League. Several names were suggested. A favorite was "Greenville Community Ministries" but on January 4, 1982, the name officially became United Ministries.

The Rev. Tom Pietila became executive director for sixteen months, February 1, 1982. He worked three days a week at United Ministries and as minister of Laurens Road United Methodist Church the rest of the time.

Training Events

Mr. Pietila, with the help of Ms. Joy Bennett, reclaimed United Ministries' long-standing commitment to educating people in the com-

munity about the social needs of area citizens. As early as 1970, Greenville Urban Ministry sponsored a youth rally providing information on migrant ministry work, youth mission to Hawaii, Columbia's Urban Service Center, and Spartanburg inner city ministry. Mr. Pietila and Ms. Bennett planned "A Caring Community Conference," held September 10 and 11, 1982, at Buncombe Street UMC. The purpose of the conference was "to identify the various needs in our community, [to] make known existing resources, both public and private, and [to] equip our churches and their membership to respond to the need."²⁷ The Caring Community Conference held workshops on hunger, unemployment, life skills education, and special needs.

This first Caring Community Conference set the pace for United Ministries' continuing commitment to educational opportunities for churches and other groups. There were two more Caring Community Conferences, January 18 and 19, 1985, and January 18, 1986. Didasko, meaning "to teach" in Greek was a series of training events presented the third Tuesday night of each month. Its purpose was "to present issues to area church people which affect our local community."²⁸ After a year Didasko ended. In 1991 United Ministries provides three different monthly workshops and has a professionally produced video educating people about hunger in Greenville County.

C.U.P.

The Caring Community Conferences had positive results. Out of the low-income housing workshop of the 1985 conference developed Habitat for Humanity. The 1982 workshop on unemployment led to a seminar about ministering to the unemployed led by Dr. John C. Raines from Temple University in January 1983.

One of the participants at the seminar was quoted anonymously as saying, "I believe churches are powerful, but I don't believe they know how to use it." He said churches must "design and show a living gospel" in meeting human needs.²⁹

United Ministries took this challenge and created C.U.P., Comprehensive Unemployment Program. C.U.P. was originally created with four facets: (1) support groups, (2) limited financial help with prescriptions, gas for interviewing, (3) free child care and (4) resource room at United Ministries. C.U.P. became "Caring for Unemployed People." The support groups and free child care never developed, but the program, in 1990, renamed Employment Readiness, provides job counseling, transportation assistance for interviews and new em-

ployment, and help with barriers preventing employment such as lack of uniforms or tools. Volunteers assist with obtaining identification papers as well as work related equipment.

More Changes

When the Rev. Mr. Pietila left United Ministries in May 1983, the organization experienced two "firsts." United Ministries hired the first non-Methodist minister and the first female as executive director, the Rev. Beth Templeton, a Presbyterian clergywoman. She had been Church and Community director at United Ministries since October, 1982.

In addition to establishing C.U.P. and overseeing the other ongoing programs, one of Ms. Templeton's first major tasks was to find a permanent home for United Ministries. The organization had outgrown its building on Laurens Road. After much looking and with the help of Mr. Richard Few, attorney, Ms. Templeton announced in December 1983 that Dr. I.O. Brownell had offered a bargain sale of the property, 602-606 Pendleton Street. Additionally the Christie Pediatric Group had offered their facilities in the Medical Court on Pendleton Street. The Board of Directors accepted both properties and United Ministries moved into its new home, 606 Pendleton Street, on March 3, 1984. The Christie Building is used for storage.

Brockwood Housing Project

In addition to negotiating a new home for United Ministries, in 1984 the Board also involved itself in building a sixty-seven unit housing project called Brockwood. Formed as a joint partnership between Southernside Community Center and United Ministries, with the help of the City of Greenville, Brockwood provides subsidized housing for elderly and handicapped people through a 202 Housing and Urban Development grant. Located on West Washington Street, the apartments are brick quadruplexes along with some two-story buildings. The success of Brockwood is told with its almost one hundred percent occupancy rate. The Greenville Housing Authority provides management services.

Reorganization

United Ministries experienced phenomenal growth in the eighties. Emergency Assistance grew from helping 840 families in 1982 to 4,679

families by 1986. The HEAT program grew from \$18,000 during the winter of 1983-1984 to \$55,000 in the winter of 1986-1987. M.E.D. prescription medication assistance began in 1986. The Nutrition Project, Transportation, Project H.E.L.P., and C.U.P. continued to need more and more resources as well as new ideas in order to continue providing services.

As a result of the growth, Ms. Templeton asked the Board of Directors to contract with a consultant to help plan for the future. In the spring of 1987, Dr. Mark Sills of Human Services Institute in Greensboro, N.C., visited United Ministries and made recommendations.

The steering committee of the board met every Wednesday morning during the summer of 1987 to design the new organization for United Ministries. By the fall, the plan was ready for presentation. The most drastic part for the Board was to vote itself out of existence. Since 1974 board members had been chosen from the community at large in addition to two members from churches which contributed one percent of their operating budget to United Ministries. By 1987, the Board had over fifty members. With a new set of by-laws drafted, the Board voted to have a rotating board of no less than eleven and no more than fifteen members. Church representation was provided by the newly created General Assembly whose membership came from financially contributing churches. The General Assembly's congregational representatives (three from each contributing church) served as a network for United Ministries and was responsible for electing the Board of Directors.

Under the reorganization, every job description was rewritten, a mission statement was drafted, and two programs, the Nutrition Project and Project H.E.L.P., were given to other agencies. The riskiest and most promising aspect of the reorganization was to commit to volunteers' being actively involved in all aspects of all the services. United Ministries had always committed itself to training lay people as volunteers. Through work camps and personal contact with prisoner families, through block partnerships and working with children, United Ministries had embraced the feelings voiced by Jane Snipes:

I sincerely feel that all volunteers derive something from what ever [sic] they contribute and that no volunteer goes unpaid. The payment may be that one fills an empty space in the day, that an ego is served or that one's sense of duty is met.³⁰

Emergency Assistance was the first program to reap the benefits of volunteers. Trained volunteers began doing all the interviewing of clients. They stocked food on the pantry shelves and prepared bags of groceries. They worked with the client files and loaded information into the computer. Volunteers in Emergency Assistance in 1990 provided over 3600 hours of service.

Project C.A.R.E.-I.N. (Christians Always Responding to Elderly in Need) had embraced volunteer involvement since its beginning in 1981, but strengthened that commitment to volunteers with the reorganization.

Growing from simple home repairs and lawn maintenance to major renovation of houses, Good Neighbors has tapped a community need.

The Adopt-A-House component of Good Neighbors enjoys working relationships with churches, businesses, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, and the City of Greenville. Ten houses were renovated in 1990. Spend-A-Day emphasizes United Ministries' commitment to providing training opportunities to youth by coordinating lawn, painting, and house cleaning jobs for youth groups. During the summer of 1990, more than three hundred children helped twenty-nine households. Good Neighbor volunteers also build wheelchair ramps and chop and deliver firewood.

Volunteers were also given opportunities for service in May 1989 when the Place of Hope, a day shelter for homeless people, opened. Long an idea in Beth Templeton's mind, the project germinated in 1985 when the Greenville Mental Health Association released a study about homeless mentally ill people. The study recommended a drop-in center for homeless people.

Mr. Dan Cleveland, pharmacist and owner of Greenville Pharmacy, decided to retire and to sell his pharmacy building, 600 Pendleton Street. The location, contiguous to United Ministries' property, was ideal for a day shelter. After long and tedious negotiations with the City of Greenville, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, and the State of South Carolina, purchase and renovations of the Greenville Pharmacy became a reality.

The Place of Hope, under the direction of the Rev. A. Charles Cannon, former C.U.P. manager, opened May 21, 1989, with the intent to show homeless people they were special. Mr. Cannon emphasized, "This was done because we care about you."¹¹

The Place of Hope was designed to offer hygiene services (showers, washers, dryers), hospitality, counseling, and case management. In July 1990 Employment Readiness moved from 606 Pendleton Street

into 602 Pendleton Street to provide ready access to homeless people who were seeking jobs. In July 1990 Travelers Aid moved from Family Services into 602 Pendleton Street and became part of United Ministries. Travelers Aid helps stranded travelers return home.

Today United Ministries' programs fall into three tracks:

Volunteer Programs

Volunteers for all programs

Good Neighbors

Adopt-A-House

Wood Ministries

Spend-A-Day

Emergency Assistance

Rent

Utilities

HEAT

MED

Food

Referrals to temporary shelters

Hotel/Motel Partnership

Cooperative Emergency Assistance

Referrals

Homeless Programs

Place of Hope

Employment Readiness

Travelers Aid

United Ministries has enjoyed the support of churches (128 in 1990), individuals, United Way, the City of Greenville, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, the State of South Carolina, businesses, foundations, and civic clubs. As it looks to the future, it continues to embrace its purpose: to offer opportunities based upon Christian principles for members of the various congregations to minister to the needy of Greenville County, beyond the reaches of their own congregations, through volunteers and professional staff.

FOOTNOTES

¹"GUM Gets With It," *The Advocate*, Summer 1970.

²*Ibid.*

³Jim Turner, "Methodists Launch Urban Ministry Project Here," undated newspaper article.
⁴Sam Zimmerman, "Results of Anderson Road Program Seen After Two Months," *Green-*

ville *Piedmont*, November 25, 1972.

⁹*Ibid.*

¹⁰*Urban News*, November 1973.

¹¹"Minutes of the Greenville Urban Ministry Board of Directors," September 20, 1976.

¹²Lucille B. Greene, "Methodists Aid Underprivileged in Two Centers," *Greenville News*, July 17, 1970.

¹³"GUM Gets With It," *The Advocate*, Summer 1970.

¹⁴Frances Evans, "Textile Crescent, United Methodists Try to Cope as Mill Villages Change," *Greenville News-Piedmont*, November 12, 1977.

¹⁵J. Hunter Stokes, "Former Library Will Be Utilized in Fight Against Abuse of Drugs," *Greenville News*, June 6, 1971.

¹⁶Stuart Campbell, "Rap Sessions Begin Tomorrow at 'Hope City' Drug Center," *Greenville Piedmont*, July 29, 1971.

¹⁷Minutes, September 17, 1973, and *Urban News*, November 1973.

¹⁸"Old First Baptist Church Building Will Continue to Serve Greenville," *Greenville News*, September 9, 1973.

¹⁹Minutes, February 19, 1973.

²⁰"Old First Baptist Church Building Will Continue to Serve Greenville," *Greenville News*, September 9, 1973.

²¹James G. Stertz, letter dated October 25, 1974.

²²Bylaws of Greenville Urban Ministry, May 20, 1974.

²³James G. Stertz.

²⁴"Tape-Saving Project Boosts Assistance by \$500 Per Month," *Greenville News-Piedmont*, January 28, 1984.

²⁵"Partners in Ministry: Evangelism, Urban Action," *Advocate*, July 22, 1976.

²⁶*Greenville Urban Ministry Newsletter*, July 1976.

²⁷Minutes, November 20, 1978.

²⁸*Greenville Urban Ministry Newsletter*, August 1977.

²⁹*Greenville Urban Ministry Newsletter*, August 1979.

³⁰*Greenville Urban Ministry Newsletter*, October-November 1980.

³¹Bulletin insert for the Caring Community Conference, September 10 and 11, 1982.

³²*United Ministries Newsletter*, January 1987.

³³Frances Evans, "Project of the Unemployed," *Greenville News-Piedmont*, February 5, 1983.

³⁴Betsy Teter, "Volunteer Brainstorms Social Problems," *Greenville Piedmont*, December 28, 1983.

³⁵Thurston Hatcher, "A Place of Hope for the Homeless," *Greenville Piedmont*, May 19, 1989.