

# Report of the District Educational Director

## North Carolina West District Conference

### June 21, 2011

To the thirty-third session of the annual conference of the North Carolina West District: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year marks the end of an era for Southern Wesleyan University. After seventeen years as president of the university, Dr. David Spittal has retired.

It is said of the Emperor Augustus that he found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble. That may not parallel Dr. Spittal's contribution exactly, but it's close. Today's campus is not the same one he found in 1994. Under his leadership we have added seven major buildings in seventeen years in addition to the construction of athletic fields, improvements to existing buildings, and extensive landscaping and campus beautification projects. Of special interest to North Carolina Wesleyans is another building on campus for which he is responsible – the relocation and restoration of Freedom's Hill Church, the first Wesleyan church built in the South, which stood for years on our own grounds in Colfax.

The expansion of the campus has been impressive, and so has the improvement in the aesthetic appeal, the "look" of the campus. Both have impacted life at the university positively and profoundly. But the amazing transformation of the campus was made possible by Dr. Spittal's even more amazing transformation of the school's bottom line. When he arrived in April of 1994, the institution was in critical condition financially. Its economic recovery and subsequent growth is due largely to his leadership and business acumen. Much of that advancement occurred through the growth of our non-traditional program for adult learners situated in cities around the state of South Carolina, an area of his previous experience and expertise, but the traditional program has flourished too.

To Dr. Spittal we say: thank you for all the good you have done in your tenure as president. Given the fact that you've registered the second-longest term of service in our 100+ year history, that's a lot of good. We remain in your debt in many ways. Our prayer is that you will have smooth seas to sail as you enjoy your retirement. Pray for all of us as the Lord brings us to your mind.

To this body we say: pray for his successor. At this writing the search committee is narrowing the field of candidates. May God's man or woman fill this now-vacant office, and may God's blessings continue to rest on Southern Wesleyan University.

In Christ,

Robert Black, Educational Director