

**CAMP SUMATANGA ACTION TEAM:** Assess the mission of the Camp and address pertinent governance issues, evaluate current leadership and staffing model, and examine the Camp's relationship to the North Alabama Conference and Conference Trustees with maximum authority to act in the Camp's best interest.

**Members:** Rev. Dr. Andy Wolfe, Convener, ex-officio; Neeysa Biddle, Sandy Wright Brown, Rev. Dr. Bill Brunson, Mike Byrne, Tiphonie Gatgens, Terry McElheny, Harlan Prater, Allan Robertson, ex-officio, Daphne Orr, Interim Executive Director and camp consultant, Rev. Mark Johnston, previously Executive Dir, Camp McDowell.



## **SUMATANGA ACTION TEAM COMMUNIQUE**

**February 17, 2020**

**BRIEF RECAP OF 2019 FINANCIALLY:** The Action Team is pleased to share with you that Sumatanga ended 2019 positively, a.k.a. "in the black" on a cash basis with a small reserve. Our immediate expenses are paid, and all old invoices have been paid with the exception of outstanding balances on loans.

**SPECIAL ASKINGS – 2020:** Beginning in 2020, Sumatanga Camp & Conference Center will be apportioned as a "Special Asking" by the North Alabama Conference to each church based on \$2 per church member. This gives each congregation an opportunity to choose to be part of Sumatanga's future. On the Conference remittance form, **Sumatanga is Fund Number 532 under "Special Askings"**.

**SUMATANGA SUMMER CAMP:** REGISTRATION IS OPEN and Laura Sisson, 2020 Camp Captain, along with the Sumatanga Camp Leadership Team are working on the details for each camp week. For more details, log into: <http://www.sumatanga.org/summer-camp.html>

Ministry Team members:

Day Camp: Melanie Schuler

Elementary Camp: Eleanor Christiansen, Joy Morgan

Mid High Camp: Andy Yarnell, David Thompson

Senior High Camp: Tony Jones, Jeremy Auvil

Leader of Counselor Team: Tiphonie Gatgens

Leader of Activities Team: Open

Leader of Publicity & Church Communications: Open

Leader of Registration: Leslie McClendon

Volunteers, we need you in addition to the full-time Summer Staff! Please let us know which camp weeks are best for you by registering on-line – or – by notifying Laura Sisson now and then register on-line prior to your week/s. If you have any questions or need assistance inputting registration information, please call Leslie McClendon at the Sumatanga main office.

**REMINDER - WISHLIST ON AMAZON FOR SUMMER CAMP MATERIALS:** Enter this Amazon website address - <http://a.co/5YuwA03>. DON'T enter your password, yet. Under the YOUR FRIENDS tab are items specifically needed for Summer Camp. Once you choose the items, proceed to checkout where your password will be required to continue the purchase. BE SURE to choose the Sumatanga Delivery address.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?** Please give serious consideration to scheduling time at Sumatanga over Spring Break for a work project and then a little outdoor R & R for yourself, your family, group or team. We have indoor projects that can get started or be fully accomplished in a day, a week or a weekend including:

- paint rooms and cabins
- clean up and set up of Little Brown and Craft Hut
- sort, inventory and store equipment

Please contact Daphne Orr and Rev J. Mark "Bruno" Hughes via [Volunteer@Sumatanga.org](mailto:Volunteer@Sumatanga.org) to schedule your time so we can ensure all the materials are ready when you arrive.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT:** In the November Communique, we focused on one of our Values – *sound stewardship*. One of the most important assets of Sumatanga is our land. On an ongoing basis, we are responsible for managing the property guided by Sumatanga’s forest management plan which focuses on planting, culling and conserving the property. We have chosen a forestry professional to help us secure bids for selected tree harvesting, provide site management during the harvest and schedule the reforestation of those tracts. We are marking buffer-areas to ensure visual aesthetics and healthy topography are maintained. We anticipate payment when the contracts are signed allowing harvesting to begin in 2020 and continue through 2021. Proceeds from this asset management plan will be used first to create a reserve for reforestation and then used for general operations and capital improvements.

**HIRING FOOD SERVICE MANAGER:** We continue to look for an experienced Food Service Manager who is an important part of our Hospitality Team. This individual will be responsible for food quality, timely preparation of nourishing meals and detailed reporting to meet industry standards within a cost-effective kitchen operation. We anticipate his/her past experience will be from schools, hospitals and/or churches - camp kitchen familiarity is preferable. Details are posted on our website. If you have additional questions or recommendations, please call Daphne Orr.

**EXPERTISE FOR LARGE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR PROJECTS NEEDED:** If you or your church can provide expertise, people-power and/or funding, please contact Daphne Orr.

Our larger projects include grading for improved water runoff, finish renovation of the Pool Camp Nurse’s cabin, Pool Camp kitchen renovation, replacement windows for Pool Camp buildings and HVAC maintenance for the Main Office.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support!

Andy Wolfe, Convener

Daphne Orr, Interim Executive Director



## Sumatanga Camp & Conference Center

- † **It is the Mission of Sumatanga** to provide sacred space and an environment rich with opportunity for encounters with God through nature and nurture.
- † **Our Vision** is to be *the* home for Christ-centered hospitality.
- † **We Value** the teachings of Jesus Christ and use these teachings as the very foundation of our existence. We seek to serve as he served, to love unconditionally as he loved, and to treat all those we encounter with compassion and justice.
- † **We Value** our partnership in ministry with the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church and seek to be jointly committed and accountable in ministry to them and to those God calls to us.
- † **We Value** Christ-centered hospitality and will strive to make every guest feel at home.
- † **We Value** community and invite churches, organizations, agencies and individuals to join us and each other in Christian fellowship.
- † **We Value** wholesome recreation as a means of building both strength and character.
- † **We Value** life-long learning and the call to deepening spiritual development and strive to be a resource for those searching, growing and leading.
- † **We Value** sound stewardship. In honor of those who join us in ministry with financial gifts, we pledge to wisely deploy all proceeds to build a sustainable future for continuation of this ministry.