

**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**

**March 16, 2020**

**RETREATS AND MEETINGS WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED BEGINNING MARCH 16:** In response to the CDC's interim Guidance for Community and Faith Based Organizations, Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center is suspending all scheduled retreat and conference events beginning today, March 16, 2020, for the recommended eight (8) weeks. Discontinuing our retreat services until approximately May 11, 2020 is in alignment with the CDC recommendations designed to limit the transmission and spread of COVID-19. Although these measures will cause disruption to the experiences of our guests, they are intended to interrupt and slow the spread of the virus and protect overall community health. By limiting opportunities for transmission, Sumatanga is doing its part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will be working with guests to reschedule events and will transfer all fees paid to date. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or to reschedule. Rest assured we are monitoring this developing situation closely and as of today, Sumatanga is planning to resume normal operations on May 11, 2020. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us. More information regarding COVID-19 can be found at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**IN THE MEANTIME, SEEK A PLACE OF REST AND VISION:** Sumatanga – the Himalayan word for a place of "rest and vision" - is where you, your friends and your family can fish, walk around the lake, hike up the mountain, or just find a quiet Vespers spot - all while maintaining wide social distances. Sumatanga is a place of tranquility and consistency in a troubled world and we welcome you to come pray and enjoy our outdoor offerings. Enjoy a sense of community without ACTUALLY coming into contact with another.

**SUMMER CAMP 2020:** We continue to plan for a fun and meaningful Summer Camp. At this time, we recognize there may be anxiety and apprehension around the COVID-19 outbreak in regards to registering your child for Summer Camp. In an effort to alleviate some concerns, we are modifying our summer camp refund policy. For Summer Camp 2020, we will provide a full refund for the cancellation of any camp registration up to 2 weeks before the start of the event, less the \$50 processing fees. As a reminder, one step every Camper takes upon arrival at Summer Camp includes a health and wellness screening with the Camp Nurse which will include the best practices in managing COVID-19. We hope this will encourage you to put your worries aside and register your child for camp today!

**ASSET MANAGEMENT – UPDATE ON FOREST MANAGEMENT:** The rainy season has slowed progress on executing the forest management plan. Regardless of the start date, there will be no harvesting during the months of Summer Camp.

Thanks to good planning by our predecessors, many acres have been harvested in the past and we will follow that sound practice of replanting in all the harvested areas, again. Proceeds from this project will be used first to create a reserve for the reforestation and then used for general operations and capital improvements.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and continued support!

Andy Wolfe, Convener

Daphne Orr, Interim Executive Director