



# The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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The United Methodist Church's longstanding opposition to tobacco use is moving into a new phase.

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## Native American Ministries Sunday is April 14



2002 Photo by Eric Poppleton, PhotoSpin

**N**ATIVE AMERICAN Ministries Sunday became an official observance of the United Methodist Church in 1988. Its purpose is to celebrate and to reflect on the contributions of native people to the church and American societies, and to help educate and train Native American United Methodist leaders. In Holston Conference, a Native American Ministries Team organizes mission trips as well as its annual "Gathering" at Coker Creek Village in Tellico Plains, Tenn. This year the event is scheduled for Sept. 21-22.

For more information about The Gathering, contact Vicki Collins at (865) 435-0100 or [wahooohospirit@yahoo.com](mailto:wahooohospirit@yahoo.com). For information about Native American Ministries in the United Methodist Church, visit [www.naco.umcom.org](http://www.naco.umcom.org). To support Holston's Native American ministries, make checks to your local church or to Holston Conference, designating "Native American Awareness" on the memo line. ■

## College Presidents Resign

# HIWASSEE FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

By Annette Bender

THE HOLSTON Conference is down two college presidents.

B. James Dawson will leave Tennessee Wesleyan College to serve as president at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., this June. Dawson informed faculty and staff of his decision on March 5.

W. Chuck Philip, Hiwassee College president, announced his resignation on March 28. He leaves at a time when a widely publicized \$20 million gift was never realized and the college has been sanctioned for financial concerns.

In his biweekly column, Bishop Ray Chamberlain expressed regret for Dawson's resignation and com-



Philip



Dawson

prayer and money," Chamberlain stated in this issue's "Bishop's Perspective."

In late January, college officials announced that an anonymous donor would be giving \$20 million – four times the amount of the school's current annual budget.

"In hindsight it is obvious we should have waited to make an announcement after receipt of the gift," Board of Trustees Chair Ron Mills told faculty and staff during a campus assembly on March 28.

*'Hiwassee Faces' continued on page 7*

mended him for "serving the college exceptionally well."

"With the resignation of Hiwassee College's president along with losing Tennessee Wesleyan's president, the conference is challenged to be at its best in support through



2002 Photo by Jon Alverson, Main Street Newspapers

## ■ Road Warriors:

Moments before kicking off a 480-mile ride to raise money for pastors' pensions, Holston bicyclists gather April 3 at Grove United Methodist Church in Radford, Va. The Ride concludes in Chattanooga on April 11; look for complete coverage in the next issue of The Call. From left to right are Dave Stanley, Heather Rowland, Randy Pasqua, Matt Spell, Leonard Fant, Bary Bellamy, John Grimm, Jim Green and Carole Green.