



BOOK OF REPORTS

238th Session of the
Virginia Annual Conference



SEE ALL THE PEOPLE

2020 VAUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE | ROMANS 15:7

September 19, 2020
Richmond, Virginia

The 238th session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Richmond, Virginia

September 19, 2020

BOOK OF REPORTS

The Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries

Edited by

*The Office of Connectional Ministries and
Virginia United Methodist Communications*

*On the cover: The 2020 Annual Conference theme is
"See All the People".
Logo designed by Cathryn Huff*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Given the current challenges of meeting in-person and keeping both our clergy and lay members safe in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we welcome you to the first virtual session of our Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. I am grateful to the Annual Conference Planning Team and Woodlake UMC, Richmond District, for hosting the 238th virtual Annual Conference Session.

I am very excited about this annual gathering even though I will not physically see you in person. I missed being with you last year as I was recovering from four hip surgeries. Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Pete Weaver, interim bishop, for shepherding the annual conference while I was on medical leave for six months last year.

Clergy and lay members, I want to thank you in advance for your patience in attending this virtual session. Thank you for understanding how much extra time and preparation it takes to host an annual conference. I want to acknowledge and thank the Roanoke District Host Committee for their initial work in hosting the annual conference.

I also want to thank the entire conference for the warm welcome that you extended to me four years ago. Thank you for the grace that you pour into my life everyday as we serve together to be “lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”

Our conference theme this year is “See All the People,” guided by the Scriptural passage of Romans 15:7 (NRSV). “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

This pandemic has caused us to do things differently for our worship services. The Service of Ordering for Ministry for Full Connection Elders and Deacons took place on July 10, 2020 at Woodlake UMC. I want to thank Clergy Excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry for a meaningful service in this unusual time. The Service of Ordering for Ministry for Provisional Elders and Deacons will take place in September, 2020. The Recognition of Licensed Local Pastors will be held during our 16 District Conferences this year. To the District Superintendents, thank you and your staff for making this service memorable.

In addition, I want to thank the Rev. Esther Agbosu and Pam Culler, retired licensed local pastor, who will preach the Service of Remembrance and Celebration; honoring our deceased and celebrating the retirement of our clergy. This service will be posted on the conference website on September 26, 2020.

This year our conference offering will support Partnerships of Hope and Food Ministries within the Virginia Annual Conference. The Food Ministries funds will be disbursed by Missional Ministries Board.

Please continue to keep the annual conference in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct us as we seek to answer God’s call differently this year.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharma D. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

AGENDA

238th Virginia Annual Conference

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, Presiding

Saturday, September 19, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Richmond, VA

“See All the People”

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – ROMANS 15:7 NRSV

Table with 2 columns: Time and Activity. Activities include Opening Music, Call to Order & Centering Moment, Singing Our Faith, Opening Prayer, Welcome and Organizing Motions, Election of various roles (Assistant Secretaries, Chancellor, Statistician & Treasurer, Editor of the Journal, Conference Lay Leader, Director of Connectional Ministries, Annual Conference Committees), Rules Committee, Site Selection Report, COSROW Monitor, Minutes Report, Report of the Cabinet & Minute Questions, Recognition of New Faith Communities, Glory Sighting, Conference Lay Leader Remarks, Pensions/ VUMPI, Equitable Compensation Commission, Common Table for Church Vitality, Election of Boards and Agencies, 2020 Leaders' Consecration, Report of the Statistician, and Awards and Recognitions.

(Agenda continues on next page.)

AGENDA

(Agenda continued from previous page.)

	The Denman Award	Rev. Kathy Gochenour
	One Matters Award.....	Rev. Kathy Gochenour
	United Methodist Family Services.....	Mr. Greg Peters
	Scouting Ministries	Mr. Bill Chaffin
	Glory Sighting	
12:25 pm	Conference Offering	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	<i>Designated for Partnerships of Hope and Virginia Area Food Pantries</i>	
12:30 pm	Report of the Treasurer	Mr. David Domnisse
	Report of Council on Finance and Administration (CFA).....	Ms. Betty Forbes
	District Alignment Team Report.....	Ms. Kathy Merry& Mr. David Domnisse
	Motions	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Singing Our Faith	
1:30 pm	Benediction and Adjournment	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at its 2019 Session

The annual conference shall elect a Rules Committee as allowed by ¶604 of the *Discipline* and as set forth in ¶V.B.18 of the Standing Rules.

The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies shall be those published in the *Journal* of The Virginia Annual Conference United Methodist Church of the preceding annual conference and shall be published in the *Book of Reports* of each annual conference.

I. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The purpose of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

B. MEMBERSHIP

1. **Clergy Membership.** The clergy membership of the annual conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge.
2. **Campus Ministries.** Campus ministers, chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors shall be included in the annual conference composition. In districts where United Methodist laypersons serve as campus ministers/directors of Wesley Foundations, they shall be added as district-at-large lay members to the annual conference. In districts where United Methodist clergy who are members of the annual conference serve as chaplains, campus ministers, or directors of Wesley Foundations, the laypersons elected as their balancing counterpart shall be elected from and by either that campus ministry board of directors or the students from that ministry/foundation and their expenses paid by the district. Special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.
3. **Lay Membership.** The lay membership of the annual conference shall consist of the following (or designated alternate), if lay persons:
 - a. a professing member elected by each charge; except that each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment. (¶ 32, 2016 *Book of Discipline*)
 - b. diaconal ministers;
 - c. the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference;
 - d. the conference president of United Methodist Women;
 - e. the conference president of United Methodist Men;
 - f. the conference lay leader;
 - g. district lay leaders;
 - h. the president of the conference young adult organization;
 - i. a member of the conference youth organization;
 - j. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;

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- k. the conference secretary of global ministries;
- l. the conference director of lay servant ministries;
- m. one young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected as set forth in *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶602.4.
- n. one additional young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one additional young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries or equivalent body;
- o. the conference Treasurer;
- p. the Chancellor(s) of the annual conference;
- q. the Director of Connectional Ministries;
- r. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
- s. district presidents of United Methodist Men;
- t. district presidents of United Methodist Women;

And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the annual conference (¶ 32, *2016 Book of Discipline*) the following, if lay persons:

- u. the president or chairperson of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Missional Ministries Board; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; and Virginia Conference Board of Communications and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.
 - v. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding annual conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the Bishop by September 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.
 - w. Conference scouting coordinator;
 - x. All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the *2016 Book of Discipline* in ¶602.4.
- 4. Members of Next Succeeding Annual Conference.** By the adoption of Paragraphs 3. d-u, all lay persons holding the positions enumerated in those subparagraphs are elected as lay members of the next succeeding annual conference. In the event of a change in the persons holding a position in ¶ I.C.3. between sessions of the annual conference, the person holding the position at the time of the next succeeding annual conference shall be the member of the annual conference.
- 5. Expenses.** Unless otherwise covered by a local charge, expenses of attending annual conference shall be born as follows:

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- a. By the districts:
 - i. two young persons between the ages of 12 and 18;
 - ii. two young persons between the ages of 18 and 30;
 - iii. the district lay leaders;
 - iv. the district president of the United Methodist Men;
 - v. the district president of the United Methodist Women;
 - vi. additional district members at large;
 - b. By the annual conference:
 - i. the Director of Connectional Ministries
 - ii. the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries;
 - iii. the president of the conference young adult organization;
 - iv. a member of the conference youth organization;
 - v. the conference Treasurer;
 - vi. the conference Chancellor(s);
 - vii. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
 - viii. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
 - ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee
 - x. the conference scouting coordinator
 - c. By annual conference boards or agencies:
 - i. the Conference Lay Leader
 - ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
 - iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;
 - iv. the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
 - v. the president or chairperson, of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship, Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; United Methodist Foundation; Missional Ministries Board; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions; Inc., Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; and Virginia Conference Board of Communications.
- 6. Right to Floor and Right to Vote.** With the exception of provisional members, associate members, and local pastors serving full time and part-time appointments, those members of the conference listed in ¶¶ I.C.1.,2., and 3. shall be full members of the conference with the right to the floor and the right to vote. Provisional members, associate members, and local pastors serving full time and part-time appointments have the right to the floor and the right to vote on all matters except the following:
- a. Constitutional amendments.
 - b. Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. These shall be the sole responsibility of clergy members in full connection.
- For the election of delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional conference the following clergy are eligible to vote:
- a. Active and retired members (elders and deacons)
 - b. Active and retired provisional members
 - c. Active and retired associate members

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- d. Part-time and full-time local pastors who have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶316.6).
- e. Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote for the election of delegates (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶320.5).
7. **Roll of Conference.** The roll of the conference shall be the official registration signed by the members of the conference.
8. **Privilege of Floor Without Vote.** The following shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: official representatives from other denominations, especially from member churches of Churches Uniting In Christ, invited by the annual conference; missionaries regularly assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries and serving within the bounds of the annual conference; lay missionaries regularly appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries in nations other than the United States and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States serving within the bounds of the annual conference (quoting *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 602.9).

C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

1. **The Presiding Officer.** The resident Bishop of the conference shall preside at all sessions of the conference but shall have the privilege of appointing a presiding officer to preside in his or her stead in the event of illness or temporary absence from the annual conference floor.
2. **Annual Conference Secretary.** The secretary of the annual conference shall be elected quadrennially by the annual conference upon nominations arising from the floor at annual conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the annual conference, the Bishop, after consultation with the District Superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session.
3. **Assistant Secretaries.** The secretary shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant secretaries who shall be elected by the annual conference to handle properly the work of the annual conference.
4. **Treasurer.** The annual conference Treasurer shall be nominated by the Council on Finance and Administration. He or she shall be elected by the annual conference at the first session of the annual conference following the regular General Conference. He or she shall be elected for the quadrennium or until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the Council on Finance and Administration shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.
5. **Statistician.** The annual conference statistician shall be elected by the annual conference on nomination by the Cabinet at the annual conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the annual conference, the Bishop, after consultation with the District Superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference.
6. **Assistant Statisticians.** The annual conference statistician shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant statisticians who shall be elected by the annual conference for the annual conference year.
7. **Editor of the Annual Conference Journal.** The annual conference secretary shall nominate annually the editor of the conference *Journal*, who shall be elected by the annual conference for the next calendar year. He or she shall be responsible for editing and printing the *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference* and shall be amenable to the conference secretary.
8. **Conference Parliamentarian.** The Bishop may appoint a conference parliamentarian whose duty shall be to advise and counsel concerning rules of order and procedure.

D. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. **The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team:** There shall be a Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The team shall meet at least quarterly. The Director of Connectional Ministries and the Conference Lay Leader shall serve as co-chairs. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team

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shall consist of 18 members in addition to the co-chairs. Two members (one clergy, one lay) shall be appointed by the Bishop to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The Bishop will make replacement appointments in a manner that continues to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation and in a manner that maintains the clergy/laity balance on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. Of the remaining 16 members, eight shall be clergy and eight shall be lay. Each district of the Virginia Annual Conference shall be represented. Representatives of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Disabilities, and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy shall monitor and have voice at these meetings.

All persons shall serve terms of four years, and no person shall serve for more than four consecutive years. As terms of district representatives expire, each District Nominations Facilitation Committee will name one replacement individual to serve on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, clergy to replace lay, lay to replace clergy. In the event that a member moves from the district, resigns, or dies during his/her term, a replacement shall be selected in the manner which was applicable to the departing member, with the replacement only serving until the end of the original term.

Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee shall designate one of its members as an alternate to its District Representative on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.

2. **District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** There shall be on each district a Nominations Facilitation Committee composed of the District Superintendent as chair; the district lay leader; president of United Methodist Men; president of United Methodist Women; a representative of United Methodist Youth; a college chaplain or a campus minister (applies only to districts with Wesley Foundation or ecumenical campus ministry programs), the district representative to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, plus one to three persons (lay and clergy) elected by the district council on ministries. The committee shall meet on the call of the chair at least twice a year between annual conference and March 1. The committee shall develop and maintain a talent bank of lay and clergy persons from the district who could be qualified nominees for the various boards and agencies of the annual conference. The committee shall prepare a profile on each person nominated and upon having a person nominated to a board or agency of the conference, will provide a copy of that profile, including address and phone number, conference boards or agencies the individual is already serving, and the person's willingness to serve, to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
3. **Information to Be Furnished to Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** Each board, council, commission and committee of the annual conference shall furnish to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team on a timely basis for the use of the District Nominations Facilitation Committees:
 - a. A summary of its responsibilities and the specific division/committee for which a vacancy exists;
 - b. A list of the gifts and talents desired;
 - c. Length of service expected;
 - d. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g., number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.); and
 - e. Schedule of times and locations of its meetings during the year.

It may also suggest names and profiles to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team through its co-chairs.

4. **When Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team Should Make Nominations.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall annually or quadrennially, as set forth by Disciplinary provision or Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies, nominate the membership of the boards, councils, commissions, and committees of the annual conference. Nominees for boards and other agencies shall be published in the *Book of Reports*.

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5. **Removal Due to Absences.** Any member of any board, council, commission or committee who is absent from two meetings of such board, council, commission or committee without excuse, or from three consecutive agency meetings for any reason, shall automatically cease to be a member of such board, council, commission or committee. The secretary of each board, council, commission or committee shall notify the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team of vacancies. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the board, council, commission or committee until the next annual conference session, at which time the annual conference shall fill the vacancy.
6. **Request at Annual Charge Conferences for Names to be Given to District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** At each annual charge conference the elder presiding at the charge conference shall ask if the Lay Leadership Committee has any names to recommend for conference boards, councils, commissions or committees. Such names shall be given to the district Nominations Facilitation Committee.
7. **Multicultural Inclusiveness.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall strive to insure multicultural inclusiveness.
8. **Normal Term Of Service Is Four Years.** Unless otherwise specified in these rules or in the *Book of Discipline*, a person elected to a board, council, commission or committee of the annual conference is elected for a four-year term of service and is eligible for re-election to an additional four-year term. However, if one is first elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for re-election to two full terms. A person completing two consecutive full terms is eligible for re-election to that agency after an interim of one year. In the case of a board or agency with an eight-year term, members elected to fill unexpired terms of three years or less shall be eligible for re-election to one full term of eight years. Program boards and agencies other than the Board of Ordained Ministry may co-opt specific persons for specific projects for short periods of time as consultants, without vote. Any combination of continuous service as either a regular or co-opted member shall count on the eight-year time limit for consecutive service. The term of office of members of conference boards and agencies shall begin with the adjournment of the Annual Conference at which said members are elected and shall extend until their successors are elected.
9. **Members of general boards or agencies shall be members ex-officio of the corresponding conference board or agency.**
10. **Nomination or Election to Only One Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee with Limited Exceptions.** No person is eligible for nomination, election, or interim appointment to more than one board, council, commission, or standing committee, except where permitted by the *Discipline* and/or conference structure.
11. **District Superintendent Not Eligible to be Chairperson or President of Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee.** No District Superintendent shall be eligible to serve as a chairperson or president of any board, council, commission, or committee of the annual conference. The Bishop may appoint a representative of the Cabinet to any board, council, commission, or committee which is not program related of which a member of the Cabinet is not already an elected member. The appointment of District Superintendents to boards, councils, commissions, or committees which are program related shall be made annually.
12. **Officers of Quadrennially Elected Boards, Councils, Commissions or Committees.** Officers of boards, councils, commissions, and committees whose members are required to be elected quadrennially shall be elected by the representative agency at the session of the annual conference at which new members are elected or within ninety days after adjournment. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor. The organizational or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the Bishop.
13. **Officers of Other Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees.** Officers of other boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be elected by the representative agency at the agency's last regular meeting prior to each annual conference. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor.

- 14. Tellers.** For those sessions of the annual conference where there is no election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller, who shall be ineligible to serve again for a quadrennium. It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of two persons, one clergy and one lay, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in the annual conference session, the chief teller shall have the tellers ready to count the vote, having previously trained them to accurately and efficiently perform their duties.

II. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, PROPOSALS AND CONSENT AGENDA

A. REPORTS

- 1. Submission of Annual Reports and Mailing of *Book of Reports*.** Agencies shall submit annual reports to the designated person before the date set annually by the Common Table for Church Vitality. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall mail the *Book of Reports* to each clergy and lay member of annual conference at least 30 days before the opening session of annual conference, printing and mailing at conference expense.
- 2. Reporting At Annual Conference.** For reports printed in the *Book of Reports*, verbal introductions shall not exceed five minutes, and there shall be no further reading of recommendations or resolutions, unless requested for clarification or requested by a majority vote of the annual conference. The presiding Bishop shall amend the Annual Conference schedule as needed.
- 3. Amendments to be Submitted in Writing.** Persons proposing amendments to any report must submit them in writing to the secretary upon presentation to the annual conference.
- 4. Submission of New Reports, Changes, or Additions to Printed Report.** Persons proposing new reports, changes or additions to the printed report of an agency in the *Book of Reports* must submit them in writing for delivery to members of the annual conference at the opening session, but not to be considered by the annual conference before the morning session of the second day of annual conference.
- 5. Presiding Officer of Agency giving Report has Privilege of Floor, without Vote, for that Report.** When the annual conference has before it the report of any agency, or a matter concerning any agency, the presiding officer of that group, if not a member of the conference, shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, for that report.

B. PRESENTATIONS

Requests for inclusion of presentations for the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the proposal.”

C. PETITIONS

An area designated by the annual conference planning committee shall be determined for receiving signatures for petitions.

D. PROPOSALS

- 1. Proposals Requiring Publication of Materials.** Proposed annual conference action that includes publication or dissemination of information shall be referred to the Print Media Committee of Virginia Conference Board of Communications for its consideration and report on the proposed action, including the financial consequences, prior to conference action. The committee may act through its chairperson, the Virginia Conference Director of Communications, or other representatives to make its report and recommendation.
- 2. Proposals Requiring Funding.** Proposals or amendments which may require expenditure of funds, which have not been considered by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), must be submitted by the conclusion of the afternoon session preceding the concluding day of annual conference. Such proposals of amendments which may require expenditure of funds shall be referred to CFA for its consideration and recommendation prior to final

annual conference action.

3. **Proposals Requiring Addition to Agenda.** During the first business session of annual conference, the agenda shall include time to introduce items in addition to the printed agenda. Any such items not referred to conference agencies under the preceding paragraphs shall be referred to the Rules Committee for its consideration and recommendation prior to adjournment of annual conference.
4. **Proposals from the Floor.** A motion is a formal proposal. Anytime the Annual Conference is in session and there is no business on the floor of the Annual Conference, a proposal from the floor may be made. This proposal will need to be placed in writing and in conjunction with the rules as stated in VII.J.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference other than a vote to receive said items for publication in the *Journal* shall be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the Consent Agenda, it must have been distributed in the pre-Conference materials. Determination of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda shall be made annually by the Bishop in consultation with the Consent Agenda Committee. This committee shall be composed of the Conference Secretary, the Conference Lay Leader, the Chair of the Conference Rules Committee, and the Director of Connectional Ministries. An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of no less than 30 members of the annual conference. The process for making that request will be determined by the Consent Agenda Committee, and the deadline for such requests will not be prior to ten minutes after the call to order of the annual conference session. The Consent Agenda will be made available electronically one week prior to the annual conference. When an individual item has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed into the regular agenda.

III. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

A. AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

We are an inclusive church. We desire to have a delegation that will capably represent the annual conference. The delegation should be representative of the annual conference considering such factors as sex, age, race, disability, ethnic background, economic conditions and geographical locations.

B. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Clergy and lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be elected in a fair and open process at the session of the annual conference held not more than two years preceding the session of General Conference.

1. **Special Sessions.** Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.
2. **Number of Delegates.** The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.
3. **Election of General Conference and jurisdictional conference Delegates.** The number of General Conference delegates authorized by the secretary of the General Conference shall be first elected, followed by balloting on the authorized number of the jurisdictional conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized numbers of the jurisdictional conference delegates have been elected, 10 clergy and 10 lay reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.

4. **Speeches/Printed Materials.** No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed at the site of the Annual Conference on behalf of any nominee.
5. **Nominee Participation.** Nothing herein shall prevent any nominee from
 - a. appearing at the podium or floor microphone for the purpose of conducting Conference business.
 - b. fully participating in activities of the Conference including the debate over budgets or proposals pending before the Conference. This shall include the right to bring petitions or amendments to the Conference and encourage votes for or against the same.
 - c. conducting one-on-one conversations about the election of delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference including how that nominee proposes to represent the Conference at such events. Nominees are reminded to respect the need of the Conference to conduct business and are asked to take such conversations off the floor of the Conference.

C. CLERGY NOMINATIONS

1. Eligibility

- a. **To be nominated.** All clergy members in full connection are eligible to be nominated (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶35), except as provided in 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶354.8.
- b. **To vote**
 - i. The following clergy are eligible to vote:
 - a) Active and retired members (elders and deacons)
 - b) Active and retired provisional members
 - c) Active and retired associate members
 - d) Part-time and full-time local pastors who have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶316.6)
 - ii. Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶320.5).

2. Nomination Process.

- a. **All eligible clergy have the opportunity to serve as delegates to General Conference and jurisdictional conference.** Clergy persons desiring nomination/election as delegates to General and jurisdictional must follow the process outlined below. No exceptions to the process, including deadline dates, will be granted except as mandated by changes in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and/or the Annual Conference in changing these rules.

Those who consent to or desire nomination are asked to commit to the following expectations:

- 1) Pray for God's guidance in decision-making;
- 2) Commit the time needed to read and study the issues;
- 3) Attend the meetings of the Virginia Conference delegations;
- 4) Attend both General Conference and jurisdictional conference.

Each clergy nomination shall be submitted on a clergy nomination form. Clergy nomination forms will be posted on the conference web site in January preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections. The form shall include the names one clergy who is eligible to vote who is making the nomination. Alternatively, any clergy who desires nomination must complete a clergy nomination form. All nominations shall include the nominee's name, picture not to exceed 1 1/2" by 2 1/2" unless nominated from the floor of the Annual Conference, address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and should include a personal statement no to exceed 150 words in which may be indicated the nominee's experience, qualifications, and reasons for wanting to serve. There shall be a box to be checked stating: "Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected.", and a line for the signature of the nominee. The completed nomination form or facsimile thereof must be returned to the Director of Connectional Min-

istries no later than March 1 preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections. The deadline is non-negotiable.

- b. Clergy Nominations from the Floor.** After the convening of the Annual Conference session, prior to entering block voting, the presiding Bishop will ask for any nominations from the floor. Any nominations made from the floor must be made by eligible clergy (III.C.1.b.i) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.
- c. Clergy Nomination Review Committee.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the bishop plus one clergy member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee. The Director of Clergy Excellence shall serve as an ex-officio member. The committee shall review and compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee. This clergy nomination booklet will be available on the conference web site. Printed copies will be available at cost from the office of the Director of Connectional Ministries. An alphabetical listing will be included in the clergy *Book of Reports* packet. This committee will also be responsible for reviewing and validating any nominations made from the floor of the Annual Conference.

D. LAY NOMINATIONS

- 1. Lay Nominations from Districts.** Nominations for lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be made by the lay members of the district conference of each district from names submitted by the District Council on Ministries and/or from names of all persons given by any member of The United Methodist Churches of the district to the District Superintendent. These names shall be submitted by the superintendent to the District Conference. Additional nominations at the district conference may be made from the floor, provided that no nomination may be made without the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected. In the event of a tie for the final nominee(s), the nominee(s) shall be selected by lot.

Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 members of The United Methodist Church or major fraction thereof in that district, based upon figures reported at the preceding annual conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.

- 2. Agency Nominations.** The lay members of the following agencies of the annual conference may also nominate one additional lay delegate: Board of Church and Society; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Missional Ministries Board; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Laity; Commission on the Status and Role of Women; United Methodist Men; United Methodist Women; Virginia Conference Board of Communications; and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. In addition to the aforementioned nominees, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and the Virginia United Methodist Student Movement each may nominate one delegate.
- 3. Church Membership.** All nominees shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their nomination and must be members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. They also must be active members within The United Methodist Church at the time of holding General Conference and jurisdictional conference. The four-year participation and two-year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under twenty-five years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.
- 4. Nomination Forms.** All nominations shall include the nominee's name, picture not to exceed 1½" x 2½" (unless nominated from, the floor of the Annual Conference), address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and should include a personal statement not to exceed 150 words in which the nominee may indicate his or her experience, qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve. There shall be a box to be checked stating: "Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected.", and a line for the signature of the nominee. The nominations shall be on a form or facsimile thereof furnished by the Director of Connectional Ministries. It is recommended that the nomination forms for persons to be voted upon by the district conference be circulated to the

members of the district conference in advance of the district conference at which voting is to take place.

5. **Laity Nominations from the Floor.** After the convening of the Annual Conference session, prior to entering block voting, the presiding Bishop will ask for any nominations from the floor. Any nominations made from the floor must be made by lay members (III.D.3.) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.
6. **Conference committee on lay delegate nominations.**
 - a. **Membership.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the Bishop plus one member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee.
 - b. **Function.** Each District Superintendent shall by January 15 of the year of election submit to this committee in care of the Director of Connectional Ministries completed forms for all nominees from the district. The committee shall then forward a list of all nominees to the agencies named in ¶ III.D.2. Each agency of the annual conference shall be responsible for forwarding to the committee any completed nomination form no later than March 1. The committee shall review and compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee. This lay nomination booklet will be made available on the conference website. Printed copies will be available at cost from the office of the Director of Connectional Ministries. An alphabetical listing will be included in the *Book of Reports*. This committee will also be responsible for reviewing and validating any nomination forms made from the floor of the Annual Conference.
 - c. **List of Nominees.** The lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms.

E. BALLOTING PROCEDURES

1. **Separate Voting Areas.** Following the convening of Annual Conference, clergy and laity will separate to elect General and jurisdictional delegates and alternates, allowing five (5) hours to complete the process.
2. **Ballots Shall be Counted Electronically.** The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.
3. **Valid Ballots.** To be valid, a ballot:
 - (a) must be cast on the ballot bearing the number designated by the presiding officer for that particular ballot; and
 - (b) must be voted for the number of delegates and/or alternates to be elected on that ballot, no more and no less.
4. **Voting Area.** The presiding officer shall designate the areas of the Lay and Clergy Sessions where members shall be seated during balloting. Ballots shall be cast from only those present and seated within the voting areas of the annual conference and displaying the proper credentials.
5. **Ballot Reporting.** After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the Bishop which shall contain (a) number of ballots cast; (b) number of ballots not valid; (c) number of ballots counted; (d) number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each, beginning with the largest number of votes.
6. **Majority Required for Election.** On every ballot, a majority of the valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of a delegate, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.
7. **Reading or Distributing Names.** On the first ballot for General Conference, the presiding officer shall read or display all names receiving votes with the number of votes cast for each. After the first ballot, the 25 nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be read or displayed, according to the highest number of votes received. In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available position on the General or jurisdictional delegation, a run-off election will be ordered by the bishop to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those in the run-off are open for votes. The names will be read in order of their election. The person with the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate delegation.
8. **Handling of Ballots after Counting and Recording.** Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballot results and deliver them to the annual conference secretary. The annual confer-

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ence secretary shall retain all ballot results until the adjournment of the annual conference after which they shall be destroyed.

F. TELLERS

- 1. Appointment of Chief Tellers, Assistant Chief Tellers and Tellers.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller and an assistant chief teller for the clergy tellers and a chief teller and an assistant chief teller for the lay tellers. The chief tellers shall not be eligible to serve in the year of the next election of delegates to General Conference and jurisdictional conference. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall additionally appoint four (4) clergy and four (4) lay members of the annual conference from each district to form a pool of tellers from which as many teams shall be formed as the chief tellers deem advisable. One member of each team shall be designated as the captain for that team.
- 2. Expenses for Balloting.** All expenses incident to the balloting for and election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be borne by the annual conference.

G. EXPENSES OF CLERGY AND LAY ALTERNATES

The expenses of two clergy and two lay alternates to General Conference and to the jurisdictional conference shall be borne by the annual conference. Such expense allowances shall not exceed the expense allowances, per diem and travel, as are paid to the regular delegates.

H. DELEGATES UNDER THE AGE OF 18

When a General Conference or jurisdictional conference delegate will be under the age of 18 at the time of General Conference and/or jurisdictional conference, the Virginia Conference Child Protection Policy will be observed for this person. The leader of the General Conference Delegation will be responsible for implementation of the Child Protection Policy.

IV. NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTION

At the annual conference immediately preceding the jurisdictional conference, nominations for the office of Bishop may be made by submitting the name of an elder and a biographical sketch of not more than 100 words to the secretary of the conference signed by not fewer than 50 members of the annual conference. To be eligible for nomination the person must not have attained his or her 68th birthday prior to the first day of the month in which the jurisdictional conference is held. Nominations shall cease at the close of the afternoon session of the first day of the annual conference.

The conference secretary shall cause copies of each sketch to be prepared and distributed to the members of the annual conference. Ballots shall be prepared containing the name of each nominee and, beside each name, a square followed by the word "yes." The ballots shall be distributed to the members of the annual conference immediately before they are to be cast. A member of the annual conference may vote for one or more nominees, but not more than the number of episcopal vacancies to be filled, or may choose not to vote for any of the nominees. To be nominated to the jurisdictional conference, a nominee must receive an affirmative vote of not less than 60 percent of the total ballots cast.

V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

The following are defined as program boards and agencies: The Board of Church and Society, the Church Development Team, the Board of Discipleship, the Missional Ministries Board, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, and the Board of Laity. Each board and agency shall meet at least annually.

- 1. Membership.** All program board and agency members shall be elected for a four-year term by the annual conference. So far as possible, board membership shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and laity. No elected

member may serve more than eight consecutive years except as authorized by the *Discipline* or in ¶ I.E.8 of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies. The bishop shall annually appoint for one year terms at least one District Superintendent to each board, agency or commission. Except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, the presiding bishop and the Director of Connectional Ministries are members of all boards, agencies and commissions with vote unless otherwise provided for by the *Book of Discipline*.

2. **Organization.** The boards shall organize in the several divisions or equivalent structure listed below to carry out their respective functions. Each member of a board shall serve on one division or equivalent structure. There shall be an executive committee of each board whose duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the board. A board may develop such additional structure, including the election of division members at large, as it deems necessary to discharge its assigned responsibilities, provided, however, that where additional funding is required for such structure, prior approval of the Common Table for Church Vitality shall be obtained by the board. Division members at large are not members of the board.
3. **Function.** The conference boards will provide consultative services and resources to the local church, the District Councils on Ministries, the annual conference and the Common Table for Church Vitality. Each board will make program recommendations to the Common Table for Church Vitality, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Common Table for Church Vitality, or by the *Book of Discipline*, and will be related to the objectives and scope of work set forth by its General Board. Each board is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.
4. **Responsibilities.**
 - a. **Church and Society.** The Board of Church and Society, in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs on Christian social concern within the bounds of the annual conference. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into committees, which so far as practical shall be patterned after the divisions of the General Board of Church and Society. The total membership shall be 20 (10 lay and 10 clergy).
 - b. **Church Development Team.** There shall be a Church Development Team dedicated to working on strategies for and implementation of church development and new faith communities in the annual conference. This team/board will consist of a minimum of 12 and up to 16 persons: six nominated by the bishop and Cabinet, six nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, and up to four additional persons who may be co-opted by the team for expertise and diversity. The membership of this team will be placed in four classes to ensure continuity. The team is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.
 - c. **Discipleship.** The Board of Discipleship in cooperation with the General Board of Discipleship and the Common Table for Church Vitality shall create partnerships by providing a network of experience, knowledge and coaching through intentional connection to enhance or create effective disciple making processes. These partnerships are created by: (1) coaching at local levels and pulling in identified district and conference resources as needed, (2) training at district or regional levels, (3) drawing on best practices gathered locally, jurisdictionally, nationally and globally, (4) connecting mentor/resource churches with those who request assistance and information, (5) organizing in regional teams, and (6) raising vision, visibility and possibility during Annual Conference sessions and inviting people to connect with a congregational coach. The Board of Discipleship shall consist of a directing board to set the vision for disciple-making ministries in the annual conference and to support research on best practices, gathered and distributed by a Conference Awareness Team at events and through all other forms of communication.

The Directing Board will consist of the following eight (8) members: three officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) to be elected by the Annual Conference, the chair of the Disciple Resource Team, and four (4) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex-officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote.

The Disciple Resource Team will consist of eight (8) members, Four classes of two, one laity and one clergy per class. Members of the Disciple Resource Team will be nominated from the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) and elected by the Annual Conference.

Members of the Regional Network Teams will be selected by the Regional Network Leads, in consultation with the Directing Board, based upon best practices research.

Each age-level council will meet at least annually as the conference council for the respective ministry areas (with additional members as required by conference Rules and the *Book of Discipline*, if any) for: (a) sharing of the best practices in their regions, (b) training which will enhance their service to the faith communities within each region, (c) coordinating of conference programs and initiatives as appropriate, and (d) serving as resources to the Regional Network Teams.

The Youth Council and Young Adult Council (ages 18 – 35) will consist of members as mandated in the appropriate sections of *The Book of Discipline*.

The Youth Council shall have one youth representative (grade 7 – 12) elected by each District Youth Council or equivalent. Six adults shall be elected to the Youth Council: three adults elected by the Youth Council or equivalent and three elected by the Annual Conference.

The Young Adult Council shall have three additional young adult members at-large elected by the Annual Conference.

The Older Adult Council shall have six members elected by the Annual Conference.

- d. Missional Ministries.** The Missional Ministries Board in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the annual conference. The Conference Director of Justice and Missional Excellence shall serve as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM), fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶ 633.3 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into two (2) mission teams: (1) Missional Discipleship and Engagement and (2) Missional Connection. The position of Conference Coordinator of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall be an ex-officio member of the Mission Connection Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board, as outlined in ¶ 633.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

The membership of the board shall be 20, with 6 or 4 persons (one-half lay and one-half clergy) elected each year to replace outgoing classes.

- e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries.** The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶ 1405 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set forth in ¶ 634 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

Membership: With an effort to maintain a balance of clergy and laity, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries shall have 12 Conference elected members (placed in four classes): a current campus minister, a current Campus Ministry Local Board Chairperson, a current local church pastor with passion for campus ministry, a current United Methodist College or University President, a young adult/student, a member with expertise in property management, and six general members (with a preference for expertise in executive leadership, finance, communication, and marketing). The member who has expertise in the area of property management shall also serve as the chairperson of the Conference Board of Property Managers of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. Ex officio members shall be: the Director of Connectional Ministries, a Liaison District Superintendent (liaison between the BHECM and the Cabinet), an additional District Superintendent, the Conference Treasurer, and any Virginia Conference member to the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The related conference staff person (the Director of Ministries with Young People) and the Director of the Association of Educational Institutions (AEI) will serve as members with voice but no vote. The term for chairperson shall be

four years and terms for members shall also be four years and follow section I.E.8 of the Conference Rules and Policies. Nominations and election of the chairperson shall follow section I.E.11 of the Conference Rules and Policies. The Executive Committee of the BHECM shall consist of the chairperson, the Liaison District Superintendent, the current campus minister, the member with expertise in property management and three general members.

Organization: The BHECM will meet a minimum of every other month. The Executive Committee will meet as needed. The BHECM will also be responsible for a minimum of one annual meeting for the following: Effectiveness Training Forums for Local Campus Ministry Boards, Effectiveness Training Forums for Campus Ministers/Chaplains, and Effectiveness Discussion Forums for District Superintendents. The incorporated entities of the board are the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc. The conference board of property managers is a sub-group of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. The Executive Committee of the Board shall function as the board of directors of both the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc.

- f. **Laity.** The Board of Laity shall act as an advocate for the Virginia Annual Conference laity in all forums of the annual conference. The purpose of the Board of Laity is to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering people so that they might effectively partner with each other and their pastors to live out God's call as they lead the church in transforming the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. Membership of the Board of Laity shall be composed of the conference lay leader, three associate conference lay leaders, the Conference Director(s) of Lay Servant Ministries, the presidents of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women or their designees, Young People's Representative selected by the Youth or Young Adult Council, sixteen (16) district lay leaders, one District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, and the Bishop. Three clergy who model excellence in the lay-clergy partnership for ministry will be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as ex-officio members. To discharge its responsibilities, the Board of Laity shall divide its membership into three work area teams: (1) Engaging (Holistic Stewardship); (2) Equipping (Leadership Excellence); and (3) Empowering (Shared Ministry). The Board of Laity shall nominate to the annual conference for election a layperson to be the conference lay leader for the ensuing four years. Any person elected to the office of conference lay leader shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, or a total of eight (8) years.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

The following agencies having administrative responsibilities are grouped together under the general title "Administration" with duties and responsibilities as indicated.

1. **Archives and History, Commission on.** There shall be a Commission on Archives and History and a Virginia Conference Historical Society. The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall be as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 641). Members of the annual conference shall be members of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, which will elect 48 members to the commission who will also serve as the directors of the Virginia Conference Historical Society. The officers of the commission and the society shall be the same.
2. **Bishops' Foundation.** There shall be a Bishops' Foundation whose purpose is to provide training for leadership development of both lay and clergypersons of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit, and whose Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) directors nominated by the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference and elected by the Annual Conference: five (5) clergy members and four (4) lay members serving for staggered terms of three (3) years after the initial term of 1, 2, and 3 years. The director of Connectional Ministries of the Virginia Conference or his/her designee will serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.
3. **Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.** There shall be a Conference Board of Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the annual conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated.

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- a. **Function** The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- b. **Membership** Virginia Conference Board of Communications shall consist of 24 persons, 14 of whom (half lay and half clergy) shall be elected by the annual conference. The 14 members thus elected and ex officio members shall elect 10 additional members at large selected with regard to professional expertise, nonprofessional objectivity, and media representation. The ex officio members shall be the Director of Connectional Ministries, a Cabinet representative, Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, the Conference Manager of Technology, and any member of United Methodist Communications, the United Methodist Publishing House, and any other general board or agency whose purpose or function is included with the purposes and functions of this organization, or their successors, who is a member of a local charge in the Virginia Annual Conference or a clergy member of the Virginia Annual Conference. There shall be a president, vice president and secretary.
- c. **Organization** There shall be the following committees:
 - i. *Executive Committee* shall consist of the elected officers of the board, the conference Director of Communications and one additional member of the board. The non-officer member of the Executive Committee shall be elected quadrennially by the Board of Directors and shall hold office until the successor is elected and qualified. Vacancies may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. All non-officer members of the Executive Committee shall be chosen from among the directors. The Executive Committee shall include both laypersons and clergypersons. The president shall act as chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall also serve as the committee on Nominations, with the board vice president overseeing the business of nominations. The Executive Committee shall review board membership annually and recommend changes in membership to the board.
 - ii. *Project Committees* As needs arise, project committees may be appointed by the president to function on behalf of specific projects or activities of the board. Any two (2) members of a project committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the committee's business. The president shall be an ex-officio of all such project committees. It is strongly encouraged that all board members serve on a project.
 - iii. *Finance* The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference shall be designated as the person who can authorize expenditures on behalf of the corporation under the direction of the Board of Directors.
 - iv. *Budget.* The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, working closely with the board president, committee chairs, and communications staff will annually develop the various communication budgets and submit them to the board for approval and will regularly review expenditures to insure compliance with the adopted budgets. The Board of Directors, prior to the budget deadline of the annual conference Connectional Ministries office each year, shall recommend an income and expense budget covering all activities for the next fiscal year, including capital improvements or expenditures.
4. **Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT).** (See ¶ I.D.1. for composition and function of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.)
5. **Disabilities, Commission on.** The commission shall consist of 18 members, half clergy and half lay. Membership shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities. The Bishop may appoint to the commission a District Superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
6. **Episcopacy, Committee on the.** There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy, the membership and duties of which shall be as prescribed in ¶ 637 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.
7. **Equitable Compensation, Commission on.** The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergy persons including at least one lay and one clergy from churches of fewer than 200 members who are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. In addition, one District Superintendent named by the Cabinet shall be a member. It shall perform the duties assigned to it by the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 625). It shall receive all requests from or on behalf of all pastoral charges for aid to be used solely for clergy support. It shall administer the Equitable Compen-

sation Fund and may employ money from other agencies, including those which may be granted by the Missional Ministries Board, as appropriate in each case, to meet these requests.

8. **Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, Commission on.** There shall be a Virginia Conference Commission on Minority Concerns and Advocacy amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The commission will provide for the functions as outlined in the current *Book of Discipline* for the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and Commission on Religion and Race. The basic membership of the commission shall consist of 10 clergy, 10 laypersons, and five members at-large elected upon nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. A minimum of two members shall be youth and young adults between the ages of 12 - 35. The commission will be constituted so that two-thirds of the membership be representative of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be ex-officio members of the commission with both voice and vote. The presidents or chairs of conference caucuses, fellowships, or associations for racial and ethnic constituencies shall be ex-officio members of the commission with voice but not vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
9. **Finance and Administration, Conference Council on.** There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration elected and organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶¶ 611-619), provided that membership of the council shall be composed of five clergy, five lay women, and five lay men nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
10. **Foundation, United Methodist.** There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶2513 and pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 2016; fourteen (14) of the twenty-three (23) trustees shall be elected by the Annual Conference.
11. **Incapacity, Joint Committee on.** There shall be a Joint Committee on Incapacity consisting of two representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry, two representatives from the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., one representative from the Cabinet and one representative of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Their duties shall be as prescribed by the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 652).
12. **Investigation, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 2703.2).
13. **Minutes, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Minutes consisting of seven members nominated by the Cabinet for a term of eight years, provided that the terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and terms of the other three shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. At least three members shall be lay persons and at least three shall be clergy. The chair shall be designated by the Cabinet. The committee shall review the daily minutes of the annual conference proceedings and report at the next session. Within three weeks of the close of the annual conference session, the committee will meet with the conference secretary to review and correct the minutes of proceedings before submitting the same for printing in the conference *Journal*.
14. **Ordained Ministry.** The Board of Ordained Ministry in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches in preparing and aiding persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ as this has been historically understood by United Methodism. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall perform all the duties and functions as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* and shall be directly amenable to the annual conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 635.1) and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. The annual conference registrar and at least one District Superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. At least one person from each district shall be included on the board. If during the course of the quadrennium a district should lose its representation on the board, an additional person shall be elected to the board to ensure representation from each district.
15. **Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.** This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia

United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶639.2a) If no District Superintendent is a member of this agency the Bishop may name one to represent the Cabinet. He or she shall have voice but not vote.

This agency shall perform the duties set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (see ¶ 639). In addition, it shall administer the conference program for participant supplemental benefits including the various insurance programs, shall study on a continuing basis the problems of participant disability, making recommendations relative to these problems as needed, and shall provide for a continuing pastoral ministry to disabled participants.

- 16. Preachers' Relief Society.** This is an incorporated body with invested trust funds, the income from which is used from time to time for the relief of needy members of the clergy and their families.
- 17. Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries.** There shall be a Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries (VAPAUMCS), which is to provide church secretaries and other administrative professionals a supportive base for unity and fellowship so as to promote individual growth, professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and the Standing Committees Chairs. There shall be standing committees: Communications composed of five members; Finance composed of four members (the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer); and Nominating composed of six members in classes of two for three-year terms.
- 18. Rules Committee.** There shall be a Rules Committee consisting of nine members elected by the annual conference on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team or from the floor for a term of eight years. The terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be lay and four members shall be clergy. The chancellor(s) of the annual conference shall be *ex officio* members of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies between sessions of the annual conference, and make its recommendations to the annual conference. Proposed amendments to the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the annual conference shall be referred to the Rules Committee. All members of the Rules Committee are encouraged to take a basic parliamentary procedure course within 6 months of their election. However, those who wish to be parliamentarians of the Annual Conference must take a more advanced course at the approval of the Rules Committee Chair. The cost of these courses will be reimbursed upon the passing of the class.
- 19. Site Selection, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one half lay and one half clergy, elected on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the terms of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other class to expire at the end of the next quadrennium. This committee shall make arrangements for the meeting of the annual conference and shall recommend a location for the meeting of the annual conference a minimum of five years in advance.
- 20. Status and Role of Women in the Church, Commission on the.** There shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference. In addition, the conference United Methodist Women shall name one member. The Bishop may appoint to the commission a District Superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote. The majority of the commission, including both lay and clergy, shall be women. The chairperson shall be a woman.
- 21. Trustees, Board of.** There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 members, elected by the annual conference, organized and with responsibilities as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (¶¶ 2512-2517).

C. TASK FORCES

A task force may be established to accomplish a specific objective. If it is organized by direction of the annual conference, the authorizing legislation shall contain a termination date for the task force. Such task force desiring continuation beyond its termination date shall seek and receive their established termination dates (June or December). Task forces should not as a general rule exist beyond a four year term. Task forces may request funding for conference projects, but no task force shall disburse funds unless so directed by its parent board or requested to do so by the Common Table for Church Vitality and approved by the Council on Finance and Administration in its report to annual conference. A conference organized task force continuing beyond its first year shall annually request, in its report to annual conference, funding to cover operational costs in the succeeding year.

D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

Any proposal to the annual conference to amend or change the structure of any program board or agency at the division level or above may originate (1) upon recommendation of the board or agency itself and shall be submitted to the Common Table for Church Vitality for its recommendation; (2) upon recommendation of the Common Table for Church Vitality, provided such proposal shall have been submitted to the board itself for its recommendation; or (3) on petition of a member or members of the annual conference if such a petition has been previously submitted to the Common Table for Church Vitality and the board or agency for their recommendations, or if not previously so submitted in time for consideration by these organizations, such petition shall be referred to the Common Table for Church Vitality and the board or agency for their recommendations prior to action by the annual conference. Internal change below the division level shall be the responsibility of each board.

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶658).

B. AGENDA

The district superintendent, in consultation with the district lay leader, shall set the agenda for the district conference. The agenda shall include a report from the district committee on ordained ministry.

Members of the district conference shall elect the district lay leader (¶660.2) for a term of not less than four years and not more than six years. The district conference shall also elect the committee on the district superintendency (¶669.1,2), the district trustees (¶2518.2) and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The district committee on ordained ministry (¶666.1) and the district board of church location and building (¶2519) are approved or elected by the annual conference.

C. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of each district conference shall be composed of the following: all ordained and commissioned clergy, licensed local pastors, lay supply pastors, certified lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses and home missionaries related to that district; a church lay leader, chairperson of the church council*, church school superintendent, president of the United Methodist Women, and president of the chartered United Methodist Men from each local church in the district; the district steward from each charge; the lay member of the annual conference from each charge; and three members at large, one of whom shall be a youth, elected by each charge conference;.

District officers who are members of the district conference include*: the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries*, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, a representative of the district youth council*, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults*, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, and family ministries, other district coordinators and directors, five youth members elected

by the district youth council and five young adult members* elected by the District Council on Ministries*. Special attention shall be given to inclusiveness. *Designates or equivalent body

D. ELECTION OF DISTRICT LAY MEMBERS AT LARGE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

District members at large of the annual conference shall be elected by the lay members of the district conference. Nominations may be made in whatever manner the district determines, but provision shall always be made for nomination from the floor. Districts are encouraged to include members-at-large from non-chartered faith communities being served by clergy with voting rights at Annual Conference, provided that they meet the provisions of *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶602.4. Election shall be by written ballot, and those nominees receiving the most votes shall be the members at large, and the rest shall be alternates in order of the votes received up to the number of members at large and alternates allotted to each district by the annual conference.

E. RECORD OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The secretary of the district conference shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings and send a copy to the secretary of the annual conference within 30 days following the district conference.

VII. RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. RULES THAT APPLY WHEN THE CHAIRPERSON STANDS

When the chairperson stands and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.

B. VOTING AREA

The annual conference shall fix the voting area of the conference at the opening business session and voting on all annual conference matters must take place within the prescribed area. The voting area of the conference shall be separated from other areas at the meeting site. All entrances to the voting area shall be staffed by ushers and admission shall be by official badge only. All members of the conference within the voting area when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote except such persons as otherwise are ineligible to vote.

C. SUFFICIENT SEATS SHALL BE PROVIDED

Sufficient seats shall be provided for all lay, clergy, provisional, and associate members and all youth members, members on special assignment, and all other persons entitled by the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies to be within the voting area of the conference.

D. VOTERS TO DISPLAY PROPER CREDENTIALS

Members of the conference and others entitled to be seated within the voting area of the conference shall be furnished proper credentials as set forth in Appendix "A" (attached). During balloting, ballots will be distributed to and collected from only those persons displaying the proper credentials.

E. METHOD OF VOTING

Method of voting shall be determined by the presiding officer. A count vote may be ordered on call of any member supported by one third of the members present and voting, in which case the members shall arise as they are able from their seats and stand until counted.

F. EXCEPTIONS TO THE NO INTERRUPTION RULE

No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a question on the matter under consideration, a breach of order, a misrepresentation, to direct the attention of the conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

G. LIMITS ON SPEAKING

STANDING RULES

No member shall speak: 1. more than once on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor; 2. more than twice on the same subject under the same motion; 3. any longer than two minutes, unless this two minute period may be limited or extended by a two thirds vote of the conference.

H. HIGH PRIVILEGE

A member claiming the floor for a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question, and if it be adjudged by the chair to be such, he or she may proceed until the chairperson judges that he or she has exhausted the privilege.

I. CALL FOR DIVISION OF ANY QUESTION

Before a vote is taken any member shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as he or she indicates. If no member objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

J. MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITING

For the benefit of the secretary, and for the sake of clarification, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing. If an approved motion is requested to be sent to entities, the maker of the motion shall provide names and addresses to the Secretary of the Virginia Annual Conference.

K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

The operation of any of the provisions of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies or of these Rules of Order and Procedure may be suspended at any time by a two thirds vote of the conference.

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and these Rules of Order and Procedure may be amended or changed by a two thirds vote of the conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Rules Committee, or has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day.

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall apply to any and all situations not covered elsewhere by these rules.

NAME BADGE COLORS

GREEN (lay vote with full lay voting rights, ¶602.4)

- Lay Members
- At-Large District Lay Members
- District and Conference Lay Leaders
- Conference President of United Methodist Men
- Conference President of United Methodist Women
- Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries
- Conference Scouting Coordinator
- President or equivalent of Conference Young Adult Organization
- President of Conference Youth Organization
- Chair, Conference College Student Organization
- District Youth and Young Adult Members (one of each from each district)
- Diaconal Ministers
- Retired Diaconal Ministers
- Deaconesses (see also ¶1314.5)
- Home Missioners

STANDING RULES

WHITE (ordained deacons and elders in full connection with full voting rights, ¶602.1a)

FE Elder in Full Connection (¶334.1)

FD Deacon in Full Connection (¶329.2)

Note: Clergy on voluntary leaves of absence (personal, family, transitional) may vote for other clergy delegates to general or jurisdictional conferences and may be elected to serve as delegates themselves (¶354.7). Clergy on involuntary leave of absence may not vote on or be elected as delegates to general or jurisdictional conference (¶355.7).

RM & RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

WHITE (May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and clergy matters)

AM Associate Members (¶35 and ¶602.1c)

PM Probationary Member under *1992 Discipline* (¶413.2, *1992 Discipline*)

PD Provisional Deacon (¶35, ¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)

PE Provisional Elder (¶35, ¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)

EP Full member other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Elder (¶35, ¶347.3b, ¶327.2)

DP Deacon recognized from other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Deacon (¶35, ¶347.3b and ¶327.2)

RA Retired Associate Member (¶35, ¶602.1c)

RP Retired Probationary/Provisional Member (¶35, ¶327.2)

And the following who have completed the educational requirements (Five Year Course of Study, equivalency for the Five Year Course of Study based on approval of GBHEM and VA Conference BOM, or an M.Div. from an approved seminary) and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years at the time of voting (see ¶35 and Judicial Council ruling 1181):

FL Full-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)

PL Part-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)

WHITE (May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, and clergy matters)

OF Full member of another denomination (¶346.2)

And the following who have not met the requirements in the section above:

FL Full-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)

PL Part-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)

WHITE (voice but no vote)

AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (¶334.5)

RL Retired Local Pastor (¶320.5)

OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)

OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)

OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)

OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)

RAF Retired Affiliate Member, non-voting (¶334.5)

RED (no voice or vote)

SY Lay Supply

LM Certified Lay Minister

HL Honorable Location (¶359)

RHL Retired – Honorable Location (¶359.3)

MOD Minister of Another Denomination Serving an Ecumenical Parish in VA

G Official Guest

ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

BROWN (not official)

All others

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective January 1, 2006

I. PURPOSE

The Common Table for Church Vitality (“Common Table”) serves to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. It nurtures, interprets and promotes the vision of the Conference, as well as the mandates of The *Book of Discipline* which relate to Conference work. The Common Table lives out the values of the Conference (stated below in I.B.) in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the Conference.

A. MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

B. VALUES

The Conference shall embody the following values as it endeavors to assist all churches in the task of *making disciples*:

- ❖ Be led by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Grow spiritually and numerically.
- ❖ Serve the local church.
- ❖ Connect with and equip the local church for ministries of welcome, nurture and transformation.
- ❖ Develop and live out ministries to the poor.
- ❖ Strive for excellence.
- ❖ Model servant-leadership at all levels.
- ❖ Honor diversity and teach inclusivity.
- ❖ Practice simplicity.
- ❖ Communicate effectively, that others might also.
- ❖ Focus on ministry.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Common Table provides spiritual leadership for the Conference to carry out the Purpose of this Charter. The Common Table includes the following 14 voting positions and 2 non-voting positions:

A. VOTING MEMBERS

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader
3. Director of Connectional Ministries
4. Cabinet representative assigned by the bishop
5. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy representative (in accordance with ¶643.5)
6. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with ¶634.3)
7. Eight at-large members equally divided between clergy and laity in annual classes, including two young adult/youth representatives, as elected in III

B. NON-VOTING MEMBERS

1. Representative from Council on Finance and Administration assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration
2. The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table without vote.

It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference.

III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

1. Four of the Common Table at-large members (2 clergy and 2 laity) are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. Two of these at-large members must be young adult/youth representatives.
2. Four of the Common Table at-large members (2 clergy and 2 laity) are nominated by the Bishop and elected by the annual conference.

IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS

At-large members serve four year terms and are placed in annual classes. If a person is elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for reelection to a full four year term. In the event that a member resigns or dies during his/her term, a replacement shall be nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team or the Bishop, according to method of nomination, and elected by the Annual Conference with the replacement serving until the end of the original term. Any at-large member of the Common Table who is absent from two meetings without excuse or from three consecutive meetings for any reason shall automatically cease to be a member of the Common Table.

V. MEETINGS

The Common Table will meet at least quarterly, often in extended day format, to enhance the depth of its work and its own spiritual formation as a faith community. By invitation of the Common Table, others may meet with the Common Table to enhance its knowledge and understanding. Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*.

VI. OFFICERS

The Bishop, Conference Lay Leader and Director of Connectional Ministries will lead the Common Table in interpreting the Conference vision. The Director of Connectional Ministries is the Chairperson. The Conference Lay Leader is the Vice Chairperson. The Secretary of the Annual Conference is the Secretary of the Common Table, without vote.

VII. COMMITTEES

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Common Table shall appoint a Personnel Committee annually from within its members to assist with the selection and employment of all Conference program staff, both lay and clergy. The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as an ex officio member of this committee without vote.

B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Common Table may appoint a Grants Committee annually from among the members of the Conference to advise the Common Table on the following:

1. Grants for connectional ministries beyond the local level, funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, and
2. Program grants for local ministry projects funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, the United Methodist Women, and the Church Extension Fund.

C. OTHER COMMITTEES

The Common Table may designate such other committees as are necessary for its functioning.

VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF

- A. The Annual Conference shall elect annually upon nomination of the Bishop, and in consultation with the Common Table's Personnel Committee and the Cabinet, an executive officer to be known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. The responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries shall be but are not limited to the following:
1. To serve as the Chairperson of the Common Table and Co-chairperson, with the Conference Lay Leader, of the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team.
 2. To be a communication link between the Conference program agencies and Jurisdictional and General Conference program agencies.
 3. To facilitate communication among the Conference program agencies and the local churches.
 4. To serve as a resource person for district programs and the Common Table in the program planning, implementation and evaluation process.
 5. To supervise the Conference program staff persons.
 6. To serve on other Conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, and/or by the Common Table.
- B. Each clergy staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of the Common Table with the request that the Bishop would appoint him or her. Each lay staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of Common Table and employed by the Common Table. Nominations for staff members shall be presented to the Common Table after consultation with the appropriate boards and agencies.
- C. The Director of United Methodist Communications shall carry out the policies and program of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and shall cooperate with all agencies of the Conference in the use of the media to disseminate news that promotes the diverse work of the Church's life.
- D. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table and all of the boards and agencies in direct support of their work and shall oversee the financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- E. All Conference program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the administration and direction of the program staff.
- F. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.

IX. FINANCES

The Common Table shall present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration to cover the expenses for the work of the Common Table and the boards and agencies, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups for which it is responsible. The right of the Annual Conference boards and agencies to be heard by the Council on Finance and Administration shall not be denied, as provided by ¶614 the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

Semi-annual (or as often as necessary) meetings of Chairs (or designated representatives) of Conference Program Boards and Commissions that are under the oversight of Common Table will be held for the purpose of aligning conference program and mission with the vision of the Conference. A report of the Chairs' meetings will be provided to Common Table to assist in its responsibilities for its purpose of coordinating and prioritizing the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. The boards and commissions that are amenable to Common Table are:

- ❖ Board of Church and Society
- ❖ Board of Communications
- ❖ Board of Discipleship
- ❖ Missional Ministries Board
- ❖ Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
- ❖ Board of Laity
- ❖ Church Development Team
- ❖ Commission on Disabilities
- ❖ Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
- ❖ Commission on Status and Role of Women

OTHER ATTENDEES

- a. Conference Staff serving as primary staff resource to these boards and commissions will attend these meetings with voice but without vote.
- b. The Presidents (or designated representatives) of the Conference United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women will be encouraged to participate in these meetings.
- c. Chairs (or designated representatives) of Conference Administrative Boards that are not under the purview of Common Table will be encouraged to participate in these meetings.

The Director of Connectional Ministries shall chair these meetings.

XI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the charter not in conflict with *The Book of Discipline* may be made by a majority vote of the Annual Conference and originate as follows:

- (1) upon recommendation of the Common Table, or
- (2) upon petition of a member of the Annual Conference at least 60 days prior to the next annual conference session.

The Common Table shall review the petition(s) and submit its recommendations to the Annual Conference together with the proposed amendment.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality shall become effective January 1, 2006.

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Memoirs

Elizabeth Foss

Tellers

Robin BeMiller

	<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Lay:</i>
Alexandria District	Michelle Matthews	Leo Bonner
Arlington District	James Page	Thomas Feeney
Charlottesville District	Tim Worley	Frank Osburn
Danville District	Tammy Franklin	Mike Lewis
Eastern Shore District	Virginia Greer	Jake Canody
Elizabeth River District	TBD	TBD
Farmville District	Evelyn Penn	Jeff Postans
Harrisonburg District	Jonathan Lamb	Becky Downey
James River District	Barbara Lewis	Richard Speirs
Lynchburg District	Jane Whitehead	Andy Whitehead
Rappahannock River District	Rebecca Minor	Kay Wright
Richmond District	Larry Cochran	Ruth Wilkinson
Roanoke District	Robert Haley	J. Michael Sanborn
Staunton District	Nancy Palmer	Linda White
Winchester District	Cindy Rainger	Susan Schall
York River District	Mike Nelson	TBD

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference met twice this past year. We had many recommendations sent to our committee over the past year and I believe the committee has worked really well together and put much thought into our Standing Rules of Order and Procedure and those recommendations. Our parliamentarians, members of this Rules Committee, this year have all received the proper training that was approved at our last Annual Conference. In our February 2020 meeting we elected our new officers for the next quadrennium. We have reviewed the Virginia Annual Conference Standing Rules and the following are our Proposals.

The first proposal (recommendation 1) includes adding a statement in the Preamble regarding the relationship of these Standing Rules to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

The second proposal (recommendation 2) has to do with a conversation by our Rules Committee and the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality ("Common Table") was always an addendum to the Standing Rules, but never fully incorporated into the Rules. This recommendation would formally include their presence into the Purpose of the Annual Conference.

The third proposal (recommendation 3) is a name change that Common Table has requested. This would be effective throughout the entirety of the Standing Rules changing the term "Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team" to simply the "Conference Nominations Team"

The fourth proposal (recommendations 4 & 5) makes changes to the manner of the distribution of the *Book of Reports*.

The fifth proposal (recommendation 6) changes the title under Proposals to allow for the possibility of something not being added to the agenda using this rule.

The sixth proposal (recommendation 7) allows for nominations of those clergy who may soon be eligible as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. *The Book of Discipline* states very clearly that those who are elected must be in full connection, but not those who are nominated.

The seventh proposal (recommendation 8) is to correct a typographical error and with an updated cross-reference within our Standing Rules.

The eighth proposal (recommendation 9) is to update our Standing Rules to be in accordance with the requirements of *The Book of Discipline* ¶34, 2016.

The ninth proposal (recommendations 10 & 11) are about balloting for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates. This would create a new paragraph that would keep the two separate voting bodies equal as to how a bishop handles a large portion of invalid ballots.

The tenth proposal (recommendations 12-21) is to reflect changes the Board of Laity is requesting for its membership. I would like to note that recommendation 21 reads the full paragraph with all the changes made.

The eleventh proposal (recommendation 22) is a change in the purpose of the Bishop's Foundation from a focus of providing training to providing funding for leadership development.

The twelfth proposal (recommendation 23) changes the membership of the United Methodist Foundation.

The thirteenth proposal (recommendation 24) is a request from the Virginia United Methodist Board of Pensions and Related Benefits to change the structure of their board to allow them to have more classes and less turnover in one quadrennium.

The fourteenth proposal (recommendation 25) changes the number of years in advance that the Conference Site Selection Committee will need to recommend locations for Annual Conference from five years to three years.

The fifteenth proposal (recommendation 26) inserts an appendix that was referenced in Standing Rule VII.D

– Joshua S. King, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

Changes Recommended by Rules Committee

1. Preamble – insert new 3rd paragraph as follows "The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall apply to any and all situations not covered elsewhere by these rules."
2. Paragraph I.A – insert at end of sentence, "The Common Table for Church Vitality ("Common Table") serves to co-

ordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. It nurtures, interprets and promotes the vision of the Conference, as well as the mandates of *The Book of Discipline* which relate to Conference work. The Common Table lives out the values of the Conference in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the Conference.”

3. Paragraph I.D.1 and all other references – Strike all references of “The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team” and insert “Conference Nominations Team.”
4. Paragraph II.A.1 – In the second sentence, strike “mail” and insert “make available”
5. Paragraph II.A.1 – Strike at the end of the second sentence, “, printing and mailing at conference expense.” and insert period after “conference”.
6. Paragraph II.D.3 – Change title of paragraph from “Proposals Requiring Addition to Agenda” to “Proposals for Consideration as Additions to the Agenda”
7. Paragraph III.C.1.a – 2nd Sentence – insert after full connection “and those who are recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry to full membership in the connection”
8. Paragraph III.D.5 – strike from second sentence reference “(III.D.3.)” and insert “of the Annual Conference (I.B.3)”
9. Paragraph III.D.6.c – insert at the end of the sentence “and nominated from the floor.”
10. Paragraph III.E.5.(b) – insert “invalid” in between “of” and “ballots”
11. Paragraph III.E.5.(b) – strike “not valid”
12. Paragraph III.E – create new subpoint 6 to read: “6. Conditions for a Revote. After the ballots have been counted and reported, if the number of collective invalid ballots exceeds 15%, the Bishop shall declare the prior ballot invalid and shall order a revote.” And then renumber all subsequent paragraphs under III.E appropriately.
13. Paragraph V.A.4.f – second sentence – strike “to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering people so that they might effectively partner with each other and their pastors to live out God’s call as they lead the church in transforming the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.” and insert “is to fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and carry out the vision of the Annual Conference to be “Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”
14. Paragraph V.A.4.f – third sentence – strike “three” and insert “four”
15. Paragraph V.A.4.f – third sentence – strike “sixteen (16)”
16. Paragraph V.A.4.f – third sentence – following “district lay leaders,” insert, “, One Connectional Ministries staff representative,”
17. Paragraph V.A.4.f – fourth sentence – Insert at the beginning of the sentence, “No more than” and lowercase “Three”
18. Paragraph V.A.4.f – fourth sentence – place period after Executive Committee and strike “to serve as ex-officio members.”
19. Paragraph V.A.4.f – fifth sentence – strike entire sentence.
20. Paragraph V.A.4.f – Insert new sentence following “Executive Committee” as follows, “The Conference Director of Scouting Ministries is to be appointed by the President and approved by the Board with voice representation.”
21. NOTE TO READER: The new paragraph V.A.4.f with these corrections shall read as follows:

“The Board of Laity shall act as an advocate for the Virginia Annual Conference laity in all forums of the annual conference. The purpose of the Board of Laity is to fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and carry out the vision of the Annual Conference to be “Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.” Membership of the Board of Laity shall be composed of the conference lay leader, four associate conference lay leaders, the Conference Director(s) of Lay Servant Ministries,

the presidents of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women or their designees, Young People's Representative selected by the Youth or Young Adult Council, district lay leaders, one Connectional Ministries staff representative, one District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, and the Bishop. No more than three clergy who model excellence in the lay-clergy partnership for ministry will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Conference Director of Scouting Ministries is to be appointed by the President and approved by the Board with voice representation. The Board of Laity shall nominate to the annual conference for election a layperson to be the conference lay leader for the ensuing four years. Any person elected to the office of conference lay leader shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, or a total of eight (8) years."

22. Paragraph V.B.2 – first sentence – strike “training” and insert “funding”.
23. Paragraph V.B.10 – strike “pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 2016; fourteen (14) of the twenty-three (23) trustees shall be elected by the Annual Conference.” and insert “pursuant to the Foundation charter the directors elected by Annual Conference shall be no less than fourteen (14) or no less than 60% of the total Foundation Directors. As the total number of Foundation directors can fluctuate from year to year, the Foundation will confirm annually with the Director of Connectional ministries on the number necessary to meet the Annual Conference 60% requirement.”
24. Paragraph V.B.15 – Strike “15. Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency” and replace with “15. Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members serving eight-year terms, and arranged into classes at the agency’s discretion. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the Wespath shall also be a member of the agency”
25. Paragraph V.B.19 – last sentence – strike “five” and insert “three”
26. Pursuant to Paragraph VII.D insert “Appendix A” above “Name Badge Colors”

– Rev. Joshua S. King, Chair

CABINET REPORT 2020

Glad for her restored health, we welcomed Bishop Sharma Lewis back from her six month medical. We share her gratitude for the service and leadership of interim Bishop Peter Weaver during her absence. Under her guidance throughout the year, the Cabinet has sought to lead faithfully in the midst of possibilities and challenges, including a global pandemic and nationwide racial justice movement. The District Superintendents' ministry is formed by our regular worship together, the community forged in our cluster covenant groups, and the ways we address difficulties and opportunities with honesty and grace. Our work together, including appointment-making, is wrapped in prayer empowered by the Holy Spirit and focused on fruitfulness. Across our conference each district is engaging in contextual ministry and mission.

The **Alexandria District** has been learning to be adept as well as adaptive in the face of both expected and unexpected challenges and opportunities; revitalizing existing churches with initiatives like Next Level Innovations and Shift Plus; equipping laypersons for new missional initiatives with Neighborhood Seminary; supporting clergy through peer learning; and supporting new congregations taking next steps in planting new campuses, moving into independence from anchor churches, and becoming more multicultural. Our District Training day featured an inspiring presentation by Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Cruz on how to develop multicultural congregations. All of this before we pivoted to online worship across the district, mission in the time of economic distress, digital disciple-making and distance pastoral care.

The **Arlington District** warmly welcomed a new District Superintendent this year. Although this was not the year that anyone expected, we are incredibly proud of the way the District churches have risen to the challenges of denominational division, leading in a pandemic, and seeking racial justice. In a time of uncertainty, they have embraced a vision of "Leading in Love" and they have worked hard at staying calm, connected and on course with the mission. Our new Arlington Lay Leader, Karen McElfish, has been instrumental in helping to develop better relationships between the District and laity leadership. Six Arlington churches completed the ShiftPlus program, developing skills for needed changes. New churches have entered into Next Level Innovations and they join six others from the District in the powerful and ongoing work of moving from good to great. We look forward as a District to whatever the future holds and will stay adaptable and innovative to help make disciples and transform our communities!

In the **Charlottesville District**, we continue to support the Central Virginia Mission HUB ministry. This year the HUB expanded into other districts and even participated in a shoe drive. We also are working hard on a ministry for individuals with developmental disabilities called Rachel's Haven which will be on the property of Hinton Avenue UMC. The laity and clergy of the district continue to be faithful and obedient disciples offering Christ to their communities and to the world. I personally appreciate the creativity of the clergy and laity during this season of the COVID-19 virus. It has simply been amazing to witness and shows their commitment to be the Church.

The **Danville District** continues its commitment to vital mission that sees the needs of our communities and responds with the Love of Christ, expressed in real and tangible ways. The Henry Fork Service Center welcomed its new Director, Jessica Hunt, this year. The Center offers child care and community support in an under-resourced area of Franklin County. Martinsville area churches have joined together to provide a Warming Center for the homeless, as well as the continuing outreach of relationship, food, clothes and support offered by so many of the local churches. In addition, Smith Memorial launched a new ministry, "Just Ask Granny" to provide support to parents and grandparents as they raise children. Our Patrick County churches continue to care for the elderly and those in need, and the Danville area churches were key in continuing recovery from Hurricane Michael, that caused extensive damage. These are a few examples of what God is doing in and through the local churches on the district. The churches in the Danville District have responded to the COVID crisis by innovating worship and connection that keeps the church family strong and grounded in the love of Christ. The Danville District is blessed to serve together as we live authentically as disciples of Jesus, sharing love and growing in faith.

The **Eastern Shore District** continues to offer ministry to new populations. A developing partnership with Just Neighbors is offering immigration services on the Shore. Craddockville UMC has begun a new Restoration Ministries to connect with persons returning from incarceration, substance abuse rehabilitation, and the military. The Agape Christian

Children's Community Center provides pre-school and after-school programs for children in northern Accomack County.

The **Elizabeth River District** is working hard to equip the laity and clergy to reach new people by getting out into the community in the midst of this pandemic. Our churches quickly adapted to online worship, daily devotions and caring for its' congregants in innovative ways. Churches having been connecting to their communities to feed the needy and provide spiritual care for all. Over 31 churches have followed the Technical Assistance Manual to create safe in-person worship experiences to parishioners.

The **Farmville District** is blessed to be the hands and feet of Christ over the 5500 square miles that make up the Farmville District. Local churches of every size touch the lives of people every day, sharing the Love of Christ through relationship, food, and support for the challenges of everyday life. Just a few examples include the Latina ministry at Trinity on the Amelia Charge launching a Mothers' of Preschoolers (MOP) ministry; Memorial offering a new, vibrant Celebrate Recovery Ministry and Journey Ministries touching hearts and lives with the diner, thrift store and lively worship. Thousands of dollars have been poured back into the community to help those in need. Rev. Mike Davis, founding pastor, went home to the Lord in February; but he has left us with a legacy of caring that is being taken up by the Journey family and the Farmville District. The clergy and laity of the Farmville District have been creative in innovating worship and connection. Many churches have experienced increased engagement through a new online presence. We are grateful for all of the ways that God is using the churches of the Farmville District to tell the story of God's love in life-giving and life-saving ways.

In the fall of 2019, the **Harrisonburg District** sent an invitation to its clergy and laity to intentionally observe spiritual practices such as fasting, praying, Scriptural discernment, silent retreats, etc. The intentionality on these spiritual practices allow us to be in a deeper relationship with God and makes us stronger in our faith, which has become our number one priority including months of fasting, scripture reading, prayer revivals, anointing and discernment. The charge conferences of the District had a holistic approach where we gathered and had Encounters with Jesus and the charges participated in amazing ways. We worshipped God together and shared the Lord's Supper, making it a solemn time and thus creating a deeper relationship with God. We learned about Leadership and explored what God wants us to do; we affirmed the laity and the clergy; we prayed for each of our pastors by laying hands and being surrounded by a prayer shawl; and we shared God's love by being the hands and feet of Jesus in supporting and putting together 1,200 school kits. What an amazing way to share God's love!

The **James River District** is committed to grow in "loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves," as we navigate the changes, challenges, and opportunities of general conference, a pandemic, and racial relationship healing. Our focus is on modeling, teaching, and encouraging leaders and congregations who are deeply rooted in spiritual discernment, making space and time to listen to and hear God's will for us as the church. We are seeking the fullness of God in ourselves and our neighbors as we listen, learn, and live together.

The **Lynchburg District's** 58 individual charge conferences were inspirational as church leaders shared ways in which God is at work within and beyond their congregation, calling them to take next steps in ministry together. Sixteen clergy are participating in our second year long coaching cohort led by Rev. Jim Chandler with Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Lynchburg District Revitalization Coordinator, equipping clergy for pastoral leadership in the 21st century. The Park View Community Mission Center continues to grow: Food for Families (a neighbor choice food pantry); Food for Thought (a backpack feeding program); Park View Café (a Wednesday night supper); Community Resource Center (helping neighbors learn the essentials to get ahead); and the Life Skills Institute (finding solutions and meeting needs in partnership with our neighbors).

Uncertainty looms over the future of our beloved denomination, but the **Rappahannock River District** has not lost sight of the missional objective of the UMC. We continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We remain focused on the needs of the members of our congregations and communities to find out what hurts or breaks their hearts. And then, we are finding creative and innovative ways to make a difference in each situation.

Despite the challenges of 2020 and by God's grace the **Richmond District** has pursued God's kingdom work within a hard year! We have worshipped and done ministry in innovative ways. We have welcomed another four churches into this year's cohort of Next Level Innovations (NLI) and we have expanded our new Indian Ministry as it reaches a rapidly

growing segment of our Richmond community. In spite of challenges, after saying heartfelt farewell to Rev. Pete Moon, our clergy and laity are creatively and faithfully spreading Christ to the world, expecting God's great things beyond what we can think or imagine (Eph 3;20-21).

The **Roanoke District's** Share the Light Mission Initiative raised over \$50,000 and sponsored an UMVIM team to deliver and set up Solar Panel units in Vieques, Puerto Rico. Vision 2020: Seeing the World Clearly Through God's Eyes focused the annual Wesley VT led district youth retreat. The District Common Table sponsored Leading on the Edge 2.0 on Racial Reconciliation in February and in June offered grants for church signage denouncing racism. With the disruptions of the pandemic, the Common Table also offered grants for local churches for establishing online giving and to prepare for on-line worship and re-opening for in-person worship.

On the **Staunton District**, Children and Youth have been key in building relationships sparked by the Secret Boutique ministry, in its third year on the campus of the former Wayne Hills UMC, engaging less-privileged Junior and Senior High students by providing clothes, personal hygiene supplies, and skills as well as haircuts in a salon-like environment. Born of these ministry connections is EMBRACE – Waynesboro, a Fresh Expressions worship-community using a dinner-church model, broadening our reach with community gardens, cooking and nutrition classes in Spanish and English, WIC clinics, tutoring and a teen computer lab. With support this year from our first UM ARMY mission teams from VA and PA, the Secret Boutique was able to spin off new sites in Harrisonburg/JMU as well as the city of Staunton. To the west, a large mission crew of Youth from seven District churches spent a week last June landscaping and painting Epworth UMC (Selma VA), to enhance this small church's excellent work with children in the Allegheny Highlands. We also witnessed God's hands at work in the inception of legal services for our immigrant/refugee community, via partnership with Just Neighbors, Basic UMC and EMBRACE. To God be the glory!

During the past Conference year, the **Winchester District** had as its focused theme, "Discipleship Pathways: Lifelong Learners, Influencing, and Serving." We have explored, through a variety of means, how these three discipleship areas can be enhanced through effective strategic planning for all size churches. Some of the topics we addressed were: Strategic Planning as Missional Strategy, Learning as a Strategy Using Small Groups, The Essence of Worship, Influencing as a Strategy of Evangelism, Staying Connected within the Connection, Technical Training, and Serving as a Missionary Strategy. The adaptive learning we accomplished through this vision focused theme proved to be mission-critical as the clergy and the laity of the District pivoted to be the Church Christ has called us to be within our current COVID19 health crisis and our call to action against systemic racism. The 77 local churches and extension ministries of the District are highly focused on the Conference Vision as God's plan for us in a season such as this; this focus is fruitful. We also report, with eternal joy even amid our current global struggles, that there were 163 Professions of Faith and 127 Baptisms on the Winchester District in 2019 – may God be praised!

As the **York River District** continues to celebrate God's faithfulness, several strategies have been implemented to assist the churches in these unsettling times: District Clergy Association created space for worship, fellowship, and conversation through gatherings and retreat; District Board of Missions funded various local church missions, Dinner Church Encounter training and Launch Cohort training to start new ministries, and two phases of Discipleship training for clergy and laity to focus on their own Christian discipleship journey by developing personal discipleship pathway as well as congregational discipleship pathway. Several lay persons were trained to serve as Discipleship Coach/Facilitator to assist Pastors and churches for the process. All these efforts have served to create synergy and to instill a sense of excitement in the District. Although we have been hard pressed and perplexed due to COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to worship faithfully and to serve creatively.

The Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Treasurer, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, and the Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence serve as members of the **Extended Cabinet** to inform and provide a connection between the program and missional ministries of the annual conference and the work of the Cabinet. We welcomed the Reverend Dr. Ted Smith to his new role as Director of Connectional Ministries. We offer our gratitude for all that retiring Lay Leader Warren Harper and Director of Congregational Excellence the Rev. Mark Ogren have shared.

Each year as transitions occur through appointments we give thanks for the variety of gifts, skills, and experiences of the Appointive Cabinet. We say “farewell” to the Reverend Dr. Peter Moon and the Reverend David Rochford who will receive new appointments and to the Reverend Kathleen Overby Webster who will enter retirement. We warmly welcome the Reverend Jay Carey, the Reverend Douglas Forrester, and the Reverend Dr. Hyo Lee.

We are exceedingly grateful to the Reverend Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, and Mrs. Terri Biggins, the Bishop’s administrative assistant, for their dedicated support and assistance.

We are blessed that the Cabinet Covenant shapes our life and leadership: *We the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference, covenant with each other to be a Holy Table where Christ is our servant example and Lord; where we joyfully hold each other in disciplines of prayer, study, worship, service and physical self-care; where the truth is told and honored; where we support one another in the effort to maintain confidentiality, through words/action of grace and in the spirit of love; where trust is the rule, brokenness is received with mercy, pain is healed with grace and forgiveness is sought, given and accepted; where the health of the whole Body of Christ is desired over that of any one part; where we seek perfection in love for God and for each other.*

– Jeffrey Mickle, Dean

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee is responsible for making the arrangements for the meeting of the Annual Conference and is to identify and recommend the location for the Virginia Annual Conference to meet. Beginning last year and forward, the Annual Conference convenes on Thursday and concludes on Saturday as set by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis.

By previous Annual Conference action, the following locations have been approved for the site of the Annual Conference:

Hampton	June 17-19, 2021
Hampton	June 16-18, 2022
Roanoke	June 15-17, 2023
Roanoke	June 20-22, 2024

Under the current Virginia Annual Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, the Site Selection Committee would recommend a location five (5) years in advance of meeting. Under the 2020 proposed Standing Rules, the Site Selection Committee would recommend a location three (3) years in advance of the Annual Conference meeting.

The Site Selection Committee is recommending to amend the report accepted at the 2019 Annual Conference, to reflect the NEW RULE that is proposed at the beginning of the 2020 Annual Conference, and to accept only the next three years of location recommendation, which had previously been approved.

REPORT OF THE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The Equitable Compensation Commission continues to provide financial aid to those churches requiring supplementation to strengthen their ministries in the communities in which they are located and to provide minimum salary or salary supplementation for the pastors. Equitable Compensation support in the amount of \$215,821 was provided to 33 charges in 2019. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2018 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the *Journal*.

There were 5 charges receiving salary support in 2018 that did not require salary support in 2019. These are Fieldale-Mount Bethel Cooperative Parish (Danville), First UMC (Elizabeth River), Long Mountain Charge (Lynchburg), Two County Cooperative Parish (Danville), and Wesley UMC Colonial Heights (James River). These charges and their superintendents are commended for their success in providing a ministry in the communities they serve that has enabled them to grow spiritually in their stewardship.

District Superintendents and charges setting salaries for 2021 that may require supplementation are advised that the “floor” must come from sources other than the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) for 2021 is \$64,904, which is an increase of 0.5% percent from 2020. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2021 and recommends the schedules remain the same as 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Minimum Compensation Schedule: 2021 Proposed 2020 Approved

- a. Full Connection Pastors \$42,000 \$42,000
- b. Provisional and Associate Members \$38,500 \$38,500
- c. Local Pastors \$36,000 \$36,000

2. The Floor Schedule:

- a. Full Connection Pastors \$28,000 \$28,000
- b. Provisional and Associate Members \$25,600 \$25,600
- c. Local Pastors \$24,000 \$24,000

The Equitable Compensation Financial Report for 2017-2019 is provided below:

	Year Ending 2017	Year Ending 2018	Year Ending 2019
Apportioned	350,000	350,000	300,000
Uncollected Apportionment	(36,432)	(41,327)	(52,561)
Apportionment Income	313,568	308,673	308,673
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>89.59%</i>	<i>88.19%</i>	<i>82.48%</i>
Grants	175,506	225,094	222,190
Sustenance fund grant	6,513		
Meeting Expense & Other	373	63	75
Total Expenses	182,391	225,157	222,265
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	131,176	83,516	25,173

– Rev. Joseph T. Carson, III, Chair

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

Section I: Reports

■ **Report 1: Role & Responsibilities of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.**

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church directs each annual conference to establish a conference board of pension, auxiliary to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath), to have charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the United Methodist Church, its institutions, organizations, and agencies within each annual conference except as otherwise provided for by Wespath.

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference (VAUMC) established and incorporated the Virginia Methodist Pensions, Incorporation, (subsequently renamed on February 2, 1971 to Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., or “VUMPI,”) as its conference board of pension.

VUMPI, in conjunction with Wespath, develops and administers the numerous employee pension and benefit plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference. Some plans are employer-paid, while others are voluntary and 100 percent participant-paid:

<p><u>VUMPI Plans</u></p> <p>Health</p> <p>Prescription</p> <p>Dental</p> <p>Vision</p> <p>Supplemental Life</p> <p>Voluntary Life</p> <p>Long Term Care</p> <p>Healthcare Flexible Spending Account</p> <p>Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account</p>
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<p><u>Wespath Plans</u></p> <p>Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82)</p> <p>Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)</p> <p>Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB)</p> <p>Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Contribution (CRSP-DC)</p> <p>United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)</p> <p>Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)</p>

■ **Report 2: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans**

VUMPI administers health plans for full time clergy of the Virginia Conference, as well as retired clergy who meet eligibility requirements based on years of ministry in the Virginia Conference. Details of the Conference-sponsored health plans follow:

Active Clergy Health Plans

Health plans recommended to be made available in 2021 are unchanged from the plans offered in 2020. Health plans available to clergy serving in full time appointments in the Virginia Conference include the following:

- **PPO Core:** \$1,000 individual deductible, \$2,500 family deductible, 20% coinsurance
- **PPO Buy-Up:** \$750 individual deductible, \$1,875 family deductible, and 20% coinsurance
- **HSA plan:** a plan with a higher deductible (\$2,250 individual, \$4,500 family) as required by Internal Revenue Service rules for HSAs, a Conference contribution to the Health Savings Account (\$750 for individual tier enrollees, \$1,500 for all other tier enrollees), 20% coinsurance

A fourth health plan which is currently offered, and which is made available only to clergy on medical leave with CPP disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy, is recommended to continue to be offered in 2021 with no plan design changes.

A small group of participants in the previously offered Clergy Managed Care Plan, which is a high deductible health plan that is not eligible for HSA contributions, maintained eligibility to enroll in that plan in 2019 and 2020 due to remaining medical credits in the plan. Clergy enrolled in the Clergy Managed Care Plan in 2020 will have the option to remain enrolled in that plan in 2021, with no changes in the plan design or participant contributions. VUMPI encourages those who elect to remain enrolled in the Clergy Managed Care Plan in 2021 to utilize remaining medical credits under the plan, as the Clergy Managed Care Plan is not expected to be made available beyond 2021.

The vision plan will continue to be offered in 2021, with no changes in the plan design.

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI are also recommended to continue to be offered in 2021 with no plan design changes.

The majority of the cost of the health plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

Retired Clergy Health Plans

VUMPI administers health plans for eligible retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. The eligibility requirements include a minimum of ten years of full time ministry in either Virginia Conference church appointments or Extension Ministry appointments with enrollment in the Conference-sponsored health plans.

Plans made available to eligible retirees are coordinated with Medicare eligibility. Specific plans for retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare and the program for Medicare-eligible clergy are described below:

Conference-sponsored health plan for pre-Medicare-eligible retirees: retirees who are eligible to enroll in the Conference-sponsored retired clergy health plan but who are not yet eligible to enroll in Medicare may enroll in the self funded PPO Core or PPO Buy-Up plans administered by VUMPI. Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees may also enroll in the self funded dental insurance program and the fully insured vision program made available to active clergy. The majority of the cost of the health plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

Conference-sponsored health plan for Medicare-eligible retirees: retirees who are eligible to enroll in the Conference-sponsored retired clergy health plan and who are also enrolled in Medicare have two options for retiree medical coverage.

The first option is the Group Plan, which is a group Medicare Advantage plan created specifically for Virginia Conference retirees. The Group Plan integrates the retiree's Medicare benefit and includes prescription drug coverage. The majority of the cost of the Group Plan is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

The second option made available to eligible retirees who are enrolled in Medicare is the Connector option. Under the Connector option, Medicare-eligible retirees are able to select any Medicare Supplement plan or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. The Conference will provide funding through a Retiree Reimbursement Account ("RRA"), and those funds can be used to partially or fully offset the cost of the coverage elected through the Connector option. The RRA funding made available to retirees who elect coverage through the Connector option is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the elected health plan coverage, if any, is paid by the retiree directly to United Healthcare.

■ Report 3: Pension Plan Structure

There are four components to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP):

- A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) for service and benefits accrued on and/or prior to December 31, 1981.
- B. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2006.
- C. Clergy Retirement Security Program - Defined Benefit Plan (CRSP-DB) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 2007.
- D. Clergy Retirement Security Program - Defined Contribution Plan (CRSP-DC) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 2007.

Wespath refers to plans A – C above as defined benefit ("DB") pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a

certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement. Hence, the term “defined benefit.” Defined benefit plans do not maintain participant account balances since the employer, or in our case, Wespeth, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

Simultaneous to Wespeth calculating each participant’s defined benefit, it calculates each annual conference’s cost to provide these defined benefits. Wespeth bills each annual conference the amount due. Each annual conference, or in our case, VUMPI, then in-turn bills and apportions our local churches for the cost of these plans.

In addition to these defined benefit plans, annual conferences provide their clergy pension benefits from the CRSP-DC, a defined contribution (“DC”) plan. Each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference serves and receives pension credit, the Virginia Conference determines how much pension contribution each clergy participant will receive in his/her pension account. VUMPI bills local churches for the required amount of pension contribution, then in-turn, makes monthly contributions into the clergy CRSP-DC accounts.

■ **Report 4: Welfare Plans Structure**

The welfare plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy include the Comprehensive Protection Plan (“CPP”) sponsored by Wespeth, as well as supplemental benefits sponsored independently by VUMPI.

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

- For Clergy disabled on or after Jan. 1, 2002, the CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC.
- For Clergy disabled prior to Jan. 1, 2002, they will continue to receive the same CPP disability benefit per the plan document in-force at the time their disability claim originated.

The following generally describes the death benefit amounts payable under the CPP to eligible participants and their beneficiaries:

Active Participant Death Benefits: payable upon the death of an eligible active CPP participant, as follows:

- Participant: \$50,000, payable in 12 monthly installments or one lump sum
- Spouse of active participant: 20% of DAC in the year of death
- Surviving spouse of active participant: 15% of DAC in the year of death
- Child of active participant: 10% of DAC in the year of death
- Annual surviving spouse annuity benefit of 20% of DAC, less the annuity benefit payable from CRSP and other Church-related sources
- Annual surviving child benefit of 10% of DAC, payable in 12 monthly installments (for those age 17 and younger; benefits are paid through the month in which the child attains age 18)
- Annual surviving child educational benefit up to 20% of DAC, payable in equal installments (for those age 18 through 24 and attending school full-time)

Retired Participant Death Benefits: to be eligible for death benefits in retirement, a clergyperson must have been covered in CPP for a specified number of years. The 2012 General Conference approved a change to the CPP program which increases the length of service requirement for retirees. Retirees with 25 or more years of enrollment in CPP are eligible for the death benefits in retirement, and the eligibility criteria for those with fewer than 25 years in CPP is phased in with one-year increments, as detailed in the table on the next page:

REPORTS

Retirement Year	CPP Enrollment Requirement for Death Benefit Eligibility
2013	6 of last 10 years
2014	7 of last 10 years
2015	8 of last 11 years
2016	9 of last 12 years
2017	10 of last 13 years
2018	11 of last 14 years
2019+	12 of last 15 years

The death benefit amounts associated with retired participants are detailed in the table below:

Plan Provision	Clergy Who Retired Before Jan. 1, 2013	Clergy Who Retire Jan. 1, 2013 or Later
Death of retired participant	30% of DAC in the year of death	\$20,400
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in the year of death	\$15,300
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in the year of death	\$10,200
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in the year of death	\$8,160
Annual surviving child benefit, payable in 12 monthly installments	10% of DAC	10% of DAC
Annual surviving child educational benefit, payable in installments	20% of DAC	20% of DAC

The Conference Supplemental Death Benefit for active eligible clergy under episcopal appointment, and who are enrolled in CPP, is \$25,000. The Conference Supplemental Death Benefit is payable in addition to the CPP death benefit. During retirement, a \$5,000 Conference Supplemental Death Benefit will be payable to CPP participants, in addition to the CPP death benefit. The beneficiary will receive the Conference Supplemental Death Benefit payable in one lump sum. The Conference pays the entire cost of this Supplemental Death Benefit.

- In combination, the CPP and Conference Supplemental Death Benefit provide total death benefits as follows:
- \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants
- 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 (or \$25,400 for those retiring January 1, 2013 or later) to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants

Gift Benefit

VUMPI currently elects to provide a one time \$1,500 gift at the time of retirement or disability (once awarded disability benefits under the Comprehensive Protection Plan) to each clergyperson who has served at least ten years of service in a full-time Virginia Annual Conference episcopal appointment in the Virginia Conference with pension credit. Further, a gift to the family of each clergyperson meeting the eligibility criteria above who dies in active service is paid in the same amount as the gift to retired or disabled clergypersons.

■ **Report 5: Denominational Average Compensation**

Several of the pension and welfare plans incorporate the Denominational Average Compensation (“DAC”) into the formula for determining the plan benefit. The formula VUMPI uses for funding those plans relies on the DAC, as well.

As reported by Wespath, the DAC is projected to increase from 2020 to 2021 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2020	\$72,648
2021	\$74,199



Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

■ **Recommendation 1: 2021 Pension and Health Plan Apportionment Recommendations**

For 2021, VUMPI recommends a total Clergy Benefit Apportionment of \$15,770,000. This represents a reduction of \$750,000 from 2020’s Clergy Benefits Apportionments, and is the seventh consecutive year in which VUMPI’s recommended apportionments are either unchanged from or less than the preceding year’s apportionments. The total benefits apportionment amount includes funding for the Active Clergy Health Plan (which includes health care coverage for eligible clergy on medical leave and widowed spouses of active clergy) and the Retired Clergy Health Plan. The apportionment total is allocated between these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2020	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 9,710,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,060,000
TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 15,770,000

VUMPI recommends the above Active Clergy Health and Retired Clergy Health apportionments as part of its broad strategy focused on maintaining adequate health plans for Virginia Conference active and retired clergy, while moderating the financial impact on local churches and individual participants to the extent possible.

While there continues to be an unfunded liability associated with the Pre-82 pension program, VUMPI is not recommending a Pre-82 apportionment in 2021. The Pre-82 funding obligation that will be required to be paid in 2021 will be paid from VUMPI’s financial reserves. The suspension of the Pre-82 apportionment in 2021 is made possible by VUMPI’s financial reserve strategy, under which certain reserve assets have been notionally made available to fund the ongoing Pre-82 pension liability. It is possible that the Pre-82 pension apportionment could be reintroduced in the future.

VUMPI will continue to bill Conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministries) in 2021. The amount billed will be \$11,664 (\$972 per month) for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2021 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

■ **Recommendation 2: 2021 Participant Contribution Recommendations**

A key component of VUMPI’s strategy is the administration of clergy health plans which provide sufficient and affordable health care coverage. VUMPI works closely with consultants and advisors to construct plan designs which are designed for long term financial sustainability, while optimizing both coverage and costs for enrolled clergy and their families. VUMPI is recommending no changes in participant contributions for any of the Conference-sponsored health plans for 2021.

REPORTS

Active Clergy:

	Medical Plans			Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$102	\$130	\$80	\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$308	\$351	\$263	\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$312	\$357	\$269	\$51	\$100
Family	\$325	\$389	\$280	\$60	\$109

Note: active clergy have the opportunity to earn a \$15 reduction in Individual contribution rate or \$30 reduction in Family contribution rate through participation in the Virginia Conference wellness program.

Clergy on Voluntary Leave, Sabbatical, or Retired Under ¶358.2.a (With Twenty Years of Service) or ¶358.3 (Prior to Age 62 With Fewer Than Thirty Years of Service):

	Medical Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$642	\$723	\$31	\$60
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$1,429	\$1,549	\$51	\$124
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$1,548	\$1,678	\$53	\$126
Family	\$1,994	\$2,162	\$64	\$137

Clergy on Medical Leave with CPP Benefits & Under Age 65 Surviving Spouses of Clergy

	Medical Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO (\$500 deductible)		Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$112		\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$171		\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$174		\$51	\$100
Family	\$185		\$60	\$109

Retired Clergy Under Age 65 – Retired Under ¶358.1, ¶358.2b, ¶358.2c, or ¶358.3

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	PPO Core		PPO Buy-up	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$701	\$1,600	\$834	\$1,901
15-19	\$568	\$1,295	\$675	\$1,539
20-24	\$434	\$991	\$516	\$1,177
25-29	\$301	\$686	\$357	\$814
30+	\$167	\$381	\$199	\$453

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	Dental Core		Dental Major	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
15-19	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
20-24	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
25-29	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
30+	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131

Optional Voluntary Vision Benefit Plan for Clergy and Lay Employees Enrolled in a Conference-sponsored Anthem Medical Plan

	Vision
Employee Only	\$8.34
Employee + Spouse	\$15.05
Employee + Child(ren)	\$15.05
Family	\$24.19

Retired Clergy Age 65 or Over – Retired Under ¶358.1, ¶358.2b, ¶358.2c, or ¶358.3

Under the Conference-sponsored medical plan for Medicare-eligible retirees of the Virginia Conference, there will continue to be two coverage options, as described below.

Group Plan Option: The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2021 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

Medicare-eligible Retirees - Monthly Personal Contributions		
Years of Service	Individual	Family
10-14	\$375	\$750
15-19	\$310	\$620
20-24	\$245	\$490
25-29	\$180	\$360
30+	\$115	\$230

Connector Option: The Connector option allows qualifying clergy to select any available Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. Retirees electing coverage through this option receive Retiree Reimbursement Account (“RRA”) funding, which can be used to offset the cost of the selected coverage. VUMPI recommends 2021 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

Connector Option - Monthly RRA Funding		
Years of Service	Retiree Only	Retiree and Spouse
20-24	\$150	\$300
25-29	\$200	\$400
30+	\$250	\$500

The monthly RRA funding amounts will be prorated for qualifying retirees and/or spouses of qualifying retirees who gain Medicare eligibility or otherwise gain eligibility for retiree coverage within a calendar year. Any RRA funds remaining at the end of a calendar year will roll over into the subsequent year for use by the enrolled retiree and/or spouse for qualifying medical expenses.

General Virginia Conference Health Plan Information

For participants enrolled in the Anthem health plans, either as active clergy or as a retiree not yet eligible for Medicare, 2021 health plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2020. If an eligible clergy person does not elect coverage options during the annual open enrollment period, the default enrollment option is the prior year's plan selections (except for Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Spending Account contributions), and enrollees will be subject to the associated individual personal contribution rates.

If not selected during the open enrollment period, no Flexible Spending Account contributions can be made during 2021, in accordance with federal laws.

All who are eligible to enroll in a Virginia Conference health plan are strongly encouraged to participate in on-line open enrollment in the fall of 2020. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

Virginia Conference clergy members earn a year of service towards his or her Total Years of VAUMC Service as indicated in the coverage options above for each year that Virginia Annual Conference health plan eligibility is met.

Eligibility for the Conference-sponsored retiree medical plans requires a minimum of ten years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference. Virginia Conference clergy on approved leave or serving in an Extension Ministry appointment earn credit towards retiree medical plan eligibility only if enrolled in the Conference-sponsored health plan while on leave or while serving an Extension Ministry appointment.

■ Recommendation 3: 2021 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate

The Pre-82 pension provides a benefit to all eligible clergy who have served in the Virginia Conference prior to 1982. This program pays the greater of the following:

- An annual benefit equal to the Past Service Rate (PSR) times years of pre-1982 service, or
- An annuity amount based upon the participant's cash balance in his or her Defined Benefit Service Money Account

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR each year. For 2021, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$575 to \$580.

■ Recommendation 4: 2021 CRSP/ CPP/ Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2021 CRSP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

- For the Defined Contribution component of CRSP: Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service), times 3%.
- For the Defined Benefit component of CRSP: Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to 135% of the Denominational Average Compensation ("DAC")) times 9%.

Local churches and salary-paying units are to make their monthly CRSP payments to VUMPI.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The 2021 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue

Service, up to 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation) times 4.4%.

Local churches and salary-paying units are to make their monthly CPP payments to VUMPI.

If, for any reason, CPP contributions are more than 30 days in arrears, participation in the CPP is suspended. If contributions are more than six consecutive months in arrears, participation in the CPP is terminated. For terminated participants, readmission into the CPP requires payment of seven months of contributions and submission of medical statement of good health.

Erroneously enrolled clergy who are ineligible to participate in the CPP have no right to benefits under the CPP. Eligible clergy who have not been properly enrolled in the CPP have no rights under the CPP until after proper enrollment.

■ Recommendation 5: 2021 Comprehensive Funding Plan

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2021 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the VUMPI office.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre 82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982.

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2019, is \$(1,913,258,514), while total plan assets are \$2,049,273,913, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 107%. The Virginia Conference portion of the liability is 4.1493% and the 2021 contribution is \$4,363,096. General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three quarter and/or half time clergy. The Virginia Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non matching contribution. Clergy can earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3% to CRSP DC. The 2021 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be \$1,571,702.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or it may be paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2019 is \$(3,718,398,163), while total plan assets are \$3,997,635,453, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 108%. The required contribution for 2021 is \$0. The Virginia Conference's percentage of the total liability is 3.4091%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$3,231,280,101 and the Virginia Conference's portion of that balance is \$116,481,000 or 3.60% of the total.

PRE-82 PLAN

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre 82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre 82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on the clergyperson's years of service with pension credit and the conference pension rate (Past Service Rate or PSR), which may change from year to year.

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-82 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit and, at that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; but the DBSM based benefit does not change.

As indicated in Recommendation 3 above, the 2021 PSR recommended to the Virginia Conference will be \$580, representing a 1% increase from the 2020 rate. The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 70% level.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Virginia Conference sponsors a self funded health benefit program for full-time active clergy. The cost of the program for 2021 is anticipated to be approximately \$13,200,000, which will be funded primarily by apportionments and health plan participant contributions.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

The Virginia Conference currently sponsors a self funded health benefit program for pre-Medicare-eligible retirees and a Group Medicare Advantage plan for Medicare-eligible retirees, with optional RRA funding for the purchase of individual supplemental plans through a retiree medical exchange. The projected annual plan benefit cost for 2021, including health plan premiums, Retiree Reimbursement Account contributions and other plan expenses, is approximately \$7,250,000, which will be funded primarily by apportionments and health plan participant contributions.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

For 2021, the Virginia Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,556,685, which is anticipated to be funded by direct billing to local churches.

UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY

The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before tax, Roth and/or after tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

OTHER DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) OBLIGATIONS

VUMPI currently offers a supplemental life insurance benefit that supplements the CPP life insurance benefit. The estimated cost of this supplemental benefit for 2021 is \$300,000.

CONCLUSION

The 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and this summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the Virginia Conference’s obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference.

■ Recommendation 6: VUMPI Board of Directors Structure Change

VUMPI recommends a change to the Virginia Conference Standing Rule V.15, which addresses the structure of VUMPI’s Board of Directors. Under the current rule, the Board is to consist of 24 members, and to be arranged in two classes serving eight year terms. VUMPI recommends the Conference’s approval of a revision, with a new Board structure to consist of four classes. The intent of this rule change is to eliminate the rotation of half of the Board’s membership off the Board of Directors at one time, which is the case under the current Board structure. If approved, the Board will continue to have 24 members, and terms will still be eight years. However, in order to implement the new structure, the terms of six current Board members will be shortened by two years and the terms of six Board members being appointed in 2020 will be shortened to six years. For all subsequent Board classes, the terms will be eight years, as required by Virginia Conference rules. If approved by the Virginia Annual Conference, Standing Rule V.15 will be changed to read as follows: “Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members serving eight-year terms, and arranged into classes at the agency’s discretion. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy,” etc.

■ Recommendation 7: 2021 Housing Allowance/Exclusion

**Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled,
or Former Clergypersons of the Virginia Conference**

The Virginia Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is

designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder; to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

– Ken Peterson, Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

The unprecedented events of this past year have offered the Common Table fruitful insight into the function, operation and shortfalls of our committee. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic we have sought to deepen our understanding of why we exist beyond the sole operational dynamic of function.

A recap of events and their respective timeline can best explain our Common Table experiences, ministry efforts and leadership efforts and the proposals for this *2020 Book of Reports*.

Our recap begins with the Vision of the Annual Conference adopted in our 2017 session. We remain grateful to Bishop Lewis for the Chat and Chews that led to the very clear concise vision of “...to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”

With this Virginia Conference Vision enthusiastically embraced in 2017, it became the responsibility of the Common Table to implement the Vision. Alignment and implementation of the Vision became the primary goal of the Common Table in the fall of 2019. Thus, in the fall of 2019, the Common Table approved an alignment process that addressed structural, financial and human resources. The process led to structural recommendations in early November, financial recommendation in late January and staff/human resources adjustments in early March of 2020. At the core of the alignment is a deep dive focus and organizing around the three core parts of the Vision: Lifelong Learning, Influence and Serve/Service.

The Vision alignment work enabled the Common Table to emerge with a renewed commitment and determination to better understand the purpose of the Common Table to more effectively resource our districts, laity, churches and clergy. However, COVID-19 simultaneously presented challenging financial apportionment dynamics that required drastic adjustments at all levels of ministry, especially the rescheduling of Annual Conference as a virtual session.

With the Vision alignment items of structure, finances and human resources completed in the Spring of 2020, the Common Table next turned our attention to clarification of purpose and function. Additionally, we acknowledged a need to enter into a process of group building and deeper levels of trust. The decisive leadership Bishop Lewis gave the Virginia Conference in identifying a Conference Vision was demonstrated as she stepped in to give critically needed leadership to the Common Table in matters of trust, understanding of purpose and charter revision proposals.

The Common Table is preparing Charter revisions for a year of prayerful discernment. The proposed Charter revisions will be released after the 2020 Annual Conference for possible adoption at the 2021 session of Annual Conference.

The following reports, from page 52 to page 75, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL STUDY GROUP

The 2019 Annual Conference passed a resolution that “the Common Table conduct a study to improve the relationship of the Virginia Conference of the UMC with the Virginia Council of Churches regarding the aspirations to strengthen the ties with the larger Body of Christ in Virginia, the extending of Holy conversations, worship, and ministries that affect the ministry of love and grace of our Lord, and the encouraging of a positive witness of Christian unity and hope to our neighbors. I ask that this study involves a diverse team to include the Grants Committee, the Common Table, and others appointed who have interests and familiarity with ecumenical matters. This study with recommendations should report to the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference.”

In October 2019 a Study Group was formed consisting of:

Rev. Larry Lenow, VAUMC Ecumenical Representative, Chair

Dr. Ted Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries

Mrs. Unsil Choi, Grants Committee

Rev. Harold White, Common Table

Rev. Larry Thompson, former President, VCC

Rev. Charles Swadley, Resolution author

The Committee met in November, December and January. We first heard a presentation from Rev. Charles Swadley outlining the spirit and rationale of the resolution as well as the history of the relationship between the Virginia Council of Churches and the Virginia Annual Conference. We identified points of study. Next we met with Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Transitional General Minister of the VCC and clarified what is the present situation and hopes for the future. Then we finalized our conclusions and recommendations. They are as follows:

1. Ecumenism is critical, because we live in a world increasingly divided by hostilities and distrust. Ecumenical cooperation is a visible sign of hope and of the active presence of the Spirit. It is biblical (John 17), historical and an articulated need in our age of disunity. It is, thus, a tangible sign of the unity of hearts, hands, mind and Spirit, striving in concrete ways together to make visible the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God on earth. Current expressions of this cooperation include the Virginia Council of Churches (VCC); the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP); and Virginia LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist.) Virginia Methodists have been an important part of the VCC since its inception 75 years ago. How we enlarge this effort will be a blessing of God's universal love and grace.
2. Real ecumenism must take place at the local level: Christians living and working side by side united in spirit animates God's love for all persons. Paradoxically, however ecumenism must be promoted at the judicatory level. Leadership at the highest level is paramount to inspire and to energize. Bishops and equivalent judicatory officials, leading by example, must encourage clergy and churches to become engaged. Therefore we encourage our bishop and cabinet to encourage ecumenical engagement in the conference, the district, and the local church.
3. The Virginia Council of Churches is currently in a time of rebirth and renewal following program and personnel changes. We urge development of services that would jointly minister to the needs of all God's children with the goal to stimulate mutual ecumenical efforts to live out Matthew 25:31-45. We must ask how can we care for the homeless, the disabled living and working on the edges of life, those suffering addiction from opioids, the increasing demands of an aging society, and recognizing the diminishing resources of individual faith communities; how we can bring, in a stronger diversity, a fresh wind of faith and renewed discipleship. We express confidence and support of the leadership and articulated vision of Transitional General Minister Mary Anne Glover of the VCC.
4. This is an era of financial pressure for the Virginia UM Annual Conference, as well as for the other 33 denominations of the VCC. We believe that the VAUMC current level of financial support of the VCC is minimally appropriate and should be reviewed for stronger support in collaboration and collegiality with other faith groups of the VCC.

Members of the Annual Conference may not be aware that the VCC is a very diverse body. Our participation with it has the potential to help bridge the racial, social, economic, ethnic, and generational divisions in the Commonwealth. We must re-imagine our roles in the midst of challenges for ecumenical and denominational unity in the 21st century.

– *Ecumenical Study Group*

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (1629) specifies the purpose of the Conference Board of Church and Society. The Conference Board is to help the conference, districts and congregations employ our Social Principles to connect our faith communities to the world around us. This work is both individual and societal. We are called to invite faithful disciples of Christ to lead the church prayerfully into the world.

We have organized our board to follow the issues raised by our United Methodist Bishops' letter: "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In this 2009 letter, UMC bishops raised virtually the same issues, as did Catholic Pope Francis in 2015, namely that the world is awash in 1. Violence, 2. Environmental Destruction, 3. Poverty.

Following the need to address these three interconnected disasters, we have organized three work areas: 1. Peace and Non-Violence, 2. Caretakers of God's Creation, and 3. Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries.

Peace with Justice Sunday:

The Conference Board promotes the Peace with Justice Sunday Special Offering, one of the six Church-wide offerings that The United Methodist General Conference asks of each local church. In 2019, only a fraction of our churches gave to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2020 total will show more churches taking the offering. One half of the offering stays in the annual conference, the other half is used by the General Board.

Caretakers of God's Creation:

The Board's Caretakers of God's Creation work area has started a program of district workshops to help churches become "Green Churches". The Caretakers are also working to help congregations divest of stocks of thermal coal companies as required by the resolution voted on at conference in 2015. Caretakers also co-sponsored the National Caretakers of God's Creation Climate Justice Conference held at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington. Each year, Caretakers awards a conference church, the Green Church of the Year award.

Peace and Non-violence Work Area:

The Peace and Non-violence Work Area has been active with NFoR to care for immigrants and refugees.

Reflecting our mission to serve people in need, Church and Society provided a Peace With Justice Grant to NoVa Friends of Refugees (NFoR), an interfaith grassroots network of people who welcome, assist, and advocate for refugees. During the 2018-2019 grant period the NFoR network grew 30% and became a respected referral resource for helping resettling refugees.

Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry:

The Eradicating Poverty Work Area is exploring ways to better serve our brothers and sisters who have been incarcerated to help them to be functional in society again.

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly:

This year was the 28th anniversary United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We partnered with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy to hold the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. We look forward to Bishop Lewis helping to lead the event in future years.

– James Page, Clergy Co-Chair

THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last several years, the Board of Communications has been reflecting on our role as stated in the *Discipline* to “meet the communication, publication, multimedia, public and media relations, interpretation, and promotional needs of the annual conference.” (§ 646) We have reviewed all of the ways we communicate as a conference, and our effectiveness in meeting the needs of the entire annual conference.

Previously, the conference communications staff and the board spent the majority of their time producing and supporting the conference’s monthly magazine, the *Virginia United Methodist Advocate*. Producing a printed magazine is a labor-intensive effort, and it is a communications medium that continues to increase in cost while decreasing in readership. The *Advocate* had been running a deficit for several years, and despite multi-pronged ideas and efforts, readership continued to decline. Circulation fell to 1,600 people in a conference with over 300,000 members. We were therefore reaching less than 1% of our membership with our primary communications vehicle. To better live out our *Discipline* mandate, we needed to improve the way we communicate and engage with the membership of our conference. We therefore made the difficult decision to discontinue the *Advocate* in December 2019.

Working closely with the conference communications director and staff, the board has spent the last year reviewing current conference communications tools, identifying potential new tools that could support this ministry, and reaching out to clergy and laity across the conference to get their input. In early 2019, we conducted 19 listening sessions in five different locations, and were able to ask in-depth questions about the communication needs of 98 people from 10 districts. This helped us gather a variety of great ideas on how we could improve conference communications.

In June and July 2019, we distributed a communications survey conference-wide to help test the ideas we gathered in the listening sessions. We received 2,147 survey responses, with good representation from both clergy and laity across the conference.

The survey confirmed a strong interest in expanded digital communications. The top digital communications tool for both clergy and laity is the weekly *e-Advocate* newsletter. This will be the primary conference communications tool moving forward. It is quick and efficient, and provides much more timely updates. The conference will also continue to share news, events, and ministry stories through the conference website, social media, and the weekly *Sunday Advocate* bulletin insert.

The Board of Communications is working with the conference communications director and staff to help implement some of the key survey learnings. This work will continue into 2021. To view a copy of the survey results, and links to sign up for all the conference communications tools, please visit www.VAUMC.org/survey.

–Jill W. Gaynor, President

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Board of Discipleship desires to be a resource for the conference. All over the conference, we have available trained coaches who can assist churches of any size. Coaches are available to work with churches at reigniting the fires of discipleship, understanding and implementing Intentional Discipleship Plans and learning more about Membership to Discipleship within their churches. These coaches are clergy and laity within the conference who are now available for little or no cost to churches. This year we have been converting a comprehensive work on Intentional Discipleship Planning written by Don Jamison into seed packets which can be planted over time in specific situations to reap a growing harvest of disciples within any church. You can look over or pick up seed packets at the Discipleship Table during Annual Conference. In addition, Kathy Gochenour, chair of the Board, along with our Regional Directors are available to work with churches in understanding what it means to begin a discipleship movement within the local church. The Resource Group continues to develop a database that can be accessed through the www.vaumc.org. There you will find links to internet resources, stories of successful discipleship within the conference and lists of books and other resources to help with your journey. Our goal is constantly to be a resource for the local churches of the Virginia Annual Conference. We

continue to work with the Bishop's Steering team too as we align what we do with the other parts of the Common Table. Each year the Board of Discipleship awards one youth, one laity and one Clergy the Denman Evangelism award. This year, we had no local congregational responses to our invitation for receiving the One Matters award for recognition of turn around success in growth, professions of faith and fruitfulness. Each year we endorse candidates to be a General Evangelist in the United Methodist Church and this year with great acknowledgement of his work we endorse Greg West (Chaplain of Wesleyan College) as a General Evangelist. We also participate in the Christian Education Sunday and use those funds for scholarship and grant requests for Education in our local churches, districts and conference. We work closely with the Office of Bishop by facilitating conference wide activities like the Bishop's Convocation of Prayer. Members of the Board continually work with the Conference Staff and Cabinet in areas of Discipleship and have participated in the Mid-Size and Small Church Initiatives. It has been my honor to serve as Chair this year as we focus on being disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve.

– *Kathy Bennett Gochenour, Chair*

Older Adult Council

The Older Adult Council is tasked with engaging and equipping pastors and laity of local churches and districts with knowledge and skills for ministry to, for, by and with older adults within congregations and in the community at large. The Council works to provide lifelong learning and spiritual growth in discipleship throughout life, appreciating the great resource our older adults are to the Body of Christ. The Council works to combat the negative influence of ageism and to develop intergenerational sharing of the Good News. The Council, now advised by Age Related Ministries, strives to increase intergenerational programming and encourage older adults to share their rich spiritual legacy with all ages while continuing to develop their own discipleship skills. As the tsunami of aging adults, now including the Baby Boomers, present churches with significantly changing physical, emotional and spiritual needs, the Council provides resources through the Conference website, and offers classes, speakers and presentations. A curriculum on Spiritual Legacy has been provided to each District Office. Classes on Sacred Circle Dance and Ways of Experiencing God have been offered and well attended. In April the Council joined Pinnacle Living and the Beard Center on Aging of Lynchburg University in sponsoring the third annual Faithful Aging Conference held at Culpeper, Virginia. At the time of this writing a 2020 conference is planned for Roanoke. Faithful Aging is among the first statewide, faith-based, nondenominational, conferences on aging. Speakers included healthcare providers, chaplains, pastors, gerontologists, and other experts on issues faced by the aging population. Representatives from the Virginia Conference are serving in leadership roles with the Southeastern Jurisdictional Wisdom and Grace Conference held each year in Lake Junaluska. For more information, see the Conference website under Departments>Next Gen Ministries>Older Adult Council.

– *Suzanne Spencer, Chair*

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

We write to you as your 2020 Co Chairs of the CCYM. This spring the CCYM (conference council on youth ministries) met to review and award YSF (youth service fund) requests, we had an overwhelming number of applications.

We were able to help fund 16 groups with the \$5,900 we raised this year, including mission trips and projects to help churches grow their youth ministries.

In the coming year, we hope that all districts will actively seek and submit youth nominees for CCYM. To do so, please email Juli (juliodel1982@gmail.com).

– *Chris Ganoë and Ally Shipe, Co-Chairs*

CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

“Engaging, Connecting and Equipping Clergy and Laity of the Virginia Conference for God’s mission.”

The Missional Discipleship and Engagement Team includes the interrelated work of several Conference Committees: Health and Welfare, Disaster Response, Partnerships of Hope, Volunteers in Mission and Voices of Youth, emphasizing missional discipleship and advocating for increased communication from and with the local church, district and conference leadership for effective outreach.

Initiatives of Hope (IOH) has changed its name to **Partnerships of Hope (POH)** under the leadership of Rev. Clarence Brown: Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! I am thankful to God for allowing us to partner with the church around the globe in service to those who are in need. As you know, we have for some years committed as an Annual Conference to partner with Methodist mission initiatives in Mozambique, Brazil and Cambodia abroad and locally with our Native American brothers and sisters. That work has proven fruitful, both in terms of meeting needs and spreading the gospel.

The health of children is cared for through the clinic and orphanage in Cambine, and others are cared for through the Chicucue Rural Hospital. Widows are cared for through the compound we have built in Massinga. Women are gathering productive skills through the fashioning of apparel that are sold for a profit. Men are learning woodworking skills for supporting themselves. Rice fields are productive. Acres of vegetable help feed many. Chickens are raised, eggs are sold to the end that the areas might become self-sustaining.

Shade and Fresh Water projects, supported by our wonderful missionaries on the ground – Gordon and Teca Great-house – continue to serve children at risk, protecting them from gang related activity and providing both teachers and materials so that they might learn, grow and thrive. Wells have been dug to provide fresh water for villages that have been sharing pond water with their animals. New housing has been built for persons who had previously lived in insect infested mud huts

In Cambodia classes are being taught; hygiene kits are being gathered to promote healthy living. Medical teams have gone in support. And more teams are needed. IOH has continued to support new initiatives and relationships with Native Americans and is helped sponsor “Nitapewak” (FRIENDS) Family Camp last July at Camp Rockahok. It was open to all Native Americans and Friends of Every Nation including an Intertribal Powwow.

And that, perhaps, is the appeal of this annual report. In this day of declining revenues, the thing that is needed more than anything else is the transformation of lives into fuller discipleship. And I know of nothing more transformative than meeting Jesus as we serve others. The relationships developed, the satisfaction of helping the kingdom come into fuller view, the extension of generosity, the extending and receipt of hospitality fostered by missional engagement may indeed be the place that invites a disbelieving world into life-saving relationships with Christ.

So we are partners with Christ in this endeavor, and I end with the offering that our committee together has made the decision to rename our endeavor “Partners In Hope.” My deepest thanks go to Judy Fender, Sue Boltz, Juanita Csontos, Larry Jent, Nancy Forrest, Rebecca Makowski, Lynda Moore, Nancy Robinson, David Vaughan, Nancy Yarborough, and our conference staff person, Glenn Rowley for their great work and constant encouragement. Partner with us, my Friends, as we go beyond borders and boundaries in becoming learners and influencers with brothers and sisters around the globe.

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team has been supporting Long Term Recovery efforts in the Danville District following the flooding from 2018 hurricanes. This effort has been led by the Rev. Lisa Nordan and Rev. Jon Woodburn who is the Danville District Disaster Response Coordinator. This recovery project has cost over \$75,000 and was done solely with donations from the Annual Conference.

Major efforts are underway to revitalize our large fleet of disaster trailers and equipment. This will ensure everything in the trailers is ready at a moment’s notice to deploy in support of response and recovery efforts in the conference and beyond. Repositioning several trailers to fill “ready for deployment” gaps has decreased the wait times for several regions to have equipment on site.

The new UMCOR Early Response Team training and registration protocol has decreased the credentialing turnaround time making sure that trained and equipment conference ERT teams are in place to respond when called upon to disasters in the Commonwealth.

At the time of this writing the Conference Disaster Response Team is readying equipment for possible deployment to the Ohio Conference in support of flood recovery efforts as well as to Nashville in support of tornado recovery efforts.

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team is an active member of the Virginia State VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and the South Eastern Virginia Regional VOAD. This allows for close coordination, collaboration, communication and cooperation between Federal, State, Local Emergency management agencies and other disaster response volunteer organizations.

As always this important mission and ministry cannot function without your support. Volunteering and becoming an UMCOR ERT trained and credentialed responder is one way to help immediately following any disaster. Please also give generously to the Special Advance for Disaster Response #5037. That fund is how we provide training and maintain our disaster equipment throughout the conference.

Thank you to all for your continued support of this vital mission and ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference.

– Bob Pihlcrantz

Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) coordinated by Rebecca Makowski has organized UMVIM team leader training events with a renewed commitment to training team leaders throughout the conference with consistent and updated curriculum. In 2019, six volunteers were oriented as UMVIM trainers and provided several trainings for team leaders throughout the conference. Churches within the Virginia Conference deployed 33 UMVIM teams to domestic and international locations. Information was provided through the Conference communications channels about ministries and volunteer opportunities through the General Board of Global Ministries (specifically, full time mission service and the Mission Volunteers program). Those interested in mission volunteer opportunities are encouraged to visit the UMVIM webpage on the conference website (<https://vaumc.org/vaumvim>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM/>) for upcoming training events, best practices, information, and the conference policy for short term volunteer in mission teams.

Voices of Youth (VOY) is a group of youth and adults with a passion for music and mission and combine those two gifts into a unique service experience. VOY will not be sending a team this summer.

Mrs. Anne Klotz, Missionary Itineration Coordinator, has facilitated connections and visits for many missionaries with their covenant churches during the past year.

Mission Encounter is a cooperative school offered by the Conference Missional Ministries Board and the United Methodist Women to help us understand God's work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. Mission Encounter 2020 will be offered July 24-26 at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center.

Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP), chaired by Kip Robinson, guides and mentors interested persons through the application and discernment process for mission service. Applicants can access the Personnel Information Form (PIF– Application for Missionary Service) and other application materials from the Virginia Conference web site under Ministries - Center for Justice and Missional Excellence - Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) - Related Documentation. All completed application materials should be sent to the Virginia Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, The Virginia Conference Center for Justice and Missional Excellence, P. O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058. It should NOT be sent to the General Board of Global Ministries.

– Nancy Robinson, Chair

ADVANCE SPECIALS

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique: Chicouque Rural Hospital - #09734A • Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning - #08597A • Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital - #15080N • Cambodia: Mission Initiative - #00230A • Cambodia: Street Children Ministry - #14921A • Macedonia: Macedonia in Mission Together - #00220A • Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project - #11580A • Israel: Bethlehem Bible College - #12017A • Eurasia: Eurasia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova - #14053A • Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program - #14377A • Sudan: Sudan Development - #184385 • Global: Anti-Human Trafficking - #333615 • Global: Sustainable Agriculture - #982188 • Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat - #07629A • Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry - #181000 • Vietnam Mission Initiative - #14932A

NATIONAL

Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission - #761544
District of Columbia: Christ House - #381215
Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly - #773726
Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes - #773365
South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry - #123615
Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville - #781350
USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry - #901285
USA: Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction - #901875
USA: Society of St. Andrew - #801600 USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster - #901670

VIRGINIA

Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc.- #5020
Caretakers of God's Creation - #5016
Crossroads Mission Center - #5028
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia - #5029
ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support - #5036
Heart Havens - #6442
Henry Fork Service Center - #5008
Highland Support Project - #5007
Journey Community Center - #5009
Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance - #803002
Kids Soar (formerly UM Community Outreach Prog. of Roanoke) - #5004
Park View Community Mission - #5019
Pathways Virginia Advance - #5045
Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church - #5043
Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS) - #5010
Tuesday's Table - #5024
Una Familia - #5027
Virginia Conference Disaster Response & Recovery - #5037
Wesley Community Service Center - #5025
Abukloi Enterprises, Inc. – new
Basic UMC-Hispanic & God's Table Ministry – new
Belmont UMC – Belmont Community Resource Services - new

PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Heart Havens

Heart Havens continues its mission of empowering people with a developmental disability to live and thrive in their community. From paint nights and tailgate parties to the gym and church choir, our VAUMC friends empower the people we support to be active members in their community. Your financial gifts and volunteer engagement make our mission of empowerment possible!

We continue to operate group homes across the Conference. Heart Havens was born out of listening; it was listening to the needs and desires of people with a developmental disability and their families that led to the startup of Heart Havens. Through this listening, we have learned that it is time to offer new services and means of more individualized support. In 2019, Heart Havens ceased operating the Winchester location and added a Chester home. In the first part of 2020, Heart Havens will be opening a day program and community engagement program. These programs reflect our mission of empowerment; Heart Havens is about people, not houses.

We are blessed with the support of congregations and small groups throughout the Conference. Heart Havens shared our message of empowerment in February during Heart Havens Month. Additionally, we welcomed many volunteers from churches, businesses, and civic groups. These volunteers blessed us by planting flowers, assisting with maintenance, and organizing nights of fellowship.

Heart Havens recognized Buck Hodges as the 2019 Brian Manwiller “In HIS Grip” Award winner. Buck has made contributions throughout the years by planning and hosting dinners and picnics. Through his leadership, Buck has demonstrated friendship and fellowship to Heart Havens and especially to the women in the Macleigh-Holland home.

With your vital support, Heart Havens can continue to empower people with a developmental disability by doing more than just providing the basics but also enabling them to live vibrant, independent lives. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we invite you as the church to continue to advocate for Heart Havens and support people with a developmental disability.

–Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer

Pinnacle Living

Driven by our mission of **Enriching Life’s Journey**, Pinnacle Living has celebrated several significant accomplishments in the last conference year:

- ❖ Cedarfield was designated as the first Dementia Friendly Business in Henrico County.
- ❖ Renovations and/or expansions are underway at all five of our communities.
- ❖ Our Person-Centered culture is making a difference in the lives of our residents. Pinnacle Living is committed to changing the culture of how senior living services are offered and experienced. Among our residents are 16 centenarians (100 years of age or older).
- ❖ Weekly worship services have seen an increase in participation. Residents and team members have created Advent and Lenten devotionals. Spiritual life retreats, Bible studies and religious life fellowship groups engage our residents in spiritual growth and discipleship.
- ❖ Our residents and team members are actively involved in community partnerships that make a difference in their local areas. During our Fiscal Year 2019, our communities offered workforce development initiatives for 166 students, providing 4,010 hours of supervised internships, onsite training and career exploration opportunities. We partnered with 102 not-for-profit organizations and community programs to impact the lives of other seniors as well as children and families.
- ❖ Our communities have received local, state and national recognitions including the Richmond Times Dispatch Top Workplaces award and being voted among Best Nursing Homes in Virginia.

Yet, we cannot rest on these laurels. Our board of directors is eagerly exploring opportunities for expanded services and new ventures with the potential to impact a greater number of seniors across the Commonwealth. Quality is one of

our Core Values, making continuing education and lifelong learning important aspects of our mission and culture. The *Pinnacle Scholars Program* offers scholarships to team members. *The Faithful Aging Conference* with leadership from Pinnacle Living continues to enhance and expand older adult ministries in the local church. Pinnacle Living has taken an active role in guiding churches and communities to become dementia friendly. Team members have become Dementia Friends Champions, offering general information sessions to help everyone understand five key messages about dementia, how it affects people and how we can make a difference in the lives of people living with dementia in all its varied forms. Contact us if you would like to involve your church in these educational and awareness efforts.

Pinnacle Living is grateful to all the churches that supports the Samaritan Program. This benevolent assistance has been given in Pinnacle Living communities since the organization was founded. We are privileged to recognize the following congregations as the 2019 Samaritan Award Churches offering the highest level of giving to the Samaritan Program:

- ❖ Reveille (Richmond District)
- ❖ Fairfax (Alexandria District)
- ❖ Silverbrook (Alexandria District)
- ❖ Fairmount (Richmond District)
- ❖ Gum Springs (Richmond District)
- ❖ Shady Grove - Mechanicsville (Richmond District)
- ❖ Walker Chapel (Arlington District)
- ❖ Raleigh Court (Roanoke District)
- ❖ New Hope (York River District)
- ❖ Monumental (Elizabeth River District)
- ❖ Great Falls (Arlington District)
- ❖ Clarendon (Arlington District)

The adage says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Yet, this is not just true for children. It takes a village to nurture one another across the lifespan, from childhood through young adult life to our years of elderhood. Thank you for your continued support, prayer and generosity for the mission and ministry of Pinnacle Living.

– *Martha Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations*
 – *Charles W. Wickham, Director of Donor Development*
 – *Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO*

UMFS - United Methodist Family Services of Virginia

In 2020, UMFS celebrates 120 years of service to children, teens and families. Our journey has been filled with twists and turns as the needs of children, families and communities have shifted, presenting complex challenges and opportunities for growth along the way. From the Virginia Conference Orphanage of 1900, to the Virginia Methodist Children’s Home of the 1950’s, to the present day state-wide agency bringing hope and healing to the whole family, UMFS has partnered with churches and church members to live out our mission.

We are unwavering champions for high-risk children and families across Virginia, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. We help children find loving families through our programs in foster care, adoption, and kinship care. We help children and families heal through our residential treatment programs and our work in specialized therapies. We help guide students in our specialized education schools. We help children and families build brighter futures through our functional family therapy and intensive care coordination services. In 2019 we served 2,367 high-risk children. While many of our programs are focused on children, we strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 13,620 high-risk children and families in 190 communities in Virginia.

Since 1900, the churches of the Virginia Conference have partnered with us as advocates for high-risk children and families. Churches help recruit and support foster and adoptive families, provide much-needed financial support, and donate countless gifts-in-kind. Church members serve as dedicated volunteers, mentoring and tutoring, helping at events, and providing transportation for children and families. Our church partners, Child Champion Councils and the UMFS Auxiliary are critical resources for the children and families we serve.

As we celebrate 120 years of service, we also look to our future to ensure we can continue to serve high-risk children and families in Virginia for another 120 years and beyond. We are investing to upgrade facilities and technologies while building capacity for our programs to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities today. The Be a Champion Capital Campaign is the first comprehensive effort to revitalize our 33-acre Richmond campus since the 1950s. We will fund this project through charitable gifts, a long-term land lease on the front of our property, and internal refinancing and debt reduction. We will begin by upgrading the Child & Family Healing Center residential program from post-WW II cottages to a state-of-the-art treatment facility. In the second phase, we will build an addition to Charterhouse School which will enhance our career and technical education and expand services for elementary students and students with autism.

We are grateful for the support of the Virginia Conference and for your partnership with us as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families. Together, we can create a world where caring, opportunity and generosity are passed on from generation to generation, empowering all children to contribute to society as engaged citizens.

– *Michael Giancaspro* Chair, UMFS Board of Directors

– *Greg Peters*, President and CEO

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

The Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation (“VUMHDC”) is a covenant partner with the Virginia Annual Conference with the mission to expand the supply of affordable housing to low-income families and seniors and other special populations in Virginia. VAUMHDC has an annual goal of developing, renovating, partnering in, and/or refinancing at least one new facility a year.

VUMHDC is led by President Larry Dickenson, a lay member of Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. He is assisted by the three corporate officers making up the Executive Committee, and the other eleven (11) Directors. Currently, our Board includes five UMC clergy.

VUMHDC currently owns and operates sixteen (16) projects and is the non-profit minority partner of an additional sixteen (16) properties. Totaling these 36 properties, VUMHDC has approximately 1850 apartment units across the conference. The approximate value of our assets is \$72,000,000. These apartment properties serve approximately 3000 residents, equally mixed between seniors and families.

Over the past year, we completed sale of our interests in several properties as a means of solidifying our financial base, enabling a more robust development program in the future. For the period 2020-21, we are engaged in planning for potential new projects in Franklin County, Appomattox and the Eastern Shore. We are also partnering with two for-profit developers on three tax credit applications for projects Emporia, Augusta County and Richmond with a combined total of nearly 400 units.

The year 2019 also marked two major milestones in VUMHDC’s legacy leadership, with the retirement of Jim Branscome, our long-time Treasurer, and the passing of Rev Robert Regan, our founder and president from 1975-2010.

– *Larry Dickenson*, President

Wesley Housing

Wesley Housing’s vision is that everyone in the greater Washington, DC region has a safe, quality, affordable home, serving as a foundation to thrive, and has a place of value in the community. This guides our mission of building up the lives of our most vulnerable community members by creating and operating healthy, inclusive, stable, affordable housing communities and providing supportive resident services. For over four decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 25 properties (more than 3,200+ residents) in Alexandria,

Arlington, Manassas, Fairfax County, and the District. We also manage 9 Community Resource/Support Service Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease, and those with disabilities to regain their dignity and renew their lives.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

With many exciting projects budding in our real estate development department, Wesley Housing concluded 2019 with 791+ units in development (including renovation).

The following development projects recently received funding awards:

- ❖ Senseny Place in Winchester, VA was awarded \$2 million through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 funding. This new construction will result in 63 units of affordable housing for seniors.
- ❖ The Arden in Alexandria, VA (Fairfax County) received \$800,000 in Amazon Reach funding and \$1.6 million from the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF). This 126-unit new construction, which will also be home to our new main office headquarters is expected to break ground in late April.
- ❖ The Cadence in Arlington, VA received \$700,000 from the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF) and is expected to break ground in summer 2020.
- ❖ Knightsbridge Apartments in Arlington, VA received \$125,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank as part of the foundation's Housing for Everyone grant competition. We are rehabilitating all 37 units located in this Buckingham apartment community.
- ❖ Final site plans were submitted for The Waypoint at Fairlington in Alexandria, VA (81 units). Designs are advancing to poise the project for a late 2020 closing and construction start.
- ❖ Renovations on Brookland Place (DC, 84 units) and Culpepper Garden (Arlington, 204 units) are continuing and will be completed in spring 2020.
- ❖ Wesley Housing received Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval to redevelop 1 Hawaii Avenue Apartments in the District from 37 units to 70 units after a 15 month long community engagement and entitlement process.

RESIDENT SERVICES

- ❖ **Housing Stability Initiative:** Every month, 400+ adults take advantage of housing stability and eviction prevention programs such as crisis intervention, referrals to community resources, financial literacy, household budgeting, resume building and job search assistance, computer training, and certification courses. Through the work of our Housing Stability Specialists, 99% of "high priority" referrals (712 households) maintained their housing in 2019, 118 residents participated in English proficiency courses, and 47 individuals obtained new and/or improved employment. Over 277 children and teens participated in youth programming, with 95 attending our learning intensive summer camp.
- ❖ **Volunteerism & Season Campaigns:** In 2019, volunteers provided 10,500 hours of service by helping with food security initiatives, after school programs, adult education including ESOL, health and fitness classes, and summer camp. Additionally, 500 youth received new school supplies from our annual drive, more than 150 households received food boxes during the holy season of Ramadan through our partnership with Islamic Relief USA, and 772 residents were supported during the holiday season.
- ❖ **Organization and Administrative**
- ❖ Two of our properties in Fairfax County, Strawbridge Square Apartments and The Fallstead at Lewinsville Center, received the National Affordable Housing Management Association's (NAHMA) "Communities of Quality" recognition, both meeting NAHMA's high standards in physical maintenance, financial management, programs and services, employee credentials, endorsements, and several other categories.
- ❖ Wesley Property Management was named 5x Winner of SatisFacts National Resident Satisfaction "Superior" Award

from resident ratings of Wesley communities and recognized as 2019 Top 10 Annual Survey Company Award Winner.

- ❖ In February, Wesley Housing announced its refreshed brand, including new logo, tagline and website. Details regarding our new brand can be found in our latest blog post: <https://wesleyhousing.org/our-new-look-and-feel/>

– *Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO*

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY (BHECM)

The mission of campus ministry in the Virginia Conference is that of the United Methodist Church, “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries oversees the mission and ministry of the 13 campus ministries related to and supported by the Virginia Conference. As such, the board’s role is to partner with local boards and campus ministers to support their mission and vision. To meet this commitment the board has focused on three objectives this academic year.

- A. Training and Development:** All campus ministers and local boards will have the necessary information and skills to effectively execute their mission of discipleship, student leadership development, and campus transformation.
 1. The fall semester was dedicated to training new campus ministers and working with all campus ministers to develop Ministry Action Plans. The Campus Ministry Operational Team led this effort with reports from board members Paulo Lopes and Drew Ensz.
 2. The spring semester was dedicated to designing and delivering training for local boards. Based on a training needs assessment, and on the analysis of annual campus ministry reports, a comprehensive training program has been developed that includes on-site visits, webinars, centralized training, and a local board training resources website.
- B. Property Oversight and Management:** Implement the Wesley Foundation Property Task Force recommendations regarding long-term financial sustainability.
 1. Explore Property Partnerships: This involves examining the interest of universities in purchasing campus ministry properties to include a provision for a long-term lease. It also involves examining the interest of universities and community groups in leasing space in our properties for student education programs.
 2. Develop Property Financial Sustainability Plans: Five-year plans are being prepared that identify property maintenance requirements and the financial actions that local boards must take to ensure property income will meet or exceed property expenses. Currently there are six Wesley Foundation, Inc. properties. The BHECM property committee is in the process of evaluating and validating the feasibility of each plan.
 3. Improve Property Management Oversight: A new Wesley Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees will be appointed to provide conference property oversight. The Conference Board of Local Property Managers will be re-established with a focus on mutual support and property management responsibilities.
- C. Communication:** Improve the level of interaction between the BHECM, campus ministers, local boards, and the conference staff. To accomplish this objective, each BHECM member has been appointed as a liaison to a campus ministry. They will attend local board meetings and facilitate two-way communications. In addition, BHECM newsletters are being sent to campus ministers, local board chairs, and each individual local board member.

Reports

We have been blessed with the appointment of four new campus ministers. They are Michael Dean Burnett, United

Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University; Jasmyn Graham, Wesley Foundation at Virginia State University (FLOW); Elizabeth Snader, Campus Christian Community, University of Mary Washington; and, Randy Timmerman, Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University (IGNITE).

We invite you to read the stories shared by each of our campus ministries in this *Book of Reports*. Further, we invite you to pray for the continued fruitfulness of Higher Education ministries. Our campus ministries touch the lives of tens of thousands of students with invitations and opportunities “to explore, engage, and embody an active faith in God.” As part of this process, they are actively involved in partnerships to shape the quality of individual and community life on our campuses.

– John E. Dunning, Chair

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

Ignite Norfolk - Wesley Foundation at ODU

The past year at IGNITE Norfolk has seen our ministry go through a number of transformations that, both in looking back and looking forward, we can celebrate what God has done and what we expect God to continue to do.

In July of 2019, the Director position at IGNITE transitioned away from being a full-time appointment. Partnering with Larchmont United Methodist Church (the local UMC that is closest to Old Dominion’s campus), IGNITE’s Director shifted to part-time and, concurrently, served as Larchmont’s part-time Associate Pastor. During the 2019-2020 school year, there have been a few opportunities for our students to interact and serve alongside Larchmont’s congregation (supporting their Pumpkin Patch fundraiser, providing nursery workers, etc.) It is our hope that in the next year, we will find even more ways to serve together.

Alongside the input of IGNITE students, a temporary year-long vision was cast: “ReIGNITE a love of God through humble service.” The spirit behind this vision was that, since its inception, IGNITE has been a place where people come to experience God through service and mission first (what we call IGNITE’s “front door”). After our volunteers have those experiences of humble service, we strive to build meaning behind those very experiences on a foundation of Jesus Christ. We seek to inspire our students to live out the Great Commission before they even realize it!

In the daily work of IGNITE, we are excited to share that the IGNITE pantry that started about 5 years ago has begun to explode over the last few months. In October 2019, we started a collaboration with the brand-new Panera Bread near campus and we now receive twice weekly pastry pick-ups from them. In November 2019, the IGNITE pantry was featured on the front page of the ODU website which garnered a lot of attention from the community and helped us find passionate partners who wanted to do canned food fundraisers to support our ministry. In February 2020, through our partnership with the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia, we were partnered with the brand-new ALDI grocery store near campus and receive twice weekly pick-ups of close to expired produce, meats, dairy, and a variety of other things. Because of these developments, during the first two months of 2020, we have already received 249 visits with 70 of those visits being households new to the pantry itself. These 249 visits already account for close to 60% of the visits that the pantry had in the entirety of 2019. God is good!

Behind the scenes, an Operations team has been formed, in partnership with some coaches from the Virginia Conference, to work through the Spiritual Leadership Inc. system of Loving, Learning, and Leading in order to help IGNITE’s ministry go from being a solo mission to becoming a generative ministry. This work has been tough, as it requires us to take a hard look at who IGNITE is and what we want IGNITE to become; however, through this work, a more permanent vision has been cast, through this team’s collaboration, that we feel encapsulates our core values in a succinct and memorable way: Everybody fed, full, and faithful.

As we wrap up one school year and begin to prepare for another, we cannot wait to witness what the Holy Spirit will continue to do through the doors of IGNITE. With God’s help, we look forward to the fire that IGNITE’s work will kindle in the hearts of our students, in our college community, and in Norfolk as a whole.

–Randy Timmerman, Director

The Wesley Foundation at Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College

It has been a very busy and exciting year here at the Wesley Foundation at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney. Our students are living into the vision of being a campus ministry where all members of the campus feel welcomed and love for who God has created them to be. Our student leadership and Board has worked to also provide a place where students belong. WE have had mission opportunities locally and regionally, worship, small groups, on campus activities and be involved with the greater community of Farmville.

Elwoods Cabinet is an adventure what we and the Student Government Association at Longwood have developed over the past year. There is a great need for food insecure students to have access to food not only here on our campuses but campuses around the country. Elwood is the mascot of Longwood and the Cabinet has been recognized by both secret organizations on campus, CHI (the spirit of Longwood) and Princeps (Leadership), for the work that they are doing to help with the ongoing needs of the student body.

We have been under construction here at Wesley doing some much needed upgrades of our physical building. We are nearing the completion of these projects and feel as though we have a building that is very conducive to providing the ministry we envision here.

We love the interactions we have with local congregations on Tuesday nights and our students enjoy sharing a meal with persons they may not otherwise meet.

It has been an exciting and busy year of ministry and we are working on planning for the coming year.

– Justin A. Hicks, Director

The Pace Center - Wesley Foundation at VCU

The Pace Center has a mission to help bring the gifts and passions of VCU students to life in order to build community on campus. That is exactly what happens every Thursday at our Community Café: \$1 Thursday Lunch. VCU is an incredibly diverse campus. Students' gifts and passions come to life as they take turns cooking from their favorite family recipes to feed their fellow VCU students, faculty, and staff. Guests of the café learn about and experience the culture of the chef. In the process, they have built a place where people from all over campus and from all different background come to form a community. Pace's motto is Gather | Eat | Share. We believe doing so among a diverse group of people truly is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.

Pace's Community Café came out of our Servant Leadership Institute in which students learn how to identify and bring to life the gifts and passions of others. By the end of 2020, more than 100 students will have interviewed over 2,500 fellow students asking them about their dreams, skills, and passions. These interviews form the foundation for community building events at Pace which are led by VCU students based on the dreams of their colleagues. Past events have included: Mindfulness Meditation, Multicultural Thanksgiving, Open-Mic Night and Community Conversations around topics such as mental health, physical health, and what motivates people to vote. Pace's Wednesday Lunch Church worship service and Friday Bible Study help Pace leaders to stay in touch with the Kingdom of God that they are striving to be a foretaste of. We can't wait to see what the Spirit will do next!

– Katie Gooch, Director

RISE Faith Community - JMU

In the past we have submitted lengthy and rather detailed reports for the *Book of Reports*, often exceeding our suggested word count. We are committed to be concise this year. We realize that there is probably too much puffed up, flowery rhetoric in the world already and really people just need to read and hear the straight truth without much spin. So here you go. Here's the straight truth about RISE.

As always there is much to celebrate. Over the past year we have began the process of growing a closer relationship with Otterbein UMC, seeking to bridge generational gaps and demonstrate to the world that churches need not be in competition but instead find ways to complement one another's ministry. Together, we opened a coffee shop called Just Java in downtown Harrisonburg right across from the courthouse that seeks to be a place where restorative justice is brought to

the public awareness. Also, as part of this effort, we are currently working on creating an outreach ministry for folks coming out of incarceration. One piece of this larger effort, which we are calling the Just Love Initiative, is a ministry called WITH, which offers hospitality to folks visiting loved ones at the jail, which is across the street from our building, on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We also continue with a strong food backpack ministry sending food home with around 45 elementary aged students and their families every weekend. Lastly, this past year saw the start of a partnership with a JMU fraternity called Acacia in developing a unique clothing ministry for middle and high school students dealing with poverty called Secret Boutique.

In the midst of all this hope, we are also wrestling with the reality of changing times. We are deeply invested in conversations about how to remain vital and vibrant in the years to come. We are putting all aspects of our ministry and leadership under the microscope and seeking the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and trusted mentors and voices to guide us in making any necessary changes to our leadership structure and ministry emphases. Remaining nimble and flexible as inevitable changes come, be they financial, structural, or leadership, is going to be important for us like everyone else. But we believe we are up to the task.

To close, we leave you with this wonderful truth. In everything we do, in everything we hope for, and in everything we may fear, we are not alone. Or put more succinctly, “Best of all, God is with us.”

The Wesley Foundation at UVA

The day after Ash Wednesday this spring, in our “God this Week” small group, we reflected on what it was like to spend most of the day walking around with black smudges on our foreheads. One student thoughtfully said that it made her more aware of “people who wear their religion” in more obvious ways than we usually do, specifically Muslim women who wear head coverings. As we reflected on her comment, we realized how easy it is to make “Muslim” the first thing we notice about some people in ways that almost never happen to us except for this one day when we walk around with smudged foreheads. We were not used to and sometimes uncomfortable being immediately called “the Christian” or “the religious one” in class, based only on one quick glance at our faces. As we began the conversation, we had no idea we’d end up contemplating our own connection to Muslims because of our Ash Wednesday experiences.

That’s where a great conversation with faithful students can take us. That’s where openness to the Holy Spirit opens us to a wider community than we were expecting.

As many of you know, we hosted UVA’s LGBTQ student group in our Wesley Foundation building. This hospitality began in the early 1970s when a student active in both groups asked campus minister Jim McDonald if the newly-formed Gay Student Union (as it was then called) could meet here. Meeting on the UVA campus was risky and too public for students who needed to keep their group membership anonymous. In the past year this relationship of hospitality has ended. I’m happy and relieved to say that this did not happen because of the 2019 General Conference but, rather, because the university has changed enough in all this time, that LGBTQ students don’t need to meet here anymore, out of sight and just off campus. With changing attitudes, more diversity in the student population, and a brand new set-aside gathering space at UVA, the Queer Student Union no longer needed the anonymity and hospitality we provided for so long. Though we miss hosting them, this is a success story for the church: we offered something crucial and timely to our neighbors in need (and in danger) when there was no other place for them to go.

The Wesley Foundation at UVA became the Virginia Conference’s first Reconciling campus ministry last spring, making official what we have been living for a long time. Student-led and board-supported, it was our first response to General Conference 2019. In the fall, we developed an Advent devotional called “Voices from the Wilderness” as another response, our effort to center and amplify and listen to the voices of those we have all been talking so much about. We are grateful to and humbled by the students, alumni, UVA faculty, and friends who generously offered their reflections to help guide us through Advent. United Methodists emphasize connectionalism, but we at Wesley are profoundly humbled that these siblings in Christ remain connected to The United Methodist Church—sometimes quite tenuously—even now.

Last spring, as Ramadan and final exams overlapped in the calendar, we joined together with several other campus ministries to host Iftar meals (dinners to break the fast in the evenings) for our Muslim neighbors. Over the course of 3 nights we welcomed 300 Muslim friends and volunteers! Throughout the week, new Muslim friends came up to thank the volunteers for providing these meals. They expressed how nice it was to gather as a larger community for prayer and the

Iftar meal each night, noting that often when Ramadan falls during the school year students will go out to restaurants in small groups. They made a point of telling us that it was really special to be together in such large numbers. The Christian and Jewish volunteers stood by quietly each night as we listened to the beautiful call to prayer, a lovely melodic moment of communal hush before the bustle of getting the meal on the tables.

This is where campus ministry with faithful students can take us, where openness to the Holy Spirit opens us to a wider community than we were expecting.

– Rev. Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director

The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech

Wesley's team-based approach to ministry enables us to create an environment where all students are engaged in the ministry using their gifts and grace to "Love Out Loud" on Virginia Tech's campus, in the community and around the world.

This past year it was never more evident that this approach is critical to the continued success of our ministry at Wesley at Virginia Tech. There were many obstacles hindering our vision "to be a grace filled community where all people feel safe and supported in their journey to explore and grow in their faith and their relationships with each other without condition or preconceived notions. We strive to develop and send out all people as peacemakers and disciples in the world rooted in faith and the relationships they build in our community." Several of these include: Our new Core Ministry Team was spread across the world making it difficult to plan and get ready for new students in the fall. A new dorm was being built beside our building (very exciting when it gets done!) and blocked our building from the campus. That same new dorm flooded our building with sewer water the day before and day of move-in! However, because of Wesley's team-based approach our students stepped into action using their gifts and passions to do what was needed in order to welcome new students to our community. It was amazing to see students step into roles and carry out our vision!

Our team(s) at Wesley allow our students to grow in their leadership, spirituality, and fellowship with one another creating an atmosphere of trust, healthy conflict, commitment and accountability. It fosters an environment where we can help others grow spiritually, make disciples, and experience love and grace. Here are some of the "Glory Sightings" that have emerged this past year:

- ❖ Our Communities of Grace (CoGs – Small Groups) increased to 10
- ❖ Worship continues to be vital for around 40-50 students each week
- ❖ Leading Youth Retreats and Campus Exploration Weekends for youth around the Conference
- ❖ We became a Reconciling Ministry and continue to be a safe space for LGBTQ+ folx on our campus
- ❖ Our Food Pantry (209 Manna Ministries) continues to serve food insecure students on our campus
- ❖ We had 30 students travel to Edenton, NC for a Spring Break Mission Trip
- ❖ Our Fall Retreat had 30 students attend to hear from Halleemah Nash about Call and Vocation
- ❖ At FUN143 our students continue to transform the lives of over 10 Middle and High School students tutoring and mentoring them twice weekly.
- ❖ First UMC in Salem, VA came up to provide "family dinner" for our students and we then packed 10 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- ❖ We have 3 Prayer Circles with 6-10 students at each praying for our community, the campus, and the world.
- ❖ We held two 24-hour prayer vigils over reading day
- ❖ For Welcome Week we took our life-sized game night to the Eggleston Quad and had a great turnout
- ❖ We handed out over 480 hot dogs to students downtown on a Friday night to share God's love
- ❖ Our Outreach Team took 200 cookies to the library on several occasions to invite students to worship and other ministry events

- ❖ We collected over 750 cake mixes for the Montgomery County Christmas Store to give families a nice dessert for their Christmas dinner
- ❖ Our building continues to be a space that students gather every day to study, relax, enjoy fellowship, and grow together

All of this could not happen without incredible student leadership and teams that desire to live out their faith together. Our students commit themselves to the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ and it is witnessed over and over again in the ways they are creating an affirming, welcoming, and grace-filled environment for all people.

– *Bret Gresham, Campus Minister*

The Wesley Foundation at William & Mary

When a hateful, judgmental preacher spent over three hours attacking primarily women and LGBTQIA+ students, Wesley showed up in support of the students who had gathered and offered a very different vision of what Christianity calls us to. Max shared with the students that Jesus taught “Love your neighbor as yourself,” and “Love your enemies.” And that Paul said that the entirety of the law is summed up in one commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Wesley students brought the banner from in front of the Wesley House and witnessed to God’s love for all people. After the preacher left, many of the students wanted to take a photo with the banner in the very spot where the preacher had been standing. Hate was replaced with love.

This is what Wesley does on campus. We offer the love of God through Jesus in so many tangible and intangible ways, from partnering with groups and offices across the campus, to offering meals and the Campus Food Pantry to help hungry students (this past semester the food pantry served over 60 students, including over 120 visits), to offering community, worship, and safe/brave spaces to worship and discuss our faith. The house is almost always full of people coming together to study, eat, share, and grow. Also, our small groups exploded this fall semester to over 20 students participating, as we discussed Nadia Bolz-Weber’s book, *Shameless*. We also provided 61 weeks of housing through the Wesley house and community partners to students who were unhoused. Furthermore, students who have left their faith are finding in Wesley a Christian community in which they can engage their faith again.

Here are a few testimonies from students about the Wesley community:

- ❖ “The people at Wesley welcomed me in an honest and genuine way that I hadn’t felt before, even in other religious settings. I never saw myself joining a religious group on campus, but looking back, I can definitively say that I can’t imagine myself at William and Mary without imagining myself at Wesley too.”
- ❖ “Wesley gave me a place to stay when I needed to get out of my home situation, so I am forever thankful for that. I am just happy to be a part of a group that is inclusive, rallying for radical change and love of everyone and anyone, and whose morals and values stand with mine so well. Thank you, Wesley, for making my college experience so much better!!”
- ❖ “I was raised Christian, but I’m not a Christian anymore. But I’ve never seen Christians, or a pastor do what y’all did, so I wanted to come see what y’all are all about, and I feel welcomed and loved.” (This is a student now active in Wesley who did so in response to our standing with other students in response to a hate group on campus last spring.)

Because of the firm foundation of faith, community, and a clear purpose, students are empowered to go across the campus and live out their faith. But it doesn’t stop at the campus. This past year, because of our partnership with Williamsburg UMC to bring Palestinian Christian Daoud Nassar from Tent of Nations to Williamsburg and to campus, one of our students ended up being the summer camp coordinator for Tent of Nations this summer. The entire experience has changed her life and empowered her in her faith.

Wesley impacts students in innumerable way to empower them to not only grow in their faith, but to live it out. Very simply: students are hungry, and we feed them. Students are homeless, and we provide them a home. It’s students serving students in the food pantry and cooking the community meals. It’s Wesley having the space to house students, but it’s

the Wesley students welcoming them and embracing them that makes it a home. As our vision statement says, “Through following Jesus, we embrace God’s radical hospitality for all.” Thanks for being an annual conference that loves and supports campus ministry!

Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

Arise Campus Ministry at GMU

This year has been a year of tremendous excitement and a great challenge at Arise Campus Ministry. Arise continues to be an ecumenical campus ministry that has a call to live out a partnership between the various denominational partners. They are the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, National Capital Presbytery, the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Disciples of Christ. Our vision statement is because we believe in Jesus, we welcome all, share God’s universal love and compassionately live out our faith on campus and in the community. We continue to help students experience the richness of a new and transformed life in Jesus Christ through a network of Life-groups throughout campus. Life-groups are small groups that meet for community to discuss life and faith issues. We have Life-groups that meet every day between Sunday and Thursday. We also have an off-campus Life-group that meets Thursday evenings primarily made up of students from NOVA Community Colleges and George Mason University.

We have seen the growth of unique and diverse students involved in Arise. Many of our students have had unfortunate experiences in churches before and come to us in need of pastoral care. Through their experiences at Arise, we have seen a number of them decide to reconnect in a local church. We also continue to experience students choosing to join or be baptized in their local congregations. This past month we had two students go through Confirmation at local churches. This relationship building with local churches of all the denominations continues to be essential for the long-term health of the denominations that support Arise. Being this bridge to the local church is an integral part of our vision to live out our faith in the community.

Arise students also live out their faith through missions and service work. This year we helped with multiple hypothermia shelters in Fairfax County alongside our denominational partners. We also had the opportunity to host a Rise Against Hunger event, which we partnered with St. Matthews UMC as well as Burke Presbyterian Church. Arise also is planning on working with Fairfax Presbyterian Church in their Rebuilding Fairfax Day. Our partnership with the George Mason University pantry continues to be thriving, and we are excited about how we are living out Jesus’s call to feed those in need. Over the winter break, we took students to the Leadership Center in Honduras. The mission trip was an incredible opportunity to meet young Honduran women who are trying to make a difference in their communities through education and growing in entrepreneurial and leadership skills. We look forward to returning in January 2021. Through these activities with the help of all of our supporting congregations, we continue to serve and grow in faith.

This year has also been a very challenging one for Arise Campus Ministry. On September 21, 2019, the Ministry Director officiated a wedding as part of his duties and a part of the ecumenical partnership at Arise, which requires him to respect the tradition of all of the denominations, which the Virginia Annual Conference agreed to abide. As of the writing of this report (March 6, 2020), he continues to be under active complaint for violating the *Book of Discipline* from multiple parties. When the board wrote to the Bishop regarding the Ministry Director, whom we employ, we were informed nothing could be shared. We are hopeful that his case is dismissed so that he and all of the students and staff at Arise can continue to do the fruitful and vital work of making disciples in campus ministry. We want to thank the many leaders, clergy, and laity from all the denominations who have reached out to us in support. We also want to thank our donors, staff, board, and students who have continued to reach the students at GMU and beyond during this difficult time. We look forward to a day when all of God’s children will be able to be welcomed in the Virginia Annual Conference, just as all persons are welcome at Arise Campus Ministry. I humbly submit this report.

–Andy Greis, Board Chair

Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington

There has been a lot of change for the Campus Christian Community throughout this past year. We said goodbye to our Campus Minister of five years, Shannon Waite, and hired our new Campus Minister, Elizabeth Snader. The start of the semester brought a lot of excitement for the students, Elizabeth, and the board! The Board and Elizabeth dove into several visioning sessions, and together they were able to see where God is leading the CCC.

Our weekly programming this year provided students opportunities to connect and deepen their faith. During Bible Study we worked through the book of Luke and enjoyed conversation about our reading. We also had various Table Talk Dinners on Thursday nights where we enjoyed home cooked meals from our supporting churches and experienced worship and fellowship together. On Fridays we would gather for “coffeeology” and discuss various theological topics. In addition to our weekly programming we also participated in things like the Out of the Darkness Walk, paint night, roller skating, retreats, etc. Spirituality and faith discovery is a passion of the students at the CCC. This past year we had one student decide they wanted to be baptized!

Throughout the past year the CCC has been very involved in the community of the University of Mary Washington and the community of our supporting churches. We had many church visits and were able to participate in various church activities such as Trunk or Treat, Young Adult Events, etc. We are thankful for the way the VAUMC and the local church has and is welcoming and supporting us.

– Elizabeth Snader, Campus Minister

Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

Community College Ministries is your campus ministry with community colleges in southern Virginia where over 50,000 students deal with faith, family, classes, careers, and a wide range of challenges every single day! Colleges include Virginia Western in Roanoke, Blue Ridge in Weyers Cave, Dabney Lancaster in Clifton Forge, Central Virginia in Lynchburg, Danville Community College, New River in Dublin, Patrick Henry in Martinsville, Wytheville Community College, Virginia Highlands in Abingdon, Southwest in Richlands, and Mountain Empire in Big Stone Gap. The Presbyterian Church USA and Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Church are also partners.

Community College Ministries sponsors Alliance for Excellence involving hundreds of students with African American congregations, launched in 1986 with support from GHGM EMLC and the United Methodist Self-Development Fund.

Alliance for Excellence provides vital ministries through fellowships, seminars, choirs, and mission, and outreach, including “Hoops Don’t Shoot” with youth facing the pressures of violence and poverty. This program led to a partnership with the Center for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation at Duke University. The Racial Healing program offers a model for changing the narrative of race in our colleges, churches, and communities.

For the ninth year now, Community College Ministries sponsors the “Rally in the Valley” bringing community college students of faith together from across the entire Commonwealth.

Our newest program is outreach among young people coming to college from foster care settings in cooperation with the Great Expectations program of the Virginia Community College System, Open Table, UMFS, and Presbyterian Children’s Homes.

And finally, Community College Ministries is host to mission and service opportunities for other campus ministries, colleges, churches, and agencies of the church. We have 72 home repair projects waiting for volunteers in the Appalachian region of the Commonwealth with housing and project supervision ready and available. The president of the board is Sandy Saunders of Danville, VA. The vice president of the board is Muriel Mickles of Lynchburg, VA. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry with all the love, grace, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ!

– The Rev. Stephen Darr

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation at NSU

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation (WWF) at Norfolk State University (NSU) has received numerous accolades and awards over the past six years. Just this year, the Director, Rev. Dr. Joy Carrington was selected as a Leading Lady on campus. We continue to strive to be a sought-after voice for the spiritual well being of persons on the campus and in the community. WWF Campus Ministry is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches seeking to impact the College, the Community, and the Current Culture with Christian Principles, Open Hearts and Open Minds. It is our mission to provide a safe place to explore and to experience one's faith, while offering a respectful and non-threatening environment of love, service to others and learning. We believe we accomplish this in each activity we host.

We continue to boast 100% participation in all school sponsored events. As Director, I was asked to offer Invocation at the Alumni Annual Recognition Dinner and Freshman Convocation as well as offer grace for the sold out Community Breakfast. Once again, the school invited WWF to host the Annual Family Weekend Worship service. We provided the music, the message, welcomed the parents and introduced Campus Ministry to persons who joined us for worship. Worship is always concluded with a family Brunch on campus. This is a great way to engage new students and their parents.

Ms. Wanda Boone, our on-campus advisor is helpful in assuring that our planned activities are approved and hosted on campus. We host several Open Mic Nights, Worship Services, and Bible Studies throughout the semester. Family Dinner is always a hit. We have been blessed with a Tidewater Community College Student studying culinary arts who serves as our resident chef. The students and I love her cooking. During Family Dinner we pray together and share in conversations that motivate. One of our most successful events was Harvest Night. More than 200 students and community members joined in food, fellowship and visiting the house which was decorated during Homecoming for Halloween. Our flyer and ministry went viral on campus and Student Activities shared interest in future partnership with us. Our Ministry Retreat led by Dr. Lisa Johnson was phenomenal.

Instead of a Back to School Cookout, this year we hosted several Open Houses at the Campus House and entertained many new students who joined campus ministry. We realized that because of our students' varying schedules many of our events had to be changed and or adjusted to accommodate their schedules. Outreach is paramount to us and #Lunch-bag is where we fix lunches and distribute them in several locations where people hang out in the community. Our Small Groups, Choir, Outreach and Game Nights are just a few other ways we seek to provide ministry opportunities. We continue to offer food, fellowship and friendship to our students. Some issues remain. Many involved in campus ministry are academically astute but continue to struggle financially. It is our prayer that in the future we may be able to offer scholarships and or internship opportunities to some of our students to help alleviate the great strain of their financial burden to attend college.

BOARD OF LAITY

The vision Bishop Lewis brought to us in 2017: to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve, continues to be the board's driving focus. The Board over the past several months re wrote the existing Board of Laity bylaws to more closely reflect this vision by allowing our District Lay Leaders to be closer together in work/prayer groups in geographical areas. Responding to local church ministries is driving lay leadership training. September District Lay Leader/ Lay Servant Director Training by Discipleship Ministries will strengthen our call to the local church through trained leadership.

We will continue to focus on ways to enhance our Lay Servant Ministry under the direction of Conference Director Richard Speirs and Mentor David Bailey. Lay Servant Academy is scheduled for July 17-19, 2020 at Randolph Macon College. Local District courses are being created and offered throughout the year in most districts. Certified Lay Ministers are being certified through cooperation of the Lay Servant Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

We continue to advocate for the United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. Conference Director of Scouting Ministries, Bill Chaffin, has been working tirelessly this year on many aspects of this impactful ministry for local

churches. The United Methodist Church celebrates 100 years this year of sponsoring Scouting units in our United Methodist Churches.

We have celebrated the leadership of six District Lay Leaders whose terms have ended on the Board, Joe Amend, Marquette Mitchell, Gene Cross, Sue Mayo, Gary Denette, Gloria Phillips. We thank them all for service to our Districts. They are servants among us always. In addition we have celebrated new faces joining the Board. We welcome Karen McElfish, Arlington, Eileen Fraedrich, Alexandria, Susan Custer, Richmond, Darlene Amon, Elizabeth River, Geraldine Sanderson, Farmville and Andrew Harbick, Harrisonburg. We thank Rev. Danny Kesner, for continuing as our Cabinet representative, Rev. Teresa Keezel one of our Clergy members. We thank Rev. Mark Ogren our Staff representative for guidance and support. Thanks to MaryKaye Cochran, Administrative Assistant for invaluable assistance and gifted wisdom always.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis challenged us in June 2017 with a Vision for our conference - I repeat it here, A Disciple of Christ is a Lifelong learner who Influences others to Serve. We pray for Bishop Lewis as she continues to heal. Her partnership with the laity is ever before us. I am so very thankful for her presence and pray for her guidance daily.

As I end this report of the Conference Board of Laity I also end my term as your Conference Lay Leader. You, the laity of the Virginia Annual Conference know God is leading you. You are not special, you are God's called laity for this time and in your place. You are "all called." John Wesley said: "I want you to be all love" You are "all Love." All love means love all until all love God.

– Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Church Development Team (CDT) continues to work diligently to fulfill its mission to assist in creating New Faith Communities and to promote vitality in existing churches under the All Things New initiative.

The Five Talent Academy offers training related to worship, financial stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry with the poor. In November, Reverend Jacqui Lewis, Reverends Andy and Anjie Woodworth, Bishop Ken Carter, and Reverend Michael Adam Beck led a session focused on community transformation.

The Equipping Planter Team directs the invitation, discernment, and training of planters for new faith communities in the Virginia Conference. Those with potential interest in serving as a planter engage in a process of discernment regarding their gifts for this unique ministry. The first stage of this occurs at the Church Leadership Institute which is held annually in the fall. The team is working with other conferences to develop a document that captures the characteristics of successful pastors in multi-site churches, and is working to offer additional opportunities for planters to get together and learn from one another's experiences.

The New Faith Community subgroup of the CDT strives to create a culture of excellence, fruitfulness, and vitality for new faith community development in the conference. To this end, we provide resources and encourage recently launched new faith communities, local churches, district Boards of Mission and their equivalents, the Cabinet, and others in the conference who live out the "All Things New" strategy through the planting of new faith communities. The New Faith Community subgroup also reviews proposals for new faith communities and makes recommendations for approval and funding to the CDT. In 2019, the CDT approved applications for new faith communities for Restoration South Reston and for New Life International at St. Andrew's. CDT also approved leadership grants for ongoing Next Level Innovations programs for the Elizabeth River District and the Richmond District. In addition, the CDT invited churches to apply for Fresh Expressions microgrants, an initiative that should gain momentum in the years ahead.

The CDT continues to partner with Large, Medium, and Small Church leadership teams to offer programs for pastors who are moving (Just in Time training), as well as initiatives focused on increasing vitality for all clergy and laity.

All the members of the CDT remain grateful for the outstanding work by Mark Ogren and MaryKaye Cochran without which our efforts to make All Things New within the Virginia Conference could not succeed.

– Paul S. Baker, chair

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Members of the Commission on Disabilities (COD) committee continues to strive to uphold our mission statement by providing advocacy, education, and direct service on behalf of persons with challenging conditions. We do this by affirming the responsibilities of the Church to be in ministry with all persons regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions. The Commission continues to promote full inclusion of persons with disabilities and other challenging conditions in the life of the local church and the VA Annual Conference.

We meet at least three times annually at the Conference Center Office. Our committee is made up of numerous clergy and laity throughout our VA Conference and we strive to have a representative from each district in our VA Conference.

We continue to have a good relationship with our Camp Rainbow committee and Heart Havens by supporting them in all ways possible. We have a representative from COD that connects with Camp Rainbow and a representative from Heart Havens that is a member of our committee. We are currently working on an information video to be used for training purposes throughout our VA Conference.

We would like to thank all our clergy and laity with their support toward our COD committee and if you would like to be a part of our committee in some way you can visit us at our display table at our Annual Conference. We look forward at helping empower our churches and people to continue to strive to be inclusive and be a people with *Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors*.

– Rev. Neil W. McLaughlin, chair

THE COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY (CEMCA)

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) serves to be the prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of all ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference. This year our work focused on education, strategic planning, advocacy, and accompaniment into account God's church at all levels (General, Conference, District, and Local). We believe that our commission can stimulate individual and group agency that will move the Virginia Annual Conference forward in more inclusive, ethnically-diverse, and racially just ways.

We represent: African-American Ministries, the Immigration Task Force, Asian-American Ministries, Native American Ministries, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), VA FOCUS 2020, Methodists Associated for the Cause of the Hispanic-American (MARCHA), National/ South-Eastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Hispanic-Latino Caucus, VAUMC's Latino Clergy Caucus, along with Inter-Ethnic collaboration and integration across the annual conference. CEMCA supports and provides an advocating voice for GCORR grant recipients, like the FaithJustice Foundation (<https://www.faithjusticefoundation.org/>), through social justice work in the annual conference and across the UM connection.

This year were served as a multicultural resource for VAUMC's SEJ/GC Delegation in response to last year's elections at the 2019 annual conference. That statement can be found here on the VAUMC website: <http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/CEMCA/CemcaAC2019Statement.pdf>. In the fall, CEMCA facilitated an inter-ethnic dialogue which has already generated change toward a more beloved and diverse community in our annual conference. The full details of this meeting and the sequential action steps, is found here: http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/CEMCA/CEMCAMinutes10_5_19.pdf As a commission we are pleased to facilitate changes in the conference's Leadership Development team process (known as CLDDT) and each of the Ethnic Caucuses leading our general conference delegation meetings through worship and vital conversations about issues that affect all ethnicities. In addition, multiple districts hosted successful Race & Reconciliation Events in response to CEMCA's call to action to facilitate interethnic dialogues in each district.

We continue our conference monitoring efforts this year in conjunction with CoSROW. This year at annual conference we invite all laity and clergy to complete both the CEMCA and the CoSROW surveys found and in your conference packet. The CEMCA survey is also online (<https://vaumc.org/cemca>). This information helps in our continued efforts to

be sure all voices are heard, present, and represented in our annual conference.

We encourage all members of the Annual conference to focus on the talking points outlined in the Race & Reconciliation Convocation's resources when engaging in difficult, faith-driven conversations as we continue the journey ever closer to becoming the Beloved Community.

With the help of each member of the annual conference, guidance by the Holy Spirit, and by the healing love that can only come from Christ our Savior, we look forward to continuing our partnerships in educating and resourcing our conference, at each district, and through the local church, in this divine work of reknitting the fabric that injustices and prejudices have torn.

– *Lori Valentine de Segovia (Laity) and Rev. Lyle Morton (Clergy), CEMCA co-chairs*

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of women in the full life of the United Methodist church. At each Annual Conference, COSROW works with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) to observe and record the participation of women, minorities, youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. This data collection continues at Annual Conference 2020.

At the 2019 Annual Conference, COSROW and CEMCA worked together to collect demographic data on our Laity. We will repeat this process at AC 2020. Approximately 1,300 Lay Delegates attend Annual Conference each year. Here are the results of our survey:

We received 462 completed surveys, about 35% of delegates attending. Surveys were completed anonymously and asked for basic demographic information: Gender, Ethnicity, and Age range. Over time, we strive for more ethnic diversity and more delegates in the 18-34 age range.

Of the 462 surveys, 64.5% were women, 35% were men. (Three surveys (.65%) were marked "Prefer not to answer.") Under Ethnicity, 90% were White (Not Hispanic or Latino/a), 4% were Black or African American; 1.3% were Hispanic or Latino/a; 1.8% were Asian; .22% American Indian (one respondent.) 3% of respondents marked "Other or Prefer Not to Answer," a total of 16 surveys. The category of age was more balanced, however, we still have work to do. The 65-74 age category was the largest at 39%, then 35-64 at 36%; 75+ was 16%; 18-34 is 4% and under 18 also 4%.

Although the survey findings might not be surprising --lay delegates are majority white and women between 35-74-- this survey sets a benchmark observation from which we can grow.

COSROW encourages our District Representatives to begin gatherings of women in the district for local ministry support and advocacy, such as a listening post or networking. COSROW can also send trained representatives to your district to hold a Listening Post.

COSROW encourages all to consider participating in the World Council of Churches Thursdays in Black campaign. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies. More information at our COSROW display and oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black.

Like us on Facebook for news, events, and updates at "Commission on the Status and Role of Women – VA United Methodist Conference."

COSROW holds two in-person meetings and two conference call meetings per year. Meeting dates are announced on the Conference Calendar and on our Facebook page.

– *Mary Dadisman, Clergy Chair*



*The following four reports are from agencies that have been awarded
Conference Benevolence Grants:*

GRACEINSIDE

United Methodist affiliated GraceInside staff:

Chaplain Michael Blythe (Greensville Corr. Ctr. – S-1 Cluster)

Chaplain Donna Smith (Greensville Corr. Ctr. – S-2 Cluster)

Chaplain Paul Ritter (Keen Mtn. Corr. Ctr. & Marion Corr. Treatment Center)

Methodist Representatives serving on GraceInside’s Board of Trustees:

Rev. Marilyn Heckstall, Liaison to the Bishop (Virginia Conference UMC)

Mr. Lindell Tinsley, Member at Large

Vacant seat designated for the Holston Conference UMC (per Bishop Taylor’s selection)

GraceInside’s mission to “save lives from the inside out” is realized by staffing 30 Chaplains in 30 of Virginia’s 45 state prisons. Among our greatest blessings has been the loyal support of the Conferences and local congregations of the United Methodist Church, which stood among our founding denominations in 1920. Our partnership with the Virginia United Methodist Conference has forged an enduring commitment to bring Christ into the prisons and transform the lives of incarcerated men and women. Because of the generous help of the VAUMC, thousands of offenders have found a connection to Jesus Christ and His amazing grace. GraceInside strives to enhance public safety and to teach former criminals to depart from violence and to re-enter society by embracing Christian love instead of the world’s darkness and hatred. We endeavor to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Here is a recent note received from C.F., a former offender: “I am at home writing this note because of the love and encouragement of a former Chaplain at Greensville Correctional Center. Suffice it to say that he taught me, through Jesus, to reach for my Bible instead of a gun or drugs. His counsel literally transformed my life and re-directed my eternal destiny from damnation to truly amazing grace.”

Regardless of the modern challenges that threaten to rend the fabric of our Christian unity, the commands of Jesus Christ transcend all controversies and schisms. Whether conservative or liberal, or something in between, all Christians acknowledge that Christ commanded His followers to minister to the imprisoned: “I was in prison, and ye came unto me” (Matthew 25:36b, KJV). Equally, as He hung in agony on the cross, Jesus assured the repentant thief who revered Him: “Verily, I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). Love so deep and eternal is beyond human understanding or any disagreements, and is indeed the first step of the “Stairway to Heaven.” We thank the Virginia United Methodist Conference for laboring with GraceInside, over the past 100 years, to build that stairway - soul by soul, tear by tear, prayer by prayer.

– Rev. J. Randy Myers, President

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

2019 marked the Society of St. Andrew’s 40th year, dedicated to stewardship of earth’s resources and sharing healthy food with hungry neighbors. Once again in 2019, the Virginia Conference and its congregations were foundational to all aspects of SoSA’s work. We are so grateful for this partnership in ministry that has only strengthened through the years and now moves into its fifth decade.

In 2019, SoSA recovered and shared 3.25 million pounds of nourishing food in Virginia (10 million servings), or about 11 servings for each person struggling to access food in the Commonwealth. Top produce items shared were Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, sweet corn, collard greens, peaches, watermelons, squash, strawberries, turnips, and pumpkins. We jumped at an opportunity to share quality proteins with feeding agencies this year as well, sharing more than 10,000 pounds of chicken and beef and 11,000 gallons of milk. 217 agency partners—food banks, food pantries, soup

kitchens, shelters, emergency and disaster relief programs, senior and child nutrition programs, schools, and more—ensured that the healthy food SoSA shared reached people in greatest need.

301 VAUMC congregations and the Virginia Conference itself gave financially to support the work in 2019, giving more than \$115,000. The Hunger Trust and a family charitable trust held through the VA United Methodist Foundation provided additional support.

16 congregations gleaned with us, six sent groups to Harvest of Hope mission workcamps. 17 congregations received and distributed food in their communities through SoSA, and six congregations held crop drops in 2019. Altogether, more than 1,000 Virginia United Methodists volunteered with SoSA this year, many of them multiple times throughout the year.

Spiritual life resources published by the Society of St. Andrew fed spiritual hungers of 183 VAUMC congregations at Advent, 204 VAUMC congregations at Lent and 21 VAUMC congregations at Vacation Bible School.

SoSA adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 in the fall of 2019. This plan puts more boots on the ground in more places, organizing field and farmers' market gleanings in more locations. It initiates a Share Our Surplus program for home gardeners; promotes "produce pickups" – a mini-version of crop drops perfect for smaller congregations; and implements an abundance preparedness program that will encourage large congregations to prepare in advance for a short-notice call to host a crop drop. All of these programs will engage more people in helping feed their own communities, reduce the number of miles good food travels to reach people who need it, and get healthy food on tables sooner. They'll also offer even more opportunities for Virginia United Methodists to get involved!

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

For over seventy-five years, the Virginia Council of Churches has encouraged Christians in Virginia to walk together in oneness. This unity has seen the Council become the most widely known expression of our unity in Christ within the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the oldest ecumenical agency in Virginia, the council includes thirty-eight judicatories of eighteen Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant denominations, reflecting a membership of over 600,000 people. Our Covenant declares that:

"The Virginia Council of Churches is a community of communions which in response to the gospel as revealed in Scriptures, confess Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as Savior and Lord. Therefore, we covenant with one another to manifest ever more fully the unity of the Church. Relying upon the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we gather in common mission, serving in all creation to the glory of God and our neighbor's good." (VCC "New Covenant" adopted 11/2003).

Our work includes the promotion and facilitation of ecumenism through education and bridge building. It also provides a "special home" for a wide range of ecumenical programs such as disaster response, Rural Family Development Head start in Caroline County, addressing shared concerns for reducing poverty, human trafficking, and the criminal justice system, solitary confinement, the death penalty, ministry with the VA Indian Tribes, Faith and Order, LARCUM, and Interfaith Dialogue. New efforts have emerged like the Next Generation of Ecumenists, Anti-racism Pro-conciliation and Covenant Congregations. The Life Net Health Inc. Faith Leaders' Summit on "Life, Death, and Donation" is in the beginning conversation with medical and faith opportunities and concerns around the gift of organ and tissue donation.

The Council established in 1944, builds on Cooperative Church Activity dating back to 1875. The Holy Spirit moving through the churches led to the creation of a history of churches laboring to come together as the unified witness to one common Lord and Savior. In the twentieth century, the ecumenical movement gained momentum and differences among churches on ethical matters seemed marginal. Service, mission, social justice advocacy and moral witness were areas in which the church easily came together. The VCC provides support to the Virginia Annual Conference in the embodiment of the Body of Christ through the connecting of various Christian traditions and encouraging ministry and mission together to witness in strength and support for one another. During disaster response within the Commonwealth by serving as the link between the State EOC, FEMA, VDEM, and VOAD providing the Conference with current accurate information.

In 2019, the Council hosted the National Council of Churches Christian Unity Gathering in New Port News. This

gathering marked 400 years since the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in America. The 2019 theme: “Confronting the Hierarchy of Human Value: Revisiting Our Past and Naming God’s Preferred Future” focused on systemic racism which continues to ravage our churches, communities and lives. In 2008, the Council convened a conference with Regent Divinity School, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the Virginia Council of Churches on the clash of three cultures: Native, African, European as part of the 2007 Commemorations. The culmination of this conference was the book, *Remembering Jamestown: Hard Questions for Christian Mission*.

In the twenty first century, a new “normal” is required, a new approach, suited to the present moment. We need an ecumenism that does not live off of expectations of new breakthroughs. Despair and complacency conspire to remove ecumenism from the new normal. A new “normal” ecumenism would seek to deepen the real, but limited communion which already exists. How about the following: more open forums, providing “open” space for encounter, mutual learning, encouragement and whatever common initiatives that might develop? Actually, a new normal is already occurring: bilateral relations; Larcum; UMC and ELCA dialogues; a new “normal” ecumenism must seek common mission, where common mission is possible; our common mission and witness must also occur in our central witness to Christ, and to God’s saving work. Our sense of what counts as ecumenical dialogue needs to expand. In the past, many officially sponsored dialogues among experts almost always produced an agreed-upon text, which participants hoped would move the churches to closer unity. This process has reached limited returns. More important, perhaps, will be unofficial engagements across confessional boundaries, not either official or unofficially sponsored dialogues among experts, but both official and unofficial dialogues which directly links theological discourse with life collectively, then individually.

The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference and the vision of the Virginia Council of Churches are the same, we both seek ways in which we can move congregations and denominations beyond the present, to dream dreams of what might be. We both “envision churches where all God’s people are welcome at the table, nurtured, and transformed to be Christ to others in the World.” The very existence of the Council speaks to the movement from competition to the synergy of the churches coming together. The spirit of ecumenism is born in renewal and is nurtured in the constant cycle of renewal.

So, ecumenism today is rooted in a sense that things are not what they should be. As Christians, we take our name from the One who came to break down the walls of division; disagreement, even dispute may be a permanent part of Christian experience. Paul told the Corinthians, “There must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized” (I Corinthians 11:19). The journey forward together is through hope, consistent renewal and transformation.

– *The Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Transitional General Minister*

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (VICPP)

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) is grateful for its partnership with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. VICPP engages people of faith and good will in advocating economic, racial, social and environmental justice in Virginia’s policies and practices.

Policy Highlights

- ❖ Leading a campaign to get a Paid Sick Day standard in Virginia. VICPP partnered with the United Methodist Women to lead a campaign to get a Paid Sick Day standard in Virginia. UMW advocates met with legislators, signed petitions and educated communities about the need for a standard. As of the writing of this report, it appears that a bill will pass the General Assembly providing five paid sick days to workers in businesses with 15 or more employees. This will help approximately 600,000 low-wage workers in Virginia.
- ❖ Stopping and deterring wage theft. VICPP has worked for the last three years to address the crisis of wage theft in Virginia. Two wage theft bills passed the 2019 General Assembly and it appears that four wage theft reform bills

will pass in 2020. Together, these bills will help workers in low-wage jobs get more of their legally owed wages.

- ❖ **Curbing Predatory Lending.** VICPP worked with the Virginia Poverty Law Center to pass two comprehensive reform bills to curb predatory lending in Virginia. United Methodist clergy helped lead the way on this fight by joining prayer vigils, sending emails and advocating at the General Assembly.
- ❖ **Raising the minimum wage.** VICPP has been active in the statewide coalition to raise the minimum wage in Virginia.
- ❖ **Creating environmental justice standards in Virginia.** Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, which is the environmental program of VICPP, led policy efforts at the General Assembly to codify the Environmental Justice Council and create a statewide policy that agencies must use around environmental justice. In addition, we supported efforts to decrease the energy burden (cost of electricity) on low-income families.
- ❖ **Making Virginia more welcoming to immigrants.** VICPP supported coalition efforts to enable immigrant students who meet Virginia's residency requirements to receive in-state tuition and create a driver's license for immigrants.

Organizing and Advocacy Highlights

- ❖ **Supporting UMC advocacy.** As in past years, VICPP helped staff the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly.
- ❖ **Building Living Wage Certification programs.** VICPP continued throughout 2019 to build its living wage certification programs. Programs are running in in Richmond, NOVA, Charlottesville and Harrisonburg, and Blacksburg is in the planning phase. If you'd like to learn more about these programs or help with one of the local committees, email Amanda Silcox at Amanda@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Expanding congregational support.** VICPP began recruiting Congregational Liaisons in 2019 to help us do a better job connecting with congregations. Please help us connect with a Congregational Liaison for your church. Email Dora Muhammad at Dora@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Tapping volunteer "witnesses" at the Capitol.** VICPP had a team of volunteer Witnesses at the Capitol during the 2019 and 2020 General Assembly. Our Witnesses worked hard and spent countless hours testifying in committees, meeting with legislators and their aides, distributing fact sheets, and helping with grassroots advocacy. United Methodists Warren Hottle, Bill Botts and Rev. Dr. Pat Shipley were rock-star UMC Witnesses. If you would like to be a "Witness" in 2021, please email Kim Bobo at Kim@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Reaching more people.** VICPP staff members reached more than 10,000 people in 2019 by leading workshops, giving presentations and meeting with groups about our work. Invite VICPP staff members, chapter leaders or board members to speak at an adult forum, social justice committee or UMW chapter.
- ❖ **Encouraging interfaith relationships.** VICPP continued promoting interfaith relationships and dialogues, including the Interfaith Seder Service.

Welcoming immigrants. Many VICPP chapters are active in efforts to advocate more welcoming policies by local officials. For more information or to engage your congregation, email either Yanet Limon-Amado at Yanet@virginiainterfaithcenter.org or Jase Hatcher at Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

– Kim Bobo, Executive Director of VICPP

THE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Ted Smith, *Director of Connectional Ministries*
Warren Harper, *Conference Lay Leader*

Monitors:

Neil McLaughlin, *Commission on Disabilities*
Mary Dadisman, *COSROW*
Lyle Morton, *CEMCA*

District Representatives:

Alexandria – John Meeuwissen
Arlington – Ellen LaCroix Fillette
Charlottesville – Charles Winner
Danville – Jaeyong Song
Eastern Shore – Greg Duncan
Elizabeth River – Samantha Hudler
Farmville – Geraldine Sanderson
Harrisonburg – Gordon Meriwether
James River – Susan Petrey
Lynchburg – Jennifer Moore
Rappahannock River – Bert Cloud
Richmond – Scotty Doyle
Roanoke – Joanna Paysour
Staunton – Beth Christian
Winchester – Daniel Wray
York River District – Melissa White

NOMINATIONS

Common Table for Church Vitality

CLDDT Nominee:
Donald Jamison

Bishop's Nominee:
Terry Bain

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:

Gordon Meriwether
Deborah Porras
Dan Purdom
Daniel Wray

Lay:

Jennifer Greer
Julianne Paunescu
Tootie Urrutia

Church Development Team

Clarence Brown
Amanda Garber
Kotosha Griffin
Ellen Heatwole
Chad Herndon
Hieu Phan

Board of Discipleship

Matthew Sergent
Jeffrey Smith
George Warner
Nancy Yarborough

Older Adult Council

Brenda Brooks
Wayne Reynolds

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Drew Ensz
Joshua McCauley
Ryan LaRock

Missional Ministries Board

Clergy:

Justin Hicks
Nancy Robinson
Bob Talbott
Ken Thrasher

Lay:

John Meeuwissen
Linda Rody
Jessie Swann

Commission on Archives and History

Clergy:

W. James Athearn
Michael Browder
Carlton D. Casey
Robert T. Casey
Linda E. F. Crabbs
Raymond Edmonds, Jr.
William R. Freeman
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.
James John
Margaret Kutz
Barbara Lewis
John T. Martin, Jr.

REPORTS

Samuel E. NeSmith
John C. Price
Lee B. Sheaffer
James M. Smith
Elizabeth Taylor
Arthur D. Thomas
Rudolph E. Tucker, Jr.
Raymond Wrenn
Gary Ziegler
Seonyoung Kim
Barry Penn Hollar
Al Horton

Lay:

Mary Ashton Athearn
Kelly Blosser
Robert S. Brock
Ann D. Callender
Jesse Fanshaw
Nina Frederick

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

Clergy:

Patricia Kelley
Andrew Ware

Lay:

Rachel Sanders

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy:

Ashley Allen
Keith Moore
Ray Sandifer

Lay:

Charles Bowles
Susan Rigg
Clarissa Shepherd

Equitable Compensation Commission

Clergy:

Tom Durrance
Ray Sandifer

Lay:

Bill Sharp:

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Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy:

Maggie Hasselbach

Lay:

Les Kurtz

Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:

Kirk Nave

Lay:

Rhona Alexander

Ken Peterson

Bill Talley, IV

United Methodist Foundation

Gary Bonnewell

Sara Harrison-McQueen

Mark Manasco

Linda Monroe

W. Richard Smith, III

Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc

Clergy:

Nancy Johnson

Meredith McNabb

Paul Oh

Ed Walker

Lay:

Hoyte Cole

Martha Dommissie

Linda Hart

Debbie Iwig

Steve Martin

Gregg Snow

Merrion Walker

Neal Wise

Committee on Rules

Clergy:

Tim Barth

Lane Spigener

Lay:

Joelle Gotwals

Blair Mitchell

Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the Church (COSROW)

Clergy:

Jennifer Day
Suzanne Joyner

Site Selection Committee

Clergy:

Steve Hay

Lay:

Trish Vaughan
Elizabeth Russell

Conference Trustees

Clergy:

Jim O'Quinn
Sandra Benton Plasters

Lay:

Beth Godwin-Joes
Carl Moravitz

Bishops' Foundation

Clergy:

Barbara Cousar
Mikang Kim

Society of St. Andrew

Jason Brown
Michael Smith
Jim Tongue

Ferrum College

Jeffrey Knotts
Ronald E. Singleton

Randolph-Macon Academy

Eric Anderson
Edward Morris
Alonzo Neese
Katie McIntyre Tewell
Brian Bogart

Randolph-Macon College

Everett B. Birdsong
Kelly K. Domson
Robert B. Lambeth, Jr.
Dee A. Raubenstine
Cristin K. Traylor
Adam T. Vasquez

REPORTS

Shenandoah University

Scott Miller

Lauren Peterson

Susan Helsey

Virginia Wesleyan University

Robert Kohler

Mavis McKenley

Anthony Walters

Doug Wilson

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

	Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
Alexandria	36,975	439	29	89	127	442	310	36,653	-322	-0.9 %	11,063	304
Arlington	27,957	363	-118	86	108	408	133	27,639	-318	-1.1 %	12,611	250
Charlottesville	12,352	87	67	46	43	50	182	12,277	-75	-0.6 %	3,708	86
Danville	10,407	59	-226	-3	75	47	177	9,938	-469	-4.5 %	3,135	31
Eastern Shore	6,426	27	-5	14	0	22	105	6,335	-91	-1.4 %	1,946	31
Elizabeth River	29,159	283	32	46	381	52	268	28,819	-340	-1.2 %	8,357	212
Farmville	11,560	76	10	-14	103	27	165	11,337	-223	-1.9 %	3,803	68
Harrisonburg	17,074	78	39	25	18	20	224	16,954	-120	-0.7 %	5,448	60
James River	17,539	144	-46	21	85	37	243	17,293	-246	-1.4 %	4,996	111
Lynchburg	15,751	124	48	10	17	29	218	15,669	-82	-0.5 %	5,449	85
Rappahannock River	18,245	203	18	45	474	93	176	17,768	-477	-2.6 %	6,065	143
Richmond	39,219	368	87	56	97	98	335	39,200	-19	0.0 %	9,443	220
Roanoke	19,817	99	60	6	28	23	218	19,713	-104	-0.5 %	4,920	67
Staunton	12,112	87	-33	6	25	5	173	11,969	-143	-1.2 %	3,669	63
Winchester	17,837	173	45	60	139	35	172	17,769	-68	-0.4 %	5,364	127
York River	25,154	160	36	18	50	76	299	24,943	-211	-0.8 %	6,095	133
Totals for 2019	317,584	2,770	43	511	1,770	1,464	3,398	314,276	-3,308	-1.0 %	96,072	1,991

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT

December 31, 2019

Virginia Conference

Apportioned Funds	YTD 12/31/2019	YTD 12/31/2018	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Inc.\Dec.	Total 2019 Apport.	Total 2018 Apport.	Pct. Pd 2019	Pct. Pd 2018
Conference Apportionments								
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	2,659,686	2,817,009	(157,323)	-5.58%	3,225,000	3,230,000	82.47%	87.21%
402 Conference Services	1,596,529	1,457,793	138,736	9.52%	1,875,000	1,646,000	85.15%	88.57%
403 District Superintendents	1,714,827	1,800,812	(85,985)	-4.77%	2,005,000	2,025,000	85.53%	88.93%
404 Equitable Compensation	247,439	308,673	(61,234)	-19.84%	300,000	350,000	82.48%	88.19%
405 Church Extension & Development	881,238	835,185	46,053	5.51%	1,125,000	1,000,000	78.33%	83.52%
406 Virginia Education Fund	545,164	659,554	(114,390)	-17.34%	700,000	800,000	77.88%	82.44%
Subtotal	7,644,883	7,879,025	(234,142)	-2.97%	9,230,000	9,051,000	82.83%	87.05%
Clergy Benefit Apportionments								
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,506,258	8,790,111	(283,853)	-3.23%	9,710,000	9,710,000	87.60%	90.53%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,246,590	5,455,713	(209,123)	-3.83%	6,060,000	6,060,000	86.58%	90.03%
409 Pension Liability Assessment-Pre 82	640,700	893,278	(252,578)	-28.28%	750,000	1,000,000	85.43%	89.33%
Subtotal	14,393,548	15,139,103	(745,555)	-4.92%	16,520,000	16,770,000	87.13%	90.27%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments								
410 Episcopal	714,930	779,329	(64,399)	-8.26%	875,000	900,000	81.71%	86.59%
411 World Service	2,369,087	2,545,061	(175,974)	-6.91%	3,000,000	3,040,000	78.97%	83.72%
412 General Connectional	326,604	352,480	(25,876)	-7.34%	420,000	426,000	77.76%	82.74%
413 Ministerial Education	766,885	845,235	(78,350)	-9.27%	1,000,000	1,030,000	76.69%	82.06%
414 Black College	313,400	338,472	(25,072)	-7.41%	400,000	410,000	78.35%	82.55%
415 Africa University	88,834	77,169	11,665	15.12%	90,000	92,000	98.70%	83.88%
416 Interdenominational Coop.	63,010	68,274	(5,264)	-7.71%	80,000	81,000	78.76%	84.29%
Subtotal	4,642,750	5,006,021	(363,271)	-7.26%	5,865,000	5,979,000	79.16%	83.73%
Total Apportioned Funds	26,681,181	28,024,148	(1,342,967)	-4.79%	31,615,000	31,800,000	84.39%	88.13%

Non-Apportionment Receipts

Advance Specials

GBGM	844,316	1,052,159	(207,843)	-19.75%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	107,442	83,974	23,467	27.95%

Special Days

Human Relations	9,770	11,275	(1,505)	-13.35%
One Great Hour of Sharing	92,674	118,207	(25,533)	-21.60%
Native American Ministries	10,508	15,203	(4,695)	-30.89%
Peace with Justice	6,400	11,826	(5,427)	-45.89%
World Communion	17,190	17,454	(264)	-1.51%
UM Student	6,771	8,803	(2,032)	-23.09%

Other Funds

Youth Service	212	354	(142)	-40.18%
Pinnacle Living	13,426	25,143	(11,717)	-46.60%
UMFS	78,162	49,330	28,832	58.45%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	21,105	16,808	4,297	25.57%
Annual Conference Offering	123,910	149,055	(25,145)	-16.87%
Other	101,834	18,630	83,204	446.61%

Total Non-Apportioned Funds **1,433,718** **1,578,222** **(144,503)** **-9.16%**

Total Church Receipts **28,114,899** **29,602,370** **(1,487,471)** **-5.02%**

Year	YTD	Year End
2019	84.39%	84.39%
2018	88.13%	88.13%
2017	89.91%	89.91%
2016	87.05%	87.05%
2015	85.85%	85.85%
2014	87.70%	87.70%
2013	88.57%	88.57%
2012	87.26%	87.26%
2011	86.83%	86.83%
2010	84.40%	84.40%
2009	85.92%	85.92%
2008	90.08%	90.08%
2007	92.03%	92.03%
2006	93.16%	93.16%
2005	93.87%	93.87%
2004	94.79%	94.79%
2003	95.58%	95.58%
2002	97.08%	97.08%
2001	96.33%	96.33%
2000	96.43%	96.43%
1999	94.92%	94.92%
1998	93.51%	93.51%
1997	90.64%	90.64%
1996	89.20%	89.20%
1995	89.31%	89.31%
1994	89.83%	89.83%

**Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
Balance Sheets**

	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	1,144,958	1,945,912
Investments	6,243,417	5,697,044
Receivables	2,572,252	2,640,081
Prepaid expenses	99,384	93,771
Total Current Assets	10,060,011	10,376,808
Fixed Assets:		
Land	793,019	793,019
Buildings	5,132,247	5,017,597
Furniture & fixtures	369,337	318,708
Equipment and vehicles	772,076	740,555
Software	21,735	21,735
Accumulated depreciation	(2,789,658)	(2,547,632)
Total Fixed Assets	4,298,756	4,343,982
Other Assets:		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	1,169,672	1,022,666
Loans receivable	620,628	149,848
Total Other Assets	1,790,300	1,172,514
	16,149,067	15,893,304
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	4,089,980	4,079,364
Accrued expenses	18,014	22,712
Unearned revenue	86,553	73,900
Total Liabilities	4,194,547	4,175,976
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted conference reserves	3,240,974	3,082,876
Net assets with restrictions	8,713,546	8,634,452
Total Net Assets	11,954,520	11,717,328
	16,149,067	15,893,304

Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Statement of Changes in Unrestricted Conference Reserves
For the Year Ending December 31, 2019

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:	
Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	649,343
Dividends and interest	72,954
Ineligible institution forfeited funding	53,607
Miscellaneous income	4,830
Total Income	780,734
 Expenses directly attributed to Conference Reserves:	
Special funding - VUMAC closing	(487)
Bank service charges	17,706
Total Expenses	17,219
 Income Over/(Under) Expenses	 763,515
 Apportionment Closeouts:	
401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	(156,610)
402 - Conference Services	(335,512)
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	(138,469)
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	25,174
Total Apportionment Closeouts	(605,417)
 Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves	 158,098
 Beginning balance	 3,082,876
 Ending Balance	 3,240,974

REPORTS



401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2019

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts	Closeout	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
							Over/(Under) Expenses	to Conference Reserves		
3500	Conference Benevolence Grants	172,879.55	-	-	172,879.55	172,249.18	630.37	(630.37)	-	-
3510	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	56,917.28	-	30,219.15	87,136.43	72,975.00	14,161.43	(14,161.43)	-	-
5000	Emerging Funds	77,662.82	(41,706.36)	111,984.76	147,941.22	152,787.33	(4,846.11)	-	58,414.42	53,568.31
3600	Campus Ministry	734,605.14	22,500.00	-	757,105.14	856,810.57	(99,705.43)	99,705.43	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,330,587.17	-	40,320.36	1,370,907.53	1,423,491.34	(52,583.81)	52,583.81	-	-
3650	Bishop's Discretionary Funds	25,798.96	-	-	25,798.96	30,000.00	(4,201.04)	4,201.04	-	-
3655	Bishop's Recalibration Event	-	20,606.36	9,394.50	30,000.86	30,000.86	-	-	-	-
		2,398,450.92	1,400.00	191,918.77	2,591,769.69	2,738,314.28	(146,544.59)	141,698.48	58,414.42	53,568.31

Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative

3100	Common Table	2,925.65	-	-	2,925.65	3,661.66	(736.01)	736.01	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	51,331.93	-	-	51,331.93	62,325.24	(10,993.31)	10,993.31	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	67,768.47	-	1,878.40	69,646.87	37,228.65	32,418.22	(32,418.22)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,150,314.02	-	37,036.80	1,187,350.82	1,264,930.60	(77,579.78)	77,579.78	-	-
3240	Outsourced Graphic Design Serv	32,714.13	-	-	32,714.13	32,160.00	554.13	(554.13)	-	-
3200	Video Production	8,510.99	-	1,405.16	9,916.15	9,064.24	851.91	(851.91)	-	-
3155	Connections 21 Interns	8,510.99	-	-	8,510.99	6,504.80	2,006.19	(2,006.19)	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	8,510.99	-	-	8,510.99	7,616.15	894.84	(894.84)	-	-
		1,330,587.17	-	40,320.36	1,370,907.53	1,423,491.34	(52,583.81)	52,583.81	-	-

Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration

3010	Connectional Ministries Office	6,649.22	-	-	6,649.22	18,853.68	(12,204.46)	12,204.46	-	-
3020	Communications Office	6,383.25	-	-	6,383.25	8,230.06	(1,846.81)	1,846.81	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	9,574.86	-	-	9,574.86	7,717.29	1,857.57	(1,857.57)	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & Next Gen Office	10,904.70	-	-	10,904.70	13,732.30	(2,827.60)	2,827.60	-	-
3050	Inclusivity and Lay Ldrshp Exc	6,383.25	-	-	6,383.25	-	6,383.25	(6,383.25)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	11,436.65	-	-	11,436.65	13,791.91	(2,355.26)	2,355.26	-	-
		51,331.93	-	-	51,331.93	62,325.24	(10,993.31)	10,993.31	-	-

Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration

3105	Board of Church & Society	5,319.38	-	-	5,319.38	1,772.77	3,546.61	(3,546.61)	-	-
3110	Missional Ministries Board	5,319.38	-	1,378.40	6,697.78	1,651.82	5,045.96	(5,045.96)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	6,649.22	-	-	6,649.22	4,725.39	1,923.83	(1,923.83)	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	2,659.67	-	-	2,659.67	2,829.05	(169.38)	169.38	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	7,447.13	-	-	7,447.13	7,115.28	331.85	(331.85)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	1,595.79	-	-	1,595.79	771.55	824.24	(824.24)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	6,915.18	-	-	6,915.18	6,344.53	570.65	(570.65)	-	-
3140	CEMCA	1,595.79	-	-	1,595.79	2,152.64	(556.85)	556.85	-	-
3145	COSROW	797.93	-	-	797.93	511.78	286.15	(286.15)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	1,329.84	-	500.00	1,829.84	1,411.04	418.80	(418.80)	-	-
3155	Connections 21 Interns	8,510.99	-	-	8,510.99	6,504.80	2,006.19	(2,006.19)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	19,628.17	-	-	19,628.17	1,438.00	18,190.17	(18,190.17)	-	-
		67,768.47	-	1,878.40	69,646.87	37,228.65	32,418.22	(32,418.22)	-	-

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2019

Project #	Project Name	Apportion- ment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under): Expenses	Closeout Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Funds that Close to Reserves:										
2100	Treasurer's Office	360,204	-	114,450	474,654	546,988	(72,335)	72,335	-	-
2110	Computer Services	116,836	(24,343)	700	93,193	114,964	(21,771)	21,771	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	233,831	-	3,324	237,155	281,078	(43,923)	43,923	-	-
2130	Conf Publications Committee	10,824	-	1,085	11,909	21,111	(9,202)	9,202	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	2,228	-	-	2,228	3,448	(1,220)	1,220	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	1,273	-	-	1,273	868	405	(405)	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,751	-	-	1,751	1,077	674	(674)	-	-
2170	Historical Society	7,163	-	-	7,163	7,320	(157)	157	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	76,405	-	-	76,405	84,697	(8,292)	8,292	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	13,466	-	-	13,466	2,000	11,466	(11,466)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	15,281	-	-	15,281	5,334	9,947	(9,947)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	20,000	20,000	30,307	(10,307)	10,307	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	23,877	-	-	23,877	26,500	(2,623)	2,623	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	13,530	-	-	13,530	17,310	(3,780)	3,780	-	-
2270	General Conference Delegation	8,914	-	-	8,914	5,491	3,423	(3,423)	-	-
2290	Contingencies	8,978	-	15,826	24,804	44,021	(19,217)	19,217	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	224,758	-	-	224,758	208,963	15,795	(15,795)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	14,326	-	-	14,326	7,347	6,979	(6,979)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Minstry	65,581	-	-	65,581	65,901	(320)	320	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	34,223	-	2,865	37,088	18,289	18,799	(18,799)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	43,137	-	8,953	52,090	49,160	2,930	(2,930)	-	-
		1,276,586	(24,343)	167,203	1,419,446	1,542,174	(122,729)	122,729	-	-
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances:										
4000	United Methodist Center	170,797	24,343	133,976	329,116	395,816	(66,700)	-	42,520	(24,180)
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	-	(4,863)	-	(4,863)	-	(4,863)	-	4,863	-
4030	Legal Expenses	89,935	-	-	89,935	245,830	(155,895)	225,689	(69,794)	-
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,273	6,273
4070	Archives	14,326	-	4,347	18,673	18,098	575	-	(10,575)	(10,000)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
4090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	-	-	29,029	29,029	25,130	3,899	-	(3,899)	-
		275,058	19,480	167,352	461,890	684,874	(222,984)	225,689	189,388	192,093

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2019

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
CFA										
4000	United Methodist Center	170,797	24,343	133,976	329,116	395,816	(66,700)	-	42,520	(24,180)
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	-	(4,863)	-	(4,863)	-	(4,863)	-	4,863	-
4030	Legal Expenses	89,935	-	-	89,935	245,830	(155,895)	225,689	(69,794)	-
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,273	6,273
4070	Archives	14,326	-	4,347	18,673	18,098	575	-	(10,575)	(10,000)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
4090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	-	-	29,029	29,029	25,130	3,899	-	(3,899)	-
		275,058	19,480	167,352	461,890	684,874	(222,984)	225,689	189,388	192,093
Common Table										
6100	Advocate Publication	-	-	40,888	40,888	66,976	(26,088)	-	143,715	117,627
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	-	7,803	7,803	8,993	(1,190)	-	3,289	2,099
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,887	4,887
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	801	801
6225	Campus Ministry Team	-	-	-	-	7,283	(7,283)	-	9,560	2,277
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	-	64,425	64,425	75,394	(10,969)	-	26,384	15,415
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	-	859	859	2,905	(2,046)	-	9,430	7,384
6310	UMVIM	-	-	30	30	3,967	(3,937)	-	27,093	23,156
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	26,150	26,150	45,565	(19,415)	-	68,913	49,498
6320	Wesley Fdtn Cap Improvements	216,366	-	216,366	432,732	120,934	311,798	-	-	311,798
6330	Wesley Foundation Maintenance	51,864	4,863	51,864	108,591	36,533	72,058	-	-	72,058
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233	1,233
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	72,679	72,679	93,490	(20,811)	-	16,651	(4,160)
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,052	2,052
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	13,268	13,268	16,068	(2,800)	-	7,539	4,739
6510	Fresh Expressions	-	-	23,000	23,000	23,761	(761)	-	-	(761)
6560	CDT Training Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6565	Small Church Pastors	-	-	-	-	5,040	(5,040)	-	5,040	-
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	-	265	265	(233)	498	-	(498)	-
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	-	795	795	(7,950)	8,745	-	(8,745)	-
6590	Clergywomen's Coaching Init.	-	-	-	-	6,326	(6,326)	-	6,600	274
		268,230	4,863	518,392	791,485	505,052	286,433	-	323,944	610,377
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Meal at AC	-	-	-	-	1,369	(1,369)	-	1,818	449
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	1,549	1,549	1,458	91	-	3,354	3,445
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	596	596	983	(387)	-	1,240	853
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,277	9,277
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	1,531	1,531	2,917	(1,386)	-	999	(387)
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	24,430	24,430	24,429	1	-	270	271
4690	BOM Training Events	-	-	3,825	3,825	2,763	1,062	-	1,914	2,976
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	70,000	70,000	75,822	(5,822)	-	5,300	(522)
4710	Calling 21	-	-	24,250	24,250	23,738	512	-	14,038	14,550
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,738	2,738
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	-	-	-	4,413	(4,413)	-	21,679	17,266
4760	Exploration	-	-	1,585	1,585	1,741	(156)	-	-	(156)
4770	Pilgrimages	-	-	18,600	18,600	17,208	1,392	-	1,553	2,945
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,667	2,667
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	44,888	-	-	44,888	66,228	(21,340)	-	131,970	110,630
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	-	7,364	7,364	9,156	(1,792)	-	1,886	94
4820	Licensing School	-	-	24,381	24,381	24,381	-	-	-	-
		44,888	-	178,111	222,999	256,606	(33,607)	-	200,703	167,096
Total		588,176	24,343	863,855	1,476,374	1,446,532	29,842	225,689	714,035	969,566

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2019

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Property & Equipment										
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	-	-	45,226	(45,226)	-	4,343,983	4,298,757
		-	-	-	-	45,226	(45,226)	-	4,343,983	4,298,757
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	881,238	-	8,176	889,414	754,030	135,384	-	1,304,598	1,439,982
		881,238	-	8,176	889,414	754,030	135,384	-	1,304,598	1,439,982
Donor restricted										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	191,721	-	700	192,421	181,884	10,537	-	598,435	608,972
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,615	21,615
8050	Francis Asbury Education Fund	-	-	168,247	168,247	17,136	151,111	-	1,025,923	1,177,034
8100	Initiatives of Hope	-	-	5,754	5,754	9,954	(4,200)	-	14,593	10,393
8110	IOH - Mozambique	-	-	-	-	5,228	(5,228)	-	16,750	11,522
8111	IOH - Brazil	-	-	-	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	28,091	26,291
8113	Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	1,285	(1,285)	-	1,285	-
8114	IOH - Cambodia	-	-	-	-	1,545	(1,545)	-	30,121	28,576
8115	Haiti Music School	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	9,894	10,894
8160	CEMCA-Hispanic Aid Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,617	9,617
8200	Bishops' Foundation	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,027	(27)	-	1,377	1,350
8300	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	(22,500)	-	(22,500)	-	(22,500)	-	159,056	136,556
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	-	25,246	25,246	21,133	4,113	-	14,243	18,356
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	-	8,853	8,853	12,228	(3,375)	-	9,572	6,197
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	3,200	3,200	-	3,200	-	16,819	20,019
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	5,254	5,254	10,157	(4,903)	-	22,529	17,626
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	6,701	5,701
8330	Merit Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	-	-	104	(104)	-	2,501	2,397
8411	Matthew Recovery Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,935	132,935
8413	UMCOR 2nd Matthew Recov Grant	-	-	-	-	5,438	(5,438)	-	5,438	-
8414	2018 Matthew Recovery	-	-	-	-	32,968	(32,968)	-	3,531	(29,437)
8415	Danville Recovery	-	-	11,161	11,161	52,551	(41,390)	-	(688)	(42,078)
		191,721	(22,500)	242,415	411,636	367,438	44,198	-	2,130,663	2,174,861
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8503	Pandemic Relief Fund	-	-	-	-	89	(89)	-	-	(89)
8504	2019 SEJ COB Leadership Mtg	-	-	26,216	26,216	41,946	(15,730)	-	(400)	(16,130)
8505	Called Session Training Event	-	-	-	-	(203)	203	-	(844)	(641)
8506	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	-	38,933	38,933	36,320	2,613	-	15,273	17,886
8507	2018 SEJ Historical Soc Mtg	-	-	3,491	3,491	-	3,491	-	(3,491)	-
8508	Natl Net of UM Cong Developers	-	-	(7,994)	(7,994)	-	(7,994)	-	7,994	-
8509	Clergywomen's Retreat	-	-	(20)	(20)	6,905	(6,925)	-	9,610	2,685
8510	Heritage	-	-	69	69	747	(678)	-	5,512	4,834
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,907	8,907
8530	Voices of Youth	-	-	20,570	20,570	29,648	(9,078)	-	10,582	1,504
8540	ARMS	-	-	10,400	10,400	9,603	797	-	20,756	21,553
8545	Richmond Area Episcopal office	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	800	800	566	234	-	3,592	3,826
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	-	1,161	1,161	5,051	(3,890)	-	4,223	333
8566	Bishop's Conv - Race & Recon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,051	1,051
8570	Conference Data Initiative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(351)	(351)
8575	Social Committee	-	-	630	630	676	(46)	-	32	(14)
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	-	-	-	626	(626)	-	311	(315)
		-	-	94,256	94,256	131,974	(37,718)	-	82,757	45,039
Total Donor Restricted and Miscellaneous		191,721	(22,500)	336,671	505,892	499,412	6,480	-	2,213,420	2,219,900

REPORTS

Council on Finance and Administration

SECTION I - Proposed Conference Budget for 2021

	Sch.	2020	2021	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,140,000	2,510,000	9.01%	(630,000)	-20.06%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,990,000	1,830,000	6.57%	(160,000)	-8.04%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,000,000	1,820,000	6.54%	(180,000)	-9.00%
404 - Equitable Compensation		250,000	200,000	0.72%	(50,000)	-20.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		1,200,000	900,000	3.22%	(300,000)	-25.00%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		600,000	420,000	1.51%	(180,000)	-30.00%
Total Conference Apportionments		9,180,000	7,680,000	27.57%	(1,500,000)	-16.34%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	9,710,000	34.87%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,060,000	21.76%	-	0.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		750,000	-	0.00%	(750,000)	-100.00%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		16,520,000	15,770,000	56.63%	(750,000)	-4.54%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		870,000	865,000	3.11%	(5,000)	-0.57%
411 - World Service		2,925,000	2,150,000	7.72%	(775,000)	-26.50%
412 - General & Interdenominational Fund		480,000	325,000	1.17%	(155,000)	-32.29%
413 - Ministerial Education		990,000	675,000	2.42%	(315,000)	-31.82%
414 - Black College Fund		395,000	315,000	1.13%	(80,000)	-20.25%
415 - Africa University Fund		90,000	70,000	0.25%	(20,000)	-22.22%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		5,750,000	4,400,000	15.80%	(1,350,000)	-23.48%
Total Apportionments		31,450,000	27,850,000	100.00%	(3,600,000)	-11.45%

NOTE: Beginning in 2021, the Apportionment 416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund has been combined with the Apportionment 412 - General and Jurisdictional Fund Apportionment. The total apportionment for 2021 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund is \$10,000.

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2020	2021	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Common Table Directed Ministries					
A. Program & Board Administrative	1,379,200	1,125,000	4.04%	(254,200)	-18.43%
B. Benevolence Grants	200,000	160,000	0.57%	(40,000)	-20.00%
C. Special & Sustaining Grants	66,000	50,000	0.18%	(16,000)	-24.24%
D. Conference Programs	90,000	80,000	0.29%	(10,000)	-11.11%
E. Campus Ministries	850,000	800,000	2.87%	(50,000)	-5.88%
	2,585,200	2,215,000	7.95%	(370,200)	-14.32%
Other Ministries					
Wesley Foundation Capital Improvements	321,000	100,000	0.36%	(221,000)	-68.85%
Wesley Foundation Maintenance	60,000	60,000	0.22%	-	0.00%
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	30,000	20,000	0.07%	(10,000)	-33.33%
Total Ministry Expenses	2,996,200	2,395,000	8.60%	(601,200)	-20.07%
Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	143,800	115,000	0.41%	(28,800)	-20.03%
Total 401 Apportionment	3,140,000	2,510,000	9.01%	(630,000)	-20.06%
Supporting Details for Line Items Above					
A. Program & Board Administrative Expenses					
1. Common Table	3,500	3,000	0.01%	(500)	-14.29%
2. Departmental Administration	57,900	50,000	0.18%	(7,900)	-13.64%
3. Agency Administration	60,800	50,000	0.18%	(10,800)	-17.76%
4. Personnel Costs	1,230,000	1,000,000	3.59%	(230,000)	-18.70%
5. Outsourced Graphic Design Services	7,000	6,000	0.02%	(1,000)	-14.29%
6. Video Production & Documentation	10,000	8,000	0.03%	(2,000)	-20.00%
7. Contingency	10,000	8,000	0.03%	(2,000)	-20.00%
	1,379,200	1,125,000	4.04%	(254,200)	-18.43%

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Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

		2020	2021	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1.	Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	411,000	344,500	1.23%	(66,500)	-16.18%
2.	Bishop's Assistant	85,000	55,000	0.20%	(30,000)	-35.29%
3.	Annual Conference Session	245,000	245,000	0.88%	-	0.00%
4.	Treasurer's Office	450,000	405,000	1.45%	(45,000)	-10.00%
5.	Computer Services	130,000	120,000	0.43%	(10,000)	-7.69%
6.	Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.10%	-	0.00%
7.	Pastor Relocation & Transition	12,000	7,500	0.03%	(4,500)	-37.50%
8.	Archives	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
9.	Council on Finance and Administration	2,500	2,000	0.01%	(500)	-20.00%
10.	Historical Society	4,000	4,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
11.	Board of Trustees	1,500	1,000	0.00%	(500)	-33.33%
12.	Telephone Service	10,000	10,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
13.	Insurance	15,000	18,000	0.06%	3,000	20.00%
14.	Postage & Printing	33,000	33,000	0.12%	-	0.00%
15.	Building Operations & Services	190,000	175,000	0.63%	(15,000)	-7.89%
16.	Conference Publications	12,000	7,500	0.03%	(4,500)	-37.50%
17.	Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	25,000	15,000	0.05%	(10,000)	-40.00%
18.	Legal	200,000	200,000	0.72%	-	0.00%
19.	Audit		45,000	0.16%	45,000	NA
20.	Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
21.	General Conference	10,000	-	0.00%	(10,000)	-100.00%
22.	Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	105,500	94,000	0.34%	(11,500)	-10.90%
		1,990,000	1,830,000	6.57%	(160,000)	-8.04%

Board of Ordained Ministry

1.	Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	8,000	0.03%	(7,000)	-46.67%
2.	Candidates' Evaluation	21,000	15,000	0.05%	(6,000)	-28.57%
3.	Sexual Ethics Response Team	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
4.	Conference Clergy Leadership Program	36,500	20,000	0.07%	(16,500)	-45.21%
5.	Center for Clergy Excellence	16,000	14,500	0.05%	(1,500)	-9.38%
6.	Personnel Costs	245,000	215,000	0.77%	(30,000)	-12.24%
7.	Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	75,500	70,000	0.25%	(5,500)	-7.28%
		411,000	344,500	1.23%	(66,500)	-15.57%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund

		2020	2021	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1.	Salaries & Pension	1,685,000	1,645,000	5.91%	(40,000)	-2.37%
2.	Travel & Meetings	140,000	130,000	0.47%	(10,000)	-7.14%
3.	Continuing Education & Other	45,000	30,000	0.11%	(15,000)	-33.33%
4.	Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	130,000	15,000	0.05%	(115,000)	-88.46%
		2,000,000	1,820,000	6.54%	(180,000)	-9.00%

SECTION II - Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches

A. Total Recommended Apportionment Levels:

The Council of Finance and Administration (CFA) recommends that the amounts apportioned from the General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conference be apportioned to the districts as follows:

2021 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	\$	2,510,000
402-Conference Services		1,830,000
403-District Superintendents Fund		1,820,000
404-Equitable Compensation		200,000
405-Church Extension & Development		900,000
406-Virginia Education Fund		420,000
407-Active Clergy Health		9,710,000
408-Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000
410-Episcopal Fund		865,000
411-World Service		2,150,000
412-General & Interdenominational Fund		325,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund		675,000
414-Black College Fund		315,000
415-Africa University Fund		70,000
	\$	27,850,000

B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:

The Conference Apportionments are intended to carry out the mission and ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference. All balances at the end of the year are to be closed to Conference Reserves unless an exception is granted by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

401-Conference Mission & Ministries

- This apportionment provides funding for the Conference Common Table benevolences and ministries, including Campus Ministries, other Common Table Program Boards and Agencies support.

402-Conference Services

- This apportionment primarily covers the administrative requirements of the Book of Discipline and Conference owned properties.

403-District Superintendents Fund

- This apportionment covers the personnel and travel costs of the District Superintendents.

404-Equitable Compensation

- This apportionment is required by the Book of Discipline and is administered by the Equitable Compensation Commission to provide clergy salary supplementation based upon their policies and procedures.

405-Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)

- This apportionment is based on recommendations of the Common Table and is directed to the Church Development Team for use in providing conference-wide grants to new and existing churches in accordance of the policies of the Common Table.

406-Virginia Education Fund

- This apportionment is apportioned to the districts at **\$420,000 for 2021**. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2021:

Virginia Education Fund Allocation

Ferrum College	23.0%	96,600
Randolph-Macon College	22.0%	92,400
Randolph-Macon Academy	12.0%	50,400
Shenandoah University	21.5%	90,300
Virginia Wesleyan College	21.5%	90,300
		\$ 420,000

Report on 2019

- As set out in the Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in the Apportionments that impact Conference Reserves. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy. Below are the stated Apportionments for 2019.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	565,314
402 Conference Services	278,471
403 District Superintendents	290,173
404 Equitable Compensation	52,561
	1,186,519

SECTION III — Apportionment Procedures

A. APPORTIONMENT FORMULA:

- **All Apportionments except for the Active Clergy Health Benefits**
 Apportionments are calculated using the last year of available statistics of each local church (i.e. 2021 apportionments are calculated using 2019 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:

Individual Church Net Paid/Total of all Conference Churches Net Paid = Church Decimal

- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**

The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,000) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2020 appointment list. The remaining costs after the tier one calculation will be apportioned to the churches based upon total clergy (regardless of classification) compensation (salary plus accountable reimbursement) paid by a church divided by the total clergy compensation paid in the last year of available statistics (2019 for 2021 apportionments).

- The district then passes the apportionments on to the local church according to recommendations developed by the district superintendents and the district stewards.
- The Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Church Development Team and Cabinet, has the authority to set a policy for apportioning newly chartered churches, Legacy churches, and 2nd sites of chartered churches.
 - Effective January 1, 2016, the policy will be to phase in the apportionments for new chartered churches over a five year period with the first year beginning at 20% and increasing 20% for each subsequent year until the church is at 100%.
 - Effective January 1, 2016, for a Legacy church as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the district superintendent may present a projected budget of expenses to be used in the Legacy church's apportionment calculation for the first 18 months of its classification as a Legacy church.
 - Effective January 1, 2016 for a 2nd site (satellite & multi-site) locations that are recognized as new faith communities by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church may exclude direct expenses of the second site from the apportionment calculation based upon the following schedule:

0-42 months	100%
43-54 months	80%
55-66 months	60%
67-78 months	40%
79-90 months	20%

- Effective January 1, 2017, for a Renewal church location as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church will be treated in the same manner as a newly chartered church.
- Effective January 1, 2020, Ecumenical (multi-denominational) churches will be direct billed for health insurance when they are served by an eligible United Methodist pastor and will not be subject to the 407 apportionment.

B. REPORTING GUIDELINES:

- District superintendents will report the apportioned amounts for each church to the Conference treasurer and the apportioned amounts will be shown on the monthly Treasurer's report sent to each church.
- Apportionments are to be calculated and distributed annually rather than on a quadrennial basis.
- The Annual Conference will raise World Service funds only through contributions from the local churches. CFA urges that district superintendents, pastors, and local church leaders seek to fully implement Section 812 of the 2016 Discipline.

C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:

- The importance of World Service to the life of the Church is lifted up to the Annual Conference. “The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. The World Service apportionment represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church.” (Section 812 of the 2016 Discipline).

SECTION IV - Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2021:

- United Methodist Family Services. It is recommended that December be designated as United Methodist Family Services Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund). It is recommended that the period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day be designated in support of the Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund), and that local church offerings collected during that period be dedicated to this ministry.
- Heart Havens. It is recommended that February be designated as Heart Havens Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Annual Conference Offering. CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

SECTION V - Policies

A. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S FUND

Overall Policies for the Fund:

- In compliance with the Book of Discipline, the current salaries and expenses for district superintendents (DS), and those under special appointment, will be published in the Conference Journal with each DS’s salary individually calculated and assigned each year as part of the appointive process, using the following criteria:
 - Each District Superintendent’s salary shall be \$90,000.
 - Each year, the annual salaries of the District Superintendents are to be recommended by CFA to the Annual Conference.
 - CFA also administers salary-related expenses, to include such items as pensions, supplemental benefits, travel by voucher, continuing education, and other Cabinet-related expenses.
 - The total cost of salaries and related expenses apportioned to Districts are to be based on the current approved decimal system (upon recommendation of CFA).
 - All other District Superintendent’s costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES

Board and Agency members and staff engaged in Conference business are provided and are to be managed as follows:

- The mileage reimbursement rate is set at 45 cents for Conference staff. The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers is set at half the IRS rate for volunteers (currently 29 cents) for those serving boards and agencies of the Conference.
- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$20 per 24-hour period. (Breakfast on the date of departure from home/office is not accepted; dinner on the date of return is not accepted, except when the arrival to home/office is after 7 p.m.).
- Reimbursement for daily room charges is set at \$100, if the travel incurred extends to a period over three hours prior to the starting time of 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

- Spouse expenses are not part of allowable expenses.
- To encourage stewardship in this area, CFA suggests: (1) that advance reading materials be provided for study prior to meetings; and (2) that there be use of teleconferencing, where feasible.

C. INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Provided for and managed as follows:

- Each charge is responsible for the expenses of both the clergy and lay members (including diaconal ministers) from that charge to the annual conference, working out its own plan of compensating for actual expenses.
- Persons not covered through local church appointment shall receive annual conference reimbursement not to exceed \$170 a night for mileage, meals and lodging; the Conference treasurer shall reimburse the claimant through voucher of approved expenses. Coverage under this section extends to:
 - (a) retired clergy who retired with pension under one of the Disciplinary options and who are not serving full-time;
 - (b) clergy on medical leave;
 - (c) clergy on sabbatical leave who are members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
 - (d) retired diaconal ministers who served at least eight years in the Virginia Conference and who are granted a retired relationship by the Conference;
 - (e) persons expecting their first appointment;
 - (f) members of the conference who have been appointed to attend a theological school;
 - (g) those serving as chaplains in Armed Forces;
 - (h) deaconesses under appointment;
 - (i) furloughed missionary members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
 - (j) those on loan to other annual conferences, whose expenses are not otherwise provided for; and
 - (k) clergy returning from an approved leave of absence receiving local church pastoral appointments.
- Each district is responsible for the expenses of its district superintendent, youth members and members-at-large.
- Each board, agency or committee is responsible for the expenses of its chairpersons, if that person is not a clergy or lay member whose costs are covered by their charge or district.

D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

- The Council monitors the Conference Reserves to ensure the ability to cover future contingencies including,
 - a) Reserve funds for emergencies and catastrophic needs related to the maintenance of Conference property held by the Conference trustees, and include: (1) Virginia United Methodist Center; (2) Wesley Foundation buildings; and (3) the Episcopal residence. [The total value of these properties is estimated at more than \$15 million.]
 - b) Reserve funds for cash flow purposes.
 - c) Reserve funds for economic and financial downturns.
- The Council has set the following target for Conference Reserve Funds:

Core Reserves:

A.	20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,476,000
	a. 401 – Conference Mission and Ministries	
	b. 402 – Conference Services	
	c. 403 – District Superintendents’ Fund	
	d. 404 – Equitable Compensation Fund	
B.	15% of Invested Assets	<u>937,000</u>
		<u>\$ 2,413,000</u>

At December 31, 2019 the Annual Conference had reserves greater than the target amount.

- Consistent with approved Annual Conference policies (effective January 1992), the use of investment income is authorized to maintain reserve levels. (At the discretion of CFA, excesses may be used to: (1) meet shortfalls in Conference benevolences; (2) meet shortfalls in Conference Services; and/or (3) reduce apportionments from the Annual Conference to local churches.
- Reserve funds in the amount of \$300,000 are available to cover actions emerging from Annual Conference vote, emergencies, support of advances for campaigns, and potential liabilities of the Conference
- Of the amounts reserved: (1) up to \$50,000 is available for emergency needs of the Common Table, with the approval of CFA; and (2) up to \$100,000 may be allocated by CFA between sessions of Annual Conference, as deemed necessary
- The status of Conference reserves at the end of the prior actual year is to be reviewed each year by CFA and included in the Treasurer's Report to the Annual Conference Session.

E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by fulltime clergy appointed to their charge as pastor may request reimbursement on the following schedule for an incoming pastor, if the previous pastor served two years or less in the appointment to their charge:
 - One-year appointment – Seventy-five percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 reimbursement.
 - Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 reimbursement.
3. No moving expenses will be reimbursed that are not in compliance with the Virginia Annual Conference Guidelines for Moving Expenses as printed in the Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference.
4. Payment will be made at the end of the year based on a pro-rata share of the apportionment receipts from the churches.

F. CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The 2020 *Journal* is to be made available by posting on the Virginia Conference website (www.vaumc.org) as a PDF file. It will be available as a printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25 which includes shipping. Requests for printed copies must be made by October 1 of the calendar year, and payment must be made at the time the order is placed. Only a small quantity of Journals will be printed and distributed in compliance with the Book of Discipline (606.2), to district offices, Conference staff, and those purchasing copies before the October 1 deadline.

G. CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Conference-Provided Publications Committee be continued, composed of the following: (1) the Director of Connectional Ministries; (2) Conference Treasurer; and (3) the Conference Director of Communications, who will serve as the convener of the committee. The Committee may convene at any time at the request of any committee member as long as a majority of the committee members are present. [The committee oversees the production and publication of the conference *Journal* and other such publications and mailings that are appropriate to keeping the conference members linked to the business of the Annual Conference.]

H. CLERGY DIRECTORY

One copy of the *Directory of the Ministry* is to be mailed to all Virginia Conference clergy (active and retired, including lay pastors and diaconal ministers). Widows/widowers of clergy are also entitled to a free copy upon request. Additional copies may be purchased at a cost of \$4 each (includes shipping and handling). An updated version of the directory is available on the Conference website as a pdf file.

I. AUDIT REPORTS

The Council on Finance and Administration reminds all district offices, agencies, institutions, and organizations receiving any financial support from conference funds or from any authorized conference-wide appeal to be in compliance with the *2016 Book of Discipline* 617.2 and 617.3 to submit audited financial statements to the Conference Treasurer no later than six months after the end of the organization's fiscal year.

J. IRS REGULATIONS

CFA reminds all church and/or charge treasurers to comply with the IRS regulations.

K. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING

CFA recommends that all groups requesting funding from CFA submit requests for budget funding to CFA by January 15 of the year the request is being made. This will allow the requests to be reviewed by CFA in sufficient time for consideration at the Annual Conference Session the following June.

SECTION VI – A Church in Mission

We are a Church in Mission and a three-pronged focus of teaching, communication, and recognition enriches us as a Conference and as Christians. With it, we are able to share and learn further what it means to enter into the vision and share concerns with many people. But more importantly, it sets out a focus throughout our Conference on the value and importance of the unique connectional relationship we have as United Methodists.

Our charter has already been defined for us and it is set out in Scripture: “Just as in the human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit, because of these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12). And that body is composed of all of God's children, including the rich and poor, found and lost, and secure and dispossessed. For as Jesus said, “Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40).

As part of that body, we are called to serve our brothers and sisters in mission throughout the connection. Because of our covenant with God and with each other, it is our goal to fund the basic missional witness of the United Methodist Church.

We have much to be proud of as a Conference, as we live out the full meaning of the Stewardship of the Gospel. Our connectional giving — the important life blood of the work we all do together — is a reflection of the great commitment that Virginia United Methodists have to the mission and ministry work of our Lord. The budgets we draw up, while important, are more than a series of numbers. They reveal the very character of the people who build them, support them, and act through them. They are Christ's work in the world, put into a plan for receiving and spending — collective understandings of commitments to fulfilling ministries and mission priorities. It's no small thing we do individually, when collectively we are making such big impacts beyond our church doors.

The Stewardship of our Conference is part of our response to the needs we know about, as well as those not yet seen. Seeing the need, then doing what Jesus would do. That's true Stewardship! It's our faith in action!

Betty Forbes, President

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) of the Virginia Annual Conference is “to assist disciples of Jesus Christ with God’s continuing work in the areas of call, development, and collegial support.”

During the 2017-2020 quadrennium, the BOM continued its role as the credentialing and certifying authority to persons responding to God’s call as an ordained elder, ordained deacon, associate member, provisional elder, provisional deacon, and specialized ministries (Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Music, Evangelism and Older Adult Ministry).

Three core values undergirded the BOM’s ministry during the past four years:

- ❖ **Whole Person** – In working with candidates and clergy, the whole person is considered, including their theological knowledge, emotional intelligence, practical skill, and cultural competency.
- ❖ **A Changing World** – Effective ministry leadership is needed in the pulpit and far beyond it: Christ is present—and our witness is needed—in and for a rapidly changing world.
- ❖ **Spiritual Discernment** – The Holy Spirit is at work in the BOM’s practice of discernment; being prepared, being prayerful, and being healthy all help the Spirit to move among us.

The following reports from a few workgroups reflect the additional year-long efforts of the BOM:

The Grants and Loans Committee - Awarded \$8,500 to five candidates through the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Also, a total of \$135,525 was awarded to twenty candidates through Service Loans, Grants, Individual Scholarship Funds, and Clinical Pastoral Education Funds.

The Candidacy Team - Hosted a Candidacy Summit in January in which twenty-seven people explored their calling to ministry. God is still calling people to serve, and the next Candidacy Summit will be July 10-11, 2020, at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond.

The Ethics Committee - Continued to work with Dr. Sondra Wheeler as she presented sessions on clergy ethics on all sixteen districts this quadrennium, making four such presentations in 2019. Also, the Ethics Committee with the Sexual Ethics Response Team (SERT) provided Ethics 101 training at Licensing School.

Eight-Year Clergy Assessment - General Conference 2016 required that every annual conference develop a process for ordained clergy to participate in an assessment every eight years (paragraph 349.3). Under the leadership of the Center for Clergy Excellence, Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Rev. Beth Givens, and Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor crafted an “Aldersgate Renewal” whose pilot program will launch at the close of Annual Conference June 2020. The focus for the Eight-Year Assessment in Virginia will be thriving in ministry, inviting a season of deep reflection about what God is doing in their lives, creating a meaningful connection along the journey, reconnecting to the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry and renewing call. The prayer of the Eight-Year Assessment is that the clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference will experience hearts that are “strangely warmed.” Elements of the Aldersgate Renewal program include, but are not limited to, a dinner at the close of Annual Conference, a 24-hour retreat, participation in a cohort group, EM (Effective Ministry) 360 Assessment, personal goal setting, and reflection paper.

During the past year, the Center for Clergy Excellence completed its fifth cohort of the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program (enhancing vocational competencies in mission, disciple-making, worship leadership, and preaching).

Calling 21 - Calling 21 is a young adult, local church internship program in partnership ministry with the Center for Clergy Excellence, the Cabinet, and Shenandoah University. The purpose of the program is for college students to explore their calling through a conference-wide, grassroots, congregation-based, youth-focused approach to the Virginia Conference’s emerging culture of call. These students spend a summer immersed in the life of a local church, not their own, discerning God’s call on their lives, and experiencing the diverse church communities in Virginia. Three interns will be serving this summer.

The BOM expresses its sincere appreciation to the Center for Clergy Excellence for its unwavering focus “primarily on clergy leadership, which includes developing, supporting, and training clergy leaders in light of the core values of excellence and fruitfulness.” The Director for Clergy Excellence is Rev. Lindsey Baynham; the Associate Director for Call and Candidacy is Rev. Joanna Dietz, and the Program and Administrative Director is Kristen Dowdy Seibert.

I also wish to offer my gratitude to the members of the BOM and the District Committees on Ordained Ministry, and at-large BOM committee members for their dedicated services to the Virginia Annual Conference.

– Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., Chair

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy (COE) is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Book of Discipline*. A process for this review has been created and is used by all Conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ). We meet with the bishop three to four times a year to engage in conversation around this process and to hear Bishop Lewis reflect on issues in the Annual Conference and the larger connection. The COE communicates the results and insights of this review with the SEJ COE for use in their assignment process. Bishop Lewis will complete her first quadrennium this year. Many United Methodists are experiencing apprehension related to issues associated with the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The COE joins Bishop Lewis in calling the Virginia Annual Conference to prayer for the church and its leaders in this important season.

– Rev. Tom Berlin, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly scheduled meetings in September and March. In addition, further communication via conference calls during the Conference year were also held to follow-up on other issues, including General Conference and VUMAC.

The Board continues to address property issues related to discontinued and/or abandoned United Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference. This is time-consuming, but important work in the stewardship of Conference church properties. Also, during this past Conference year, the sale of the Blackstone property was completed.

Coming out of the 2019 General Conference, a disaffiliation process was approved for annual conference implementation as needed for requests for disaffiliation by local churches. The Conference put together a Work Group to establish processes and steps for potential implementation. The process approved by General Conference revised implementation of the discipline's trust clause through agreements on pensions for active and retired clergy, apportionment status, and outstanding debts, and other items. The Work Group included participation of Carl Moravitz and Kathy Lutman from Trustees, as well as, representatives from other related areas of our Conference as set out by General Conference action. It worked toward development of a Conference Disaffiliation process that would guide implementation of potential requests for separation. That process was delayed due to issues surfaced by the General Conference on the accuracy of final voting in 2019. Given other proposals on UMC organizational that are being proposed at the 2020 General Conference, the Work Group process reviews on disaffiliation represents important foundational work that may be useful after the May 2020 General Conference.

The Board continues its involvement with ongoing management of the Episcopal residence. Kathy Lutman serves as the Board's representative to the Episcopal Residence Committee (ERC). The annual inspection review of the Episcopal residence was completed in Fall 2019.

The Board of Trustees is directly supported by the Williams Mullen firm, which provides expert attorney services and counsel on Board of Trustees and Annual Conference matters. (Although our attorney support remained the same, it was provided through a different firm.) The firm, and, in particular, Andrew White, has integrated well into the total work of the Board, providing expert counsel to us in our current and ongoing work.

The current slate of officers for the Conference Trustees is: Carl L. Moravitz, president; Kathy Lutman, vice president; Clyde T. Nelson, secretary; David Dommissie, treasurer.

I am thankful for the dedication of all the members of our Board as we work to meet the important tasks set out for the Board by the Conference and the *Discipline*. I am especially thankful for the continued leadership of our Vice President, Kathy Lutman, who has stepped in many times over the past year, when I was unavailable, to help me in the many tasks of our Board.

– Carl L. Moravitz, President

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides funding for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism, spiritual formation, preaching, congregational leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit, and most recently, spiritual leadership. Funding comes from donations received in honor of retired bishops who select the Foundation as the trustee. The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the Cabinet. Endowment funds are invested with the Virginia UM Foundation. In 2014, the foundation was dissolved as a corporation and is now a board reporting to the annual conference.

As an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring agency providing funding for clergy and laity leadership development, the foundation supported the Goodson Preaching Academy of 2020 and remains interested in supporting conference ministry programming that fosters opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching all generations. Grant application forms can be found on the conference website under the tab for The Bishops' Foundation.

– *Kevin W. Bruny, Co-Chair*

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Duke University Divinity School

Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a \$12 million grant in support of DDS's three core priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors, embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church of today and the future. The collaboration will be led by the Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School.

In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M., 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min., 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. Duke Divinity's new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative at the school. The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students, with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent. There were 24 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 42 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference. Strawn has a secondary appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eighteen years.

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences.

Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

United Methodist faculty member Brittany Wilson received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of the Divinity School as Senior Strategist for the Hispanic House of Studies. He will also serve as a consulting faculty member.

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year.

The Duke Endowment has also awarded Duke Divinity School a grant of \$5.5 million over five years to cultivate meaning and purpose across diverse professional schools at Duke. The Lilly Endowment has also awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on “Thriving in Ministry” and “Thriving Congregations” across the United States.

Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create streamlined admissions process and private campus events in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is also partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.

– L. Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School

Ferrum College

As we begin a new decade, Ferrum College is moving forward in new directions and remaining true to its mission to be a community where students enter with promise and leave with purpose. At its core, the College remains steadfast in its commitment to service, both in its approach to teaching and learning, and in many of the careers our students pursue. Commitment to service translates into integrity and servant leadership, and we are proud of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni for the many ways they shine through their service.

This year, the College became the only four-year institution in the Commonwealth to guarantee that Virginia community college graduates can complete a bachelor’s degree within only two years, or they receive the remaining coursework for free. Several community colleges have already signed agreements to work with the College to promote the Ferrum Promise to their students in teacher education, agriculture, business, social work, ecotourism, and environmental science.

Another step forward this year was when we were approved by our accreditors to begin offering master’s degrees for the first time in our history. The initial programs will be a master’s degree in psychology and an education specialist degree. Additionally, the College was approved to offer its first fully online programs.

For the first time ever, the Ferrum College Chorale was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. The Chorale performed as part of a larger chorus of 125, under the direction of Josh O’Dell, the choir director of Thrasher United Methodist Church in Vinton, Virginia.

The College’s tradition of strong athletic programs continues with the addition of track and field and the launch of a campaign to fund improvements for our softball facilities. We also welcomed a new athletic director, John Sutyak, who is working closely with coaching staff and our Office of Institutional Advancement to build and strengthen relationships among donors and area business sponsors.

In a wonderful example of graduates giving back, a 1992 alumnus, Greg Craddock, a U.S. Army veteran and CEO of Patriot Group, International, provided a gift to create a special lounge in the College’s Stanley Library. With a beautiful view of the campus, the Craddock Veteran’s Lounge offers students who are current or former service members a dedicated space to study or simply to relax between classes. The lounge was dedicated in November.

Tri-Area Community Health Clinic, the College’s partner for student health services, completed construction of its new facility and opened its doors in February. The clinic, consisting of a health center and a pharmacy, was formerly located beneath the College’s Vaughn Chapel. Its new location which is adjacent to campus, is more spacious and will benefit our students and the wider community in ever more expansive ways. The Tri-Area Community Center will be an

important partner as the College continues to increase its health sciences programs.

During spring break, the College's Dean of the Chapel, Rev. Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle, led a team of sixteen students, four faculty and staff, and one community volunteer to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to assist with recovery efforts from Hurricane Barry. More than 600 Baton Rouge residents reported damage to their property in the days immediately following the storm, and Ferrum College students assisted some of these homeowners with cleanup and property repair.

In sum, it is gratifying to be part of a college community whose motto is a way of life and lived daily in student-centeredness. As we model "Not Self, But Others" by placing students at the center of all we do, students flourish, taking their talent well far beyond campus to live as responsible citizens in their community, nation and world. We are grateful to the United Methodist Church for its support of the College's work to prepare students who enter with promise and leave with purpose.

– David L. Johns, Ph.D.

Randolph-Macon Academy

We are deeply thankful that God was with us through 2019, which was definitely a year of hills and valleys. I am thrilled to let you know that our drill team successfully defended their Air Force Association Virginia State Air Force Junior ROTC Drill Championship title. We also sent a team to the Air Force Junior ROTC Nationals Competition in Ohio, and took eighth place overall in the nation, with our dual team taking first place in their competition! We were blessed with athletic talent as our girls' soccer team and both the girls' and boys' middle school soccer teams won championships. But it was also a year in which we needed God's comfort, as our beloved English teacher Robert Davies and longtime security officer Bob Johnson both lost their battles with cancer. I am thankful for His care of our school family as we mourned their loss.

Three of our longtime employees, Robert and Janie Lewallen, who filled a variety of positions over their decades of service, and Vice President Jonathan Ezell, retired at the end of the 2018-19 school year, and our Commandant, Col Frank Link, USAF, Retired, left for family reasons. We were blessed to have just the right person for the job already on staff, as LtCol Michael Starling, USMC, Retired, R-MA Class of 1988, stepped up and filled the role.

Despite these challenges, we had a successful and exciting year full of God's blessings. We hosted our first Fine Arts Show in April, which combined musical performances with art displays and the inaugural induction of students into our new Tri-M Music Honor Society. Our senior class earned 191 college acceptances and were offered more than \$5.1 million in college scholarships.

In the fall, our Middle School students won first place in the robotics category at the local Lego League competition, and took third place overall. We opened the Betty and Dave '53 Moore Enterprise and Leadership Lab, which was named in honor of two people who are not only staunch supporters of Randolph-Macon Academy, but two of the kindest, truest Christians I have ever had the privilege to meet.

As we honor our heritage as a United Methodist Church, we continue to offer weekly chapel services, one for our Upper School students and one for our Middle School students. Our chaplain, Joshua Orndorff, has done an excellent job in connecting with our students and growing our spiritual life programs during his years here. There are many glory sightings to celebrate! In 2019, we averaged 30 students participating weekly in small group opportunities and movie nights, and 8 serve through their participation on the Praise Team. For the fifth consecutive year, we are offering confirmation classes; there are six enrolled in the UMC class.

The Interfaith Prayer Room became a reality in 2019, providing a quiet place for prayer and reflection in the center of campus. We also began a Spiritual Life Leadership Team that has 6 students and 3 faculty members involved in Campus Ministry Institute. The inaugural mission trip was a phenomenal success, with 16 students, along with six adult chaperones, assisting families through the Washington United Methodist Church Disaster Recovery Center in eastern North Carolina. Chaplain Orndorff returned with another group this year consisting of 23 students and six adult chaperones.

We have much to be thankful for. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated as we continuously seek ways to bring our students closer to God, and for our Academy to be a "City on a Hill". God bless you all.

– David C. Wesley, Brigadier General, USAF, Retired, President

Randolph-Macon College

Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon College is a selective, co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia, just minutes north of Richmond and 90 miles south of Washington, D.C. The college achieves its mission of “developing the minds and character of each student” by balancing rigorous academics with individualized attention between our exceptional faculty and students. The student-faculty ratio is 11 to 1 and the average class size is 14 students. The college has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

Now in our 190th year, the college is larger and more diverse than at any time in history, having experienced a significant growth in our student body in recent years. The 2019-2020 academic year opened with 1543 students from 26 states (plus the District of Columbia) and 27 countries. Of these students, 53% are female and 48% are male.

Our outstanding faculty has been recognized for its achievements on countless fronts, including superior teaching, research, and mentorship, creating personalized education for students both inside and outside of the classroom.

The EDGE Career Center is focused on preparing our students for careers and post-graduate success. Faculty serve as mentors and offer important advising, linking valuable liberal arts education with important career and post-graduate success strategies and life skills. The EDGE also offers Boot Camp, a signature two-day career-focused immersion program.

R-MC’s January Term (J-term) is a four-week session in which students can study abroad and immerse themselves in other cultures, conduct a regional, national or international internship, or take an on-campus course in a specific area of interest. January Term internships provide unique opportunities, and this year, 141 students performed internships.

One of the flagship programs at Randolph-Macon is the Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF), an endowment to support scholarly undergraduate research by students in all disciplines. SURF allows students the opportunity to conduct original research, under the guidance of a faculty member, and to be paid a stipend. Many students present their findings at academic and professional conferences both nationally and internationally. Now in its 23rd year, SURF has funded research opportunities for over 700 students.

R-MC offers a Four-Year Degree Guarantee, which pledges in writing that freshmen who meet all necessary requirements will graduate within four calendar years. If not, Randolph-Macon will waive tuition costs for R-MC courses needed to complete the degree.

R-MC integrates the value of diversity into the fabric of campus life. Through a wide range of student organizations and multicultural programs, Randolph-Macon seeks to build a community that upholds the inherent worth of individuals in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and civility.

Randolph-Macon celebrates our strong alumni giving record. In 2019, 33% of our alumni gave back to the college. The college has experienced a campus renaissance, with over \$80 million spent on new and renovated facilities in recent years.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program was established in 2004 to support students who express an interest in ordained ministry in the Christian tradition. Students awarded this scholarship receive half-tuition for the first two years and full tuition for the junior and senior years. The program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. As of January 2020, we have 133 living alumni who are United Methodist Clergy.

Randolph-Macon is honored to host Pathways to Science, which invites rising sophomore Hispanic girls to campus to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities. R-MC recently received an additional \$1,082,291 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue this program for an additional three years. Convergence, a 9-day event in which high school students explore the many ways that Christian faith and science come together, is now in its fourth year. Additionally, Valuing the Voices in Our Church is a new program for high school students to assist with vocational discernment.

In 2018, the college established a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, and Dr. Cindy Rubenstein was named chair. The BSN program integrates R-MC’s liberal arts tradition as it prepares students to work as collaborative members of interdisciplinary healthcare teams. Payne Hall, a new, state-of-the-art building will house the BSN program. It is currently under construction and projected to be completed this September.

R-MC’s new Cybersecurity major is a computing-based discipline that involves the creation, operation, analysis, and

testing of secure systems, networks, and applications to protect against a variety of digital threats. The college's new Writing major heightens students' power to use the written word effectively and with style. R-MC also boasts a new Criminology major, the central focus of which is to understand social structure and social processes in relation to crime, criminality, and punishment.

The college offers 18 intercollegiate sports (NCAA Division III) and participates in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). The men's basketball team won the ODAC regular-season title, hosted and won games in the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament, reaching the Sweet Sixteen. The baseball team won the ODAC regular-season title for the second straight year. The softball team reached the Division III World Series for the first time in program history. The women's soccer team went undefeated during the regular season, won the ODAC title and won a first-round game in the NCAA Tournament. The women's volleyball team won the ODAC regular-season title for the fifth straight year and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The college recently launched an eSports program. eSports—also known as electronic sports or e-sports—is a form of competition using video games in an online environment.

R-MC also launched a Show Choir program. Show Choir uses vocals, choreography, staging, costuming and production to synthesize an artistic experience.

The college's equestrian program continues to flourish, and in 2018, R-MC purchased Coventry Horse Farm. Located close to campus, it boasts 70 acres of pasture, has space for 33 horses, and includes an indoor riding arena, two large outdoor areas, and space for cross-country fences.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of the Randolph-Macon College experience. In 2019-20, R-MC students collectively amassed more than 23,099 volunteer hours and donated \$48,860.64, to various causes. Students in Fraternity and Sorority Life contributed more than 13,613 hours of collective service to the community and donated nearly \$26,969.84 to various organizations and philanthropies. There are two signature events each year, The Big Event in the fall and Macon a Difference Day in April. Over 700 students participate in these events.

At Randolph-Macon College, students bond with their peers, faculty mentors and alumni to build meaningful relationships that last a lifetime.

– Sue Schick, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Shenandoah University

I hope you will join me as we celebrate the “graduation” of the Rev. Dr. Rhonda VanDyke from Shenandoah University! Rhonda refuses to call it a retirement. Rhonda finished her time at Shenandoah University in May; for more than a decade, she has been a leader in changing the culture for our students. In her time at Shenandoah, we all started using the “do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God” three simple rules. We started using the words attributed to John Wesley, “do all the good you can, by all the means you can...” at worship services, then at graduation, and then at convocation. Students regularly send pictures of the words of John Wesley posted to their walls in their homes after they have graduated. Rhonda impacted thousands of graduates and her impact continues as others pass on these key theological foundations to generations to come. Yes, we have been blessed by Rhonda's leadership over the last fifteen years. I hope you will join me in congratulating her on doing all the good she could, to all the people she could in her time at Shenandoah University. As we launch Rhonda into a new possibilities upon “graduation,” we are excited to announce that another Virginia Conference clergyperson, the Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, has been promoted to Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

Part of Rhonda's legacy is having helped build an exceptional partnership between Shenandoah University and the Virginia Annual Conference, Wesley Theological Seminary, and the whole of the United Methodist connection. Students, faculty, and staff have been at the last four General Conference gatherings (2020, 2019, 2016, and 2012). Over 100 college-age students have been Calling21 interns in local Virginia Conference United Methodist churches as they have explored their vocation with mentors and vibrant faith communities. Finally, the Faith Seeking Justice Christian Leadership program is entering its second decade and continues to educate and inspire future clergy in small numbers and future lay leaders in large numbers.

This year, thirty students have preached at the Higher Ground worship service on campus. They have learned about exegesis and commentaries, but they have taught their peers about a vibrant and active faith in Christ that calls us to love our neighbor and to pray for our enemies. As the students have taken ownership of their own service, leading the music, prayers, and sermons with the mentorship of our dean of Spiritual Life, Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, they have started to invite their friends and the service has grown. Outside of athletic events, Higher Ground is the largest regularly occurring event on campus and brings together students from all areas of study, all political persuasions, and all Christian denominations to worship as one corporate body.

Can you help us continue the partnership with the United Methodist connection? Here are two ways you can help. First, the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute engages high school students in a three-credit college course over two weeks in July as students explore their faith in a diverse world. If you would like to nominate a dedicated high school student, or you are a dedicated high school student that would like to apply, please do so at su.edu/youththeology.

Second, we have notified the Site Selection Committee that the new James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletics and Events Center on the campus of Shenandoah University might be well suited to host Annual Conference. With a capacity of nearly 5000 people, we are exploring opportunities to engage our community through large-scale regional events. I hope you will dream about what events we can hold on our campus in Winchester that might reach others as we “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” and share those ideas with our Dean of Spiritual Life, Rev. Dr. Justin Allen.

Shenandoah University remains committed to educating and serving the diversity of God’s people and we want to continue to build a mutually beneficial partnership with the United Methodist Church as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are better together. So, together let us

“do all the good we can,
by all the means we can,
in all the ways we can,
in all the places we can,
at all the times we can,
to all the people we can,
as long as ever we can.”

– Tracy Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., President

Virginia Wesleyan University

It has been an honor to serve as president of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, leading the 117 Methodist-related higher education institutions during this pivotal time for the Church.

Virginia Wesleyan University continues to attract attention for its profound campus transformation over the past five years. In 2018, VWU was featured in *Trusteeship*, the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) magazine. In 2019, we were featured in *Business Officer*, the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) magazine. Both publications not only outlined the Virginia Wesleyan University transformation, but shared key take-aways designed to inspire others confronting the current challenges of small and mid-sized institutions.

In recognition of our commitment to civic engagement, we were selected to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s prestigious Community Engagement Classification—the leading framework for assessment in U.S. higher education. We are one of 119 U.S. institutions to earn this distinction in 2020.

Addressing national trends, affordability remains a top priority. Virginia Wesleyan offers a multi-faceted plan of affordability that combines the third consecutive year of frozen tuition, a new endowed Batten Honors College, an expanded donor-funded student employment program, a concurrent enrollment program with Virginia community colleges, affordable out-of-semester 12-month course options, and a fifth-year tuition guarantee.

Since our 2017 transition to University status, we have added new graduate programs and several thriving online programs. Academic programs have been expanded to include two new majors: Sport and Recreation Management and Recreation Therapy. In January 2020, VWU formalized our commitment to pursue a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing

degree with Sentara College of Health Sciences. Through a gift in 2019, we established a program to expand the study of African-American history and traditions.

In the fall, Virginia Wesleyan established an Esports program, which is now flourishing in its new donor-funded state-of-the-art arena. We also opened the Malbon Center for Technology, which has both a virtual and physical home. Our new Susan S. Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center opened in Spring 2019 and has attracted world-renowned artists. This new facility, coupled with planned expansion of the original Fine Arts Building, will enhance VWU's offerings and showcase the prominence of our arts programs to the community.

Our Greer Environmental Sciences Center and highly selective Batten Honors College, both opened in 2017, continue to be national niche programs. The Greer Center has enhanced prominence in the natural sciences programs and has earned multiple accolades, including 2018 Conservationist of the Year from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and recognition from the Elizabeth River Project for Sustained Distinguished Performance at the River Stars Model Level in 2020. We were also proud to name our first campus sustainability director recently in support of our ongoing commitment to the environment.

The Batten Honors College welcomed its third class in fall 2019 and will reach its full capacity of 160 students this fall. In February 2020, competing against 15 Virginia private colleges, VWU won the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges' annual Ethics Bowl for the second time in University history. Our undefeated team was entirely comprised of Batten Honors College students who earned the coveted VFIC Batten Trophy.

A third national-niche program of VWU is the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom. The center aims to create a civil society through education, respectful dialogue, and mutual understanding, and it equips students and community members to address difficult and urgent problems. We are dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and in 2020, named the University's first chief diversity officer.

Religious life on campus is vibrant as Marlin Ministries serves students of all faiths, interests, and backgrounds. Ecumenical services are offered weekly in the Monumental Chapel and Beazley Recital Hall. Several gatherings are held each week for students, faculty, and staff with various interests and journeys in their faith. The donor-funded Boyd Fellows program provides opportunities for student leaders to assist with the administrative, visionary, and programmatic aspects of religious life on campus. New agreements with the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and the Duke University Divinity School provide early assurance opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in the ministry.

– Scott D. Miller, Ph.D., President

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND SPOUSES

ARMS works along with our Conference Office of Pensions and Benefits to provide for the needs and desires of our retired clergy and spouses. We had another good retreat in October at Eagle Ayrie with around 80 participants. It was a time of fellowship, good food and being encouraged for the well being of our body, mind and soul. As always we received updates on our Conference health plans and what we might expect for the future in our retirement. We look to see more of our retirees at our retreat this coming October 7 & 8. Our theme has been set for "Solid Hope in Changing Times." More information and applications will be ready for our Retirees' banquet provided by our Conference office of Pensions and Benefits. We again ask that all retirees and spouses consider donating \$10.00 annually toward expenses and defraying the cost of our retreat. Checks should be made out to the VUMC for ARMS.

– John & Cathy Price, Co-Presidents of the ARMS Board of Directors

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

Since its inception 150 years ago the Preachers' Relief Society had provided grants to help clergy who, for one reason or another, have been faced with financial emergencies beyond their ability to meet. In 2019 the Society was able to make grants to two clergy who were facing difficult situations.

Those facing financial emergencies who are eligible for assistance from the Preachers' Relief Society include all clergy, active and retired, and the widows and widowers of deceased clergy. Requests for assistance must come through and be endorsed by the district superintendent. The Society carefully considers all requests and responds confidentially and appropriately.

Persons wishing to help underwrite the work of the Society should contact the Society's treasurer, The Reverend Robert F. Cofield, Jr.

The current directors of the Society are Robert T. Casey, President; Edward Lilly, vice-president; James R. Bergdoll, secretary; Robert F. Cofield, Jr., treasurer; Robert N. Baker, III; Sallye Bowen; Katherine Kidwell; James S. Matthews, and Harold E. White, Sr.

– Robert T. Casey, President

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) has been serving retired clergy and their families for 87 years by providing housing following retirement for those who qualify. Currently, RCHC owns twenty (20) properties across our conference in Bridgewater, Danville, Hampton, Lynchburg, Mechanicsville, North Chesterfield, Prince George, Raphine, Roanoke, Staunton, and Winchester.

Pinnacle Living assists the RCHC Board of Directors with the financial and day-to-day management of the corporation. The board has been actively engaged in the development of policies and procedures with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of those we serve while being good stewards of the gifts we receive.

The annual operating budget for RCHC is approximately \$175,000, and the fees we charge the residents fall short of our annual costs. Contributions and other sources of revenues are needed more than ever before to ensure the long-term viability of this wonderful ministry.

The annual Covenant of Gratitude drive is one way individuals and congregations can help support the work of RCHC. The Covenant of Gratitude asks for a commitment of a minimum of \$1 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference session. We appreciate the past support we received from our Covenant of Gratitude family, but this year we are asking those who can, to do a bit more! If you are a current Covenant of Gratitude supporter, or if you have never supported our ministry before, please consider increasing your gift to \$2, \$3 or even \$5 for each commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference. Your donation will help offset basic operations and unexpected repairs. Please remember, we receive no funds from the conference for the important work we do. We also invite you to make RCHC a part of your estate planning. If you are interested in learning more about how to support this mission, please contact Rev. Charles Wickham at 804-474-8724 and he will be happy to meet with you.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you in advance for any assistance you are able to give. What an honor and privilege it is to talk with the families we serve and hear them say, "You will never know what this opportunity means to us. Without RCHC, we just don't know what we would have done!" Our clergy have given themselves to the service of God and what an honor to now help support them with housing.

– D. Michael Houff, RCHC Board of Directors, Chair

THE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

The United Methodist Credit Union is committed to offering our member churches, individuals, institutions, and the conference a primary resource for encouraging sound stewardship principles so we can all be more effective in our respective ministries. Our objective is to help our members “to earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can” as servants of Christ in the world.

We are a full service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all-volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of lay and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa rewards credit cards, online services, and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We also offer a product called Snap-Loan that provides an educational line of credit for college students with discounted interest rates for students attending a United Methodist affiliated college or seminary. In addition, we have partnered with several local churches to establish Jubilee Assistance Funds; a program that assists churches with short-term loans to help people who may be experiencing a financial emergency. Plus, we recently partnered with a financial services firm that can assist our members with college planning/529s, annuities, long term care and saving for retirement.

Our church loan program helps local churches with loans for parsonages, renovations, and vans and buses, and with the refinancing of current loans to secure better rates and terms. We also offer project loans (up to \$50,000 unsecured) and Visa rewards credit cards for church business.

During the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, The United Methodist Credit Union offered opportunities for members to skip a payment on their loans, low-interest personal loans without credit checks and with deferred payments, as well as free access to the services of GreenPath Financial Wellness, an affiliate of the credit union that provides help with debt management, bill payment assistance, and financial counseling, among other resources. Also, unsecured emergency loans were offered to churches requiring minimal paperwork and up to \$5,000 that could be disbursed in just one or two business days.

The United Methodist Credit Union is always looking for ways to assist member individuals and churches in their missional efforts within their respective communities and beyond. One of the newest such “missional banking projects” of the credit union that will be offered later this year is a loan program to assist members with adoptions.

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among faithful members of the Methodist movement, and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 a group of Virginia pastors, with help from the Virginia Conference, pooled their resources and established this credit union so they could be more effective in their respective ministries. Sixty-eight years later, our membership has now grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies, and institutions in the conferences of North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Baltimore-Washington (churches and organizations only). The spirit of Wesley to earn all we can and save all we can so we can give all they can is alive and well in The United Methodist Credit Union.

– Alvin J. Horton, Chair

UNITED METHODIST MEN

As key initiatives in the past year, the Virginia UM Men have deployed a disciple mentoring program, continued to encourage the formation of Wesleyan Transformational Small Groups at fellowships, and have focused on discipleship and service ministries.

Over the next year, we will continue to pursue our goals to have our leadership be representative of our membership with particular emphasis on discipling younger men. We will update our By-laws as well as our vision, values, and goals for 2020-2023 at a leadership retreat in the fall. We will partner with Districts in sponsoring men’s spiritual retreats regionally around the Conference. We will train our men on domestic violence prevention. Each of these efforts will help us fulfill the Conference vision of disciples who are life-long learners influencing others to serve.

Vision: Men building God's Kingdom led by the Holy Spirit through Christian fellowship

Values: Service, Excitement (passion), Teamwork

2019/20 Goals (summary):

Prepare (disciple) men for service and leadership; succession management aligned with church demographics; reach new men and their families and mentor new Christians; connect with other Conference agencies and boards: prevent domestic violence jointly with UMW; Holy Spirit led Christian fellowship through Wesleyan Transformational Small Groups (class meetings) at all fellowships; Bible studies; revise the Men's Spiritual Weekend; and ignite Younger Men's Ministry. To accomplish this, we have filled two key vacancies for Vice President for Spiritual Life and Chaplain and are working to fill our Younger Men's Ministry Advocate. Mentoring our replacements is a priority paying dividends. Please continue to pray for us!

Ministries

Men's Spiritual Advance: Building on 2018's success, our Spiritual Advance weekend in the fall of 2019 continued to follow the model of the South Carolina Conference while taking into account the context of the Virginia Conference's vision. Our two-day Spiritual Advance (September 27-28) featured the author of *The Class Meeting*, Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson; General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) deployed staff member Greg Arnold; and N. Georgia YoungER Men's Ministry representative Odell Horne. Our theme was *Transforming Grace*.

Unfortunately, we had a significant drop in attendance. We have revised our strategy relative to spiritual retreats and are now partnering with men regionally to conduct joint District events around the Conference each year. Our first joint event was held at Camp Overlook near Harrisonburg on January 3-4, 2020. Our next retreat is scheduled on August 15-16 with a third to be announced later this year.

Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB) Mentoring: Advocate David Bean and his team have deployed a mentor/mentee training program. Using Wesley's 21 questions and corresponding scripture, the initiative will help us address generational gaps in our churches, provide new disciples with experienced mentors, and focus our discipleship on service (faith in action).

Men's Ministry: Three certified Men's Ministry Specialists (Todd Hoar, Johnnie Draughon and David Bean) are engaged in training and support activities offering *Understanding Men's Ministry* and other courses around the Conference.

Young Men's Ministry: In coordination with the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ), we have established this ministry to explore ways to integrate and grow participation by late Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials. To this end we have deployed a mentoring program (see WBB above), and encouraged participation in small transformational groups. Additionally, by focusing on projects not presentations, interactions not programs, and by showing, not telling, we are demonstrating our dedication to building relationships, not walls.

Scouting: We serve over 16,000 youth with over 9,000 adult volunteer leaders. Scouting is a key element of our strategy to reach new people since half of scouting families do not have church homes. In 2019, Scouting Advocate Bill Chaffin was appointed to the Conference Board of Laity. We are planning 2 more Bishop's Scouting Leadership Dinners for 2020 and 2021 (Roanoke and Arlington Districts) as well as formulating our Annual Conference plan focusing on celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our BSA/UMC partnership which began on February 12, 1920. We received a \$5,000 UM Foundation grant to initiate District programs, provide scholarships to Philmont for UM scouter training during the 100th Anniversary, and funding to stabilize the Conference structure. Finally, we created a chaplain aide training program.

AMEND Together is an innovative initiative dedicated to preventing domestic violence against women and girls by engaging and educating men. The GCUMM has partnered with AMEND Together to create the *AMENDING Through Faith* training course in which men learn to recognize, respond to, and prevent violence against women. Twelve men recently completed the course by online teleconference. "Good men" must play a critical role in creating a community where all women and girls are valued and safe. Only with the support and involvement of men and boys can the cycle of gender violence be broken. The Virginia Conference UMM received a grant to help fund this initiative. To find out more, visit the GCUMM website or view the video <https://youtu.be/KskVFJktm0g>.

Prayer Advocacy: There are currently seven District prayer advocates. Districts still in need of prayer advocates are Alexandria, Arlington, Charlottesville, Danville, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Rappahannock, Roanoke, and Staunton. Todd Hoar, our Conference Prayer Advocate, distributed Upper Room materials throughout the year. Our first quarter 2020

goal was to contact the DS's and get recommendations for District prayer advocates. The Upper Room prayer wall can be found at <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/prayer-wall>.

Heart Havens: The UMM, through Heart Havens Advocate David Campbell, support the developmentally disabled through fund raising, community events involving residents, and providing volunteer maintenance and repair to group homes.

The Winchester District UMM is also supporting the Saratoga House in Winchester, formerly operated by Heart Havens but now under the management of Shenandoah Valley Community Residences, Inc.

Camp Rainbow Connection holds a week-long respite camp once in June and once in July for individuals with developmental disabilities. While finances are a continuing challenge, an even greater challenge is getting enough camp counselors to serve. Camp Rainbow is held at Richard Bland College in Petersburg and Ron Rumsey is our Camp Rainbow Connection Advocate.

Prison and Jail Ministries: UMM provides volunteer and monetary support to: **Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry** (DBOM) which provides the thirty-two week Disciple Series to prisoners (Gene Mims, POC); **Good News Jail Ministry** serving inmates in Virginia's county and city Jails; **Kairos** which provides an Emmaus Walk experience for inmates of Virginia's Correctional Institutions; and **GraceInside**, a ministry supporting Prison Chaplains. We also advocate for the children of incarcerated adults through All God's Children. Each year our Conference sponsors 90 youth and children with an opportunity to grow in Christ. Thirty different children enjoy one week outdoors at 3 different camps. One-on-one mentors pair with and give spiritual support to the campers. Contact our new Prison and Jail Ministries Advocate, Andrew Kissell, if you are called to serve!

Hunger Relief: Wade Mays, with the Society of St. Andrew, will have provided an estimated 1.6 million servings of food by July 2020 with the help of our UMM volunteers.

The Beacon: Our monthly e-newsletter has strong readership (1500+) from both clergy and laity as well as subscribers outside the Conference taking regular notice of our men's activities. The Beacon is emulated by other Conferences providing insightful articles, timely news items, and promoting UMM sponsored events. Our editor, Jon Simons, always welcomes your input!

SEJ and General Conference: President Andrew Kissell has been elected to serve as President of the SEJ UMM beginning in July. As outgoing Conference President, Andrew would like to thank his brothers and sisters in Christ who have supported his leadership over the past four years, and he looks forward to continued growth, discipleship, and discernment in his service to the Lord alongside each of you!

Web Page: Visit us at <https://www.vaumc.org/UMM>

– Andrew Kissell, President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women is the women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church, putting faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth in the United States and internationally. We are a creative, supportive community of women organized around the Purpose, which is "to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ" and "to expand concepts of mission by participation in the global ministries of the church."

Our theme this year has been "Let Your Light Shine: Ignited for Justice". We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action. We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action. We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches. We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems. We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women offers several opportunities to grow spiritually to women by attending retreats. Each spring a UMW Spiritual Life Retreat is held that brings together women from all over the conference. On

May 15-17, 2020 the retreat theme was “Peace Be with You” with the Rev. Ileana Rosario as the retreat leader. The event was held at the 4H Camp at Smith Mountain Lake.

The second opportunity for spiritual growth is for the young women of our conference. Held in September each year is our Young Women’s Retreat and is always a great opportunity for young women between the ages of 18-40 to come together for worship, music, sharing, and crafts around a theme. The event’s date is September 11-12, 2020 at the Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook in the beautiful mountains of the Shenandoah Valley. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Ashley Isernhagen.

Our Mission Encounter event is held each July and is an event shared by Virginia United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women and is for everyone - clergy, laity, and youth. The dates for the event for 2020 are July 24-26 at Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center. Our website vaumw.com has registration forms.

We meet each October for our United Methodist Women Annual Meeting. This meeting will be held October 24th at Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center.

– *Mary Jane Rawley, President*

VA PAUMCS

(Professional Administrators Of The United Methodist Connectional Structure)

The purpose of PAUMCS is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuous education and spiritual enrichment. PAUMCS promotes and encourages the training and support of United Methodist Church secretaries; serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect church secretaries; encourages and assists in the establishment of chapters of church secretaries, within or across jurisdictional and annual conference boundaries, and assists in coordinating the program and work of these chapters.

The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries was organized on April 14, 1982 in Dallas, Texas. Since that first meeting, conferences have been held annually, by-laws and a logo were adopted, working committees were formed, a quarterly newsletter was established and chapters were organized across the connection. Legislation was adopted at the 1988 General Conference which states that the General Conference of Finance and Administration (GCFA) has the authority and responsibility to provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of professional standards, training and certification programs and to provide assistance to the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (*2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶807.18).

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS was established March 1999 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone. Since that time the membership of the Virginia chapter has grown to as many as 90 members and an all time high of 130 attendees at a fall event at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center. The chapter sponsors two meetings each year: normally, a one day fall training event and a one day spring training event and annual meeting, each good for .5 CEUs.

At their National Conference in Chicago in May 2017 the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries voted to change their name to the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure, thereby broadening their vision while retaining their acronym, PAUMCS.

VA PAUMCS members are persons presently or previously, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, engaged in administrative work in any local church or agency of the United Methodist Church. For a member to be in good standing, annual dues must be paid for the current year. Membership advantages include reduced rates on workshop registration fees, a bi-annual chapter newsletter and networking with other church secretaries throughout the Virginia Conference.

During the Annual Conference year 2019-2020 VA PAUMCS:

In 2019 our annual mailing went digital. All newsletters, events and updates are posted to our webpage at www.vaumc.org/paumcs and promoted by MailChimp.

On Wednesday, October 30 we held our “Experience Your Conference Connection” Fall Event 2019 featuring Conference Database Manager Chris Malak, who led us in a workshop on data collection within the conference and how local churches can use that information; and MaryKaye Cochran, of the Conference Office of Congregational Excellence, who facilitated an interactive session on MissionInsite and how the website provides access to a great quantity of demographic information that can help the local church to reach out to their community. The event was attended by 58 clergy and laity from across the Conference.

Our National PAUMCS Conference will be held April 16-18 In Kansas City, MO. The theme is “Keep Our Eyes Focused on Christ” and our workshops will include an array of speakers from the Missouri Conference and General Boards. Topics will include Unleashing our Inner Warrior, Developing & Mentoring Young Leaders, Missional Focus: The Shop: New Ways to Reach God’s People, Strategies for Getting Volunteers or Servants, and Social Media for Churches, to name a few.

Our VA PAUMCS spring event will be held Wednesday, May 27, at the VAUMC Conference Center. Tami J. Wyrick, Vice President (Consultant) of Business Development for the Larkin Group will lead us in a day of how church professionals can maintain our personal and overall safety.

Bishop Lewis has said, “United Methodist Church secretaries are called to ministry as surely as any pastor. Our administrative staff persons are a part of the ministry teams of our local churches and other United Methodist agencies. It is critically important that we work to develop effectiveness and vitality in the life of these teams. To that end the VA PAUMCS is committed to providing a supportive base for the training and fellowship of its members.”

– Susan Mundell Petrey, President

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Virginia United Methodist Historical Society continues to be active. Much of the work is accomplished through strong committees and foundations. In 2019, we supported the Southeastern Jurisdiction annual meeting at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Second only to the host Conference, Virginia had the largest delegation participating.

Virginia Conference Archives

In accordance with church guidance and Disciplinary mandates, the mission of the Virginia Annual Conference (VAC) Archives is to collect, organize and preserve materials that document the historical development of the UMC and its antecedents in Virginia. The VAC Archivist is tasked with implementing this mission, which includes:

- ❖ ensuring VAC records are deposited in the Archives in accordance with the *Discipline* and GCAH guidance;
- ❖ arranging VAC records to make them accessible when needed;
- ❖ providing research assistance to VAC churches, districts, committees, conference staff
- ❖ maintaining the collections in accordance with prescribed guidelines for preserving archival records in all formats
- ❖ providing guidance to VAC churches and Districts for maintaining and subsequently transferring to the Archives records as identified in the *Discipline*; and
- ❖ keeping up-to-date with current archival practices and implementing changes as needed.

The current VAC Archivist is contracted and paid to work 15 hours per week. The majority of her time is spent responding to information requests from local churches, district superintendents, and researchers, and accepting new acquisitions.

Acquisitions to the Archives can represent multiple boxes and weeks of assessing, organizing, and filing. In recent years the archivist has processed records from over 20 closed churches, several closed districts, the entire Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center Collection, and the collection from the Blackstone College Alumnae Association.

With the prediction of more church closings, this job will of necessity become even more challenging. The job of archivist requires meticulous, detailed, and time consuming work. Time constraints are currently preventing the Archivist from performing all of the critical tasks relating to the maintenance of the Archives.

During 2020 the Conference Archivist and the Archives Committee will be developing strategies and plans for making the job of Archivist a half-time position in 2021 and for attacking special projects such as the digitization of the audio visual collection.

– *Cathy Morgan, Chair*

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

Over the past year, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation has further developed its strategic plans for two of the properties by engaging others to help us build a comprehensive business plan to determine the cost of renovation, timeframe and acquire adequate fundraising. The first is the old Randolph-Macon College/Boydton Academy & Bible Institute site in Boydton. We attended and presented a Paper at the Lemon Project Symposium at William & Mary last March that was well received while gaining contacts and core information of people and organizations to support our strategic plans. Our focus is twofold, the preservation of the property and acquiring necessary funding and the resources to accomplish the project within the next several years. This includes the building (which served as a dormitory, classrooms, and administrative offices), plus restoring the adjacent Head Masters (HELENSHA) house. This house could be used for a learning center/library and/or Care taker Residence. Our leadership team for this project is making process developing relationships with granting organizations, foundations, and major donors. Secondly a plan for the utilization of the physical property and considering how best to interpret the significant history of both the original site of R-MC, which is the oldest Methodist College in America, and the Boydton Institute, which later occupied these same facilities, serving African American students for half a century in the years following the Civil War. These two schools had a significant impact on the education of whites and blacks for over 100 critical years in our history, providing leaders in many fields, including higher education and the civil rights movement.

The second project is “Canaan”, the name given by the Rev. Edward Dromgoole to his home, which served as a meeting place for early Methodists, including Bishop Francis Asbury, for many years. The Board of Supervisors of Brunswick County approved our “concept” for a retreat center and gave us a conditional permit to move forward with a plan to develop a rustic campground and assembly building that would accommodate about forty people for educational purposes. A leadership team for this project is in place and move forward. Steps were taken to shore up the foundation of the home and to prevent further deterioration. An archeological dig was conducted by the College of William and Mary, assisting in the identification of structures on the site and the recovery of artifacts. One such structure is a “spinning house”, which with restoration could become a museum and visitor orientation center. Our Board of Directors in 2019 together has contributed over \$27,000 to help with our start the fundraising drive.

We are grateful for the progress being made by the OBCF, but are much in need of help from United Methodists across the Conference. Financial gifts, on-site volunteers, and researchers are welcome to join in these efforts to preserve these vital aspects of the origins of Methodism in Virginia. Our focus is “Preserving Our Heritage to Inspire the Future”

– *Jim Mott, President:*

The William Watters Foundation

The purpose of the William Watters Foundation is to oversee the preservation, care and interpretation of the gravesite of William Watters, United Methodist Historic Site No. 7, in McLean, Virginia. William Watters was the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher.

The Board of Directors approved the slate of board members and officers at our May meeting. Board members were duly elected at the fall meeting of the Virginia Conference Historical Society on September 7, and officers were elected at the Foundation’s Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the William Watters Foundation was held on September 22 at Trinity UMC in McLean, Virginia. We returned to our traditional annual meeting format – a meeting open to the public, with a guest speaker, and refreshments – on a Sunday afternoon. Prof. Michael H. Browder was our guest speaker; his topic was “William Watters: A New

Look at an Old Friend.” We will hold our next annual meeting on September 20 at Trinity UMC, McLean. The Foundation learned in late December 2019 that our quest for designation of the William Watters Gravesite as a United Methodist Heritage Landmark was denied. We will try again in time to gain approval by the 2024 General Conference.

We began a 2:1 match fundraiser on September 1, 2019, to be concluded by March 1, 2020. This fundraiser required all active board members to contribute to the effort to raise \$5,000. We recently met our goal, and now a generous benefactor will donate an additional \$10,000.

– Myra P. Lindsey, *President*

The Old Stone Church Foundation

The Old Stone Church Foundation was established in 1974 by the Virginia Conference Historical Society to preserve, protect and interpret the Old Stone Church site in Leesburg. The site, a United Methodist Heritage Landmark, was the first Methodist-owned church property in America, deeded in 1766.

The Foundation held its annual meeting on September 11, 2019 at Mount Zion UMC in Leesburg. Mount Zion, founded in 1866 by the black members of the Old Stone Church, is recognized as the oldest continuing African American Methodist congregation in Virginia. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Steven J. Summers, Winchester District Superintendent, talked about “Leadership Lessons from Jenga.” Nominations for the 2020 Board of Directors were presented and approved. Prior to the Annual Meeting, Site Manager John Creamer led guests and members of the Board on a tour of the Old Stone Church site.

The board approved the 2020 slate of officers at the November 13 meeting, and set meeting dates for the new year. Preparations are underway for our Annual Meeting, scheduled for September 9, 2020.

Work continues in our effort to make the Old Stone Church Site a pilgrimage destination. Our beautiful memorial brick prayer garden continues to grow.

– Charles E. Williams, *President*

Mandate

We are grateful for the work of our foundations, our committees and our faithful trustees. And we thank the Virginia Conference for the additional resources that have been made available to us. In these changing times, it has never been more important to preserve our heritage as mandated by the *Book of Discipline*.

– Mike Browder, *President*

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

Since 1971, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation has existed to serve local United Methodist churches and Conference agencies throughout the Virginia Conference in the expansion of their programs and ministries through asset management, investing, endowments and planned giving. As such, the Foundation seeks to be in compliance with the Socially Responsible Investing principles of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*. As a servicing organization of the Virginia Conference, we consider ourselves to be a partner in ministry. Our commitment is to live out our core values with a vision for relevant ministry that leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Our values: Integrity, Connection, Excellence

Our vision: To be the preferred financial services partner of the Virginia Conference

Our mission: To serve, steward and minister in the spirit of Christ while focusing on achieving excellence in both customer service and our fiduciary responsibilities.

Over nearly fifty years, the Foundation has grown substantially. As of December 31, 2019, there are over \$72MM assets under management across 320 investment accounts. These accounts include churches, districts, the Virginia United Methodist Conference and United Methodist agencies. The \$72 MM is invested in four different funds: the Balanced Fund, the Balanced Plus Fund, the Stock Fund, and the Bond Fund. For investment management, the Foundation partners with the Humphrey-Kelly Group, a designated institutional investment consulting team with Merrill Lynch’s Global Insti-

tutional Consulting group with a focus on non-profit faith based organizations.

Foundation staff members visit local churches to assist in starting endowment programs, which may grow each year and yield a percentage towards the funding of mission projects. For example, scholarship funds are popular and ensure that younger generations will have the education needed to proclaim the message of Christ. The Foundation currently manages 90 endowments, including the Fox Endowment which funds the Bishop's Convocation on Faith, Science and Ministry.

Since 2015, the Foundation's Grant ministry has awarded grants to Virginia United Methodist Churches and affiliated agencies across the Virginia Conference. The program's focus is on unifying mission, ministry and impact to better assist and equip ministries in their projects, as well as help them to build a future. Grants are given from three funds: Foundation Grants Fund, Dr. William J. and Frances Hanna Memorial Grant, and Micah 6:8/No Harm Do Good Endowment Grant. In October 2019, 56 different ministries applied for a grant with requests totaling over \$492,000. After thorough consideration by the Grant Committee, the Foundation Board of Directors awarded grants to 27 ministries across 13 districts totaling \$79,750 in December 2019. Additionally, two conference wide grants were awarded to the Virginia United Methodist Archives and Amending through Faith of the VA Conference UMM.

Throughout 2019, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation served hundreds of churches across the Virginia Conference in creating ministries for the future. Our commitment to serving every local church and dedication to helping all God's children, both present and forthcoming generations, is steadfast. We stand ready to help your church or your members design a program that will grow and serve others.

– Bo Bowden, President

Virginia United Methodist Development Company

Founded in 2014, the Virginia United Methodist Development Company ('DevCo') exists as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, a supporting organization of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. DevCo fulfills its mission by providing loans to churches and affiliates for ministry expansion through investments made by individuals, churches and United Methodist agencies.

DevCo loan services include new construction loans, facility expansion loans, capital improvement loans, debt refinancing, as well as loans for building purchase and land acquisition. As of December 2019, the Development Company has 43 loans totaling loans of \$37MM throughout the Virginia Conference. Seven new loans were made in 2019.

As part of the connection, DevCo makes loans to United Methodist churches and related entities, funded by savings and investment certificates from United Methodist churches, related ministries, members and family or friends. DevCo acts as a conduit for missional investing and is able to provide financing to move God's kingdom forward. With the help of over 900 DevCo investors totaling \$46MM, loans are made for a variety of situations, such as providing a church the opportunity to buy an adjacent piece of property for additional parking, opening a preschool in an underserved community, or saving the church thousands of dollars by refinancing its mortgage. Through missional investing, a church can redirect funds to the community and "open hearts, open minds, and open doors."

At DevCo, we consider ourselves to be your partner in ministry. Our team takes a personal interest in the ministries of the churches we serve. We are concerned about the spiritual health of local church ministry, not just financial health. Our desire is to equip local church leaders in understanding how to serve their community through strategic planning and missional engagement. Additionally, DevCo has a fiduciary responsibility to protect our investors' money, which funds church loans, but we also have a strong desire to see local churches fulfill their God-given mission.

As DevCo grows, our focused perspective remains: Strengthening the local church to expand ministry in its community through effective planning and ongoing consultation as we manage assets and provide support to fulfill its enduring local mission!

– Bo Bowden, President

A Reporting Guide for Lay Members of the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference

September 19, 2020

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, presiding

Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.
— *Ministry of the Laity*

THE PURPOSE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2016 *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, ¶601, Section IX, THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The 2016 *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, ¶131, Section II, THE UNITY OF MINISTRY IN CHRIST. There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God's grace in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.

DEAR LAY MEMBER OF THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Welcome to the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference. In The United Methodist Church we often speak of the church's “connectional system.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your church/district/agency to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your church/district/agency.

AS A LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE YOU SHALL:

Attend and participate in this session of the Annual Conference: “The lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures.. ” ¶602.6 *2016 Book of Discipline*

“Connect” with your local church when you return: “...The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.” ¶251.2 *2016 Book of Discipline*

THIS GUIDE IS PRINTED TO:

- ❖ aid lay members in recording their experiences and feelings about the events of this Annual Conference session;
- ❖ encourage lay members to interpret the mission and ministry we have together through our Annual Conference;
- ❖ assist lay members in preparing their report and interpretation of the actions and business of the 2020 Annual Conference session for sharing back in their local church. You make a difference by your attendance and participation in the Annual Conference session, and by reporting back to your local church or agency represented!

SPEAKING DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

You have the right to speak and vote on all issues except those that have to do with clergy and ministerial orders. Listen for specific instructions regarding communicating at this session. If you wish to speak: Take a few moments to think about what you want to say. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point. Stand and raise the assigned color sheet from your *Book of Reports* so that the bishop can recognize you. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Lewis, I am ___ your name ___, a lay member from (name of your local church and district.) State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point! If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. When action is complete, write the motion in proper format for this session approved form and communicate it to the Conference Secretary.

REMEMBER:

- ❖ There is an equal number of lay and clergy making the decisions;
- ❖ Standing Rules govern the session (see Order and Procedure and Standing Rules starting on Page 5 of this *Book of Reports*);
- ❖ Items to be voted on come from this *Book of Reports* and from issues raised by members of the conference.

GENERAL INFORMATION

To help you while attending Annual Conference, please follow the agenda as printed in this *Book of Reports*. Be on time for all scheduled events, including Singing Our Faith, and worship.

You are representing the approximately 330,000 United Methodists in almost 1,165 churches which are divided into 16 districts across the conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
- Director of Connectional Ministries: The Rev. Ted Smith
- Conference Secretary: The Rev. Susan Reaves
- Conference Lay Leader: Warren R. Harper
- Conference President of United Methodist Women: Mary Jane Rowley
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Albert Weal
- Student Chairpersons of Conference Youth Council: 2019-2020 Chris Ganoe & Ally Shipe.
- Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries: Richard Speirs, Lay Servant Mentor David Bailey

SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER while at Annual Conference - A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” and “flavors.” We suggest that you:

- ❖ Select significant happenings and impressions, and then make notes.
- ❖ Observe the diversity and unity of our conference and identify some of the challenges this creates and some of the benefits this brings.
- ❖ Consider the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

HOW, WHEN, WHAT WILL YOU SHARE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION?

How:

- A panel with members presenting different aspects of conference
- A dialogue between clergy and lay members
- Be interviewed by someone in the congregation
- Write an article(s) for your church newsletter
- Display pictures, resource material, etc

When:

- Sunday morning during worship
- Administrative Board/Church Council meeting
- United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings
- Adult church school
- Conversation with others
- Special all-church dinner, picnic, etc

What:

- An Annual Conference summary report will be provided following Annual Conference at www.vaumc.org. Contact conference Communications Office for any questions at communications@vaumc.org.
- Write notes in the margins of your *Book of Reports*.
- Materials received both on line and in your packet, as well as handouts
- Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials)
- Please participate in the Annual Conference Survey you will receive after the conference via email.

This guide is prepared for you by the Board of Laity, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Any comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to Virginia Conference Lay Leader Warren R. Harper, 200 Ladybank, Williamsburg, Va. 23188. For more information, email warrenharper@vaumc.org; or call (757) 784 - 3631.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Mission Offering 2020

The Annual Conference Mission Offering will be taken during one-day virtual Annual Conference on September 19, 2020. Bishop Lewis encourages all local churches to participate in this second mile offering as an expression of support for designated conference priority mission projects and programs which she selects. The pastor or lay representative of every faith community should contribute to this offering. Of course, individual gifts are always welcome! Checks may be made payable to “Virginia Conference of the UMC” or “VAUMC” with Conference Offering in the memo line.

The recipients of the 2020 offering represent a mixture of long term mission partnership commitments as well as new mission opportunities:

50% Food Ministries within the Virginia Conference – Funds for food ministries within the Virginia Conference will be disbursed by the Missional Ministries Board.

50% Partnerships of Hope – (Formerly Initiatives of Hope) Support for our conference long-term international mission partnerships with Mozambique, Cambodia and Brazil.

Please be generous in your support of the Annual Conference Mission Offering as we continue to show our strong support for God’s mission here in Virginia and around the world.

UMCOR Kits for Conference

Local churches are encouraged to continue the collection of Kits for Conference. Specific collection details still underway, but will very likely include the organization of regional, or district-wide, drop-off locations. More information will be forthcoming as the new plan is created and finalized.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Due to the disruption of schedules by the COVID-19 pandemic, a calendar is not included, since information is continually changing. Below is a list of Board and Agency Chairpersons with their email addresses. Please check with them as to meeting dates, etc. and follow the Events Calendar on the Conference website at <https://vaumc.org/events> for other events.

Common Table for Church Vitality	Ted Smith	TedSmith@vaumc.org
Board of Church and Society	James Page	JamesPage@vaumc.org
Church Development Team	Paul Baker	PaulBaker@vaumc.org
Board of Discipleship	Kathy Gochenour	KathyGochenour@vaumc.org
Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministries	John Dunning	jdunning39@gmail.com
Missional Ministries Board	Nancy Robinson	NancyRobinson@vaumc.org
Board of Ordained Ministry	Tammy Estep	TammyEstep@vaumc.org
Board of Communications	Jill Gaynor	jwgaynor@gmail.com
Commission on Disabilities	Neil McLaughlin	NeilMcLaughlin@vaumc.org
Equitable Compensation Commission	Joe Carson III	JoeTCarson@vaumc.org
Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA)	Lyle Morton Lori Valentine de Segovia	LyleMorton@vaumc.org Segovia.five@gmail.com
Council on Finance and Administration	Betty Forbes	BettyForbes@comcast.net
United Methodist Foundation	Christine Williamson	ChristineWilliamson@cohnreznick.com
Virginia United Methodist Pensions	John Fuller (staff)	JohnFuller@vaumc.org
Committee on Rules	Scott Diamond	SEDiamond1@verizon.net
Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the Church (COSROW)	Mary Dadisman	MaryDadisman@vaumc.org
Conference Trustees	Carl Moravitz	phoenixclmdkm@gmail.com
Site Selection Committee	TBD	

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ORDER FORM FOR JOURNAL AND DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Church: _____

[Clergy: Please enter your NEW address if you are moving this year.]

I would like _____ copy(ies) of the *2020 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

I would like _____ regular-bound printed *2020 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping/handling).

I would like _____ spiral-bound printed *2020 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping/handling).

2020 DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY ORDERS

One free copy of the *2019 Directory of the Ministry* is sent to all Virginia Conference clergy (active and retired, including lay pastors and diaconal ministers; widows/ widowers of clergy are also entitled to a free copy upon request.) Lay members attending Annual Conference do not receive a free copy of the *Directory of the Ministry*. Anyone wishing to purchase a directory in addition to what is automatically sent should fill out this form, detach it from the booklet and mail the completed form to **Virginia United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA, 23058**. Payment is requested at the time of purchase. Make checks payable to: "Virginia Conference United Methodist Church" (earmark for "Directory of the Ministry").

Widow/Widower of Clergy: Check here to request a free printed copy of the *2020 Directory of the Ministry*: _____

2020 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The conference *Journal* is available in two forms:

- Posted on www.vaumc.org as a free PDF. Sections will be posted as they are available and as a whole document once completed.
- As a regular or spiral-bound print copy for the cost of \$25 (includes shipping). Request for printed copies must be made by October 1, 2020.

Only a small quantity of *Journals* will be printed and distributed in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* (§606.2), to district offices, conference staff, and those purchasing copies before the October 1 deadline. The anticipated mailing date will be February 2021 to account for the later Annual Conference 2020 session held on September 19, 2020.

Checks should be made out to "VAUMC-Communications Office" and mailed to **P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058**.

Individuals requesting a printed copy should mail in check and send in order form information at the same time. Order form will also be available at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/>.

Send your questions via email to communications@vaumc.org or call **(804) 521-1110**.



