XIII. HISTORICAL STATEMENT

The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church is the direct descendant of the original annual conference of the United Brethren in Christ and of one of the six original conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The present conference was formed in 1970, by the merger of the Virginia Conference, formerly Methodist, with the former Evangelical United Brethren Conference of the same name. It is the successor to 39 Annual Conferences of eight denominations. Since the oldest of these dates back to the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784, the 1970 session was declared to be the 188th session of the Conference (two "annual" sessions having been held in 1791 and 1841).

These 39 antecedent conferences are as follows:

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Virginia (1784-1844), Baltimore (1784-1939), Philadelphia (1784-1869), North Carolina (1836-1844), Washington (1864-1939), Delaware (1864-1939), Virginia and North Carolina Mission (1864-1868), Virginia (1868-1906), North Carolina (1869-1939), Wilmington (1869-1939), East Tennessee (1880-1939), Holston (1906-1939), West Virginia (1906-1939), Atlantic Mission (1906-1912), Blue Ridge- Atlantic (1912-1939)

THE CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Original ("Old" or "Mother") (1800-1829), Hagerstown (1829-1830), Virginia (1830-1946)

THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

East Virginia (1829-1834), Maryland (1829-1939), Virginia (1834-1870), North Carolina (1860-1939)

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

Virginia (1844-1939), North Carolina (1844-1874), Baltimore (1866-1939)

INDEPENDENT CONFERENCE

Baltimore (1861-1866)

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Virginia (1939-1968), Washington (1939-1965), Delaware (1939-1965), East Tennessee (1939-1965), North Carolina-C.J. (1939-1965), North Carolina-Virginia (1965-1968)

THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

Virginia (1946-1968), Central Pennsylvania (1948-1964), Susquehanna (1964-1968)

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Virginia-M (1968-1970), Virginia-E (1968-1970), Susquehanna (1968-1969)

Virginia was the scene of the ministries of many of the pioneers of the Methodist and United Brethren churches, most notably among them Francis Asbury, one of the first two Methodist bishops; William Watters, Methodism's first Native American minister; Philip William Otterbein, bishop and leader in the founding of the United Brethren in Christ; and Christian Newcomer, United Brethren pioneer in Virginia and later bishop.

Twenty bishops of the denominations now comprising the United Methodist Church were born within the bounds of the Virginia Conference. They are: William McKendree, Enoch George, John Early, Samuel Hiestand, Beverly Waugh, David S. Doggett, William Taylor, John C. Granbery, William W. Duncan, James W. Hott, Collins Denny, William B. Beauchamp, Paul B. Kern, Paul Neff Garber, Edgar A. Love, Walter C. Gum, Carlton P. Minnick, Jr., R. Kern Eutsler, H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., and Timothy W. Whitaker.

SOME LANDMARK DATES OF THE CONFERENCE

May 11, 1766: Earliest known property for a Methodist Church in America deeded to Methodist Society in Leesburg.

November 14, 1772: Missionary work carried on during 1772 in Southern Virginia by Robert Williams, Williams Watters and Joseph Pilmoor results in organizing, in Portsmouth, what is now Monumental Church, the oldest church now in existence in the Conference.

May 19, 1778: The Sixth American Methodist Conference held in Leesburg.

May 13, 1781: Harry Hosier preaches first recorded Methodist sermon by a Negro, at Fairfax Chapel in Falls Church.

May 1, 1785: First Session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at home of William Mason in Brunswick County.

1792: Virginia was the center of the first schism of American Methodism, led by James O'Kelley, a member of the Virginia Conference. It resulted in the formation of the Republican Methodists, now a part of the United Church of Christ.

September 25, 1800: First Session of the Original Conference of the United Brethren in Christ (later called the Virginia Conference) at the home of Peter Kemp, near Frederick, Md.

May 25, 1808: First United Brethren Conference to be held in Virginia, at Abraham Niswander's home near Middletown.

March 31, 1816: Francis Asbury, pioneer Methodist bishop in America, died at the home of George Arnold, near Spotsylvania.

March 29, 1827: First native American itinerant, William Watters, died at his home in McLean.

May 1, 1846: First General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met at Union Street Church, Petersburg.

November, 1870: Virginia Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church merged with the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Lynchburg. October 16, 1939: Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church organized, including all or parts of nine previous conferences, at Richmond.

June 10, 1968: Virginia Conference and North Carolina-Virginia Conference, formerly of The Methodist Church, are merged to form the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, at Richmond.

January 3, 1970: Present Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church organized at Madison College, Harrisonburg.

THE NUMBERING OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The Virginia Conference was organized in May of 1785. That was its first session. It was one year old at its second session in 1786, and so on, so that its age would always be one less than the number of that year's session. Then, two annual sessions were held in April and December of 1791 and in January and November of 1841, so that in 2017, the 235th annual session, the conference was 231 years old.

XIII. HISTORICAL STATEMENT

SESSIONS OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

No.	Place of Session	Date	President	Secretary
	Mason's, Brunswick Co			
	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co			
	Rough Creek, Charlotte Co			
	Petersburg			
	Petersburg	June 1789	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co			
	Petersburg			
3	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co	December 1791	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
	Manchester	November 1792`	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
	Petersburg			
	Mabrey's Greensville Co			
	Salem, Mecklenburg Co			
	Mabrey's, Greensville Co			
	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co			
	Salem, Mecklenburg Co			
	Jones' Chapel, Sussex Co.			
	Blount's Chapel, Isle of Wight Co			
	Drumgoole's, Brunswick Co			
	Salem, Mecklenburg Co			
	Olive Branch, Brunswick Co			
	Salem, Mecklenburg Co			
	Taylor's, Caswell Co., N.C.			
	Norfolk			
	New Bern, N.C.			
25	Lynchburg	February 1808	Bishop Asbury	T.L. Douglas
	Tarboro, N.C.			
	Petersburg			
28	Raleigh, N.C	February 1811	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
	Richmond			
30	New Bern, N.C	February 1813	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
31	Norfolk	February 1814	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
32	Lynchburg	February 1815	Bishop McKendree	John Early
33	Raleigh, N.C	January 1816	Bishop McKendree	M.M. Dance
34	Petersburg	February 1817	Bishop McKendree	M.M. Dance
35	Norfolk	February 1818	Bishop Roberts	M.M. Dance
36	Oxford, N.C	February 1819	Bishop Roberts	M.M. Dance
37	Richmond	February 1820	Bishop George	M.M. Dance
	Raleigh, N.C			
	New Bern, N.C			
	Lynchburg			
	Petersburg			
	Oxford, N.C			
43	Portsmouth	February 1826	Bishop Soule	John Early
14	Petersburg	February 1827	Bishop Roberts	Iohn Early
15	Raleigh, N.C	February 1828	Bishop Soule	John Early
	Lynchburg			
	Richmond			
	New Bern, N.C.			
	Norfolk			
	Petersburg			
	Raleigh, N.C			
	Lynchburg			
	Norfolk	•	1 /	
	Petersburg	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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	Richmond			
	Edenton, N.C.			
	Farmville			
	Lynchburg			
	Portsmouth			
0	Petersburg	November 1842	Bishop Waugh	John Early
	Richmond			
	Lynchburg			
	Norfolk			
	Randolph-Macon College, Boydton			
	Chrlottesville			
	Elizabeth City, N.C			
	Petersburg			
8	Richmond	November 1850	Bishop Paine	J.D. Couling
	Alexandria			
	Fredericksburg			
	Lynchburg			
	Norfolk			
			Bishop Andrew	

No.	Place of Session	Date	President	Secretary
74	Richmond	November 1856	Bishop Early	J.D. Couling
		November 1857		
		November 1858		
77	Lynchburg	November 1859	Bishop Early	I.D. Couling
8	Alexandria	November 1860	Rishon Paine	Paul Whiteh
9	Norfolk		Rishon Andrew	Paul Whiteh
ر م	Datarahara		Pichop Forly	Dayl Whiteh
3	Danville	November 1865	Bishop Early	Paul Whiteh
4	Norfolk	November 1866	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whiteh
5	Petersburg	November 1867	Bishop Doggett	Paul Whitel
5	Charlottesville	November 1868	Bishop Wightman	Paul Whitel
		November 1869		
2	Lynchburg	November 1870	Richon Pierce	Paul Whitel
		November 1871		
		November 1872		
		November 1873		
2	Elizabeth City, N.C	November 1874	Bishop Marvin	Paul Whitel
3	Danville	November 1875	Bishop McTveire	Paul Whitel
1.	Richmond.	November 1876	Bishop Kayanangh	Paul Whitel
		November 1877		
·····	retersburg	November 1878	bishop Pierce	Paul Whitel
	Nortolk	November 1879	Bishop Wightman	Paul Whitel
3	Danville	November 1880	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitel
	Charlottesville	November 1881	Bishop McTyeire	Paul Whitel
00	Portsmouth	November 1882	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitel
)1	Richmond	November 1883	Bishop Kayanaugh	Paul Whitel
) 1	Lymchhura	November 1884	Pichon Voonor	Dayl White
)2	Lynchburg	November 1004		Paul Willie
13	Petersburg	November 1885	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitel
)4	Norfolk	November 1886	Bishop Granbery	Paul White
5	Danville	November 1887	Bishop Key	Paul Whitel
6	Portsmouth	November 1888	Bishop Granbery	Paul Whitel
7	Richmond	November 1889	Rishon Wilson	Paul Whitel
		November 1890		
	Determine	NI	Dislop Hargrove	D 1 1471-14-1
19	Petersburg	November 1891	Bisnop Keener	Paul White
10	Nortolk	November 1892	Bishop Hendrix	Paul Whitel
		November 1893		
2	Charlottesville	November 1894	Bishop Haygood	Paul White
3	Richmond	November 1895	Bishop Galloway	Paul White
14	Lvnchburg	November 1896	Bishop Duncan	Paul White
		November 1897		
		November 1898		
17	Determina	November 1899	Dish on Mileon	Davil Milaital
	retersburg	Noveliber 1699		Paul Willie
8	Nortolk	November 1900	Bishop Duncan	Paul White
		November 1901		
0	Richmond	November 1902	Bishop Duncan	Paul Whitel
		November 1903		
		November 1904		
		November 1905		
		November 1906		
		November 1907		
		November 1908		
7	Newport News	November 1909	Bishop Morrison	S.S. Lambet
		November 1910		
		November 1911		
		November 1912		
		November 1913		
		November 1914		
33	Norfolk	November 1915	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscor
4	Richmond	November 1916	Bishop Kilgo	B.F. Lipscon
5.	Lvnchburg	November 1917	Bishop Hoss	B.F. Linscor
		November 1919		
		November 1920		
		October 1921		
		October 1922		
		October 1923		
		October 1924		
		October 1925		
		October 1926		
		November 1927		
		October 1928		
		October 1929		
		October 1930		
		November 1931		
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No.	Place of Session	Date	President	Secretary
151	Norfolk	October 1933	.Bishop Mouzon	.R.M. White
	Lynchburg			
	Danville			
154	Richmond	October 1936	.Bishop Mouzon	.R.M. White
	Norfolk			
	Lynchburg			
	Danville			
	Richmond (Organizing Session)			
	Roanoke			
	Lynchburg			
160	Richmond	October 1942	.Bishop Peele	.R.M. White
	Roanoke			
	LynchburgRichmond			
	Lynchburg			
	Roanoke			
166	Norfolk	October 1948	Rishon Peele	R M White
	Richmond			
	Richmond			
	Roanoke			
170	Norfolk	October 1952	Bishop Garber	.R.M. White
	Roanoke			
172	Richmond	June 1954	Bishop Garber	.R.M. White
	Norfolk			
	Harrisonburg			
175	Roanoke	June 1957	.Bishop Garber	.C.A. Tucker
176	Richmond	June 1958	.Bishop Garber	.C.A. Tucker
	Norfolk		±	
	Fredericksburg			
	Virginia Beach		±	
	Norfolk		±	
	Virginia Beach			
	Roanoke			
	Virginia Beach		±	,
	NorfolkVirginia Beach		±	,
	Richmond			
	Norfolk			
	Harrisonburg (Uniting Session)			
	Virginia Beach			
	Norfolk			
	Hampton			
191	Roanoke	June 1973	Bishop Goodson	.Edward H. Kyle
192	Hampton	June 1974	.Bishop Goodson	.Edward H. Kyle
	Richmond (Special Session)			
	Norfolk			
	Hampton			
	Roanoke			
	Hampton			
	Roanoke			
	Richmond			
	Hampton			
	Virginia Beach			
	Virginia Beach			
	Hampton			
	Roanoke			
	Virginia Beach			
	Roanoke			
	Norfolk			
	Hampton			
	Roanoke			
210	Virginia Beach	June 1992	.Bishop Stockton	.Reginald H. Potts III
211	Hampton	June 1993	.Bishop Stockton	.Robert Watts
	Norfolk			
	Roanoke			
	Virginia Beach			
	Hampton			
	Roanoke		1	
	Norfolk			
	Hampton			
	Virginia Beach			
	Roanoke			
	Roanoke		1	
	Натріоп Натріоп		±	
	Hampton		±	
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2018 JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

No. Place	e of Session	Date	President	Secretary
225Roan	oke	June 2007	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
226Roan	oke	June 2008	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
227Norfo	olk	June 2009	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
228Norfo	olk	June 2010	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
			Bishop Kammerer	
230Roan	oke	June 2012	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
231Ham	pton	June 2013	Bishop Cho	Robert Blinn
			Bishop Cho	
			Bishop Cho	
233Roan	oke	June 2015	Bishop Cho	Susan Reaves
234Roan	oke	June 2016	Bishop Cho	Susan Reaves
235Ham	pton	June 2017	Bishop Lewis	Susan Reaves
236Ham	pton	June 2018	Bishop Lewis	Susan Reaves