

2019-2020



# MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTING GOD'S MISSION AND FAITH COMMUNITIES IN THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MOVING FORWARD IN GOD'S MISSION







Glenn Rowley

# Moving Forward in God's Mission

**"M**oving Forward!" That sounds like a great idea about now! Of course it should always be a good idea. One of my favorite quotes from Will Rogers, the cowboy philosopher from my home state of Oklahoma, is, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." Our denominational leaders and the faithful members who call The United Methodist Church home are facing calls on many fronts that we're about to get run over just sitting where we have been is not an option, even if we think it's the right track.

The second half of the theme for Annual Conference 2019 and also for this issue of the Mission Opportunities Booklet is just as important — "...in God's Mission." Serving God's mission is a calling we all can claim, and if there is one place we should be able to find common ground as faithful United Methodists it is moving God's mission forward. It is lived out in every compassionate response we make to "the least of these" in our neighborhoods, our communities, our churches and the world.

In reviewing these 2019 Mission Opportunities, you will see just how important our connection is to how we are able to move forward God's Mission through our apportionments and in our second mile giving to missionaries, mission projects and service opportunities.

This isn't the time to hold back or hold steady. It is time to move forward in God's mission of compassion, justice, peace and transformation as disciples of Jesus Christ. It's the time to do that service thing that Jesus taught us with his life: "He did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matt. 20:28) Christ called us to do nothing less!

Glenn Rowley

*Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and  
Director of Justice and Missional Excellence*



## Virginia Conference Mission Personnel:

### Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and Director of Justice and Missional Excellence:

Rev. Glenn Rowley  
Virginia Conference Center for  
Justice and Missional Excellence  
P.O. Box 5606  
Glen Allen, VA 23058  
(804) 521-1143  
GlennRowley@vaumc.org

### Chair, Missional Ministries Board:

Nancy Robinson  
(804) 873-1487  
nancyrobinson@vaumc.org

## Key Mission Contacts:

### United Methodist Volunteers In Mission:

Rebecca Makowski  
(703) 430.2203-(O)  
rebecca.makowski@galileeumc.org

### Initiatives of Hope (IOH) - Chair,

Judy Fender (703) 978-5796  
jg1fender@verizon.net

### IOH – Brazil Coordinator:

Rev. David Vaughan  
(434) 825-3542  
david.vaughan@gmail.com

### IOH – Mozambique Coordinator:

TBA/Vacant

### IOH – Cambodia Coordinator:

Juanita Csontos  
(703) 780-5851  
juanita@csontos.net

### Mission Encounter:

Marilyn Blagg  
(540) 396-6127  
marilynblagg@hotmail.com

### Voices of Youth:

Mary Letson  
(757) 581-7250  
voicesofyouth@vaumc.org

### Disaster Response Coordinator:

Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz  
(757) 482-2364 (o);  
(757) 408-6653 (c)  
vacdrt1@gmail.com

### Conference Committee on Mission Personnel:

C.M. "Kip" Robinson Jr.  
(804) 539-2494  
Krobin7856@aol.com

# Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Mark 9:35

## How to use this booklet

**A**s you look down the colored tabs to the right, you find many opportunities for your faith community to grow through being engaged in God's mission.

■ **Missional giving** is at the foundation of discipleship. As United Methodists we are a "connectional church" meaning we draw upon all our gifts and graces to bear witness to God's love wherever it is needed in our community or the world. We do that first by meeting the needs of our connection through our apportionments. This is the first mile we walk in our journey of faith in giving.

■ After this first-mile giving is shared, individuals or faith communities can consider the various **mission opportunities** offered within these pages. Gifts can be given through The Advance to mission projects, as well as supporting the more than 300 missionaries serving around the world and in our own conference.

■ This booklet can also be used as an **educational tool** in a variety of settings – new member orientation, Sunday school class, small group study and discussion groups, youth and young adult fellowships, or as a resource for

finance and stewardship teams.

■ Finally, as faith communities searching for new ways to be involved in hands-on mission activities, you will find opportunities for serving God's mission in your community, our state, the nation and internationally. The resources for engaging as disciples in **mission and outreach** are here.

■ **Have questions about anything in this booklet or need more copies?**

Call the conference office of Justice and Missional Excellence at **(804) 521-1142**; or e-mail: **CindyIngroff@vaumc.org**.

### Where to send Advance money

Make your check payable to The **Virginia United Methodist Conference**. Write the ministry name and the Advance number in the memo line of the check. Send to:

**Treasurer, Virginia Conference UMC, P.O. Box 5605 Glen Allen, VA 23058**

100% of your contribution goes to the Advance ministry you choose!



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# Connectional Giving

**B**eing a faithful disciple means following the commands of Jesus. Jesus commands us to love one another. How do we show that love? Jesus tells us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, provide clothing and shelter to the poor, care for the sick and visit those in prison.

While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that is impossible. But when we join with other members of our congregation, put money into the offering plate, and participate in the carefully planned system of United Methodist mission and ministry, our gifts can stretch around the world to help those in need and spread the love of Jesus Christ, even in places where we can't go.

## FIRST-MILE GIVING

When you give to your local church, most of the money is used to support the ministries of your local congregation.

A portion is also sent to the Annual Conference to collectively support Conference Ministries Apportionments (pg. 6), General Church Apportionments (pg. 7), and Clergy Benefits Apportionments (pg. 5). These payments make up what is called "First-Mile Giving" and are expected of all United Methodists. The power of our apportionments – our collective First-Mile giving – is that it enables United Methodists to do together what no church, district or annual conference could do alone.

## SECOND-MILE GIVING

But Jesus says we should do more than the basic requirement. We must walk the "second mile" as well. We can go beyond the primary gifts to the church and contribute "Second-Mile" gifts to specific programs, missionaries and ministries through *The Advance for Christ and His Church* and through contributions to Special Sunday offerings (see back cover).

All Virginia Conference faith communities are encouraged to be Vital Congregations, growing in worship attendance, number of small groups, number of disciples engaged in mission, and amount of money given to mission. This booklet can help your congregation meet its Vital Congregations goals by walking the first mile, going the second mile, and then participating in hands-on mission opportunities.



# Clergy Benefit Apportionments

**V**irginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. ("VUMPI") is the Virginia Conference's agency focused on financing health care coverage and pension benefits for clergy and lay employees. While VUMPI's mission is based on the administration and financing of these programs, VUMPI's staff members see this work as a ministry which helps enable Virginia Conference clergy and lay employees to develop and lead United Methodist faith communities.

The following apportionments allow VUMPI to carry out its mission:

## **ACTIVE CLERGY HEALTH .....\$9,710,000**

The apportionment for active clergy health plans enables VUMPI to maintain the self-funded health care coverage offered to full time Virginia Conference clergy and their families. Medical issues can arise at any time, without warning, and treatment can be very expensive. The health-related programs we administer not only help to dramatically reduce the financial risks associated with medical issues, but are also designed to encourage care that will help avoid costly medical issues. Without the coverage that is offered, our clergy would be exposed to potentially catastrophic financial risk.

In addition to actively serving clergy, the Virginia Conference health plan covers disabled children and surviving spouses of deceased clergy. The active clergy health plan apportionment for 2020 reflects no increase over the 2019 apportionment.

## **RETIRED CLERGY HEALTH.....\$6,060,000**

The health plans for retired Virginia Conference clergy help fulfill the mission of taking care of the clergy who have spent their careers taking care of others. While employer-sponsored retiree health care is not as common as it once was, we remain committed to helping support the financial security of our retired clergy. For those who are not yet eligible for Medicare, we offer access to one of the health plans that actively serving pastors can select, but the retiree is asked to pay a bit more than the active pastor pays. For those who are eligible for Medicare, the Conference-sponsored retiree medical insurance program offers multiple options for coverage, with either direct subsidy of the health plan cost or indirect subsidy through a Retiree Reimbursement Account. The 2020 retired clergy health apportionment reflects no increase over 2019's corresponding apportionment.

## **PENSION LIABILITY ASSESSMENT, PRE-82**

.....\$750,000

We have made a financial commitment to our clergy who earned credit under the pension program in place prior to 1982. In order to fulfill that commitment, we are following a strategy that is designed to have sufficient funding for our total future pre-82 pension obligations by the end of 2021. Before this pension program was in place, surviving spouses of deceased clergy received no benefit under the program; once the clergyperson passed away, the benefit payments stopped. Under the pre-82 pension program, surviving spouses of eligible clergy receive slightly reduced benefit payments for the remainder of their own lives. This can make the difference between living the rest of their lives with dignity and potentially facing poverty. The 2020 pre-82 pension apportionment reflects no increase over the corresponding 2019 apportionment.

## **TOTAL: CLERGY BENEFITS APPORTIONMENTS**

.....\$16,520,000



# Virginia Conference Ministries

## CONFERENCE MISSION & MINISTRIES .....\$3,140,000

The Conference Mission & Ministries Apportionment connects all churches of the Virginia Conference toward a goal of fruitfulness and multiplication. Guided by a focus on leadership development, this apportionment provides a holistic approach to ministries that seek to minister to people in the Christian faith through existing congregations, new faith communities and ministries that reach beyond the local church. Funding for the Mission & Ministries Apportionment includes support for ministries in Virginia and around the world that minister to children, youth and adults, funding for campus ministries, disaster response, prison chaplain ministries and special and sustaining grants of the Common Table.

## CONFERENCE SERVICES.....\$1,990,000

The Annual Conference through Conference Services provides a United Methodist Center where more than 9,000 attendees meet each year to carry out the mission and ministries of the Virginia Conference. Conference Services also supports the Annual Conference session where 3,000 clergy and lay members gather to worship, pray, conduct business and carry out our connectional vision.

Our Board of Ordained Ministry and staff manage the credentialing process of the clergy in the Virginia Annual Conference and support the clergy through programs, educational training and family support.

Our Treasurer's office is responsible for handling and safeguarding funds in excess of \$30,000,000 entrusted to the conference from local church apportionments and benevolences. The Treasurer's office supports the work of the Council on Finance and Administration, conference Board of Trustees and the Equitable Compensation Commission. This office serves as a resource for local churches in the areas of finance, stewardship, administration and insurance, and leads multiple training events throughout the conference.

The mission and ministries of the Council on Finance and Administration, the conference Board of Trustees and the Commission on Archives and History are supported through Conference Services.

The Episcopal Office is supplemented and is provided a parsonage and an Assistant to the Bishop position.

## DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS FUND .....\$2,000,000

The Virginia Conference supports the work of 15 district superintendents providing salary, pension, travel, workers compensation and continuing education. All other related costs, such as housing, district office expense and staff are supported through each individual district office.

## EQUITABLE COMPENSATION .....\$250,000

The Equitable Compensation Fund provides financial assistance for churches within the Virginia Conference which are unable to meet the minimum compensation for their clergy. Full-time pastors are guaranteed a minimum level of compensation dependent upon their ordination status. The local church or charge is required to provide a minimum amount frequently referred to as the "floor" level of compensation. The primary obligation of the Equitable Compensation Commission is to make up the difference between the minimum compensation level and the floor for churches determined to be eligible.

## CHURCH EXTENSION & DEVELOPMENT .....\$1,200,000

The Church Extension & Development Fund (CEF) is overseen by the Church Development Team and supports new faith communities in the first five years of inception as well as assisting existing churches reach new people.

## VIRGINIA EDUCATION FUND .....\$600,000

Churches across the Virginia Conference support the five Virginia Conference church-related colleges, universities and preparatory school. These institutions are Ferrum College, Randolph-Macon College, Randolph College, Shenandoah University, Virginia Wesleyan College and Randolph-Macon Academy. Each school provides scholarships to United Methodist students for attending. Additionally, this fund supports United Methodist chaplains on each campus that provide religious services and programs to all students. Many of our clergy and lay members come from these schools.

## TOTAL:

## Virginia Conference Ministries.....\$9,180,000

# Worldwide United Methodist Church Ministries

### EPISCOPAL FUND .....\$870,000

Our bishops oversee and promote the church's spiritual and temporal interests. This fund underwrites salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops. It also provides pension and health benefits for active and retired bishops and their families.

### WORLD SERVICE FUND .....\$2,925,000

The World Service Fund provides the basic support for most of the worldwide missions and ministries of The United Methodist Church. This fund supports the work of missionaries around the world and funds evangelistic outreach, establishment of new churches, anti-hunger projects, social justice advocacy, and resources for local church work with children, youth, singles, students, disabled persons and adults of all ages. It provides basic support for the programs and administration of most of the general agencies 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." *2016 Book of Discipline* (¶1812).

As United Methodists, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One way to do this is through 100% support of the World Service Fund.

### GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONNECTIONAL FUND .....\$400,000

This apportionment combines the General Administration Fund from the General Church and the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Mission and Ministry Fund. The General Administration Fund finances General Church administrative activities, including General Conference (the law-making body of the church), Judicial Council (which adjudicates questions of church law), General Council on Finance and Administration (which coordinates and administers the finances of the church and safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights), and maintenance of United Methodism's official documents and historical artifacts, landmarks and sites. This money also supports SEJ administration plus program ministries of the jurisdiction.

### MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND .....\$990,000

People choose ordained ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way to help them answer that divine call. This fund provides educational support for United Methodist ordained elders and deacons and diaconal ministers, and provides essential support to the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States. Of the money received for this fund, 25% is returned to our annual conference for scholarships, clergy professional development and continuing education, and programs to encourage men and women to respond to the call to ordained ministry.

### Black College Fund .....\$395,000

This fund supports the 11 United Methodist historically black colleges and universities in the United States, including one medical school. These schools provide opportunities for many students of promise who otherwise might be excluded from higher education. Graduates of these institutions — teachers, doctors, ministers, bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs — are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

### AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND .....\$90,000

This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa — serving students from 21 countries. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

### Interdenominational Cooperation Fund .....\$80,000

United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church — the living body of Jesus Christ. This fund supports ecumenical efforts to foster a renewal of Christian unity and understanding as we work with other Christian communions to witness to a common faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

### TOTAL:

### Worldwide United Methodist Church Apportionments .....\$5,750,000



Moving Forward

together with UMC



Collecting flood buckets for the Texas hurricane.

**F**or many people around the world, and even our neighbors here in the U.S., their first connection with The United Methodist Church is through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) serving as the relief and humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. Our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. UMCOR believes all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. It provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disasters disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach, its most important partners are the people it serves. It believes that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but also long-term education, training and support.

UMCOR uses thousands of volunteers every year to carry out the ministry of comfort and relief, and UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects donors specify. When UMCOR volunteers give their time, money and supplies, we are the hands and feet of Christ.

What many United Methodists aren't aware of is that for 100 percent of your donation to meet an emergency relief need or to support a humanitarian project, the administrative and logistical costs have to be covered in another way. That way is the **UMCOR Sunday Offering** (usually observed the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is March 22 in 2020). Encourage your church to observe this important second-mile offering.

Of course you can donate to any project by placing an offering in the plate at any local United Methodist church or by calling **1-800-554-8583**, where credit card donations are accepted. In response to all disasters you can make an immediate \$10 donation by texting the word **RESPONSE** to **80888**.

You can get more information and give online by going to **www.umcor.org** and clicking the "DONATE" menu button.

## Packing and shipping instructions for UMCOR kits:

- All items included in kits must be **NEW** items and should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box. The contents should be clearly written on the outside or inside of the box.
- All kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of emergency situations.
- **Do NOT include any money, personal notes or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.**
- Complete two packing lists: one for your records and one to put outside the box with the shipping label. Paste the shipping label/packing list on the outside of each box you send to UMCOR. The shipping label may be downloaded from the UMCOR website at **www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies**.

Kits may be brought to Annual Conference in June\* or shipped prepaid to: **UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, P.O. Box 850, 131 Sager Brown Rd., Baldwin, LA 70514-0850**. Kits may also be shipped or taken to the Central Virginia Mission Hub located at **11251 Cherry Hill Road Culpeper, VA 22701**.

Monetary donations include:

- \$1.00 per kit for processing and shipping
- \$1.00 for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste (Hygiene Kits only)
- \$1.50 per cleaning kit

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, include:

- \$12 for UMCOR to provide a Hygiene Kit
- \$11 for UMCOR to provide a School Kit
- \$65 for UMCOR to provide a Cleaning Kit



SEND ALL MONETARY DONATIONS (including \$1 shipping for each kit and \$1 for toothpaste) ON ONE CHECK, payable to: **Virginia United Methodist Conference** (earmarked for "UMCOR Kits") and mail to: **Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058**

**\*DO NOT PACK MONETARY DONATIONS IN BOXES WITH KITS! CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE! Send money before or immediately after.**



**L**ittle things do mean a lot — especially when those little things are brought together as United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits. The contents of each of these “starter sets” are such simple, small things — pencils, tablets, wash cloths, latex gloves — but having or not having them can make a world of difference. That’s why School and Hygiene Kits are among the items most requested by our partners each year. The need is great, and we can never have too many on hand. Collecting materials for kits is a great group hands-on project for young and old alike. For packing and shipping instructions, please refer to [www.umcor/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies](http://www.umcor/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies).

## School Kit

- 1 pair blunt scissors, rounded-tip only; no plastic scissors
- Three 1-subject notebooks; no marble composition books; no 3-or 5-subject notebooks
- 1 pack of loose-leaf paper; 100-200-page packets are acceptable; wide or college-rule accepted
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; must be at least 1" or longer – remove from packaging
- One 12" or 30-centimeter ruler, sturdy or flexible material accepted
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- One 2" or larger eraser
- 24-count box of crayons; only 24-count boxes accepted
- One 2-gallon re-sealable plastic bag.

*Assembly: Stack all paper items on top of each other. Place all loose items on top of paper; small, loose items may be placed in a smaller re-sealable bag. Place kit inside of re-sealable bag and seal*

## Hygiene Kit

- 1 hand towel 15" x 25" to 17"x 27"; no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb – must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth; no pocket combs or picks; rattails and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6" of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper; no emery boards or metal nail files
- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches); common household bandages acceptable
- 1 bath size soap – 3 oz. bar or larger; no Ivory or Jergen's soap; do not remove from original packaging
- 1 adult-size toothbrush; do not remove from original packaging; personal advertising not acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

*Assembly: Lay hand towel flat on a table; lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel; place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag); fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items; grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel; place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.*

*Note: "All Items must be new. Do not wash any of the items, as they will no longer be considered new. Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with*

*cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.*

UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire. **Do not put single dollar bills in each kit.** Toothpaste money must be sent to the Virginia Conference with shipping monies.

## Cleaning Kit

- One five-gallon round bucket with resealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d); no screw lids; may be used, but must be free from all residual product; advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner; no spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (three solid, or three gel fresheners also acceptable)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable); pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush; with or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes: no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels; remove from packaging
- 5 scouring pads sponges; no stainless steel pads with soap in them, remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24-roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes); remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness); no surgical masks
- 2 pairs kitchen gloves; durable for multiple uses; remove from packaging
- 1 pair work gloves; cotton with leather palm or all leather

*Assembly: Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items. Scouring pads and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. Clothes pins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag. Secure the lid on the filled bucket.*

*Notes: All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid. All cleaning agents must be liquid form. No powders are accepted. If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing.*



God's mission in the world has no boundaries. Although when we first think of mission, we usually think of ministry in some other part of the world. We also know that the need for us to participate in God's mission is most evident next door. Our call to mission and ministry in Virginia is represented by the following Virginia Advance Specials, which have been chosen for special emphasis by the conference Missional Ministries Board. These mission opportunities provide individuals and churches an opportunity to know that 100 percent of their gift goes directly to the project — another benefit of our United Methodist connection! For more information about these Virginia Conference Advance Specials, visit the conference website at [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission).

## Virginia Conference Advance Specials

- 1. Rocky Mount: Henry Fork Service Center:** Henry Fork Service Center seeks to make God's love visible by being a positive Christian presence in the neighborhood south of Rocky Mount, Va. Age appropriate activities for children ages 2-14 include Christian education, academic enrichment, nutrition, recreation and opportunities for the arts.  
[www.henryforkcenter.org](http://www.henryforkcenter.org) ..... (#5008)
- 2. Roanoke: United Methodist Community Outreach Program:** A direct-service provider for children and youths of poverty in inner-city Roanoke. It addresses basic needs of poverty such as food and clothing, and provides a safe environment for children and youths in dealing with issues of violence, racism, drug and alcohol abuse. ...  
[www.communityoutreachroanoke.org](http://www.communityoutreachroanoke.org) ..... (#5004)
- 3. Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery:** Coordinates preparation, response and recovery in the conference during times of disaster. This addresses the personnel needed, equipment required and Christian witness that is desired in such situations.  
[vacdrt1@gmail.com](mailto:vacdrt1@gmail.com) ..... (#5037)
- 4. Eastern Shore: Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc.:** An outreach ministry to children at high risk for abuse, neglect and school drop-out on the Eastern Shore. Sharing Christ through programs like preschool, Vacation Bible School and computer training.  
[doughbchild@gmail.com](mailto:doughbchild@gmail.com) ..... (#5020)
- 5. Abukloi: Virginia:** This 501c3 organization, started by clergywomen of the Virginia Conference is located in Virginia and works to improve education in Rumbek, South Sudan Africa by supporting and helping operate a Secondary School.  
[nelanb@aol.com](mailto:nelanb@aol.com) ..... (#5033 )
- 6. Northern Virginia: ESL and Immigrant Ministries:** A network of churches offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to northern Virginia immigrant communities. Provides volunteer recruitment, student recruitment and administrative support for its partner ESL programs.  
[www.eslim.org](http://www.eslim.org) ..... (#5036)

(Below) Rising Hope UMC in Alexandria





7. **Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS):** Provides opportunities for youths to serve and share Christ to the poor and homeless. .... (#5010)  
[www.teensopposingpoverty.org](http://www.teensopposingpoverty.org)
8. **Virginia: Heart Havens:** Provides residential support for adults with intellectual disabilities through a network of 12 homes across Virginia. Heart Havens' homes offer a Christian, faith-based home environment, empowering individuals to be independent, contributing citizens in their community.  
[www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org) ..... (#6442)
9. **Lynchburg: Park View Community Mission:** The United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus converge at Park View Community Mission, an outreach ministry of the Lynchburg District.....(#5019)  
[parkviewmission@gmail.com](mailto:parkviewmission@gmail.com)  
[www.parkviewcommunitymission.org](http://www.parkviewcommunitymission.org)
10. **Portsmouth: Wesley Community Service Center:** A national mission institution related to the United Methodist Women, Inc., offering programs and services in the tradition of the historic settlement house movement in America, aimed at empowering the poor and marginalized while conveying a message of human dignity and worth for all persons. .... (#5025)  
[www.wesleycenterportsmouth.com](http://www.wesleycenterportsmouth.com)  
[wesley@wesley.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:wesley@wesley.hrcoxmail.com)
11. **Richmond: Belmont Community Resource Services:** Is a non-profit ministry of Belmont UMC addressing community development needs and activities in a neighborhood in transition  
[larrycochran@vaumc.org](mailto:larrycochran@vaumc.org)..(#5039)
12. **Pathways:** Advancing community restoration, spiritual and physical health, and economic growth in Petersburg through partnerships. Programs include youth and workforce development, affordable green housing production, civic engagement, and free specialty health services. .... (#5045)  
[www.pathways-va.org](http://www.pathways-va.org)
13. **Charlottesville: Tuesday's Table:** An outreach ministry that provides meals to the hungry in the community. .... (#5024)  
[www.stanardsvilleumc.org](http://www.stanardsvilleumc.org)
14. **Alexandria: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church:** This ministry meets the needs of the poor through programs such as food, clothing, emergency assistance, after school care and others. The programs are run by volunteers.  
[www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org).... (#5043)
15. **Caretakers of God's Creation:** Virginia Conference Bd. Of Church and Society project that develops and promotes resources for churches to become "Green Churches" in their efforts to become environmentally sustainable. ....(#5016)  
[jaydeehanson@gmail.com](mailto:jaydeehanson@gmail.com)
16. **Highland Support Project:** HSP networks Indigenous communities of the Americas with financial, technical and political support to enlarge people's freedom and opportunities and improve their well-being. .... (#5007)  
[ben@highlandsupportproject.org](mailto:ben@highlandsupportproject.org)
17. **Journey Community Center:** A multi-program mission of Journey Church to at risk children and adults in rural western Amelia County. .... (#5009)  
[director@jccenter.org](mailto:director@jccenter.org)
18. **Waynesboro: Basic UMC – God's Table Ministry:** Providing a ministry of outreach to poor and marginalized in a bilingual, multi-cultural community through meals as well as serving other missional needs.  
[chadbeck@vaumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@vaumc.org)..... (#5038)
19. **Una Familia:** Ministry of the Eastern Shore District serving migrant and immigrant families in the areas of after school tutoring, translation, accompaniment and advocacy. .... (#5027)  
[veronicabarrell@vaumc.org](mailto:veronicabarrell@vaumc.org)
20. **Crossroads Mission Center:** A mission center of the Rappahannock River District providing worship (Messy Church), missional outreach in the form of food, clothing, hygiene supplies and school tutoring in King William County. .... (#5028)  
[www.crossroadsmissioncenter.org](http://www.crossroadsmissioncenter.org)

## Virginia Advance Specials that are also supported through General Board of Global Ministries:

- **Arlington: Just Neighbors Ministry:** Offering immigration legal services to low-income immigrant communities. Also, involved in bringing immigrant and non-immigrant communities together through community clinics. ....(#803002)  
[www.justneighbors.org](http://www.justneighbors.org)
- **Jeremiah Project:** Empowering middle school students and providing home repairs for God's people in need ..... (#3021220)  
[www.jeremiahproject.org](http://www.jeremiahproject.org)



**P**articipating in God's mission and ministry is where our United Methodist connection may be strongest. Through our participation in programs and projects across the United States by giving to the Advance, we make a difference in the lives of people who need our caring presence.

The "Caring Connection" of National Missions Institutions related to the Missional Ministries Board includes 103 institutions located across the United States such as community centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and women's residences. Through these ministries we can participate as witnesses to the redeeming love of God in Christ to those in special need: the stranger, the hungry, the broken and hurting. Your gift makes a difference, and 100 percent of your gift through the Advance goes to the project or ministry. The mission and ministries listed below are being promoted by the conference Missional Ministries Board for 2018-2019. For more information about these projects, visit [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission).

## National Advance Specials

- District of Columbia: Christ House**  
 A recovery facility that provides for the physical and emotional needs of homeless men and women..... (#381215)
- Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly**  
 Community education and outreach programs in rural Appalachia. .... (#773726)
- Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville**  
 Leadership development and community organizing in an impoverished area. .... (#781350)
- Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes**  
 Programs for disadvantaged teenagers, parents and the elderly. .... (#773365)
- South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry**  
 A ministry with Native Americans at the Rosebud and Crow Creek Reservations. .... (#123615)
- USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry**  
 Engaging congregations to welcome immigrants and provide free, quality immigration legal services. ... (#901285)
- Southeastern Jurisdiction: Volunteers In Mission**  
 Assists those offering their skills in this country and abroad..... (#901875)
- USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster**  
 Responds to emergencies such as tornadoes and flooding throughout the United States. .... (#901670)
- Society of St. Andrew**  
 Provides direct relief to the hungry through three main programs: Gleaning Network, Potato Project and Harvest of Hope education retreat program. The ministries provide unique opportunities for United Methodists to live their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ..... (#801600)
- Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission**  
 Progressing towards health and wholeness and developing Choctaw leadership. .... (#761544)



**F**or more than 60 years, The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. The Advance allows local churches and individuals to extend their reach into the world.

- The Advance works with church leaders around the world to ensure that approved projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area, and helps develop partnerships that are mutually advantageous.
- The Advance also communicates with donors, sharing stories about projects and missionaries as well as reporting on how gifts are making an impact.
- Advance funds provide the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) not only a source to meet needs through its programming but also a source of private funds that can be significantly leveraged with other grant funds to scale programs to meet even more needs and duplicate these gifts.
- When there is a disaster, The Advance sets up an emergency Advance number so that churches and individuals can immediately donate to the disaster relief. This provides funding for immediate use and helps plan for long-term response.
- All project leaders complete an application and go through a review process to attain Advance status. Accountability is assured through annual reporting and Global Ministries' audits to ensure that funds are used as described in the application.

## Why Should I Give Through The Advance?

- One hundred percent of each gift reaches the project, missionary or ministry you choose. Administrative costs are paid for by the apportionments of United Methodist churches. One Great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR's administrative costs, as UMCOR receives no apportionment funds.
- All Advance projects are related to annual conferences, central conferences, partner churches or interfaith organizations. They are screened by the General Board of Global Ministries and authorized by The Advance Committee.
- Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world.
- Churches and annual conferences receive Advance credit by having their gifts included in each year's total giving by the annual conference.
- The Advance tracks each gift and ensures that gifts reach their intended recipients. This methodology provides an additional layer of accountability when you give.



Christ House in the District of Columbia



Red Bird Mission in rural Appalachia



Our conference participates in God's mission in many places around the world. We have long-term partnerships in Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia through our Initiatives of Hope ministry as well as a history working with United Methodist partners in Africa, Cuba, the Philippines, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Russia.

We also continue to explore new ways and places of being in mission through our United Methodist connection as global needs emerge and Christ's church develops and grows internationally.

The international Advance Specials listed below have been selected by the conference Missional Ministries Board for special attention this year. They represent mission and ministry settings across the globe and encompass various missional needs. Remember that by giving to them through the Advance you ensure that 100 percent of your gift goes to the mission or ministry that you designate. For more information about these projects, visit [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission).

(Below) A Kamina woman who needs medical care is helped onto Wings of the Morning for a flight to Lumumbashi. (Photo courtesy of Betty Kazadi Musau from [umnews.org](http://umnews.org).)

## International Advance Specials



1. **Global: Sustainable Agriculture** Provides training in environmentally friendly and technologically appropriate practices in farming and off-farming activities to small-scale farmers to improve their livelihoods. .... (#982188)
2. **Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat** Strengthens the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their own basic needs and to assist them in determining and sustaining a just and integrated development process. .... (#07629A)
3. **Macedonia: Macedonia In Mission Together** Developing leaders and working with the poor, orphaned and disabled. .... (#00220A)
4. **Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project** Outreach to children who are hungry, uneducated and endangered by life on the streets. .... (#11580A)





Graduates from the Bethlehem Bible College. (Courtesy of the Bethlehem Bible College Facebook page.)

5. **Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center Program**  
Operation of a residential facility and community outreach program for orphaned children and those impacted by poverty. ... (#14377A)
6. **Sudan: Sudan Development**  
To assist the people of Sudan in meeting acute human needs due to drought, locust invasion, civil strife and floods. Funds will be used to provide food relief, medical assistance, clothing, blankets and shelter. .... (#184385)
7. **Anti-Human Trafficking**  
Working with those ensnared in trafficking of humans for commercial and sexual exploitation. .... (#333615)
8. **Israel: Bethlehem Bible College**  
Training Christian leaders to serve the community and stop the decline of churches in the Holy Land. .... (#12017A)
9. **Cambodia: Street Children**  
Improving quality of life through education, nutrition and fellowship support. .... (#14921A)

10. **Vietnam Mission Initiative**  
Supporting congregational development, pastors' salaries, orphanage ministry and building projects. .... (#14932A)
11. **Mozambique: Chicuque Rural Hospital**  
Serving as a model in the delivery of quality primary and preventative health care and staff training. .... (#09734A)
12. **Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning**  
Meeting critical medical needs through air transportation for the needy in rural areas. .... (#08597A)
13. **Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital**  
Providing community and curative health services and training through hospital and village work. .... (#15080N)
14. **Cambodia: Mission Initiative**  
Supporting new churches, pastors' salaries, leadership development and outreach ministries. .... (#00230A)

15. **Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry**  
Providing clean water, medical care, education and spiritual inspiration for the community. .... (#181000)
16. **Eurasia: Ukraine & Moldova Projects**  
Funding pastors' salaries and church ministries and establishing new churches. .... (#14053A)





## The primary mission focus partnerships of the Virginia Conference



Initiatives of Hope (IOH) serves as the team, which guides and monitors the mission partnerships of the Virginia Conference. It seeks to create and monitor those partnerships based on a mission theology of mutuality, respect, compassion and accountability. IOH offers travel-learning opportunities that promote long-term relationships between individuals in Virginia United Methodist faith communities and our partners that break down cultural and national borders.

Currently IOH promotes four partnerships – Mozambique, Brazil, Cambodia, and Native Peoples in the U.S.

The ministry and mission of IOH is risky and challenging as it seeks to address issues of dependence, privilege and sustainability. However, it is also life changing as we begin to see the world in relationship rather than divided by wealth and power. Our partners are our teachers as well as fellow sojourners in the faith.

Our partnerships are aimed at providing opportunities for connection and understanding as well as resources that can be shared mutually and sustainably. Among them are:

- **Church leadership training**  
for clergy and lay leaders of The United Methodist Church of Mozambique and Cambodia;
- **Early childhood and youth intervention** through the Shade & Fresh Water ministry in cities across Brazil;
- **Medical and dental care** through the United Methodist medical boat on the Amazon in Brazil and at Chicunque Rural Hospital in Mozambique;
- **Promoting education** through scholarships for children and youths in Cambodia and Mozambique.
- **Creating Opportunities** for learning and growing relationships between Virginia United Methodists and the Native Peoples of Virginia and across the U.S.

The Shade and Fresh Water Project is a national network to help local Methodist churches in Brazil develop supervised activities to keep children off the streets







People waiting to be seen at the Chicique Rural Hospital in Mozambique. (Photo credit: Nick Ruxton)

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### Learn

- Go to the IOH webpage to learn more about our partnerships with Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia and Native Peoples: [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission), click on "Initiatives of Hope."
- Review and use the IOH mission worship and education resources found at [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission), click on "Initiatives of Hope."
- Invite an UMVIM volunteer who has visited Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia or Native Peoples to come to a mission event at your church.
- Plan a Mission Awareness event at your church.

### Go

- Participate on an UMVIM team serving Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia or Native Peoples.

### Give

- Support the Annual Conference Offering for Initiatives of Hope.
- Support the Advance projects related to our partner ministries with Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia and Native Peoples.
- Support individuals and teams that are serving as short-term UMVIM volunteers with Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia and Native Peoples.
- Enter into a covenant relationship with a missionary from Brazil, Mozambique or Cambodia.

### Pray

- For Native Peoples and the people of Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia.
- For the Virginia Conference Mission teams serving Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia and Native Peoples.
- For God to guide you in how you might serve.





Clara  
Biswas



Dr. Quynh-Hoa  
Nguyen



John  
Elmore



Poto Valentine  
Shutsha



Jacques Akasa  
Umembudi



Lisa  
Nichols



Ngoy Mulanga  
Kalangwa



Uмба Ilunga  
Kalangwa



Emily  
Everett

Cambodia

Virginia

Vietnam

God continues to call persons to full-time mission service through the General Board of Global Ministries, the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences and local congregations. Your congregation participates in support of missionaries through your connectional apportionment to World Service.

These missionaries are serving in more than 60 countries sharing their gifts of teaching, health care, evangelism, refugee assistance, community development and congregational development as they serve God's mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Through their work, these missionaries serve in partnership in ministry and mission with those in need of support and love.

There are several categories of mission service that seek both financial and prayer support:

■ **Missionaries Serving Internationally:** Persons who have answered the call to serve outside their home country for a term, usually three years (renewable).

■ **Church and Community Workers (CCW):** Persons commissioned to serve in mission ministries and settings that uplift the poor and disenfranchised in rural and urban areas primarily in the United States. CCWs are assigned to cooperative parishes, ethnic ministries, criminal justice ministries, congregational health ministries, immigration, rural and urban ministries and disaster response.

■ **Individual Volunteers Program:** Persons who have answered the call to serve in mission for a determined period of time, from two months to two years as a volunteer. This is for individuals or couples ages 18 and over who wish to use their personal gifts to engage and live in community with those whom they serve. The type of work is as varied as the placement sites, offering service opportunities around the world and in the U.S.

■ **National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries (NPHLM):** NPHLM is a coordinated effort of The United Methodist Church to focus on the development and strengthening of Hispanic/Latino ministries. It seeks to incorporate the missionary placements into the ongoing ministries of the annual conference by the end of the first or, at the most, at the end of the second term of a three-year assignment.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Brazil:

Shade and Fresh Water Program  
Emily Everett (# 3022399)  
EEverett@umcmmission.org

#### Cambodia:

Clara Biswas (#13952-Z)  
clarabiswas@online.com.kh

#### Chile:

John Elmore (#13109Z)  
jelmore@umcmmission.org

#### Democratic Republic of Congo:

Poto Valentine Shutsha (#14163Z)  
ujacques1@yahoo.com

Jacques Akasa Umembudi (#14020Z)  
ujacques1@yahoo.com

#### Vietnam:

Dr. Quynh-Hoa Nguyen (#3021965)  
QNguyen@umcmmission.org  
Nguyenlqh@yahoo.com

#### Tanzania:

Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa (#15162Z)  
umbakalangwa@hotmail.com

Uмба Ilunga Kalangwa (#14211Z)  
umbakalangwa@hotmail.com

### U.S. BASED

Lisa Nichols (#982953)  
lisanichols@cs.com



**T**here are more than 350 Global Ministries missionaries serving in more than 60 countries who are available for support through a Covenant Relationship. Individuals and churches can partner with a missionary and provide financial, spiritual and emotional support. The missionaries listed on these pages have been highlighted for support because of their work in mission settings supported by the Virginia Conference. You are asked to consider supporting them through a Covenant Relationship.

## HOW TO SUPPORT A MISSIONARY: Covenant Relationships

A local church or church group	An individual or family
Commit to an annual gift of a minimum of \$5 per member.	Commit to an annual gift of \$500 per individual or family.
Complete the Covenant Relationship Form which is found on the Virginia Conference website at <a href="http://www.vaumc.org/Mission">www.vaumc.org/Mission</a> , click on "Missionaries" then see "Start a Covenant." Complete the form and e-mail, fax or mail it to the Center for Justice and Missional Excellence as directed on the form.	

This partnership is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship where the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. When you covenant with one missionary, you are supporting the entire United Methodist missionary community on their behalf and in their name.



(Left): Missionary Clara Mridula Biswas gathers with some of the poor children with whom she serves in the slums of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She assists children at an orphanage center with education, offers Christmas and Easter programs and religious education, and works with families who pick through garbage dumps to earn a meager living. (UMNS file photo/courtesy GBGM)



# Moving Forward

# our calling in the world



**[GEN]ERATION  
TRANSFORMATION**  
GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS

Is God calling you to help change the world through mission service? Young people all over the world are encouraged to apply to serve as a United Methodist Global Mission Fellow or Individual Volunteer. For more information visit [www.umcmmission.org/gt](http://www.umcmmission.org/gt).



## Global Mission Fellows

Fellows commit to 24-25 months of service. Applicants from the United States can choose to serve either domestically or internationally. At this time applicants outside of the United States will be serving internationally outside of one's home country.

## Global Mission Fellows U-2 Track

- Serve 24 months in a marginalized community within the United States.
- 1 month training and itineration
- 23 months of service within the United States
- Service begins in July and ends in July, 24 months later.

## Global Mission Fellows International Track

- Serve 25 months outside of one's home country.
- 1.5 months of training and transition
- 20 months of international service
- 3.5 months transition, itineration, and project-oriented reintegration
- Project-oriented reintegration could include helping to train the next class of Global Mission Fellows, itineration, being a missionary-in-residence, or developing/joining a local project.
- Service begins in July and ends in August, 25 months later.

(Below): Global Mission Fellows in Detroit May 2019.





**V**irginia Volunteers in Mission (VAVIM) is an opportunity for short-term hands-on ministry that offers everyone the opportunity to serve in mission. VAVIM follows the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UM-VIM) model of being “Christian Love in Action” with teams building ongoing relationships with communities as they serve locally to internationally. VAVIM partners with projects which empower others and promote sustainability. VAVIM teams call for persons of various skills and abilities from construction to mentoring and teaching, from supporting health care initiatives to assisting in cleaning up debris after disasters, from leading Vacation Bible Schools to the selfless act of simply being present in mission settings with those who need a listening ear and a caring word.

Teams are especially encouraged to work in the three countries of our conference Initiatives of Hope mission partnerships in Brazil, Cambodia and Mozambique. In those settings your team may be asked to work in construction or repair of homes, churches, parsonages or schools. Working with street children or helping with a medical team to teach primary health care or help with a clinic are other possibilities. In all cases, VAVIM teams are encouraged to build relationships that bring new understanding of how serving God’s mission in the world addresses injustice and transforms lives on both sides of the borders that are crossed.



Forrest White with Alejandro in Havana.

### What is required to send out an UMVIM team from your church?

The Virginia Conference Volunteers in Mission requires the following:

- Each team will be led by a trained VAVIM team leader. Team leaders must have participated in at least one Volunteer in Mission trip. There are several team leader training events held across the conference throughout the year. Visit the website at [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission) for more details.
- Team leaders must have a cleared background check prior to the trip, and all team members must also have a cleared background check if the team is working with children, youths or at-risk adults.
- The team must be insured. International travel insurance is provided through the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM office ([www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org)).

### How does your church send out a team?

- Determine the team’s focus for the project (construction, educational, informational, medical, etc.).
- Decide where you want to go, when you plan to go and return, and then determine the cost. This all needs research. You can find team sites at [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org) or by checking the VAVIM page of the Virginia Conference website: [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission). You may also decide that persons from your church may want to join team members from other churches who are going on one of the VAVIM conference promoted trips.
- Present your proposal to your Outreach or Mission chairperson as well as your pastor for support. Next, go to the administrative council for approval as a church mission project.

For more information about **UMVIM** opportunities, contact:

**Rebecca Makowski**  
(703) 430-2203  
[rebecca.makowski@galileeumc.org](mailto:rebecca.makowski@galileeumc.org)

**Center for Justice and Missional Excellence**  
**Glenn Rowley**  
(804) 521-1142  
[CindyIngroff@vaumc.org](mailto:CindyIngroff@vaumc.org)  
[www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission)



# Moving Forward

to our neighbors  
in need



(Below): UVMIM activities from the UVMIM SE Jurisdiction Facebook page.

**W**hen you cross borders, national borders or imaginary borders right in your community that divide classes, races or ethnic groups, you will find Christ on the other side of that border and it will change your life! If your faith community is exploring taking your first VIM team or you are looking for team members to complete your team, check out the VAVIM page on the conference website, [www.vaumc.org/vaumvim](http://www.vaumc.org/vaumvim), or scan the QR code and the VAVIM facebook page at [www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM](http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM) for a listing of teams going from our conference. Make contact with the team leader and inquire about joining one of those teams.

Just remember, Volunteers in Mission is first about relationships and then about what work you do. Long after the work is completed, the relationships you built that changed your life will still be touching you and those around you.

## Registering your team

The Virginia Volunteers in Mission (VAVIM) policy requests that every team representing a faith community in the Virginia Conference register their team online with the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) office at [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org). This is important for many reasons but primarily it is to make sure that each team has met the requirements for best practices of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Registration also allows your team the option to purchase medical insurance from the SEJ office if your team is traveling outside the U.S. at a nominal fee. When you register, it also allows SEJ to provide information on all the teams that travel from our conference to the conference office of Justice and Missional Excellence.

Teams that select not to use the insurance program may register with SEJ at no cost. Teams that select to use the insurance program continue to pay the additional processing fees. The insurance processing fees provide vital funding for staff and resources since UVMIM SEJ receives no funds from the Southeastern Jurisdiction or through apportionments. UVMIM SEJ is again able to offer travel medical insurance for teams traveling in the U.S. For information on the insurance, cost and fees, go to: [http://umvim.org/send\\_a\\_team/insurance\\_faq.html](http://umvim.org/send_a_team/insurance_faq.html).

For a video tutorial of the SEJ registration process go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd\\_iB4B9hPE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd_iB4B9hPE).



Scan the QR code below with your phone to visit the VAVIM Facebook page for the most updated information on leader training and trip details.





# Response to Disaster

## Moving Forward

**W**hen people talk about disasters, most are referring to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, and floods. United Methodist Disaster Response is so much more. By definition, a disaster is “a sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life” or “an event or fact that has unfortunate consequences.”

In the last several years, the people of the Virginia Annual Conference have truly been a missional church. They have responded multiple times with Early Response Teams to tornados, hurricanes, and floods as well as having responded to a mass casualty incident with Spiritual and Emotional Crisis Care Teams. Disaster response is about doing church by being the face, hands, and feet of Christ to God's children in their time of greatest need.

Every disaster is a local disaster, and it begins and ends with the local church community. Programs, through UMCOR, are available to help local churches plan and respond to disaster events within their own communities. One of these programs, Early Response Team training, teaches people how to be first responders to a natural disaster. Teams learn how to make homes safe, sanitary, and secure for the affected families. The class is eight hours long and is taught by trained and certified UMCOR trainers within our own conference. For more information about this program or to schedule an ERT class, please email the **Rev. Kirk Culpepper** at [disaterinfo@vaumc.org](mailto:disaterinfo@vaumc.org). Another training opportunity is UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors program, which offers “just in time” resources to local churches to assist them in helping their local communities after a disaster. For more information about these and other UMCOR programs please visit [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

In this digital world, information is available at the touch of a button. Smart phone applications (apps) are

available for download from UMCOR, FEMA, Red Cross, and Ready Virginia to help people prepare for disasters. A good weather app is also important!

Disaster ministry is a mission field. We touch the lives of many through the generous efforts of volunteers and financial supporters. Many survivors have said that they had no idea the church would help and that without us, they felt there was no hope. You too can be part of your neighbor's recovery efforts following a disaster by volunteering, making UMCOR kits, or by giving to the Annual Conference Advance Special #5037. Giving to the Advance Special is important because it is our first line of funding for any disaster within the Annual Conference. Remember, every disaster is a local disaster.

For further information about these and other disaster related questions, please contact the Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, **Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz**, at [vacdrt1@gmail.com](mailto:vacdrt1@gmail.com) or by calling **(757) 408-6653** or **1 (866) 264-8488**.





# Moving Forward

# within our conference

**Special Program  
and Sustaining grants  
to local churches/faith  
groups reaching out  
into communities**



Henry Fork Service Center



Kids Soar

**B**ecause the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the Virginia Conference has long seen the need to assist churches which are reaching out into their communities. The Common Table and the United Methodist Women have combined their resources to assist in this work.

A total of \$58,600 will be distributed to the mission projects listed on these pages. Descriptions of these projects can be found at [www.vaumc.org/specialprogramgrants](http://www.vaumc.org/specialprogramgrants). For more information about a specific project, or how you can assist, contact the appropriate persons listed below; or call Bev Myers in the conference office of Connectional Ministries at (804) 521-1100, ext. 134, or e-mail [BevMyers@vaumc.org](mailto:BevMyers@vaumc.org).

## Special Program Grants

### ARLINGTON DISTRICT

#### The Joseph Initiative (Herndon UMC)

Johathan Page  
1005 Van Buren St.  
Herndon, VA 20170  
403-707-6271  
[JonathanPage@vaumc.org](mailto:JonathanPage@vaumc.org)

### DANVILLE DISTRICT

#### NetworX (Redwood UMC),

Susan Hughes  
3001 Old Franklin Tpk.  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
540-493-8715  
[SusanHughes@vaumc.org](mailto:SusanHughes@vaumc.org)

### EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

#### UNA FAMILIA

Veronica Barrell  
P.O. Box 317  
Parksley, VA 23421  
804-304-0656  
[unafamilia2013@gmail.com](mailto:unafamilia2013@gmail.com)

### FARMVILLE DISTRICT

#### SHEEP (South Hill UMC)

Nancy Merrel  
105 Franklin St.  
South Hill, VA 23970  
434-774-7885  
[sheep@southhillumc.org](mailto:sheep@southhillumc.org)

### HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

#### Learning Mountain (Mt. Hermon UMC)

Darlene Wilkins  
P.O. Box 1105  
New Market, VA 22844  
540-758-1311  
[DarleneWilkins@vaumc.org](mailto:DarleneWilkins@vaumc.org)

### RICHMOND DISTRICT

#### Nurturing the VCU Community

Katie Gooch  
The Pace Center  
700 West Franklin St.  
Richmond, VA 23220  
804-658-4064

#### Ginter Park Food Pantry & Clothes Closet

Dennis Lipke  
1010 W. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804-262-8651  
[dlipke@GinterParkUMC.org](mailto:dlipke@GinterParkUMC.org)



**Skipwith Backpack Ministry  
(Skipwith UMC)**

Lois Parker  
7501 Century Dr.  
Henrico, VA 23229  
804-288-4944  
lois7501@verizon.net

**STAUNTON DISTRICT****God's Table (Basic UMC)**

Chad Beck  
P.O. Box 2447  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-949-8947  
chadbeck@vaumc.org

**Out of Our Hands  
(Casa de Amistad)**

Chad Beck  
P.O. Box 2447  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-949-8947  
chadbeck@vaumc.org

**Just Neighbors Waynesboro**

Chad Beck or Jenelle Watson  
Wayne Hills Ministry Center  
932 Fir St.  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-649-7149  
ChadBeck@vaumc.org  
JenelleWatson@vaumc.org

**Sustaining  
Program Grants****DANVILLE DISTRICT****Henry Fork Service Center:**

Lisa Nichols  
P.O. Box 888  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
540-483-2819  
lisanichols@cs.com

**ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT****Club Sandwich**

Joann McClung  
Wesley Memorial UMC  
288 East Little Creek Rd.  
Norfolk, VA 23505  
757-587-2996  
church@norwmumc.org

**FARMVILLE DISTRICT****Jane Jones Food Pantry  
(Main St. UMC)**

Rev. Wayne Rickman  
P.O. Box 119  
South Boston, VA 24592  
434-572-3290  
mainstreetumc@embarqmail.com

**LYNCHBURG DISTRICT****Amherst Cares  
(Emmanuel UMC)**

Beth Gamble  
297 Ridge Dr.  
Amherst, VA 24521  
434-946-7657  
bethgamble3@comcast.net

**Weekend Meals  
(Anderson Memorial UMC)**

Joan Yeatts  
P.O. Box 773  
Gretna, VA 24557  
434-51-4628 (cell)  
434-656-1800 (church)  
joanyeatts@comcast.net

**RICHMOND DISTRICT****Belmont Community  
Resource Services  
(Belmont UMC)**

Larry Cochran  
3510 Broad Rock Blvd.  
Richmond, VA 23234  
804-516-9195  
larrycochran@vaumc.org

**Sherbourne UMC  
Food Pantry**

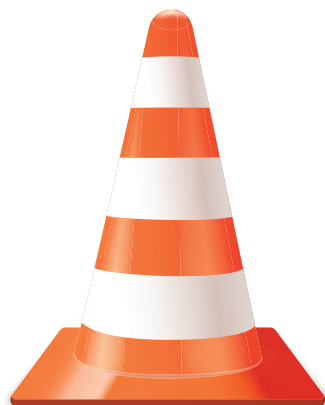
Sandy Sahnaw  
2619 Sherbourne Rd.  
North Chesterfield, VA 23237  
804-559-0705 or  
804-921-2187(c)  
sahnaws@comcast.net

**ROANOKE DISTRICT****KIDS SOAR**

Jan Keister  
305 Mountain Ave. SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015  
540-342-3103  
jkeister@kidssoar.org

**STAUNTON DISTRICT****South Covington Care Pan-  
try (South Covington UMC)**

Linda Black  
5015 Castile Rd.  
Covington, VA 24426  
540-747-5261  
540-968-6480 (c)  
llblack47@aol.com





# Moving Forward

# with mental health



It is difficult to ignore the statistics and daily stories surrounding the growing mental health crisis in our families, communities, churches, nation and world. Moving from awareness of the problem to discovering an appropriate compassionate response as Christian disciples is a challenge we cannot ignore.

We know according to John's gospel that Christ came for all to have life in abundance, yet for those suffering from mental illness abundant life may be seen as an impossible goal as they struggle daily to find meaning and purpose.

The Virginia Conference Missional Ministries Board (MMB) through the Abundant Health Initiative is encouraging faith communities to begin to address this crucial issue. The information on these two pages is offered as a resource to challenge you and your church to consider what role you can play in a ministry of serving and caring to those struggling with mental health challenges.

## *United Methodism statement on mental health*

The World Health Organization defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community."

Unfortunately, mental health eludes many in our world resulting in considerable distress, stigma, and isolation. Mental illness troubles our relationships because it can affect the way we process information, relate to others, and choose actions. Consequently, mental illnesses often are feared in ways that other illnesses are not. Nevertheless, we know that regardless of our illness we remain created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

No person deserves to be stigmatized because of mental illness. Those with mental illness are no more violent than other persons are. Rather, they are much more likely to be victims of violence or preyed on by others. When stigma happens within the church, mentally ill persons and their families are further victimized.

Persons with mental illness and their families have a right to be treated with respect on the basis of common humanity and accurate information. They also have a right and responsibility to obtain care appropriate to their condition.

The United Methodist Church pledges to foster policies that promote compassion, advocate for access to care and eradicate stigma within the church and in communities.

¶ No.162, 2016 *United Methodist Book of Discipline*



## Statistics about Mental Illness in Virginia

■ Approximately 1,137,259 to 1,497,870 adults in Virginia (age 18+) have any mental illness. "Any mental illness" is defined based on diagnostic criteria in the 4th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). "Any mental illness" among adults aged 18 or older is the presence of any mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in the past year that met DSM-IV criteria. Source: NIMH; SAMHSA NSDUH Report (2011)

■ Approximately 239,750 to 305,000 have a serious mental illness. Serious mental illness is defined as adults with a disorder meeting DSM criteria whose disorder caused substantial functional impairment (i.e. substantially interfered with or limited one or more major life activities) and the most urgent need for treatment. Source: NIMH; SAMHSA NSDUH Report (2011)

■ National prevalence rates suggest that about 100,000 children and adolescents in Virginia have a serious emotional disorder (SED) with about 65,000 of them being extremely impaired. Source: NIMH.

■ Almost a quarter million adults in Virginia live with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Source: SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

■ Almost 1 in 4 of Virginia's jail inmates live with a mental health disorder. Source: Virginia Compensation Board Annual Jail Survey.

■ The national rate of post-deployment mental health problems among returning veterans is about 15-20% at any given time.

■ Within Virginia, suicide ranked 11th for cause of death among residents and was the third leading cause among 10- to 24-year-olds. Source: Virginia Performs

■ Suicide rates have increased in Virginia and the nation, coinciding with the economic recession. In 2010, Virginia experienced 11.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 people, which is 39th out of the 50 states, or the 11th lowest age-adjusted suicide rate in the country. Source: Virginia Performs

– National Alliance on Mental Illness

## Mental Health First Aid

### ■ Why Mental Health First Aid?

One in five Americans has a mental illness or substance use disorder, yet many are reluctant to seek help or simply don't know where to turn for care. Recognizing mental health and substance use challenges can be difficult, which is why it's so important for everyone to understand the warning signs and risk factors. Even when friends and family of someone who may be developing a mental illness recognize that something is amiss, they may not know how to intervene or direct the person to proper treatment. All too often, those in need of mental health services do not get them until it is too late.

### ■ What is Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid teaches how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The 8-hour course introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns, builds understanding of their impact and provides an overview of common treatments. Through role-playing and simulations, it demonstrates how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions; provide initial help; and connect people to professional, peer and social supports as well as self-help resources.

Mental Health First Aid encourages early detection and intervention by teaching participants about the signs and symptoms of specific illnesses like anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, eating disorders and addictions. The program offers concrete tools and answers key

questions like "What can I do?" and "Where can someone find help?" Participants are introduced to local mental health resources, national organizations, support groups and online tools for mental health and addiction treatment and support. Mental Health First Aid USA is operated by the National Council for Behavioral Health. Contact Information is below.

### ■ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

NAMI Virginia State Office  
P.O. Box 8260 Richmond, VA  
23226-0260  
Helpline (800) 950-6264  
(804) 285-8264  
namivirginia.org

#### National Council for Behavioral Health

1400 K Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington DC, 20005  
www.thenationalcouncil.org

For more information on exploring mental health ministry outreach please contact:

#### Reba Miller

Virginia Conference coordinator for the Global Health Initiative and Health Ministry  
(703) 966-3984  
msrebamiller@gmail.com.

You may also contact the Virginia Conference Office of Justice and Missional Excellence:

#### Glenn Rowley

(804) 521-1143  
glennrowley@vaumc.org



# Moving Forward

through  
understanding

## Mission Encounter 2020 Courses

2020

Weekend Session:  
July 24-25, 2020

- **Spiritual Growth Study:** Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety
- **Anniversary Study:** United Methodist Women History
- **Issue Study:** Mass Incarceration
- **Children:** Growing in Peace Instead of Fear

For more information, visit  
[www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission),  
or contact the conference  
Mission office at:  
(804) 521-1142  
[CindyIngroff@vaumc.org](mailto:CindyIngroff@vaumc.org)

The best kept secret in the Virginia Conference! That's how this event has been described. Although its history began more than 70 years ago by the then-named Women's Society of Christian Service, and known as the School of Christian Mission for most of that history, the re-named Mission Encounter is a cooperative event sponsored by the Virginia Conference Missional Ministries Board and the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for your whole congregation to come alive to mission by participating in an exciting weekend mission education experience.



If you have ever wondered not only how we **do** mission but also where we **are** in mission and, most importantly, why we are called to live out missional lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, this is the event to attend.

There are classes for adults where men, women, clergy and laity alike (of all ages) come to learn and be involved in mission groups by choosing one class out of three choices – a spiritual growth study, geographical study or social issue. Each study helps us to understand God's work in our world and how we are involved as United Methodists. The event is designed to challenge us to be in mission as individuals in our personal lives and in the lives of our local churches. Meeting others involved in mission and sharing ideas and mission stories as well as

meeting missionaries are highlights of the event.

It is an excellent "mission trip" for your youth. They have a fun time together as they learn about what United Methodists are doing around the world to alleviate suffering while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. The youth participate in hands-on mission projects that range from gleaning to working in a shelter to helping the elderly in the area.

Participants are encouraged to share their new knowledge with their local church congregations. The courses being offered for the next two years are listed on the left.

To watch a video about Mission Encounter, go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Mission Encounter Virginia."





# Healing and Hope for All

The Virginia Institute for Pastoral Care (VIPCare) is  
an interfaith counseling center open to everyone.

Our mission is to restore healing and hope  
through spiritually integrated counseling for clients of  
all ages (children, families, couples, and adults).

Call us if we can help.



## VIPCare

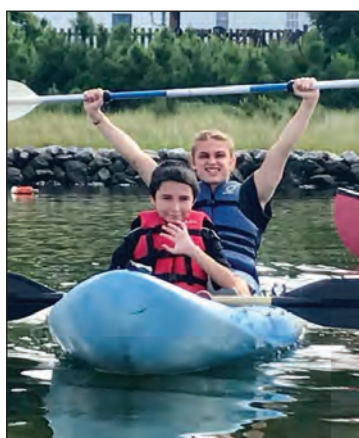
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE  
OF PASTORAL CARE

804.282.8332 • [VIPCare.org](http://VIPCare.org)





**For children of incarcerated mothers or fathers**



## All God's Children Camp

**T**he All God's Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives – economic poverty, loneliness, low self-esteem, violence, drugs and temporary living conditions – while their mothers or fathers are incarcerated. Children spend a week at camp participating in activities such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, music, crafts, Bible study and conflict resolution. The camp is now offered during the summer at different United Methodist camps. Below are ways to help break the cycle of incarceration:

**Financial Contributions:** Gifts from individuals, groups and churches make this ministry possible. A scholarship of \$425 sends one child to camp.

**Mentoring:** Volunteers come from churches across the conference to spend the week at camp. These mentors model to the children what God's presence means in their lives. Mentors do not lead activities, but rather provide supervision, companionship and compassion to the children during their daily activities. This is always our biggest need. Without mentors, camp would not be possible.

**Supplies:** Your Sunday school class, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women or Vacation Bible School can help the camp by collecting needed supplies.

**Transportation:** Help drive some of the campers to and from camp. Caregivers do not always have the car, money for gas, time or energy to provide their own transportation for the children.

For more information, visit [www.vaumc.org/agcc](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc) or contact **Lori Smith** at (804) 521-1138 or (571) 245-9591; or [lori-smith@vaumc.org](mailto:lori-smith@vaumc.org).



**2020 Camp Rainbow Connection dates:**  
June 23–28 &  
July 28–August 2

## Commission on Disabilities

**Embracing the inclusiveness of Christ:**

- Accessibility, Program and Respite Grants and Scholarships
- Annual Conference accessibility
- Camp Rainbow Connection for adults with intellectual disabilities
- Disability Awareness Sunday (Feb. 2, 2020)
- Support and resources for ministries with persons with disabilities



Funds for programs and activities of the Commission on Disabilities come from individual and local church contributions and the support of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and other mission groups. Programs of the commission have been a mission focus of the conference United Methodist Men since 1972.

For more Commission on Disabilities information, contact MaryKaye Cochran at [marykayecochran@vaumc.org](mailto:marykayecochran@vaumc.org) or (804) 521-1155.

For more Camp Rainbow information, contact Cindy Ingroff at [cindyingroff@vaumc.org](mailto:cindyingroff@vaumc.org) or (804) 521-1142 or Stacy Roberts at [stacyroberts@vaumc.org](mailto:stacyroberts@vaumc.org) or (804) 521-1144.

## Youth in Action Mission Opportunities

**Y**outh in mission can be found across the conference sharing the love of God by being God's hands and feet. Check the Conference website for upcoming youth events and activities.

Voices of Youth

### Youth Service Fund - For youths by youths:

Throughout the year, youths raise money so other youths can participate in mission. Churches can apply for grants from the Youth Service Fund by submitting an application by Feb. 24, 2020. Go to [www.vaumc.org/YSF](http://www.vaumc.org/YSF) for an application.

**Voices of Youth:** Virginia high school students participate in a mission team as well as share their experience and personal vision of mission through concerts held in local Virginia churches to challenge church members to become involved in God's mission. VOY Contact: **Mary Letson at (757) 581-7250 or [maryletson@gmail.com](mailto:maryletson@gmail.com).**

### For more information on youth mission opportunities:

Visit [www.vaumc.org/youth](http://www.vaumc.org/youth) or contact **Paulo Lopes** at the office of Ministries with Young People: **(804) 521-1135**; or [PauloLopes@vaumc.org](mailto:PauloLopes@vaumc.org).



## Virginia United Methodist Missional Partner Organizations

**T**he ministries of the Health & Relief Team touch many lives, providing service throughout the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. We value our relationship with the Virginia Conference and feel privileged to be a part of this ministry team. We are grateful for all of the support received each year from individuals, congregations and communities. Thank you. **If you or someone you know is seeking assistance, please contact us.**

**PINNACLE**  
LIVING  
888-673-1037  
[PinnacleLiving.org](http://PinnacleLiving.org)



703-642-3830  
[www.wesleyhousing.org](http://www.wesleyhousing.org)

**Heart Havens**  
877-442-8368  
[www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org)

**UMFS**  
855-367-8637  
[www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org)

"Provider of  
Affordable Housing"  
Virginia United Methodist Housing  
Development Corporation  
540-825-7654

**We have differing missions but share a common ministry: To invest in supportive communities for seniors, families, children and people with disabilities.**





10330 Staples Mill Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
(804) 521-1100  
[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)



# Special Sundays in 2020

**S**pecial Sundays in The United Methodist Church are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church and are celebrated annually. Special Sundays are placed on the calendar in the context of the Christian year, which is designed to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs. Your support is critical to the survival of these important ministries (listed below) and for sharing God's gifts around the world.

Six General Conference-approved Special Sundays with offerings are listed in **boldface type**. Special Sundays, or time periods, with Virginia Conference-approved offerings are marked with an asterisk (\*). Other times of special recognition approved by the General Conference and/or Virginia Conference are also listed.

Men's Ministry Sunday  
(any Sunday in the year)  
United Methodist Volunteers In  
Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday  
(any Sunday in the year)

## January 19

### **Human Relations Day**

(Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.'s  
birthday observance)

## The month of February

Heart Havens, Inc., Month\*

## February 2

Disability Awareness Sunday  
(First Sunday in February)

## March 22

### **UMCOR Sunday**

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

## April 26

### **Native American Ministries Sunday**

(Third Sunday of Easter)

## May 3

Older Adult Recognition Sunday  
(First Sunday in May)

## May 3

Rural Life Sunday  
(First Sunday in May)

## May 10–June 21, 2020

Mother's Day/Father's Day  
Samaritan Program Offering\*  
(Pinnacle Living)

## May 24

Heritage Sunday  
(Sunday on or preceding  
Aldersgate Day, May 24)

## The month of June

Virginia Annual Conference Offering\*  
National Hunger Awareness Day  
recognition during Worship  
(Any Sunday in June)

## June 7

### **Peace with Justice Sunday**

(First Sunday after Pentecost)

## The month of September

Christian Education Sunday  
(Any Sunday in September)

## October 4

### **World Communion Sunday**

(First Sunday in October)

## October 11

Children's Sabbath  
(Second Sunday in October or any time  
during the year)

## October 18

Laity Sunday  
(Third Sunday in October)

## November 8

Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday  
(Second Sunday in November)

## November 29

### **United Methodist Student Day**

(Last Sunday in November)

## The month of December

UMFS of Virginia Month\*