

BOOK OF REPORTS

233rd Session of the
Virginia Annual Conference



June 19-21, 2015
Roanoke, Virginia



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please Read Carefully

If you are a clergy, diaconal, or lay member of the Virginia Annual Conference you should find enclosed, with your *2015 Book of Reports*, your official name badge and registration card. To register, you must bring the registration card with you to the conference session. Name badges will be essential for voting privileges. If you forget your *Book of Reports*, you will need to purchase one at the information table at conference for \$5.00 per copy.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE BELOW:

1. When you arrive at the Berglund Center Coliseum (formerly Roanoke Civic Center), go immediately to the registration area in the Berglund Special Events Center. All clergy, diaconal, and lay members will register in the same area. The Registration Help Desk will also be there.
2. Take the enclosed registration card to the registration area and exchange it for your official conference packet, which will include your plastic name badge holder. Please make sure in advance that you have made any necessary corrections to the information printed on the card.
3. Voting devices for the election of General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be distributed as part of the registration process. Lay members will receive their voting devices when they register. Clergy who are eligible to vote for the election of clergy delegates will receive their voting devices at an area adjoining the registration tables. At the conclusion of the Saturday afternoon session, voting devices will be returned to persons who will be standing at exits of the main seating areas in the Berglund Center Coliseum. Please be aware that unreturned devices will result in a cost of \$75 to the conference.
4. Persons who need special attention regarding registration will be asked to go to the “Help Desk” area. Here, name badge corrections, alternate/reserve registrations, and other such situations will be handled. Do not surrender your registration card at the other registration areas if you need help from the Registration Help Desk. You will receive your updated name badge, if necessary, and official packet at the Registration Help Desk.
5. At the conclusion of the conference, receptacles will be provided to collect the plastic holder of your name badge for reuse at future conference sessions, so please be gentle with its use.

ALTERNATES AND RESERVES should go to the Registration Help Desk with the entire *Book of Reports* packet, including name badge and registration card of individuals they are replacing. A new badge and registration card will be provided there.

ATTENTION! CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS

PLEASE NOTE that your registration card should indicate your PRESENT address, BUT you are asked to correct the card so it lists your FUTURE MAILING ADDRESS, appointment and phone number (i.e., that which will be in effect following this year’s moving date). What appears on this card will become the conference’s official record of your address, to be included in the *2015 Journal* and *2015 Directory of the Ministry*. E-mail addresses, if provided, will be included in both publications.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE and have changes on the card, please mail your corrected registration card to the *Journal* of the Virginia Annual Conference, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058, or e-mail to Communications@vaumc.org.

The 233rd session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

June 19-21, 2015

BOOK OF REPORTS

The Rev. Marc D. Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries

Edited by

The Office of Connectional Ministries and

Virginia United Methodist Communications

*On the cover: The 2015 Annual Conference theme is
“From Members to Disciples.”
Logo designed by Cathryn Huff*

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP CHO



May the grace and peace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I welcome all of you to the 233rd session of the Virginia Annual Conference at the Berglund Center (formerly known as the Roanoke Civic Center) in Roanoke, Virginia. I am very excited about our upcoming gathering and looking forward to meeting you again.

The theme for this year's conference is "From Members to Disciples." The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But I wonder if we fully understand the meaning of following Jesus Christ as

His disciples. And another question is whether our churches have road maps to making disciples of Jesus Christ. I pray that during our Annual Conference session we will think about these questions seriously and recommit ourselves to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

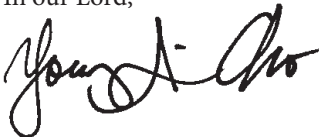
My hope and prayer is that our gathering will be more than a business meeting and will be a blessing to all of us and our churches. I truly want us to be uplifted and renewed by the Holy Spirit and encourage one another through our worship, teaching sessions, holy conferencing, and fellowship.

We invited Bishop Charlene Kammerer for Saturday morning worship and for the service for the Ordering of Ministry and the Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias for two sessions of teaching on the theme of our Annual Conference. Rev. Dr. Young Bong Kim will preach for the Service of Remembrance, and I will preach for the closing service for the Fixing of the Appointments.

The 2015 Annual Conference offering will support our partnerships with Cambodia (3rd year) and UMCOR Global Health Ministries to aid the Ebola-ravaged countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Our offering will also help children out of poverty projects of the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts. Both districts are well below the national and state poverty levels.

This year we will have a very tight schedule because of the election of delegates for the 2016 General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. For the first time, we will use electronic keypad devices for balloting. I hope this process goes well and smoothly. We have worked hard for a thorough preparation for our gathering. But the most important preparation for our Annual Conference is for us to prepare ourselves with prayer. If we prepare for our gathering with prayer that God's will be done in our holy conferencing, great things will happen through the Holy Spirit who renews and leads our churches today. I look forward to greeting all of you in Roanoke,

In our Lord,



Young Jin Cho
Bishop, The Virginia Annual Conference

SPEAKERS

STUDY LEADER



The Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias serves as General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries (formerly the General Board of Discipleship), one of the program agencies of The United Methodist Church. He previously served as senior pastor of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bias has served the denomination in three annual conferences – West Virginia, Illinois Great Rivers and West Ohio – and was the General Board of Discipleship’s director of proclamation evangelism from 1995-1999, where he was instrumental in convening the Large Church Initiative. He also served the general church as a member

of the board of directors for the General Board of Global Ministries from 2004-2012. His ministry has been rural and urban and led him to Russia, West Africa and Appalachia.

A local church pastor for 36 years, Bias is the author of numerous books and articles about faith and the church.

He has also served as director of the Appalachian Local Pastors School, a ministry of Red Bird Missionary Conference in southeastern Kentucky that offers training for local pastors from 18 annual conferences in Appalachia. He has taught preaching, pastoral care, evangelism and theology at the school since it opened in 1991.

A graduate of Marshall University, he received his Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1980 and his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in 1991. He was ordained as an Elder in 1981.

Dr. Bias and his wife, Kim, reside in Franklin, Tennessee, and have two adult children and three granddaughters.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS



Dr. Young Bong Kim is serving in his 10th year as senior pastor of Korean UMC of Greater Washington in McLean. He was born in South Korea to a Methodist family in 1958. After graduating from college majoring in Business Administration, he began his theological study at Methodist Theological Seminary of Korea where he received an M. Div. in 1981. In 1986 he came to the United States to study at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas (S.T.M.). He completed his doctoral study at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and received a Ph. D. in 1993. He moved back to Korea and taught at

Hyup Sung University as a New Testament professor until 2002. After having sabbatical at Drew University in Madison, N.J., as a visiting scholar in 2003, he left seminary and began pastoral ministry. He has written several publications about prayer life, stewardship and commentary, all of which are in Korean. He also contributed a commentary on Philemon to International Bible Commentary (Liturgical Press, 2003). He and his wife, Hyoun Joo, have two children, Minoo and Aerin. Minoo will graduate from Duke this spring and receive his first appointment at this year’s Virginia Annual Conference.

SPEAKERS



Charlene Payne Kammerer was elected to the episcopacy at the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C., in July 1996, the first woman to be elected bishop from the Southeast. She was assigned to the Charlotte Area where she served the Western North Carolina conference for eight years. At the SEJ meeting in July 2004, Bishop Kammerer was assigned to serve the Virginia Conference. She served there eight years, and retired in September 2012.

Born in Orlando, Fla., Charlene spent her growing up years in Winter Garden, where her home church was First United Methodist.

She graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., in 1970 with an A.B. degree in Religion and Philosophy. Wesleyan is the first college in the world chartered for the granting of degrees to women. She obtained Master of Christian Education and Master of Divinity degrees from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. She was ordained Deacon in 1975 and Elder in 1977 in the Florida Annual Conference. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1991 from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She received three Honorary Doctorates from Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, N.C.; and Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.

Bishop Kammerer's service in the church has included equal years in parish ministries and connectional ministries, including service as a campus minister at Duke University and as a District Superintendent of the Tallahassee District, Florida Conference. Her longtime passions in ministry include higher education, mission involvement, the spirituality of administration and justice and peace issues.

Bishop Kammerer served as chairperson of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the relief agency of The United Methodist Church; vice president of the Commission on Religion and Race; president of the General Board of Discipleship; and secretary for the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty. She was a board member of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation, Board of Governors of Wesley Theological Seminary, and God's Renewing Creation Task Force. She was presented the Virginia Council of Churches Faith and Action Award and Lifetime Ecumenist Award. She was recognized as a Social Justice Maker by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

She is married to Leigh Kammerer, a native of Wisconsin, whose career was practiced in addiction counseling. They are the parents of one son, Christopher Hal, and four grandchildren - Christopher, Noelle, Elton and Max.

In retirement, Bishop Kammerer is co-chair of the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference Design Team, and enjoys writing, reading, preaching and practicing the art of being a grandparent.

AGENDA

Virginia Annual Conference

June 19 - 21, 2015

Berglund Center Coliseum

Roanoke, Virginia

Bishop Young Jin Cho, Presiding

“From Members to Disciples”

Friday Morning, June 19

(Registration: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

10:00 a.m.	Clergy Session	Berglund Performing Arts Theatre
10:00 a.m.	Laity Session	Berglund Center Coliseum
11:15 a.m.	Laity Gathering	Berglund Center Coliseum

(Introduction of nominees to General and Jurisdictional conferences)

Friday Afternoon, June 19

2:00 p.m.	Call to Order.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	“And Are We Yet Alive”	
	Opening Prayer.....	Rev. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn
		Ms. Haley Dantzler
	Welcome and Organizing Motions.....	Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster
		(Host District Superintendent)
	Election of	Rev. Susan Reaves
	Assistant Secretaries	
	Editor of the <i>Journal</i>	
	Annual Conference Committees	
	Rules Committee.....	Rev. Stephen Bray
	General/Jurisdictional Ballot.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
		<i>(Other ballots to be taken at designated times and as needed on Friday and Saturday)</i>
	Commission on Status and Role of Women.....	Ms. Shan Sixbey
	Episcopal Address.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Report of Cabinet.....	Rev. Steven Jones
	Minute Questions	
	Recognition of New Faith Communities.....	Rev. Steven Jones
	Approval of Consent Agenda	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Balloting.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Report of Equitable Compensation.....	Mr. Thomas Nealley
	Historical Society Meeting.....	Rev. John T. Martin Jr.
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Friday Evening, June 19

7:30 p.m.	A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion	Dr. Young Bong Kim
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AGENDA

Saturday Morning, June 20 (Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Prayer Room – Parlor A
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith	
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study.....	Rev. Timothy Bias
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee.....	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Laity Address.....	Mr. Warren Harper
	Balloting.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Report of Board of Pensions.....	Mr. Robert G. Sanford, Jr.
	Report of Common Table.....	Mr. Warren Harper
		Rev. Marc Brown
	Discipleship Circles.....	Ms. Cheryl Edley-Worford
		Rev. Larry Davies
	Imagine No Malaria.....	Ms. Maria Maxwell
	Election of Boards and Agencies.....	Mr. Warren Harper
		Rev. Marc Brown
	Consecration of Conference Leadership.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Recognitions	
	Denman Award.....	Ms. Beth Christian
	United Methodist Family Services.....	Mr. Greg Peters
	Association of Educational Institution Presidents	
		Dr. William T. Greer, Jr.
	General Secretary, Board of Church and Society	
		Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe
11:15 a.m.	Worship.....	Bishop Charlene Kammerer
	Annual Conference Offering	
12:00 noon	Recess for Lunch	

Saturday Afternoon, June 20

1:45 p.m.	Singing Our Faith	
2:00 p.m.	Recognition of Retirees	
	Balloting and Resolutions.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Saturday Evening, June 20

7:30 p.m.	A Service for the Ordering of Ministry.....	Bishop Charlene Kammerer
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Sunday Morning, June 21

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Prayer Room – Parlor A
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith	
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study.....	Rev. Timothy Bias
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee.....	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Report of Statistician.....	Mr. David Dommis
	Report of Treasurer.....	Mr. David Dommis
	Report of Council on Finance and Administration (CFA).....	Rev. Steven Summers
	Unfinished Conference Reports and Resolutions	
11:00 a.m.	Worship	
	Distribution of the Appointments Edition of the <i>Advocate</i>	
	Fixing of the Appointments.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho

STANDING RULES

SPEAKING ON A MOTION/MAKING A MOTION

Many motions important to the Annual Conference operation and program are functional and are voted on as a matter of course. Other motions invite much debate. You may find you desire to speak on a motion or even introduce a motion concerning an issue on the agenda.

The proper way to speak on the floor of Annual Conference is as follows:

- ❖ Be recognized by the presiding officer (usually the bishop) by standing at your seat, raising your hand, and holding up the brightly colored half-sheet included in your packet.
- ❖ When recognized, move to the microphone designated by the presiding officer.
- ❖ Give your name, identify your district, and give the name of your local church.
- ❖ If you are making a motion in regard to a report on the floor (being discussed), state the motion with no verbal introduction. State, “If seconded, I would like to speak to it,” and then when seconded give your comments and supportive details.

NOTE: Motions must be written out and turned in to the conference Secretary, even if not passed or seconded.

If you are commenting on a report or motion on the floor (being discussed), then state if you speak in favor or opposition to the motion and make your comments (limit five minutes unless a shorter time has been established).

If you desire to make a motion introducing a new issue or concept that is not part of a report presented to the conference, then you must write a “resolution.” A resolution is a full statement of your motion written legibly, and submitted to the director of Connectional Ministries by the published deadline for publication in the *Book of Reports*, or for urgent resolutions (defined as those which deal with circumstances arising after the *Book of Reports* deadline) at least 14 days before the beginning of Annual Conference. In this case, you will follow steps 1, 2 and 3 when your resolution is brought to the floor by the Committee on Resolutions or board to which it was referred, if you wish to speak on the issue.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS’ ROOM

1. The Parents’ Room is provided at the The Berglund Center Coliseum in the Media Room for parents who need a place to feed or change children while Annual Conference is in session.
2. The Parents’ Room is also provided so that restless children may have a place to nap or play for short periods of time while Annual Conference is in session.
3. The facilities where Annual Conference is held are not equipped for child care, and the Parents’ Room does not meet the high standards of a licensed child care center. It is provided because parents have requested the convenience of a room on site.
4. The Parents’ Room is not staffed. No child is to be left in the Parents’ Room unattended by the parent or the designated babysitter.
5. The Virginia Conference has provided minimal furnishings for the Parents’ Room (playpens, cribs, changing tables, rocking chairs, carpet and water). Parents must provide diapers, baby wipes, bottles and other items, as needed.

STANDING RULES

STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at Its 2014 Session

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

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

I. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

B. MISSION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

C. MEMBERSHIP

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

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within the bounds of the annual conference;

d. the conference president of United Methodist Women;

e. the conference president of United Methodist Men;

f. the conference lay leader;

g. district lay leaders;

h. the president of the conference young adult organization;

i. a member of the conference youth organization;

j. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;

k. the conference secretary of global ministries;

l. the conference director of lay speaking ministries;

m. one young person between the ages of 12 and 17 and one young person between the ages of 18 and 35 from each district, to be selected as set forth in ¶ n. below:

And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the annual conference (¶ 32, *2012 Book of Discipline*) the following, if lay persons:

n. one additional young person between the ages of 12 and 17 and one additional young person between the ages of 18 and 35 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries with nomination(s) for the youth members to be received from the District Council on Youth Ministries and nomination(s) for the young adults to be received from the District Coordinator of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, college chaplain(s) and campus minister(s) if such persons exist in the district;

o. the conference Treasurer;

p. the Chancellor(s) of the annual conference;

q. the Director of Connectional Ministries

r. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;

s. district presidents of United Methodist Men;

t. district presidents of United Methodist Women;

u. the president or chairperson of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Resolutions Committee; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission

STANDING RULES

on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

v. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding annual conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the bishop by September 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.

w. Conference scouting coordinator.

x. All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the *2012 Book of Discipline* in ¶ 602.4.

- 4. Members of Next Succeeding Annual Conference.** By the adoption of Paragraphs 3. d-u, all lay persons holding the positions enumerated in those subparagraphs are elected as lay members of the next succeeding annual conference. In the event of a change in the persons holding a position in ¶ I.C.3. between sessions of the annual conference, the person holding the position at the time of the next succeeding annual conference shall be the member of the annual conference.
- 5. Expenses.** Expenses of attending annual conference shall be born as follows:
- a. By the districts:
 - i. two young persons between the ages of 12 and 17;
 - ii. two young persons between the ages of 18 and 35;
 - iii. the district lay leaders;
 - iv. the district president of the United Methodist Men;
 - v. the district president of the United Methodist Women;
 - vi. additional district members at large;
 - b. By the annual conference:
 - i. the Director of Connectional Ministries
 - ii. the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries;
 - iii. the president of the conference young adult organization;

STANDING RULES

- iv. a member of the conference youth organization;
 - v. the conference Treasurer;
 - vi. the conference Chancellor(s);
 - vii. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
 - viii. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
 - ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee
 - x. the conference scouting coordinator
- c. By annual conference boards or agencies:
- i. the Conference Lay Leader
 - ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
 - iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;
 - iv. the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
 - v. the president or chairperson, of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship, Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; United Methodist Foundation; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions; Inc., Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

6. Right to Floor and Right to Vote. With the exception of provisional members, associate members, and local pastors serving full-time and part-time appointments, those members of the conference listed in ¶¶ I.C.1.,2., and 3. shall be full members of the conference with the right to the floor and the right to vote. Provisional members, associate members, and local pastors serving full-time and part-time appointments have the right to the floor and the right to vote on all matters except the following:

- a. Constitutional amendments.
- b. Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. These shall be the sole responsibility of clergy members in full connection.

For the election of delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional Conference the following clergy are eligible to vote:

- a. Active and retired members (elders and deacons)
- b. Active and retired provisional members
- c. Active and retired associate members

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d. Part-time and full-time local pastors who

1) Have completed the educational requirements (Five-Year Course of Study, equivalency for Five-Year Course of Study based on approval of the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or an M. Div. from an approved seminary). Based on Judicial Council Ruling 1181, Analysis and Rationale, ¶ 8

AND

2) Have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years.

Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote for the election of delegates (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 316.6).

7. **Roll of Conference.** The roll of the conference shall be the official registration signed by the members of the conference.
8. **Privilege of Floor Without Vote.** The following shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: official representatives from other denominations, especially from member churches of Churches Uniting In Christ, invited by the annual conference; missionaries regularly assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries and serving within the bounds of the annual conference; lay missionaries regularly appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries in nations other than the United States and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States serving within the bounds of the annual conference (quoting *2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 602.9).

D. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

1. **The Presiding Officer.** The resident bishop of the conference shall preside at all sessions of the conference but shall have the privilege of appointing a presiding officer to preside in his or her stead in the event of illness or temporary absence from the annual conference floor.
2. **Annual Conference Secretary.** The secretary of the annual conference shall be elected quadrennially by the annual conference upon nominations arising from the floor at annual conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the annual conference, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session.
3. **Assistant Secretaries.** The secretary shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant secretaries who shall be elected by the annual conference to handle properly the work of the annual conference.
4. **Treasurer.** The annual conference treasurer shall be nominated by the Council on Finance and Administration. He or she shall be elected by the annual conference at the first session of the annual conference following the regular General Conference. He or she shall be elected for the quadrennium or until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the Council on Finance and Administration shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.

STANDING RULES

5. **Statistician.** The annual conference statistician shall be elected by the annual conference on nomination by the Cabinet at the annual conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the annual conference, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference.
 6. **Assistant Statisticians.** The annual conference statistician shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant statisticians who shall be elected by the annual conference for the annual conference year.
 7. **Editor of the *Annual Conference Journal*.** The annual conference secretary shall nominate annually the editor of the conference *Journal*, who shall be elected by the annual conference for the next calendar year. He or she shall be responsible for editing and printing the *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference* and shall be amenable to the conference secretary.
 8. **Conference Parliamentarian.** The bishop may appoint a conference parliamentarian whose duty shall be to advise and counsel concerning rules of order and procedure.
- E. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

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

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

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

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- 2. District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** There shall be on each district a Nominations Facilitation Committee composed of the district superintendent as chair; the district lay leader; president of United Methodist Men; president of United Methodist Women; a representative of United Methodist Youth; a college chaplain or a campus minister (applies only to districts with Wesley Foundation or ecumenical campus ministry programs), the district representative to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, plus one to three persons (lay and clergy) elected by the district council on ministries. The committee shall meet on the call of the chair at least twice a year between annual conference and March 1. The committee shall develop and maintain a talent bank of lay and clergy persons from the district who could be qualified nominees for the various boards and agencies of the annual conference. The committee shall prepare a profile on each person nominated and upon having a person nominated to a board or agency of the conference, will provide a copy of that profile, including address and phone number, conference boards or agencies the individual is already serving, and the person's willingness to serve, to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
- 3. Information to Be Furnished to Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** Each board, council, commission and committee of the annual conference shall furnish to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team on a timely basis for the use of the District Nominations Facilitation Committees:

 - a. A summary of its responsibilities and the specific division/committee for which a vacancy exists;
 - b. A list of the gifts and talents desired;
 - c. Length of service expected;
 - d. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g., number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.); and
 - e. Schedule of times and locations of its meetings during the year.

It may also suggest names and profiles to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team through its co-chairs.
- 4. When Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team Should Make Nominations.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall annually or quadrennially, as set forth by Disciplinary provision or Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies, nominate the membership of the boards, councils, commissions, and committees of the annual conference. Nominees for boards and other agencies shall be published in the *Book of Reports*.
- 5. Removal Due to Absences.** Any member of any board, council, commission or committee who is absent from two meetings of such board, council, commission or committee without excuse, or from three consecutive agency meetings for any reason, shall automatically cease to be a member of such board, council, commission or committee. The secretary of each board, council, commission or committee shall notify the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team of vacancies. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the board, council, commission or committee

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until the next annual conference session, at which time the annual conference shall fill the vacancy.

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

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tional or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the Bishop.

13. **Officers of Other Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees.** Officers of other boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be elected by the representative agency at the agency's last regular meeting prior to each annual conference. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor.
14. **Resolutions Committee.** There shall be a Resolutions Committee of five persons elected annually by the annual conference upon nomination by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
15. **Tellers.** For those sessions of the annual conference where there is no election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller, who shall be ineligible to serve again for a quadrennium. It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of two persons, one clergy and one lay, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in the annual conference session, the chief teller shall have the tellers ready to count the vote, having previously trained them to accurately and efficiently perform their duties.

II. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORTS

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

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the conference, shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, for that report.

B. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolutions.** Resolutions to be presented to the annual conference shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the resolution.
- 2. Urgent Resolutions.** Urgent resolutions regarding circumstances arising after the due date for publication of the *Book of Reports* shall be submitted at least 14 days prior to the opening session of annual conference to the Director of Connectional Ministries to be considered emergency resolutions and, if so considered, are to be distributed via all conference e-mail groups and provided in writing to the members of the annual conference at the time of registration.
- 3. Referring Resolutions, Response of Agency, Addressing, and Voting on Resolutions.** The Director of Connectional Ministries shall refer resolutions related to the work of an annual conference agency to that agency for consideration and report at annual conference with that agency's scheduled report, or such other appropriate time as may be determined by the presiding officer or by the vote of the annual conference. The chair of such agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to present the recommendation of the agency to annual conference. The member of annual conference who has signed the resolution shall have a maximum of five minutes to address the resolution. The resolution shall then be subject to floor debate and action. Voting on resolutions will be on the resolution itself, not on a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence by the agency. After floor debate the chair of the conference agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to address the annual conference immediately prior to vote on a resolution. In the event the Director of Connectional Ministries has not referred a resolution to another agency for consideration, it shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee.
- 4. Annual Conference Will Vote on the Action to be Taken in the Resolution.** Persons proposing resolutions may submit documentation, rationale and support with the resolution, but the annual conference will vote only on the resolution, so that the "whereas" or preamble language of a resolution will not become part of the conference minutes or quoted in recitals of conference action.

C. PROPOSALS REQUIRING PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

Proposed annual conference action that includes publication or dissemination of information in the *Virginia Advocate* or other media shall be referred to the Print Media Committee of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., for its consideration and report on the proposed action, including the financial consequences, prior to conference action. The committee may act through its chairperson, the *Advocate* editor, or other representatives to make its report and recommendation.

D. PROPOSALS REQUIRING FUNDING

Proposals or amendments which may require expenditure of funds, which have not been considered by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), shall be referred to CFA for its consideration and recommendation prior to final annual conference action.

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E. CONSENT AGENDA

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

F. PROPOSALS REQUIRING ADDITION TO AGENDA

During the first business session of annual conference, the agenda shall include time to introduce items in addition to the printed agenda. Any such items not referred to conference agencies under the preceding paragraphs shall be referred to the Rules Committee for its consideration and recommendation prior to adjournment of annual conference.

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

A. AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

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

B. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Clergy and lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be elected in a fair and open process (NOTE: to conform to Constitutional Amendment I ¶13) at the session of the annual conference held in the calendar year preceding the session of General Conference.

- 1. Special Sessions.** Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.
- 2. Number of Delegates.** The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.
- 3. Election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates.** The number of General Conference delegates authorized by the secretary of the General

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Conference shall be first elected, followed by balloting on the authorized number of the jurisdictional conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized numbers of the jurisdictional conference delegates have been elected, 10 clergy and 10 lay reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.

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

C. CLERGY NOMINATIONS

1. Eligibility

- a. To be nominated. All clergy members in full connection are eligible to be nominated (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶35), except as provided in *2012 Book of Discipline* ¶355.7.
- b. To vote
 - i. The following clergy are eligible to vote:
 - a) Active and retired members (elders and deacons)
 - b) Active and retired provisional members
 - c) Active and retired associate members
 - d) Part-time and full-time local pastors who
 - 1) Have completed the educational requirements (Five-Year Course of Study, equivalency for Five-Year Course of Study based on approval of the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or an M.Div. from an approved seminary). Based on Judicial Council Ruling 1181, Analysis and Rationale, Paragraph 8

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2) Have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years.

ii. Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote (*2012 Book of Discipline*, ¶316.6).

2. Nomination Process.

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

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

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

Each clergy nomination shall be submitted on a clergy nomination form. Clergy nomination forms will be posted on the conference website in January preceding the annual conference session of delegate elections. The form shall include the names of at least two clergy who are eligible to vote who are making the nomination. Alternatively, any clergy who desires nomination must complete a clergy nomination form. All nominations shall include the nominee's name, picture not to exceed 1^{1/2"} by 2^{1/2"}, address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and a personal statement not to exceed 150 words in which may be indicated the nominee's experience, qualifications, and reasons for wanting to serve. The completed nomination form or facsimile thereof must be returned to the Director of Connectional Ministries no later than March 1 preceding the annual conference session of delegate elections. The deadline is non-negotiable.

b. Clergy Nomination Review Committee. The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the bishop plus one clergy member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee. The committee shall review and compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee. This clergy nomination booklet will be available on the conference website. Printed copies will be available at cost from the office of the Director of Connectional Ministries. An alphabetical listing will be included in the clergy *Book of Reports* packet.

D. LAY NOMINATIONS FROM DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES

1. Lay Nominations. Nominations for lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be made by the lay members of the district conference of each district from names submitted by the District Council on Ministries and/or from names of all persons given by any member of the United Methodist churches of the district to the district superintendent. These names shall be submitted by the superintendent to the district conference. Additional nominations at the district conference

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may be made from the floor, provided that no nomination may be made without the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected. In the event of a tie for the final nominee(s), the nominee(s) shall be selected by lot.

2. **Number of Persons to be Nominated.** Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 members of The United Methodist Church or major fraction thereof in that district, based upon figures reported at the preceding annual conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.
3. **Agency Nominations.** The lay members of the following agencies of the annual conference may also nominate one additional lay delegate: Board of Church and Society; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Laity; Commission on the Status and Role of Women; United Methodist Men; United Methodist Women; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. In addition to the aforementioned nominees, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and the Virginia United Methodist Student Movement each may nominate one delegate.
4. **Church Membership.** All nominees shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their nomination and must be members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. They also must be active members within The United Methodist Church at the time of holding General Conference and jurisdictional conference. The four year participation and two-year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under twenty-five years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.
5. **Nomination Forms.** All nominations shall include the nominee's name, picture not to exceed 1½" x 2½", address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and a personal statement not to exceed 150 words in which the nominee may indicate his or her experience, qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve. The nominations shall be on a form or facsimile thereof furnished by the Director of Connectional Ministries. It is recommended that the nomination forms for persons to be voted upon by the district conference be circulated to the members of the district conference in advance of the district conference at which voting is to take place.

E. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

1. **Membership.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the Bishop plus one member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee.
2. **Function.** Each District Superintendent shall by January 15 of the year of election submit to this committee, in care of the Director of Connectional Ministries, completed forms for all nominees from the district. The committee shall then forward a list of all nominees to the agencies named in ¶ III.D.3. Each agency of the annual conference shall be responsible for forwarding to the committee any completed nomination form no later than March 1. The committee shall review and compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee. This lay nomination booklet will be made available on the conference website. Printed copies will be available at

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cost from the office of the Director of Connectional Ministries. An alphabetical listing will be included in the *Book of Reports*.

- 3. List of Nominees.** The lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms and contained in the materials furnished to each lay member of the annual conference. No additional nominations may be made from the floor, though lay members may cast write-in ballots for persons not included in the list of nominations.

F. BALLOTING PROCEDURES

- 1. Ballots Shall be Counted Electronically.** The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.
- 2. Valid Ballots.** To be valid, a ballot:
 - (a) must be cast on the ballot bearing the number designated by the presiding officer for that particular ballot; and
 - (b) must be voted for the number of delegates to be elected on that ballot, no more and no less.
- 3. Voting Area.** The presiding officer shall designate the area of the annual conference floor in which clergy and lay members shall be seated during the balloting. Ballots shall be cast from only those present and seated within the voting area of the annual conference and displaying the proper credentials.
- 4. Ballot Reporting.** After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the bishop which shall contain (a) number of ballots cast; (b) number of ballots not valid; (c) number of ballots counted; (d) number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each, beginning with the largest number of votes.
- 5. Majority Required for Election.** On every ballot, a majority of the valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of a delegate, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.
- 6. Reading or Distributing Names.** On the first ballot for General Conference, the presiding officer shall read or distribute all names receiving votes with the number of votes cast for each. After the first ballot, the names of three times the number of General Conference delegates remaining to be elected shall be read or distributed, according to the highest number of votes received. In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available position on the General or jurisdictional delegation, a run-off election will be ordered by the bishop to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those in the run-off are open for votes. The names will be read in order of their election. The person with the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate delegation.

When all General Conference delegates have been elected, the same procedure shall be followed for jurisdictional conference delegates.
- 7. Handling of Ballots after Counting and Recording.** Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballot results and deliver them to the annual conference secretary. The annual conference secretary shall retain

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

G. TELLERS

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

H. EXPENSES OF CLERGY AND LAY ALTERNATES

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

I. DELEGATES UNDER THE AGE OF 18

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

IV. NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTION

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

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

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V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

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

- 1. Membership.** All program board and agency members shall be elected for a four-year term by the annual conference. So far as possible, board membership shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and laity. No elected member may serve more than eight consecutive years except as authorized by the *Discipline* or in ¶ I.E.8 of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies. The bishop shall annually appoint for one-year terms at least one district superintendent to each board, agency or commission. Except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, the presiding bishop and the Director of Connectional Ministries are members of all boards, agencies and commissions with vote unless otherwise provided for by the *Book of Discipline*.
- 2. Organization.** The boards shall organize in the several divisions or equivalent structure listed below to carry out their respective functions. Each member of a board shall serve on one division or equivalent structure. There shall be an executive committee of each board whose duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the board. A board may develop such additional structure, including the election of division members at-large, as it deems necessary to discharge its assigned responsibilities, provided, however, that where additional funding is required for such structure, prior approval of the Common Table for Church Vitality shall be obtained by the board. Division members at-large are not members of the board.
- 3. Function.** The conference boards will provide consultative services and resources to the local church, the District Councils on Ministries, the annual conference and the Common Table for Church Vitality. Each board will make program recommendations to the Common Table for Church Vitality, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Common Table for Church Vitality, or by the *Book of Discipline*, and will be related to the objectives and scope of work set forth by its General Board. Each board is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.
 - a. Church and Society.** The Board of Church and Society, in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs on Christian social concern within the bounds of the annual conference. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into committees, which so far as practical shall be patterned after the divisions of the General Board of Church and Society. The total membership shall be 20 (10 lay and 10 clergy).
 - b. Church Development Team.** There shall be a Church Development Team dedicated to working on strategies for and implementation of church development and new faith communities in the annual conference. This team/board will consist of a minimum of 12 and up to 16 persons: six nominated by the bishop and Cabinet, six nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, and up to four additional persons who may be co-opted by the team for expertise and diversity. The

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membership of this team will be placed in four classes to ensure continuity. The team is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

c. Discipleship. The Board of Discipleship in cooperation with the General Board of Discipleship and the Common Table for Church Vitality shall create partnerships by providing a network of experience, knowledge and coaching through intentional connection to enhance or create effective disciple-making processes. These partnerships are created by: (1) coaching at local levels and pulling in identified district and conference resources as needed, (2) training at district or regional levels, (3) drawing on best practices gathered locally, jurisdictionally, nationally and globally, (4) connecting mentor/resource churches with those who request assistance and information, (5) organizing in regional teams, and (6) raising vision, visibility and possibility during annual conference sessions and inviting people to connect with a congregational coach. The Board of Discipleship shall consist of a directing board to set the vision for disciple-making ministries in the annual conference and to support research on best practices, gathered and distributed by a Conference Awareness Team at events and through all other forms of communication.

The Directing Board will consist of the following ten (10) members: three officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) to be elected by the annual conference, the chair of the Best Practices Group, the chair of the Connecting Group, and five (5) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex-officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote.

The Conference Awareness Team will consist of 12 members divided among two working groups: (1) Best Practices Group and (b) Connecting Group. Members of the Conference Awareness team will be nominated from the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) and elected by the annual conference. The two working groups will annually elect a chair/leader from among its members. The chairs will serve as representatives of the two working groups on the Directing Board.

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

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

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

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

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

The Older Adult Council shall have six members elected by the annual conference.

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d. Global Ministries. The Board of Global Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the annual conference. The Conference Director of Justice and Missional Excellence shall serve as the conference secretary of Global Ministries, fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶ 633.3 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into four (4) mission teams: (1) health and relief mission team; (2) mission interpretation team; (3) mission relationship team; and (4) Conference Committee on Mission Personnel. The position of Conference Coordinator of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) shall be appointed by the bishop and shall be an ex-officio member of the Mission Relationship Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

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

e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶ 1405 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set forth in ¶ 634 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*.

Membership: With an effort to maintain a balance of clergy and laity, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries shall have 12 conference-elected members (placed in four classes): a current campus minister, a current Campus Ministry Local Board chairperson, a current local church pastor with passion for campus ministry, a current United Methodist college or university president, a young adult/student, a member with expertise in property management, and six general members (with a preference for expertise in executive leadership, finance, communication, and marketing). The member who has expertise in the area of property management shall also serve as the chairperson of the Conference Board of Property Managers of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. Ex-officio members shall be: the Director of Connectional Ministries, a liaison district superintendent (liaison between the BHECM and the Cabinet), an additional district superintendent, the conference treasurer, and any Virginia Conference member to the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The related conference staff person (the Director of Ministries with Young People) and the Director of the Association of Educational Institutions (AEI) will serve as members with voice but no vote. The term for chairperson shall be four years and terms for members shall also be four years and follow section I E8 of the Conference Rules and Policies. Nominations and election of the chairperson shall follow sections I E11 of the Conference Rules and Policies. The Executive Committee of the BHECM shall consist of the chairperson, the liaison district superintendent, the current campus minister, the member with expertise in property management and three general members.

Organization: The BHECM will meet a minimum of every other month. The Executive Committee will meet as needed. The BHECM will also be responsible for a minimum of one annual meeting for the following: Effectiveness Training Forums

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for Local Campus Ministry Boards, Effectiveness Training Forums for Campus Ministers/Chaplains, and Effectiveness Discussion Forums for district superintendents. The incorporated entities of the board are the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc. The conference board of property managers is a sub-group of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. The Executive Committee of the Board shall function as the board of directors of both the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc.

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

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

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

- 1. Archives and History, Commission on.** There shall be a Commission on Archives and History and a Virginia Conference Historical Society. The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall be as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 641). Members of the annual conference shall be members of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, which will elect 48 members to the commission who will also serve as the directors of the Virginia Conference Historical Society. The officers of the commission and the society shall be the same.
- 2. Assembly Center, Virginia United Methodist.** The members of the board of directors of the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center shall be nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. The board of directors shall have full responsibility for the operation of the conference assembly center directly under the annual conference trustees with a working relationship through the Common Table for Church Vitality for programming purposes.
- 3. Bishops' Foundation.** There shall be a Bishops' Foundation whose purpose is to pro-

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vide training for leadership development of both lay and clergypersons of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit, and whose Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) directors nominated by the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference and elected by the annual conference: five (5) clergy members and four (4) lay members serving for staggered terms of three (3) years after the initial term of 1, 2, and 3 years. The director of Connectional Ministries of the Virginia Conference or his/her designee will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

4. **Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.** There shall be a Board of Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the annual conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated.

a. Function: The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

b. Membership: Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., shall consist of 28 persons, 16 of whom (half lay and half clergy) shall be elected by the annual conference. The 16 members thus elected and ex-officio members shall elect 12 additional members at-large selected with regard to professional expertise, nonprofessional objectivity, and media representation. The ex-officio members shall be the Director of Connectional Ministries, a Cabinet representative, director of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., the conference information systems director, and any member of United Methodist Communications, the General Board of Publications, and any other general board or agency whose purpose or function is included with the purposes and functions of this organization, or their successors, who is a member of a local charge in the Virginia Annual Conference or a clergy member of the Virginia Annual Conference. There shall be a president, vice president and secretary.

c. Organization: There shall be the following committees:

- i. Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the corporation and the chairpersons of the program and standing committees. The president shall act as chair of the executive committee.
- ii. Program Committees are the following: Communication Expertise and Equipping, Technology Expertise and Equipping, Conference Communications Management, Brand Management. Each member of the board shall serve on at least one of these committees.
- iii. Standing Committees. There shall be a Standing Committee on Nominations and Personnel composed of five members of the board who shall be appointed by the president, with the corporation vice president chairing the committee. There shall be a Standing Committee on Finance composed of the president and the vice president and a committee chairperson who shall be appointed by the president. There may be other standing committees as the board shall determine from time to time.
- iv. Special Committees may be appointed by the president from time to time to function on behalf of specific projects or activities of the corporation.

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5. **Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT).** (See ¶ I.E.1. for composition and function of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.)
6. **Disabilities, Commission on.** The commission shall consist of 18 members, half clergy and half lay. Membership shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
7. **Episcopacy, Committee on the.** There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy, the membership and duties of which shall be as prescribed in ¶ 637 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*.
8. **Equitable Compensation, Commission on.** The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergy persons including at least one lay and one clergy from churches of fewer than 200 members who are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. In addition, one district superintendent named by the Cabinet shall be a member. It shall perform the duties assigned to it by the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 625). It shall receive all requests from or on behalf of all pastoral charges for aid to be used solely for clergy support. It shall administer the Equitable Compensation Fund and may employ money from other agencies, including those which may be granted by the Board of Global Ministries, as appropriate in each case, to meet these requests
9. **Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, Commission on.** There shall be a Virginia Conference Commission on Minority Concerns and Advocacy amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The commission will provide for the functions as outlined in the current *Book of Discipline* for the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and Commission on Religion and Race. The basic membership of the commission shall consist of 10 clergy, 10 laypersons, and five members at-large elected upon nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. A minimum of two members shall be youth and young adults between the ages of 12 - 35. The commission will be constituted so that two-thirds of the membership be representative of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be ex-officio members of the commission with both voice and vote. The presidents or chairs of conference caucuses, fellowships, or associations for racial and ethnic constituencies shall be ex-officio members of the commission with voice but not vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
10. **Finance and Administration, Conference Council on.** There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration elected and organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶¶ 611-619), provided that membership of the council shall be composed of five clergy, five lay women, and five lay men nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
11. **Foundation, United Methodist:** There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline*. ¶2513 and pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the annual conference in 1970; eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) trustees shall be elected by the annual conference.

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- 12. Incapacity, Joint Committee on.** There shall be a Joint Committee on Incapacity consisting of two representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry, two representatives from the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., one representative from the Cabinet and one representative of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Their duties shall be as prescribed by the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 652).
- 13. Investigation, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 2703).
- 14. Minutes, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Minutes consisting of seven members nominated by the Cabinet for a term of eight years, provided that the terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and terms of the other three shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. At least three members shall be lay persons and at least three shall be clergy. The chair shall be designated by the Cabinet. The committee shall review the daily minutes of the annual conference proceedings and report at the next session. Within three weeks of the close of the annual conference session, the committee will meet with the conference secretary to review and correct the minutes of proceedings before submitting the same for printing in the conference *Journal*.
- 15. Ordained Ministry.** The Board of Ordained Ministry, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches in preparing and aiding persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ as this has been historically understood by United Methodism. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall perform all the duties and functions as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* and shall be directly amenable to the annual conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 635.1) and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. The annual conference registrar and at least one district superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. At least one person from each district shall be included on the board. If during the course of the quadrennium a district should lose its representation on the board, an additional person shall be elected to the board to ensure representation from each district.
- 16. Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.** This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 639.2a) If no district superintendent is a member of this agency the bishop may name one to represent the Cabinet. He or she shall have voice but not vote. This agency shall perform the duties set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (see ¶ 639). In addition, it shall administer the conference program for participant supplemental benefits including the various insurance programs, shall study on a continuing basis the problems of participant disability, making recommendations relative to these problems as needed, and shall provide for a continuing pastoral ministry to disabled participants.

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- 17. Preachers' Relief Society.** This is an incorporated body with invested trust funds, the income from which is used from time to time for the relief of needy members of the clergy and their families.
- 18. Rules Committee.** There shall be a Rules Committee consisting of nine members elected by the annual conference on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team or from the floor for a term of eight years. The terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be lay and four members shall be clergy. The chancellor(s) of the annual conference shall be ex-officio members of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies between sessions of the annual conference, and make its recommendations to the annual conference. Proposed amendments to the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the annual conference shall be referred to the Rules Committee.
- 19. Site Selection, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one half lay and one half clergy, elected on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the terms of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other class to expire at the end of the next quadrennium. This committee shall make arrangements for the meeting of the annual conference and shall recommend a location for the meeting of the annual conference a minimum of five years in advance.
- 20. Status and Role of Women in the Church, Commission on the.** There shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference. In addition the conference United Methodist Women shall name one member. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote. The majority of the commission, including both lay and clergy, shall be women. The chairperson shall be a woman.
- 21. Trustees, Board of.** There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 members, elected by the annual conference, organized and with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (§§ 2512 2516).

C. TASK FORCES

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

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annual conference. A conference organized task force continuing beyond its first year shall annually request, in its report to annual conference, funding to cover operational costs in the succeeding year.

D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

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

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the *2012 Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 657 and 658).

B. AGENDA

The district superintendent, in consultation with the district lay leader, shall set the agenda for the district conference. The agenda shall include a report from the district committee on ordained ministry. Members of the district conference shall elect the district lay leader (¶659.2) for a term of not less than four years and not more than six years. The district conference shall also elect the committee on the district superintendency (¶668.1,2), the district trustees (¶2517) and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The district committee on ordained ministry (¶665.1) and the district board of church location and building (¶2518) are approved or elected by the annual conference.

C. MEMBERSHIP

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

District officers who are members of the district conference include: the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries or equivalent body, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district

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United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, a representative of the district youth council, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, and family ministries, other district coordinators and directors, five youth members elected by the district youth council and five young adult members elected by the District Council on Ministries (or equivalent body). Special attention shall be given to inclusiveness.

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

District members at-large of the annual conference shall be elected by the lay members of the district conference. Nominations may be made in whatever manner the district determines, but provision shall always be made for nomination from the floor. Districts are encouraged to include members-at-large from non-chartered faith communities being served by clergy with voting rights at annual conference, provided that they meet the provisions of *2012 Book of Discipline* ¶602.4. Election shall be by written ballot, and those nominees receiving the most votes shall be the members at-large, and the rest shall be alternates in order of the votes received up to the number of members at-large and alternates allotted to each district by the annual conference.

E. RECORD OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE

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

VII. RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. RULES THAT APPLY WHEN THE CHAIRPERSON STANDS

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

B. VOTING AREA

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

C. SUFFICIENT SEATS SHALL BE PROVIDED

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

D. VOTERS TO DISPLAY PROPER CREDENTIALS

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

STANDING RULES

E. METHOD OF VOTING

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

F. EXCEPTIONS TO THE NO INTERRUPTION RULE

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

G. LIMITS ON SPEAKING

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

H. HIGH PRIVILEGE

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

I. CALL FOR DIVISION OF ANY QUESTION

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

J. MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITING

For the benefit of the secretary, and for the sake of clarification, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

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

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

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

NAME BADGE COLORS

NAME BADGE COLORS

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

Lay Members

At-Large District Lay Members

District and Conference Lay Leaders

Conference President of United Methodist Men

Conference President of United Methodist Women

Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

Conference Scouting Coordinator

President or equivalent of Conference Young Adult Organization

President of Conference Youth Organization

Chair, Conference College Student Organization

District Youth and Young Adult Members (one of each from each district)

Diaconal Ministers

Retired Diaconal Ministers

Deaconesses (see also ¶1314.5)

Home Missioners

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

FE Elder in Full Connection (¶334.1)

FD Deacon in Full Connection (¶329.2)

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

RM & RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

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

AM Associate Members (¶35 and ¶602.1c)

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

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

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

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

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

NAME BADGE COLORS

- RA Retired Associate Member (§35, §602.1c)
RP Retired Probationary/Provisional Member (§35, §327.2)

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

- FL Full-time Local Pastor (§316.6 and §602.1d)
PL Part-time Local Pastor (§316.6 and §602.1d)

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

- OF Full member of another denomination (§346.2)

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

- FL Full-time Local Pastor (§316.6 and §602.1d)
PL Part-time Local Pastor (§316.6 and §602.1d)

WHITE (voice but no vote)

- AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (§334.5)
RL Retired Local Pastor (§320.5)
OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
RAF Retired Affiliate Member, non-voting (§334.5)

RED (no voice or vote)

- SY Lay Supply
LM Certified Lay Minister
HL Honorable Location (§359)
RHL Retired – Honorable Location (§359.3)
MOD Minister of Another Denomination Serving an Ecumenical Parish in VA
G Official Guest
ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

BROWN (not official)

All others

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective January 1, 2006

I. PURPOSE

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

A. MISSION

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

B. VALUES

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

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

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Common Table provides spiritual leadership for the Conference to carry out the Purpose of this Charter. The Common Table includes the following 13 voting positions and 2 non-voting positions:

A. Voting Members

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

3. Director of Connectional Ministries
4. Cabinet representative assigned by the bishop
5. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy representative (in accordance with ¶643.5)
6. Eight at-large members equally divided between clergy and laity in annual classes, including two young adult/youth representatives, as elected in III

B. Non-voting Members

1. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with ¶634.3)
2. Representative from Council on Finance and Administration assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration

The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table without vote. It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference. Persons representing separately incorporated entities do so solely for the purpose of communication. Separately incorporated entities remain independent, autonomous, incorporated bodies.

III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

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

IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS

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

V. MEETINGS

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

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

VI. OFFICERS

The bishop, conference lay leader and Director of Connectional Ministries will lead the Common Table in interpreting the Conference vision. The Director of Connectional Ministries is the chairperson. The conference lay leader is the vice chairperson. The Secretary of the Annual Conference is the Secretary of the Common Table, without vote.

VII. COMMITTEES

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

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

C. OTHER COMMITTEES

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

VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF

A. The annual conference shall elect annually upon nomination of the bishop, and in consultation with the Common Table's Personnel Committee and the Cabinet, an executive officer to be known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. The responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries shall be, but are not limited, to the following:

1. To serve as the chairperson of the Common Table and co-chairperson, with the Conference Lay Leader, of the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team.
2. To be a communication link between the conference program agencies and Jurisdictional and General Conference program agencies.
3. To facilitate communication among the conference program agencies and the local churches.
4. To serve as a resource person for district programs and the Common Table in the program planning, implementation and evaluation process.
5. To supervise the conference program staff persons.
6. To serve on other conference agencies as determined by the annual conference, and/or by the Common Table.

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

B. Each clergy staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of the Common Table with the request that the bishop would appoint him or her. Each lay staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of Common Table and employed by the Common Table. Nominations for staff members shall be presented to the Common Table after consultation with the appropriate boards and agencies.

C. The Director of United Methodist Communications shall carry out the policies and program of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and shall cooperate with all agencies of the conference in the use of the media to disseminate news that promotes the diverse work of the Church's life.

D. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table and all of the boards and agencies in direct support of their work and shall oversee the financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the Director of Connectional Ministries.

E. All conference program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the administration and direction of the program staff.

F. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.

IX. FINANCES

The Common Table shall present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration to cover the expenses for the work of the Common Table and the boards and agencies, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups for which it is responsible. The right of the annual conference boards and agencies to be heard by the Council on Finance and Administration shall not be denied, as provided by ¶614 the *2012 Book of Discipline*.

X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

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

- Board of Church and Society
- Board of Communications
- Board of Discipleship
- Board of Global Ministries
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

- Board of Laity
- Church Development Team
- Commission on Disabilities
- Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
- Commission on Status and Role of Women

Other Attendees

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

The Director of Connectional Ministries shall chair these meetings.

XI. AMENDMENTS

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

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

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

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

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

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Committee on Resolutions

N.L. Bishop
Lynda Moore
Mochel Morris, Chair
Craig Newman
Linda Porter

Committee on Memoirs

Debra Lucas, Chair
Doug Hill
Roy White
Elizabeth Wright
Ed Wright

Tellers

Paul Song, Chief Clergy Teller
Rachel Miller, Chief Lay Teller
Lindsey Baynham, Assistant Chief Clergy Teller
Austin Wheeling, Assistant Chief Lay Teller

	Clergy:	Lay:
Alexandria District	Charlie Stribula Meghan Clayton Andrew Hudgins Marti Rigenbach	Matt Motley Linda Wright Amy Miller Tod Rigenbach
Arlington District	Justin White Matt Sergeant Keith Lee Allie Rosner –Bass	Ted Black James Harrington William McKenney Geitra Mickelson
Charlottesville District	Jeffrey Smith Jessie Colwell George Gorman Debbie Powell	Sue Lewis Mary Jeffries David Bean Julie Nitzche
Danville District	Tammy Franklin Kameron Wilds Steve Weedling Jon Woodburn	Lori Segovia Beth Bauman Dwain Severs Darlene Isom
Eastern Shore District	Paul Oh Carl Perez Janet Allen Brenda Laws	Michelle Surran Katrina Perez Gloria Handy Connie Kershner

COMMITTEES

Elizabeth River District	Benson McGlone Fred Brockhausen Ned Alderman Brandon Gilmore	Gary Denette Donna Denette Albert Weal Michael Monge
Farmville District	June Carpenter Russell Cheatham Kent Wise Seung Ha Yoo-Hess	Susie Wolf Rosa Thomas Jeff Postans Gary Lied
Fredericksburg District	Mike Reaves Robb Almy Robin BeMiller Moses Min	Adam Jenkins Kay Wright Marian Lynch Dan Dietze
Harrisonburg District	Ed Wilkins Kay B. Gentry James A. Harris Steve McMillion	Tom DeVore Paul McFarland Dale Dodrill Phyllis Todd
James River District	Michael Baugham James Carey, Jr. Joseph T. Carson, III Nancy Palmer	Marie Hawks Janae House Kathy Lee Barbara Pittman
Lynchburg District	Jeane Dunkum Patrick Pillow Byungcul Sung Mark Tucker	Grace Dean Joyce Duncan Teresa Watson Willie Weigand
Richmond District	Pam Culler Denise Watkins Larry Cochran Debra Lucas	Tracy Garner Bill Chaffin Tom Wagstaff Donna Patterson
Roanoke District	Bill Logan Bobbie Henley Ray Sandifer Doug Mitchell	Mike Sanborn LeRoy Worley Rhonda Rogers Warner Bonderman
Staunton District	Bill Bearden Michael Pettry James Smith Vivian Utz	Joyce Emerson Libby Mynes Elizabeth Keyser Ellen DeLong
Winchester District	Carl Chapman Aaron Fitch Linda Lowe Sherry Waddell	Katie Chapman Kathy Lutman Nathan Everett Scott Garber
York River District	Robert Haley Michael Nelson Hyung Il Moon Rebecca Gwaltney	Kathy Fisher Warren Wright Nancy Ransome Allen Langford

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee welcomed new lay member Mary L. Brett Wright and new clergy member Joshua King. With 2015 being an election year for general and jurisdictional conference delegates, the committee spent a great deal of time reviewing the nomination and election process, particularly with reference to the hand-held electronic voting devices and their distribution. Our technical advisors tell us that it will be necessary for clergy and laity to sit in separate sections for voting purposes with electronic devices. It was discovered that we had not made provision for write-in votes for lay delegates as allowed in our rules (III.E.3) and further that according to Judicial Council Decision 1181, persons elected to full membership in the clergy session are eligible for *immediate* election to General Conference. To address these issues, the Rules Committee is proposing that write-in votes for clergy and laity be allowed on the first ballot **only**. Anyone wishing to vote for a write-in candidate would use a paper ballot. All additional nominees would then be assigned a number and subsequent ballots would proceed electronically. In accordance with a constitutional amendment in the 2012 *Discipline*, the committee is proposing a change to III.B. to allow for election of General Conference and jurisdictional conference delegates up to two years preceding General Conference.

Several editorial changes to the Rules were discussed and approved. In the Common Table Charter, the recommendation to delete the last sentence in the Non-voting Members section (II.B.) that was included in last year's report was inadvertently omitted, and is included here. At the request of the Common Table it was also agreed to move the chair of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (II.B.1) from non-voting to voting member status (II.A.6). Upon recommendation of the Commission on Disabilities, the committee voted to substitute "*intellectual* disabilities" for "*mental* disabilities" in V.B.6. Changes to the Name Badge Colors at the end of the rules are suggested to make it easier for tellers to determine clergy voter eligibility.

With regard to the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, the committee questioned continuing its listing as an administrative agency under V.B.2. and continued election of its officers by the annual conference in light of the conveying of the deed from the conference Trustees to the Blackstone Board of Directors in 2011. Concern was raised by the conference chancellor about liability issues, but at the recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration the committee is recommending no changes to the Rules.

The committee received recommendations from the Conference Board of Global Ministries for restructuring that board (V.A.4.d.). Under suggested changes the name of the board would change to the Conference Missional Ministries Board, and the number of mission teams would be reduced from four to two with new names: "Missional Discipleship and Engagement" and "Missional Connection." The committee recommends these changes.

Finally, the committee addressed the resolutions process in the Rules (II.B.) as requested two years ago, to see if it could be shortened in order to permit all resolutions to be addressed by the annual conference. The committee recommends requiring that the submitter of a resolution be a member of the annual conference (II.B.1.), shortening the presenter time from five minutes to three minutes, and restricting debate to two speakers for and two speakers against with a two-minute limit for each speaker. Speeches by outside experts would require permission of the bishop and a suspension of the rules. Individuals would be allowed to speak only once on a resolution, unless speaking to an amendment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended changes to the Standing Rules are:

II.B.1. RESOLUTIONS. In the second sentence replace the period with a semicolon after resolution and add “submitter(s) must be a member of the annual conference.”

II.B.3. REFERRING RESOLUTIONS, RESPONSE OF AGENCY, ADDRESSING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS. In the third sentence replace “five” with “three.” Insert the following sentences after the fourth sentence: “Two speeches for concurrence and two speeches for non-concurrence shall be permitted with a time limit for each speaker of two minutes. If an outside expert is present and desires to speak, the bishop is the only authorized entity to grant permission with a suspension of the rules. The expert shall be considered as one of two speakers in concurrence or non-concurrence of the resolution. Once a member has spoken, the member may not speak again in consideration of the said resolution, unless speaking to an amendment.”

III.B. ELECTION PROCEDURES. Delete the parentheses and wording therein. After held delete “in the calendar year” and replace with “not more than two years.”

III.F.1. BALLOTS SHALL BE COUNTED ELECTRONICALLY. Add the following sentence: “On the first ballot lay and clergy members may cast write-in votes for those eligible for election by using a paper ballot.”

V.A.4.D. GLOBAL MINISTRIES. Replace “Global Ministries” with “Missional Ministries.” In the first sentence replace “Board of Global Ministries” with “Missional Ministries Board.” In the second sentence capitalize Conference Secretary and after Ministries add “(CSGM)”. In the third sentence change “four (4)” to “two (2)”; replace “health and relief mission team” with “Missional Discipleship and Engagement; and”; after (2) replace “mission Interpretation team” with “Missional Connection” and strike the rest of the sentence, so that the third sentence reads: “To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into two (2) mission teams: (1) Missional Discipleship and Engagement and (2) Missional Connection.” In the fourth sentence replace “Missional Relationship” with “Missional Connection” and “Board of Global Ministries” with “Missional Ministries Board,” adding “as outlined in paragraph 633.2 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*.”

V.B.6. DISABILITIES, COMMISSION ON. In the second sentence substitute “intellectual” for “mental.”

NAME BADGE COLORS

Change second “White” category to “White with Yellow Sticker”

Change third “White” category to “Salmon.”

Change fourth “White” to “Gray.”

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

II.B. Non-voting Members. Delete the last paragraph.

II.B.1. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. Move this section to II.A. 6. And renumber.

The Rev. Stephen G. Bray, Chair

CABINET

The Virginia Conference Cabinet, under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Cho, seeks to equip local churches and clergy in their ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. At this Annual Conference, we will have welcomed ten new Superintendents in the past three years. This change has been seen and felt as the Cabinet has sought new ways of doing its work – all with the goal of strengthening churches; recognizing and seeking fruitfulness; and enabling clergy to be transformational leaders.

In the individual Districts, there are many signs of this transformation and fruitfulness. We praise God for each sign of God's Kingdom:

The **Alexandria District** is celebrating its 75th year by embracing three emphases from Bishop Schnase's *Seven Levers*. Clergy peer learning groups have been launched to enhance clergy effectiveness and support; new church plants are being nurtured and planned for the future; revitalizing existing churches through coaching groups and congregational consultations. Almost half of our churches have committed as prayer covenant congregations (23 of 53).

The **Arlington District** sought to come alongside local churches in making disciples in three exciting ways: there has been one new church start began July, 2014 and two more will begin in 2015. Nine healthy churches engaged in a "good to great" initiative by participating in group coaching for greater fruitfulness. Finally, there have been three plateaued churches who are participating in a process of "discovering the possibilities" for the future.

In the **Charlottesville District**, work has continued towards raising funds for the Heart Havens apartment complex; many churches are supporting this endeavor. The Wesley Foundation at UVA is in the process of raising \$1.5 million for a capital campaign; this ministry celebrates 50 years of ministry in their building this year!

The **Danville District** mission strategy is being directed by the newly created Discipleship Resource Team, which will help congregations assess their function in forming disciples for the Church's mission. Teams will be created to meet with local churches to help them understand economic realities of the region so that they can, in turn, develop faithful ministry with the most vulnerable members of their communities. The particular mission focus of the District will continue to be on children living in poverty.

Congregations on the **Elizabeth River District** are working hard to raise monies for Imagine No Malaria. Hickory church raised over \$2,500 to save lives plus they were able to "Slime" their pastor. It's all about saving lives!

On the **Eastern Shore**, a basketball tournament for Imagine No Malaria culminated in a championship game at District Conference with conference missionaries Kip & Nancy Robinson serving as speakers and cheerleaders. Una Familia, an after school program working with Latino children, opened in two new sites at Adams and Onley. And at Camp Occohannock on the Bay a summer of new programs with a new camp director, Michael Henry, created excitement for the camp's future.

In the **Farmville District**, the Average Worship Attendance has increased for the second year in a row. 42 (39%) of the District's churches have signed the Bishop's Prayer

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Covenant. The District Conference set a Farmville INM goal to save 4,156 lives (\$41,560) by annual conference; by early March, 1,690 lives (\$16,907) have been saved - or 41% of the goal!

The **Fredericksburg District** continues to live into a four foci vision of a) Unity, b) Equipping Laity c) Leadership development, and d) Reaching God's people near and far. Strengthening spiritual and relational unity is an ongoing challenge, but the District is bridging the geographic distances of congregations that are spread over twelve counties and the city of Fredericksburg. In its four years of existence, the district has placed a premium on presenting Leadership development and Equipping opportunities. Finally, great effectiveness is being achieved in mission and outreach ministries through an El Salvador Methodist Conference partnership and the Heartwood Community Center ministries.

To accomplish the vision of "Disciples Making Disciples," the **James River District** has restructured around two purposes: 1) Revitalize existing churches and 2) form new faith communities. Seven geographical branches have been formed for the purposes of pastoral collegiality, a local mission, Discipleship Circles and training events. Last year, a new initiative was launched, "Ten Brave Churches," in which ten churches are invited each year to enter a process moving toward renewal. A series of "Small Church Rallies" has begun with the goal of supporting and reviving small churches. Two new faith communities have been started: one is in a restaurant sponsored by Highland UMC in Colonial Heights, and the other is a collaboration of the Virginia State University Campus Ministry and Ettrick UMC!

The **Harrisonburg District** has had an amazing year. The District Office moved into a new office suite in April 2014; a new District Parsonage was purchased and the old Parsonage was sold; and the new Harrisonburg District Mission Center opened in April. The Mission Center is located at Cedar Grove UMC and will begin as a Children's Clothing Center; plans are to add an Adult Clothing and later a massive Food Pantry!

The **Lynchburg District** made a significant investment toward fighting poverty by building Park View Community Mission; this ministry provides two weeks' worth of groceries to over 700 families every month, and now houses many other significant ministries providing aid. Lent and Easter worship was dedicated toward "Mission Saturation", where significant donations went toward "Imagine No Malaria", Park View Community Mission, and many local ministries.

In the **Richmond District**, the District Conference and Leadership Training Event in January reached a new high of 375 leaders registered for this day of equipping and resourcing. District churches graciously hosted a number of events for the entire Conference: especially in serving as the central site for the Day of Holy Conversation. The ministry of Shalom Farms continues to be celebrated and supported; it is now recognized in local, state and national media as a model ministry of engaging volunteers in learning and working to address food security issues.

In the **Roanoke District**, Celebration was key: the 50th Anniversary of the Hermitage in Roanoke; the 25th Anniversary of the Community Outreach Program; and the 3rd graduating class of the "Bridges Out of Poverty Program" were all recognized and celebrated! Leadership Development included 15 churches/charges participating in "How to Reach New People"; on-district Lay Servant Training; an inaugural Clergy Summit; and

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hosting satellite sites of the 5-Talent Academy and the Day of Holy Conversation. Mission and Justice engagement took place through VIM opportunities at Alta Mons, in West Virginia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala; as well as the VT-Wesley led Roanoke District Youth Mission Weekend and the District Conference Stop Hunger Now event.

Staying focused on the transforming power of Prayer, the churches of the **Staunton District** continue to develop prayerful teams to envision and en flesh new ministries in Christ's name. In the past year, the District has begun six regional Peer Learning Groups to build relationships between clergy and equip them to lead their charges more effectively; seen the expansion of *People United in Christ*, the new Mission Community in Buena Vista; and had six churches undertake *Reaching New People* Coaching with Paul Nickerson. During the coming Charge Conference season, each church will share "the story of a transformed life" from the past year, and the DS will report on his 45-mile kayak trek down the District's western front to raise funds for *Imagine No Malaria*.

In October the **Winchester District** gathered at the Clark County Fairgrounds for a day of mission activity and worship. Fifty thousand Stop Hunger Now meals were prepared, 100 flood buckets assembled with sacramental worship led by Rev. Amanda Garber. The third year of a four year commitment to La Gonave, Haiti was completed with 4 UMVIM teams participating. *Imagine No Malaria* has taken root in the Winchester District and continues to save many lives.

The **York River District** has celebrated God's faithfulness in the midst of challenges; the District has continued partnering with the churches and agencies to faithfully live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To strengthen mission and ministry, the District Ministry Excellence Team has provided several trainings and workshops: trainings on S/PPRC, Lay Leader, Church Council and Finance; and workshops on centering prayer and healing prayer. The District Board of Missions has granted over \$80,000 to support 25 projects this year. Through the "How to Reach New People" workshop and coaching program, led by Jim Griffith and his ministry team, churches continue to be invited to reach out to make new disciples of Jesus in moving forward with God.

The Superintendents are grateful to the members of the extended Cabinet, the Rev. Marc Brown, David Dommissiee, Warren Harper, the Rev. Meredith McNabb, and the Rev. Mark Ogren for the many ways that they support our ministry of superintending. We join in welcoming the Rev. Dr. Peter Moon who becomes a part of the Cabinet team at this Conference.

Finally, this Dean would look back at two appointments totaling twelve years in serving at the Cabinet Table, and would thank his 54 colleagues and 3 Bishops for their faithfulness, patience, encouragement, forgiveness, laughter and love. The Virginia Conference Cabinet continues to be a place of grace for all who share in this unique ministry. Thanks be to God!

*The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jones
Dean of the Cabinet*

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The Equitable Compensation Commission continues to provide financial aid to those churches requiring supplementation to strengthen their ministries in the communities in which they are located and to provide minimum salary or salary supplementation for the pastors. Equitable Compensation support in the amount of \$325,060 was provided to 44 charges in 2014. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2014 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the Journal.

There were 15 charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in 2014 that will not require assistance in 2015. These are Arlington UMC (Arlington), New Hope – Callaway Coop (Danville), Oyler’s Chapel-Rehoboth Cooperative Parrish (Danville), Heritage UMC (Elizabeth River), Eastland UMC (Fredericksburg District), Northumberland Charge (Fredericksburg), Blandford UMC (James River), Brunswick UMC (James River), Philadelphia Charge (James River), Forest Road UMC (Lynchburg), Peakview Charge (Lynchburg), Smith Mountain Charge (Lynchburg), Mt Olivet UMC (Roanoke), Wesley Memorial UMC (Roanoke), and Christ UMC (Staunton). These charges and their superintendents are commended for their success in providing a ministry in the communities they serve that has enabled them to grow spiritually in their stewardship.

District Superintendents and charges setting salaries for 2016 that may require supplementation are advised that the “floor” must come from sources other than the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) for 2016 is \$62,456 which is a decrease of 0.1% percent from 2015. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2016 and recommends the changes as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2016 be \$500,000.
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2016 proposed to be:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Current</u>
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$41,000	\$40,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$37,500	\$36,500
c. Local Pastors	\$35,000	\$34,000
3. The Floor Schedule for 2016 proposed no change to be:		
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$28,000	\$28,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$25,600	\$25,600
c. Local Pastors	\$24,000	\$24,000

The financial results 2012-2014 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided on the next page:

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EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year Ending 2012	Year Ending 2013	Year Ending 2014
Apportioned	550,000	550,000	500,000
Uncollected Apportionment	56,355	58,798	56,252
Apportionment Income	493,645	491,202	443,748
<i>Percent Collected</i>	89.8%	89.3%	88.7%
Grants	442,445	425,721	325,061
Meeting Expense & Other	383	449	1,727
Total Expenses	442,829	426,170	326,788
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	50,817	65,031	116,960

Tom Nealley, Chair

CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fall 2014 issue of *HERITAGE*, the journal of the Conference Historical Society, contains articles on early church plantings, race relations, and mission initiatives, all of which remind 2015 readers that we stand in a continuum which, through the efforts of the saints preceding us, has brought us to this point and will guide those persons who follow us. At the 2014 SEJ Historical Society annual meeting, longtime Virginia Conference archivist and *HERITAGE* editor Patti B. Russell was awarded the denomination's Ministry of Memory recognition, illustrating the impact which one dedicated servant may have. Looking forward, the Reverend John T. Martin, Jr., has been elected to the presidency of the Conference Historical society, following his service as president of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation.

The following persons are presented to the Annual Conference for election as clergy and lay trustees of the Conference Historical Society for 2015-2016. CLERGY, Paul A. Beighley, Stephen E. Bradley, Michael H. Browder, Carlton D. Casey, Robert T. Casey, Alexis S. Fathbruckner, William R. Freeman, Daniel L. Garrett, Myrtle F. Hatcher, H. Hasbrouck Hughes, James M. John, John T. Martin, Jr., Reginald H. Potts, III., Karen J. Sandoval, Lee B. Sheaffer, Theodore Smith, Carl O. Stewart, Elizabeth W. Taylor, James Tongue, Kenneth S. Waclo, Roy P. White, J. Brooke Willson, Elizabeth A. S. Wright, and Gary A. Ziegler. LAY, Marcella Bullock, Neill M. Caldwell, Thelma Crowder, Jesse H. Fanshaw III., Clarence R. Geier, Queen Green, Margaret Kidd, Mark Leep, Audrey Lewis, L. Boyd Lucas, Myra P. Lindsey, Stephen S. Mansfield, Harold McKee, Margaret Mock, Catherine D. Morgan, Brenda NeSmith, William A. Olson, Laurie Preston, Leona Salter, Ann P. Shappell, William Stead, Frank Vetting, James Wall, Charles E. Williams.

Stephen S. Mansfield, President

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The Old Stone Church Foundation

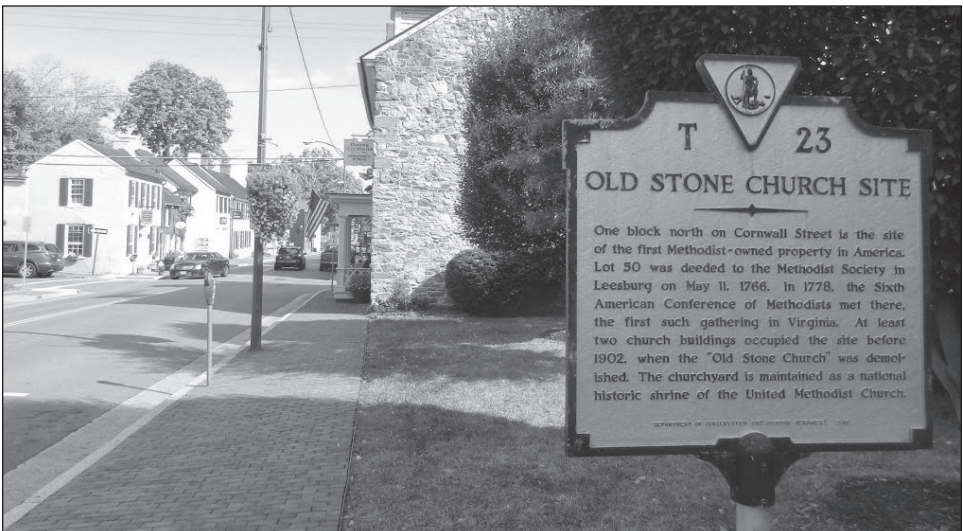
The Old Stone Church Foundation is responsible for the care and preservation of Methodism's Old Stone Church site in Leesburg, the first Methodist-owned property in America. Members of the Foundation help support this mission. We are grateful for those who maintain their membership in the Old Stone Church Foundation year after year. Our Brick Prayer Garden is continuing to grow. Individuals and churches can purchase bricks to add to the garden. Phase II of the Brick Prayer Garden was dedication on the Old Stone Church site in May, 2013. The Annual Meeting was held on The Old Stone Church Site on Sept. 6, 2014. Board members elected were: Charles Williams, Lou Legard, Shirlita West, John Creamer, Dennis Hanrahan, Dr. Michael Browder, James Roberts and myself. The next Annual Meeting for the Foundation will be held the second week in September (date and time TBD) in Leesburg, VA. Membership in the Old Stone Church Foundation is open to all who share its purposes and who make tax-deductible contributions for the care and preservation of the Old Stone Church site.

Ralph Carver, President

William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1996 to protect and preserve the small Adams-Wren-Watters Cemetery in McLean, Virginia where William Watters, the first American born itinerant Methodist Minister, and his wife are buried. The cemetery, a circular plot 90 feet in diameter and one-quarter acre in area is located at 6430 Linway Terrace (off Old Dominion Drive) McLean, Virginia. It has been registered as the United Methodist Historical Site #7 since 1970. For additional information write The William Watters Foundation, PO Box 6144, McLean, Virginia 22106-6144.

E. Jean Balcom, President



VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

Section I: Reports

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

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

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

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

VUMPI Plans

Health
Prescription
Dental
Supplemental Life
Voluntary Life
Long Term Care
Healthcare Flexible Spending Account
Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

GBOPHB Plans

Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82)
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)
Clergy Retirement Security Program –
Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB)
Clergy Retirement Security Program –
Defined Contribution (CRSP-DC)
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan
(UMPIP)
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Report 2: Conference-sponsored Health Plan for Medicare-Eligible Retirees

Retired clergy of the Virginia Conference who are eligible for Medicare and meet certain other eligibility requirements based on total years of full time ministry in the Conference currently have access to a health plan that consists of a Medicare Supplement policy and a prescription drug plan. A variety of factors, including improvements in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program and changes in the tax treatment of components within the current program structure, along with opportunities to offer greater retiree choice while pursuing more advantageous risk pooling, has led VUMPI to recommend a change in the Conference-sponsored health plan for Medicare-eligible retirees.

As is detailed in **Recommendation 3**, VUMPI is recommending the Conference’s adoption of a hybrid retiree medical health plan beginning January 1, 2016. Under the

hybrid structure of the program, there will be two options, as follows:

- The “group plan” option, which is a medical and prescription drug program designed to closely match the current plan offered to Medicare-eligible retirees
- The “Connector” option, which will provide access to a range of medical and prescription drug plans, with funds offered to qualifying retirees through a Retiree Reimbursement Account

VUMPI has worked closely with its consultants and advisors to design this program in a way that preserves retiree value, while enhancing the flexibility and choice available to retirees. More detail describing the structure and financing of the recommended health plan for Medicare-eligible retirees is included in Recommendation 3.

Report 3: Conference Wellness Programs

Since 2008, wellness initiatives in the Virginia Conference have been developed and administered by Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries (VCWM). Those initiatives include an incentive program which enables enrollees in the Conference-sponsored health plans to qualify for a premium reduction by participating in certain wellness-focused activities. VCWM has also worked closely with vendors such as Health Advocate to build a comprehensive advocacy and engagement program for the benefit of Virginia Conference clergy and their families. Input from plan participants demonstrates that the programs administered by VCWM have been effective and extremely well received by many who have engaged with them.

After discussions with Conference leadership, the VCWM Board of Directors and the VUMPI Board of Directors, administration of the Conference wellness programs will be moved from VCWM to VUMPI effective July 1, 2015. VUMPI intends to maintain the current incentive program and the partnership with Health Advocate for the near term, while also exploring other opportunities to promote and support wellness-focused activities within the Virginia Conference.

VUMPI is extremely grateful to the VCWM Board of Directors for all that they have done in support of wellness within the Conference, and is especially thankful to the Rev. Charlie Reynolds, who has led VCWM as its Executive Director since its creation.

Report 4: VUMPI Financial Reserve Strategy

The health benefit plans administered by VUMPI for the benefit of active clergy in the Virginia Conference are self-funded health plans. Because VUMPI assumes the financial liability associated with payment of medical claims under the terms of those plans, VUMPI maintains a financial reserve recognizing the potential for claims which exceed the funding made available through apportionments and participant contributions. VUMPI’s financial reserve also supports the projected financial liability associated with the health plan made available to retired Virginia Conference clergy, as well as pension funding and other financial obligations.

In 2014, the VUMPI Board of Directors approved a financial reserve strategy that is primarily intended to mitigate the burden of clergy benefits apportionments on Virginia Conference churches. Under the terms of the strategy, the VUMPI Board of Directors identified a portion of VUMPI’s financial reserve that has been dedicated to partial

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reduction of the Pre-82 pension apportionment. For each year from 2015 through 2021, VUMPI has committed \$420,000 from its financial reserve toward reduction of the Pre-82 pension apportionment. In total, the amount already committed toward the Pre-82 pension funding strategy exceeds \$2.9 million.

Due to favorable investment market returns in 2014, the VUMPI Board of Directors has committed additional reserve funds under this strategy. An additional \$435,000 per year for each year from 2016 through 2021 has been committed toward offset of the Pre-82 apportionment, bringing the total commitment of funds under the reserve strategy to nearly \$5.6 million.

Report 5: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by the GBOPHB, the DAC is projected to increase from 2015 to 2016, as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2015	\$66,259
2016	\$67,333

Report 6: Pension Plan Structure

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

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

The GBOPHB refers to plans A – C above as defined benefit (“DB”) pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement. Hence, the term “defined benefit.” Defined benefit plans do not maintain participant account balances since the employer, or in our case, the GBOPHB, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

Simultaneous to the GBOPHB calculating each participant’s defined benefit, it calculates each annual conference’s cost to provide these defined benefits. The GBOPHB bills each annual conference the amount due. Each annual conference, or in our case,

VUMPI, then in-turn bills and apportioned our local churches for the cost of these plans.

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

Report 7: Welfare Plans Structure

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

- For Clergy disabled on or after Jan. 1, 2002, the 2015 CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC.
- For Clergy disabled prior to Jan. 1, 2002, they will continue to receive the same CPP disability benefit and conference disability supplement per the plan document in-force at the time their disability claim originated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plan Provision	Clergy Who Retired Before Jan. 1, 2013	Clergy Who Retire Jan. 1, 2013 or Later
Death of retired participant	30% of DAC in the year of death	\$20,000
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in the year of death	\$15,000
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in the year of death	\$10,000
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in the year of death	\$8,000
Annual surviving child benefit, payable in 12 monthly installments	10% of DAC	10% of DAC
Annual surviving child educational benefit, payable in installments	20% of DAC	20% of DAC

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

In combination, the CPP and Conference Supplemental Death Benefit provide total death benefits as follows:

- \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants
- 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 (or \$25,000 for those retiring January 1, 2013 or later) to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants.

Gift Benefit

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

Section II: Recommendation for Annual Conference Approval

Recommendation 1: 2016 Pension and Health Plan Apportionment Recommendations

For 2016, VUMPI recommends a total Clergy Benefit Apportionment of \$16,770,000. This total includes funding for the Pre-82 pension, the Active Clergy Health Plan (which includes health care coverage for eligible clergy on medical leave and widowed spouses of active clergy) and the Retired Clergy Health Plan. The apportionment total is allocated among these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2016

Active Clergy Health	\$	9,710,000
Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000
Pension Liability Assessment – Pre-82		1,000,000
<hr/>		
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments	\$	16,770,000

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

VUMPI will continue to bill Conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministries) in 2016. The amount billed will be \$11,671 for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 4: 2016 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

The Pension Liability Assessment associated with the Pre-1982 pension program is calculated by the General Board of Pension, and is partially based on the projected funding liability that VUMPI is required to meet in 2016. Changes in each year's assessment are driven by multiple factors, including actual and projected investment earnings on pension assets held on behalf of the Virginia Conference at the General Board of Pension. For 2016, the projected funding liability was favorably impacted by positive investment market returns which increased the value of existing Pre-82 assets. Furthermore, VUMPI's financial reserve strategy, under which a portion of VUMPI's reserve is being deployed to mitigate the required Pre-82 pension over the remaining Pre-82 funding period, led to a somewhat lower funding requirement than in 2015. Based on input from multiple entities, including the Virginia Conference Council on Finance &

Administration, the recommended Pre-82 pension apportionment in 2016 is \$1 million. This amount is estimated to approximate the expected annual funding obligation through 2021, at which point all Conferences are expected to have attained a fully funded status in the Pre-82 pension program. Accordingly, rather than recommending an apportionment amount that is temporarily low, with an expectation of potentially significant volatility in subsequent years, the recommended 2016 Pre-82 apportionment is intended to meet the long term funding obligation while minimizing volatility in future apportionments.

Recommendation 2: 2016 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate

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

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

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR each year. For 2016, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$562 to \$563.

Recommendation 3: Retiree Medical Program for Medicare-Eligible Retired Clergy

Currently, retired clergy of the Virginia Conference who are eligible for Medicare and have a sufficient number of years of full time service in the Virginia Conference are eligible for a Medicare Supplement insurance plan through the Hartford and a prescription drug benefit program through Anthem. VUMPI has worked closely with its consultants and advisors, and is recommending a change in the structure of the retiree medical program for Medicare-eligible retired clergy beginning in 2016.

Under the recommended structure, retirees will continue to have access to a medical plan and prescription drug plan that provides benefits which are very similar to the current plan. This new plan, which is referred to as the "group plan," will be insured by United Healthcare. Eligible retirees who enroll in the plan will pay a monthly contribution, set by VUMPI and approved by the Virginia Conference, just as is the case with the current plan. The expectation is that retirees who enroll in the group plan will see very few differences from the current plan's coverage design. Because of a more advantageous financial structure, however, VUMPI is able to recommend participant contributions which are somewhat lower for retired clergy with fewer years of service.

While all clergy with at least ten years of full time service immediately prior to retirement in the Virginia Conference will continue to be eligible for the group plan, clergy with at least 20 years of full time Virginia Conference service will be offered a second option for retiree medical coverage. This option, which is referred to as the "Connector" option, will enable Medicare-eligible retirees to select any Medicare Supplement plan or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. The Conference will provide funding through a Retiree Reimbursement Account ("RRA"), and those funds can be used to partially or fully offset the cost of the coverage elected through the Connector. United Healthcare personnel will provide telephonic guidance to assist clergy with selection of the most appropriate plans.

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For 2016, VUMPI is recommending the following annualized RRA funding for clergy electing coverage through the Connector option:

Years of Full Time Virginia Conference Service	Annualized RRA Funding
20 to 24	\$1,800
25 to 29	\$2,400
30 or more	\$3,000

The above funding amounts will be pro-rated monthly for clergy gaining Medicare eligibility or otherwise first enrolling in coverage within a calendar year. The spouse or surviving spouse of a Virginia Conference retiree who qualifies for coverage will also receive RRA funding as detailed above, so a retiree and spouse, both of whom qualify based on the retiree's full time years of service and both eligible for Medicare, may receive total annualized RRA funding of up to \$6,000. Any funding remaining in a Virginia Conference-funded RRA at the end of the calendar year remains in the RRA and is available for use by the enrollee for future qualified medical expenses. Retired Virginia Conference clergy with fewer than 20 years of service will have access to the Connector option to evaluate coverage options and to purchase coverage, but will not receive RRA funding to offset the cost of coverage.

Recommendation 4: 2016 Participant Contribution Recommendations

As part of its strategy to ensure the long-term viability of adequate and affordable health care plans, VUMPI is recommending no increase in participant contributions, resulting in the following monthly participant contribution rates for 2016:

Active Clergy:

Medical			
	HMO	PPO	CMCP
Individual	\$113	\$102	\$90
Family	\$351	\$318	\$294

Dental		
	Core	Major
Individual	\$13	\$34
Family	\$56	\$105

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

Clergy on Voluntary Leave and Sabbatical:

Medical		
	HMO	PPO
Individual	\$687	\$626
Family	\$1,852	\$1,659

Dental		
	Core	Major
Individual	\$31	\$60
Family	\$58	\$131

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

Medical (\$500 deductible)	
	PPO
Individual	\$112
Family	\$180

Dental		
	Core	Major
Individual	\$13	\$34
Family	\$56	\$105

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

Medical (\$7500 deductible)	
	PPO
Individual	\$626
Family	\$1,659

Dental		
	Core	Major
Individual	\$31	\$60
Family	\$58	\$131

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

Individual Tier - Personal Monthly Contributions			
Years of Service	PPO	Dental Core	Dental Major
10-14	\$698	\$31	\$60
15-19	\$567	\$31	\$60
20-24	\$433	\$31	\$60
25-29	\$301	\$31	\$60
30+	\$167	\$31	\$60

Family Tier - Personal Monthly Contributions			
Years of Service	PPO	Dental Core	Dental Major
10-14	\$1,607	\$58	\$131
15-19	\$1,301	\$58	\$131
20-24	\$995	\$58	\$131
25-29	\$690	\$58	\$131
30+	\$381	\$58	\$131

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

As was detailed in Recommendation 3, VUMPI is recommending a new structure for medical and prescription drug coverage for Medicare eligible retirees in 2016. Under the recommended hybrid structure, there will be two coverage options, as described below.

Group Plan Option: The group plan option is similar to the current coverage made available to qualifying Medicare eligible retirees. This option has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2016 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

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

Connector Option: The Connector option will allow qualifying clergy to select any available Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. Retirees electing coverage through this option will receive Retiree Reimbursement Account (“RRA”) funding, which can be used to offset the cost of the selected coverage. VUMPI recommends 2016 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

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

As was noted in Recommendation 3, the monthly funding amounts will be prorated for qualifying retirees and/or spouses of qualifying retirees who gain Medicare eligibility or otherwise gain eligibility for retiree coverage within a calendar year. Any RRA funds remaining at the end of a calendar year will roll over into the subsequent year for use by the enrolled retiree and/or spouse for qualifying medical expenses.

General Virginia Conference Health Plan Information

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

For participants enrolled in the Anthem health plans, either as active clergy or as a retiree not yet eligible for Medicare, plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2015. If an eligible clergy person does not elect coverage options during the annual open enrollment period, the default enrollment option is the prior year's plan selections (except for Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Spending Account contributions), and enrollees will be subject to the associated individual personal contribution rates.

If not selected during the open enrollment period, no Flexible Spending Account contributions can be made during 2016, in accordance with federal laws.

All who are eligible to enroll in a Virginia Conference health plan are strongly encouraged to participate in online open enrollment in the fall of 2015. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

Active clergy with at least ten consecutive full time years of VAUMC service, and who are going on approved leave or taking an Extension Ministry appointment, can “freeze” those consecutive years of service until such time as they return to full time service or retire from the Virginia Conference. Clergy desiring to freeze their years of service under this provision are required to pay a Clergy Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee. As part of the recommended participant contributions for 2016, VUMPI recommends that the Clergy Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee remain at \$20 per month for 2016.

Recommendation 5: 2016 Health Plan Design Change Recommendations

As was detailed in Recommendations 1 and 4 above, VUMPI is recommending an Active Clergy Health apportionment for 2016 which reflects no increase from 2015, and 2016 Active Clergy Health Plan participation contributions which reflect no increase from 2015. While total health plan costs are expected to grow in 2016 consistent with ongoing general health care cost trends, VUMPI is recommending that the impact of that cost growth be mitigated by modest health plan design changes.

Under the Affordable Care Act, a new excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage will be implemented in 2018. VUMPI, working with its consultants and advisors, projects that the current Virginia Conference-sponsored self funded health plans would likely exceed the threshold specified and be subject to payment of the new excise tax beginning in 2018. Accordingly, VUMPI has developed a strategy in which incremental plan design changes will be recommended between 2016 and 2018 to avoid becoming subject to payment of the new excise tax. Specific plan design changes recommended for 2016 are as follows:

Anthem PPO 750 plan:

- Increase the in-network deductible to \$1,000 individual/\$2,500 family
- Increase the out of network deductible to \$1,500 individual/\$3,750 family
- Increase the in-network medical out of pocket maximum to \$4,500 individual/\$9,000 family

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- Increase the out of network medical out of pocket maximum to \$4,500 individual/\$9,000 family
- Reduce the prescription drug out of pocket maximum to \$2,000 individual/\$4,000 family

Anthem HMO-POS plan:

- Increase the in-network deductible to \$500 individual/\$1,000 family
- Increase the out of network deductible to \$750 individual/\$1,500 family
- Increase the in-network medical out of pocket maximum to \$4,500 individual/\$9,000 family
- Increase the out of network medical out of pocket maximum to \$4,500 individual/\$9,000 family
- Reduce the prescription drug out of pocket maximum to \$2,000 individual/\$4,000 family

No plan design changes are recommended for the Clergy Managed Care Plan or the PPO 500 plan for disabled clergy and surviving spouses of clergy.

Recommendation 6: 2016 CRSP/ CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2016 CRSP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

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

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The 2016 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible full time clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation) times 4.4%.

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

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

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

Recommendation 7: 2016 Comprehensive Funding Plan

Virginia Annual Conference

2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2016 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the VUMPI office.

Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBPHB for the 2016 conference benefit obligations:

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC) Plan Overview:

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

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by annual conferences. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is \$1.105 billion, while total plan assets are \$1.274 billion resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 115%. The Virginia Conference portion of the liability is 4.0060% and the 2016 contribution is \$4,579,904. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by direct billing to local churches. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time

clergy. The Virginia Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50% or more under CRSP effective January 1, 2016.

Effective January 1, 2014 CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP. Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013 and prior. The 2016 CRSP-DC contribution will be funded by direct billing to local churches.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan, an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is \$3.018 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.345 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111% and no required contribution for 2016. The Virginia Conference's share of the total liability is 3.2487%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.332 billion and the Virginia Conference's portion of that balance is \$157,058,894 or 3.63% of the total.

Pre-1982 Plan

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergy person retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors: 1) years of service with pension credit and 2) Conference pension rate. Years of service with pension credit are approved by each Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the past service rate, is the dollar amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit. The pension rate may change from year to year. The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM based benefit does not change.

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The 2016 Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the Virginia Conference is \$563.00, representing a \$1.00 increase from the 2015 rate. VUMPI expects to recommend future increases in the PSR in order to recognize the reality of inflation while demonstrating appropriate stewardship of the conference's financial resources.

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 70% level.

VUMPI will continue to fund the Pre-82 annual funding obligation through apportionments, which are being offset by VUMPI's financial reserve strategy. Under the terms of that strategy, VUMPI is deploying funds held in reserve in order to reduce the required apportionment associated with the Pre-82 funding liability.

Active Clergy Health Benefit Program

Plan Overview: The Virginia Conference offers sponsors a self funded health benefit plan for active eligible participants.

The total cost of the program for 2016 is anticipated to be \$11,481,001 and will be funded primarily by apportionments. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average approximately 5%, reflecting overall health cost trends and the impact of plan design strategies which are intended to mitigate the impact of those trends.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)

Plan Overview: The Virginia Conference post-retirement medical program currently offered includes benefits made available to certain pre-Medicare-eligible and Medicare-eligible clergy. For qualifying clergy not yet eligible for Medicare, the post-retirement medical benefit program is a self funded health plan. For qualifying clergy who are eligible for Medicare, the post-retirement medical benefit program is a fully insured Medicare Supplement plan and a self funded prescription drug plan.

Based on the most recent PRM actuarial valuation dated January 1, 2013, the following is the funded position of the post-retirement medical benefits:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$94,821,405
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	\$115,131,039
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$1,526,045
Assets designated for PRM	\$7,561,500

These values are based on a 5.7% long term discount rate, a 7.0% long-term expected return, and a current increase trend of 8.0% with an ultimate medical increase of 5.0%, beginning in 2017.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time appointment with plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the

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Conference Average Compensation, whichever is less.

For 2016, the Virginia Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,595,590, which is anticipated to be funded by direct billing to local churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be approximately 2% per year, consistent with the expected rate of increase in overall compensation.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) for Lay and Clergy

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

Other Conference Benefit Obligations: Defined Contribution (DC) Type

DC Plan Overview: The Virginia Conference currently offers a supplemental life insurance plan made available to clergy who are enrolled in the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be \$214,000, with the funding sources to be direct billing to local churches.

Conclusion:

The 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above Summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the Virginia Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference.

Recommendation 8: 2016 Housing Allowance/Exclusion

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to

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active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

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

Robert G. Sanford, Jr., Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

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

The mission of the Virginia Annual Conference has guided and aligned the focus of the Common Table for Church Vitality during the 2014-2105 annual conference year. Responsible for providing direction and oversight to the Board of Church and Society, Board of Communications, Church Development Team, Board of Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Board of Laity, Commission on Disabilities, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, and Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Common Table continues a focus on leadership development that has been aligning Virginia Conference ministries since the approval of All Things New in 2008. Reports from Common Table affiliated boards and commissions are included in the *Book of Reports* and provide more detailed information than is possible with this report. Among these reports you will find information about conference ministries that are aligned with the mission of the Virginia Annual Conference. Some of these ministries are campus ministry at seven Wesley Foundations, six ecumenical campus ministries, two All God's Children camps for children of incarcerated parents, two weeks of Camp Rainbow Connection for persons with intellectual disabilities, regional schools for children's ministry, youth ministries, support of new faith communities, revitalization of existing congregations, IT support for Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) web site, Conference VAUMC website, *Advocate* print magazine, *Book of Reports*, *Conference Journal* and web-based information such as the *e-Advocate*, *Sunday Advocate*, clergynet, laitynet, Lay Servant Academy, Virginia Conference Initiatives of Hope partnerships in Mozambique, Brazil, and Cambodia and Volunteers in Mission, Mission Encounter, United Methodist Day at General Assembly, Care for God's Creation, 5 Talent Academy, Church Leadership Institute, Reaching New People workshops. A fuller listing of the conference program ministries and missions may be found in the reports of the conference agencies that are amenable to Common Table.

Another focus of Common Table is grants. Special Grants and Sustaining Grants are provided to congregations that are seeking to be in ministry with their surrounding community through outreach efforts that are beyond their financial ability. The Conference United Methodist Women contribute \$30,000 to Special Grants and Sustaining Grants each year. They also participate in the awarding of grants for Special Grants, Sustaining Grants, and Conference Benevolence Grants. In 2015 Conference Benevolence Grants were provided to the following ministries: GraceInside (formerly Chaplain Service of Virginia), Virginia Council of Churches, Virginia Interfaith Center, Society of St. Andrew, Industrial and Commercial Ministries, Just Neighbors, and Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries.

During the past Conference year, Common Table oversaw the implementation of a Day of Holy Conversation. This joint effort of Common Table, Virginia United Methodists Reconciling Ministries, and Evangelical Fellowship was designed to present three different interpretations of the current disciplinary statements regarding human sexuality, a round-

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robin conversation, and small group conversations at different sites across the Conference. Follow-up to this event included the production of a DVD and online resources for additional conversations within districts and congregations.

At last year's annual conference, Common Table recommended the approval of a conference-wide financial campaign for Imagine No Malaria. Ms. Maria Maxwell was selected as the Virginia Conference Field Coordinator for Imagine No Malaria through a grant from the General Board of Global Ministries. Her report on this campaign is included in the *Book of Reports*.

Looking forward, Common Table:

- Has repurposed the position of Director of Ministries with Young People through a primary focus in creating a culture of call for young people. This focus will continue to be developed in ways that help young people discern God's call upon their lives through their baptism.
- Supports the implementation of Discipleship Circles for the purpose of creating grassroots support for the laity and clergy leadership of the Virginia Conference through the Board of Discipleship.
- Is developing a new way of providing congregational grants through a micro-financing model of financial and personnel support.

In addition to providing guidance and alignment for the ministry of conference agencies, Common Table has responsibility for employing the conference program staff that helps to resource and facilitate the ministries of these agencies. There were two changes in Common Table personnel during the past year as Martha Stokes (Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence) and Neill Caldwell (Editor of Virginia Advocate and Conference *Journal*) resigned. There will be one additional staff change as Derrick Parson (Director of Ministries with Young People) begins a new appointment in July. Appreciation is expressed to each of these staff for their ministry. In turn, Cheryl Edley-Worford became the Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. The hiring process for the other staff positions were in the interview process when this report was written. These new staff will be announced as employment decisions are made. Common Table expresses appreciation to all Connectional Ministries staff and other conference staff who resource and provide leadership for the ministries of the Virginia Conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the following recommendations by the following boards:

- By the Board of Discipleship regarding the observance and special offering for Christian Education Sunday
- By the Board of Discipleship regarding the recommendation and endorsement of Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship
- By the Board of Global Ministries regarding the continuation of Conference Rela-

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tionship Agreements

- By the Board of Global Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services of Virginia, and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.
- By the Board of Global Ministries regarding Advance Special Offering.

The reports of boards, agencies and organizations that follow, from page 71 to page 105, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Conference Board of Church and Society is charged by the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* (§629) and the conference to help the conference, districts and local congregations employ our Social Principles in connecting their faith communities to the world around them. This work is both individual and societal. It is the sacred, transforming work of inviting faithful disciples to lead the world prayerfully into the world of Christ. We are called to help the conference and our churches answer “How will our social actions be faithful to the gospel?”

We believe the board best meets conference needs by employing our energy to enact the visions of our Bishops’ pastoral letter, “God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action” and our church’s Social Principles. We order our board into four working groups – three follow the outline of the Bishops’ letter and focus on Biblical mandates to: 1. End poverty; 2. Care for God’s creation; and 3. End violence in our world. The fourth group, Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, provides a ministry to all persons who are in prisons, their families, families of victims of crime, and advocates for criminal justice system reforms.

The Conference Board promotes the Peace with Justice Sunday Special Offering, one of six Church-wide offerings that The United Methodist Church General Conference asks of each local church. Half of the Peace with Justice Offering stays in the conference to fund ministries in the conference. This offering is taken on Trinity Sunday (May 31, 2015) or at another time decided by the local church. In 2014, we increased the offering taken by our local churches by more than 20 percent, but we need more churches to take the offering. Only ten percent of Virginia Conference churches took the offering in 2014. In 2014-2015, we used Peace with Justice Funds in the following ways:

1. Fredericksburg District is training churches using the Just Faith curriculum to help members connect their faith to social action.
2. Creation Care Ministry of Resurrection UMC in Chesapeake, Virginia.
3. Rising Hope UMC in Alexandria district received funds to help it partner with Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) for leadership development in community organizing, especially housing for low income and homeless people.
4. Scholarships for young adults and others to participate in the BCS trip to Israel/Palestine.

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5. Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach Ministry in Harrisonburg District to support its Sexual Offenders Safe Sanctuary Program which provides a place where sex offenders can worship and be ministered to through Bible Study and worker training programs.
6. Remember and Recommit: a program of three Richmond District churches to hold workshops which explore the history of race relations between black and white churches.

Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women and our Conference Legislative Network. Our bishop always comes: we need you, too! Our maximum participant number for this event is 300 people, so register early!

The Conference Board of Church and Society has developed educational and advocacy resources addressing Creation Care, death penalty, immigration, minimum wage, voting rights, and wage theft. These can be accessed on the Conference BCS webpage.

This year, we worked with the Conference Pensions board to develop a resolution on divesting investments related to fossil fuels which contribute to carbon dioxide and methane pollution. Together, we found that both boards could agree that thermal coal is a most polluting kind of fuel and that both boards recommend that our conference and the general church not invest church funds in companies producing thermal coal.

In January 2015, we regrettably accepted the “retirement” of Rev. Hunter Mabry as a member of the board. Hunter faithfully served many terms on the board and is a model of how one person can link together their faith and a passion for social justice to make a difference in the world.

Jaydee Hanson and Rev. Gretchen Nelson, co-chairs

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As I conclude my tenth year on the Board and my first year as President, I am reminded that the one thing that has not changed over time is the need for the church to tell its story. It is a privilege to be able to serve the Virginia Annual Conference while serving the local churches and encouraging them to tell their stories in new and effective ways for all generations.

Over the past year, our board has held communication training events at Annual Conference and at the annual Virginia Chapter Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) Fall Event. Topics covered included blogging, website development, social media, the use of email management systems, among others. Members of the Board have also led local church training events or been accessible as resource point persons to answer church communication questions. The Communications board also heavily supports the operation of Annual Conference by providing camera operators, help on the tech desk, production of *The Daily Advocate*, and a display to provide resources to attendees of Conference including the availability to order

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Conference DVDs and subscribe to *The Advocate*.

This year, we welcomed Nick Ruxton to the Conference communications staff as a part-time Videographer and Video Production Coordinator. We also said goodbye to Neill Caldwell who resigned his position as Editor of *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate*. His dedication to the Conference through photography, news writing, and publication editing has been superb. He will be greatly missed.

At the 42nd annual meeting of the United Methodist Association of Communicators, held in Savannah, GA, our Conference communications staff brought home seven awards. *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate* was selected as the best magazine in the Print Publications category, and designer Cathryn Huff won second place for her work on the *Advocate* in the Print or Electronic Design classification of the Visual Design category. Huff also won a first place honor for her layout and design of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation 2013 annual report, and third place under Branding Development for her “Every Life Save a Life” logo for the conference’s Imagine No Malaria effort. Former Advocate Editor Neill Caldwell won a third place award in photography for his shot of the “Moment of Ordination” as Bishop Young Jin Cho ordained Lynda Harding as a deacon at 2013 Annual Conference in Hampton. Two videos produced by Director of Communications Linda Rhodes for this year’s Annual Conference gathering also won honors. The animated Discipleship Circles “whiteboard” video won first place in videos costing more than \$2,000, and the Imagine No Malaria promotional video, created by Rhodes and the Rev. Mike Maxwell, won second place for videos costing between \$500 and \$2,000.

The Board of Communications continues to look for new ways to support the work of our local churches. Please feel free to reach out to us either through the Conference staff or through the Conference website.

Keri L. B. Marston, President

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Directing Board of the Board of Discipleship responded to the 2014 Bishop’s prayer convocation by sponsoring follow up events in different regions of the Conference. Wendy Miller, professor emeritus of spiritual formation, Eastern Mennonite Seminary and adjunct professor of spiritual formation, Garrett Evangelical-Theological Seminary was our keynote speaker. Various workshops were offered which provided opportunities to experience prayer in many different ways. These experiences were met with great reviews and the Board of Discipleship may look at how we can provide these learning events in the future. 2015 will mark the third year the BOD has helped with the Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer and looks forward to how it can partner in the continued movement of lifting up prayer in our faith communities.

This year the BOD has focused efforts on the Conference-wide initiative of Discipleship Circles. Most of the board members have been trained as facilitators and are ready to assist circle launches in every region of the Conference. Regional Leaders continue to connect with leadership in their assigned districts to find out how the BOD can best serve their local faith communities.

Older Adults

Change and new vision have been the focus of this year's Older Adult Council. With knowledge of the "Boomer" generation's distaste for being identified as older adults, we are attempting to improve our focus and identity. Our council has addressed the activities, events, and interests that better mesh with the "Boomer" interests and that will encourage use of their many gifts and strengths for ministry. We have had discussions related to a more inclusive name for our council.

Suggestions for celebrating Older Adult Recognition Sunday in May were again prepared by council members and placed on clergy net to serve as a resource when planning this day.

This year we have been privileged to share in two exciting new adventures. On April 25 the Senior Council at Shady Grove (Mechanicsville) and the Council co-sponsored an "Old Time Revival" for the Richmond District. The program included an old fashioned gospel sing, guest speaker Clarence Brown, and ended with music by a gospel quartet. Our vision is that this model might excite and re-ignite older adults in their call to ministry in all stages of their lives.

Our second adventure was a day's retreat partnership with Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries (in the Harrisonburg District) on May 12. Our council led the morning session with how to create "Your Legacy" box and taking a look at "How Faith Shapes Us". In the afternoon Overlook presented "Life Beyond This Life" with individuals sharing their personal experiences of glimpses of heaven.

Both of these events, new for our council, are ways we are discovering how to partner with other groups, creating programs that strengthen and expand Older Adult Ministry. The Boomer Generation challenges us to provide opportunities to reunite them with worship, fellowship, and service in our churches as they retire. We look forward to increasing our programs for other districts in 2016.

Carol Bookwalter, chair

Children's Ministries

Each year the School for Children's Ministries is held in four different Districts spread throughout the Conference in order to provide training, connection, and inspiration to Christian educators. This year the class offerings will include areas of spiritual development, practical classroom skills, hot topics in children's ministries, outreach events, volunteer retention, creative worship, and music.

The age level of Children's Ministries has been present and is engaged in conversations as the Va. Conference takes a look at how it can best equip local churches and faith communities in Safe Sanctuaries processes.

CCYM

This year, our ministry spent some time focusing.

Spring 2014, we hosted an event for people who work with young people called Cultivating Young Leaders. This event brought in 22 people who are in ministry with young people across the Conference to learn about Strengths-based leadership within faith communities. Our facilitators presented learnings they have come across in their use

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of the model. We believe this focused investment of time and energy in those who serve our young people was important.

LEAD 2014 was cancelled and it was determined that we should schedule it every other year (allowing “Poverty in America” - which replaces our UN Seminar - to be the focus on the off years). This will prevent us from competing with our own events. During Summer 2015, we will focus on Poverty in America and will not run LEAD again until Summer 2016.

Our fall retreats for 2014 featured Keith Elgin (a nationally recognized artist and worship leader within at Vine Church in the Virginia Conference) and Dugan Sherbondy (author and speaker). We found this team to be a draw and increase attendance while also pulling in new groups from around the Conference. Dugan’s messages focus on being created in God’s image and being God’s “masterpiece.” Additionally, all Virginia Conference folks were invited to download Dugan’s ebook, *Sow What?* about serving in youth ministry. Our team found Dugan to be inspiring, captivating, and constantly willing to partner together to make ministry happen (we even found him hauling boxes of supplies alongside us!). By really digging into the message and focusing every aspect of our retreat on Dugan’s talks, we feel we were able to serve our community well.

In addition to focusing during the retreat, our volunteers spent much time developing and producing better marketing (we still have room to grow, of course!). Our Facebook account now boasts 636 “likes” and our Twitter account has 63 “followers.” It is our belief that this increased base helped bump our fall retreat participation up as well. This focus on direct contact with interested parties will help us better share information in the years to come.

Alison Malloy, adult chair

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Discipleship continues to recommend and endorse Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship.

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

We completed a year-long process of prayerful reflection and visioning toward a restructure which would further strengthen our conference commitment to mission. The goal for the proposed structural change is to acknowledge the past strengths of the board while expanding its scope and function to engage more churches in mission and justice across the conference and strengthen the connection. A second element of that goal is to highlight missional activity and theology as an expression of our individual and corporate discipleship as we serve others in charity and justice while building up the body of Christ in its endeavor to make new disciples for the transformation of the world. To that end the Conference Board of Global Ministries has drawn upon the portion of the conference mission statement “...by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” for its new structure of “**Engaging, Connecting and Equipping Clergy and Laity of the Virginia Conference for God’s mission.**” as the base for the new structure. We have discerned dividing into two teams: Missional Discipleship and Engagement and Missional Connections to facilitate the function of the Board.

Mrs. Anne Klotz, **Missionary Itineration Coordinator**, has facilitated connections and visits for approximately 13 missionaries with their covenant churches during the past year. Under the new Global Mission Fellows program to engage young persons in short term mission ministry, two placement sites are being created within the Virginia Conference.

Mission Encounter, is a cooperative school offered by the Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women to help us understand God's work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. Two sessions were offered in 2014: July 25-27 and July 28-30 at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone with approximately 184 in attendance. Mission Encounter 2015 will be offered July 24-26 with study focuses on 3 areas: Social Issue – The Church and People with Disabilities, Spiritual Formation – The Pursuit of Happiness, and the Geographical Study – Latin America.

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM), Forrest White, Coordinator, offered 10-12 team leader trainings in 2014; and is developing a re-certification process for veteran team leaders. The Facebook page, (<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM>) continues to be a place for inspiration, information, and connection. Team leaders are invited to share the specifics about their trip: i.e. church or district sending the team, location and ministry project particulars by emailing the conference UMVIM Coordinator who will post to the Facebook page. Others are invited to pray for the team and those they'll be serving. Teams looking for additional information are invited to "recruit" via the Facebook page. Our prayer is that we truly embrace and live the UMVIM mission statement based on 1 John 3:18 -- "Christian Love In Action."

The Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CMMP), chaired by The Rev. Joanne Maughlin, is a committee of local church clergy and laity within the Virginia Annual Conference that is committed to mission service and whose members guide and mentor interested persons through the application and discernment process for mission service and assist them in identifying, within the Annual Conference, congregations for missionary financial support. One interview was held in April, 2014.

Initiatives of Hope (IOH), chaired by The Rev. Judy Fender, has been in prayerful discernment and visioning regarding its scope and function as mission initiatives transition to mission partnerships. Mutuality in mission is highly valued and being presently explored with **Mozambique**. The Shade and Fresh Water Project in **Brazil** celebrates its 15th anniversary in October 2015. There is a continuing need for VIM teams to serve on the Medical Boat in the Amazon; to partner with projects in the Northeast; to participate in a new project with the indigenous people near the border with Paraguay and a new project in the countryside outside Sao Paulo. The Rev. David Vaughn chairs the Brazil initiative. The newest initiative, **Cambodia**, chaired by Mrs. Juanita Csontos, hosted a Consultation at Aldersgate UMC in Alexandria, Va., in May 2014, with several annual conferences in attendance. Early in 2015, there are two VIM teams planned, one centering on the role of Christian women and the other on young adults exploring issues of mission and justice.

The Rev. Verónica Barrell, BGM Chair

Partnership Reports

Heart Havens

Heart Havens, Inc. continues to focus on empowering adults with intellectual disabilities to live and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Presently, this is done through the operation of 11 group homes spread throughout The Virginia Conference. The Charlottesville District is working with us to raise funds to build an apartment complex. In the fall, the difficult decision was made to close the Norfolk home after determining this home was operating at a loss and would adversely impact the organization.

Fundraising activities continue with grants totaling over \$126,000. Of special note are the following:

- Department of Rail and Transportation Grant \$ \$79,148 (vans to Winchester and Stuarts Draft homes)
- Richmond Memorial Health Foundation \$10,346 for a Direct Support Professional Career Ladder (three year grant)
- Commission on Disabilities \$500 for the startup of an Advocacy Group
- \$15,862 from USDA (van to the Kilmarnock home)
- \$20,000 KOVAR (updates to Macleigh-Holland home and furniture)

Mentioned above, one of these grants is focused on building a Career Ladder for our direct care employees. This program is providing valuable continuing education opportunities for staff to support their growth and development.

For the third year, Heart Havens held a motorcycle rally called “Ride for Independence.” This annual event helps us expand our visibility in the community, while also being a great fundraising opportunity. Riders, volunteers, staff, and, most of all, our residents had a great time at this year’s event.

We continue to have active involvement from our board members, church groups, and community volunteers. The Board of Directors are often found in our homes where they are planning activities, making birthday cakes, or doing maintenance on the home. We also continue to strengthen our relationship with HandsOn Greater Richmond volunteers. These volunteers have supported us this year in various ways, including painting, doing crafts, or stuffing brochures. We also were blessed with a visit from Circle of Friends, who brought 12 ladies to volunteer for 7 hours. Churches continue to be a source of support through donations and volunteer service including maintenance projects and social visits with our residents.

In 2014, Heart Havens continued to hold the BBB Accredited Charity Seal. We also improved our charitable rating status in Guidestar to Gold. As the year concluded, we wrapped up our existing three year strategic plan and finished development of the plan that will carry the organization through the coming three years.

Finally, Heart Havens was proud to announce the 2014 Manwiller Award recipient was Fred Rathel of the Winchester District. Fred is instrumental in coordinating volunteer work days and events to benefit Heart Havens. He serves as a non-board member on the property committee and is a speaker for Heart Havens in the Winchester District. Fred’s commitment to the organization can best be seen through the loving relationships he has

made with the men who reside in the Winchester home.

Jennifer Boyden

United Methodist Family Services of Virginia (UMFS)

As a faith-based nonprofit social service organization, we do whatever it takes to empower high-risk children, their families and communities throughout Virginia. From addressing behavioral and emotional issues to finding foster and adoptive homes, UMFS never gives up. UMFS is an unwavering champion for high risk children and families, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential.

UMFS provided services in 2014 last year to over 9000 children and families throughout Virginia. With regional centers in Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Fredericksburg, South Hill and Lynchburg; intensive treatment centers in Richmond and Centreville; and offices in Farmville, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Tazewell, and Loudon counties, our reach is across the Conference. We are dedicated to creating a world where caring, opportunity and generosity are passed on from generation to generation. We strive for and get results that transform lives. Through our five core values, we do whatever it takes to help children and families in need. Here are some of our achievements from the last year.

This year we celebrate our 115th birthday! This means that for the last 115 years UMFS and The United Methodist Church have worked tirelessly to minister to children often forgotten by our society. Since the very beginning The United Methodist Church has partnered with us to be an advocate for those most at risk. With the help of the Church we have made a concerted effort to engage youth, parents, community groups, business partners and the faith community in providing resources, expertise and support so that all families can thrive. We continue to strengthen our connection with congregations and the broader church to support high risk children and families. With your help, we are helping to usher in the Kingdom of God by providing love, support and care for kids who need it the most. Because of you 800 children are in our care, 90 communities are being served, 178 children were placed to 89 families, and 87 new foster /adoptive families were approved. We are bridging the needs of the world with the gifts of the Church and our expertise but we cannot stop now. Our 115 year history is rich in tradition and impact but we must continue to press forward, currently 1000 kids in the commonwealth of Virginia are waiting for a foster or adoptive family. We must work even harder to eradicate this number. With your help we can do it. Without the VAUMC we cannot be the advocate and voice for at risk youth, children will not have safe and loving homes and life will not be forever transformed. So join us as together in the next 115 years we will change the lives of the next generation of children and their families.

We ask you as the Church to be the champion for at risk youth and their families and also help us to find forever homes for the thousands of youth who are in the Virginia foster care system. Become a partner church with UMFS or a local church ambassador of UMFS. We value our Virginia Annual Conference connection and feel privileged to be a part of the ministry of the United Methodist Church. As a part of the body of Christ, with you together we can serve the most at-risk children in our Conference.

*Bruce Whitehurst, Chair, UMFS Board of Directors
Greg Peters, Chief Executive Officer*

Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.

Throughout its 68 year history, Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) has embraced the basic foundations of the Social Principles of the Nurturing and Social Community. Our forefathers recognized as our first nurturing community was begun that even those growing old in years should have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential as individuals. With seven communities throughout the Virginia Conference, VUMH has always been, and will always strive to be, a provider of communities where older adults can live life as they choose.

In the summer of 2014, VUMH began a process to identify the core values and standards that residents, family members and staff recognize as central to the reputation of VUMH. The work is far from complete; however, three fundamental themes from this effort are worthy of sharing with the Annual Conference:

- **The mission of VUMH has never wavered: To provide facilities, services and programs to enhance the quality of life for older persons.** Our communities now serve more than 1,200 elders every day. VUMH is dedicated to the very highest standard in quality of living, placing a priority on personal independence supported by attentive, experienced staff.
- **As the needs and expectations of seniors continue to change, so too do the services and programs VUMH provides.** VUMH is committed to delivering individualized and enhanced amenities, programs, and services to meet the need of each Resident. VUMH is working with residents, staff and professionals to develop an updated master plan for Cedarfield in western Henrico County and the expansion of the health services center at WindsorMeade of Williamsburg. More importantly, an intensive staff training program focused upon greater person-centered engagement in each community began in February 2015.
- **Our rich history with the Virginia Annual Conference is key to our foundational philosophy of placing the needs of each individual resident at the center of everything we do.** A cornerstone of how we continue to live out our Wesleyan heritage is the Samaritan Program, which provides financial assistance to residents who have outlived their monetary resources and, through no fault of their own, can no longer afford the full cost of their care. For fiscal year 2014, the Samaritan Program provided \$965,749 to residents, offering security and peace of mind when our residents are most vulnerable.

Looking forward, all of the work that VUMH is currently undertaking will set a new direction for the future. As our Social Principles state, VUMH believes we have a responsibility to continually “innovate, sponsor and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals.” An important component of this dynamic will come from enhanced partnerships with the clergy and laity of our local churches as together we address the needs of those who are aging in the congregations and communities.

Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

The mission of the Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation is to provide affordable and safe housing for the elderly and disabled. In 2015, VUMHDC managed thirty-two multi-million dollar properties (1800 units) which are located

throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and in West Virginia. For the conference year 2015-16, we are attempting to build, develop, and rehab an additional 2-3 additional properties located in Virginia. We will use existing government grants and service programs so that no cash outlay is required by the Virginia Annual Conference. For more information about this mission and our amazing history, please visit our website.

Jim O'Quinn. Vice President

Wesley Housing Development Corporation

Wesley Housing's mission is to preserve, develop, own, and operate affordable housing and sustain quality communities for families and individuals who might otherwise face homelessness. In 2014, we celebrated 40 years of service to Northern Virginia, having served more than 25,000 residents during that time. We currently manage 19 properties (approximately 2,200 residents) in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, and Fairfax County. We also manage four Community Resource Centers and four special needs Resident Services Centers that offer a full range of desperately needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease as well as those with disabilities to regain and maintain their dignity and renew their lives.

Real Estate Development Projects

- **Lewinsville Senior Residences (McLean):** Wesley Housing has been chosen to renovate and expand the McLean property from 22 to 82 units of affordable, independent senior housing. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Wesley Housing who is partnering with Hamel Builders on the project. If low-income-housing tax credits are approved in 2015, the construction will begin in 2016 and finish in 2017.
- **Pierce Queen Apartments (Arlington):** Construction has begun on the Arlington County project that will preserve and renovate two of Pierce Queen's garden apartment buildings and construct a 12-story residential tower. The family-friendly project will increase the number of affordable bedrooms from the existing 67 to 151 and will preserve affordability for 60 years. Eight units will be fully accessible for people with physical disabilities.
- **Lynhaven Apartments (Alexandria) and William Watters Apartments (Arlington):** The combined 49 units are being redeveloped to include energy efficient upgrades as well as new interiors.

Resident Services/Special Projects

- **Housing Stability Initiative:** Every month, approximately 125 adults take advantage of housing stability and eviction prevention programs such as resume and job search skills training, computer training, crisis intervention, referrals to community resources, and financial literacy and household budgeting.
- **Holiday Help:** One hundred ten low-income Wesley Housing family members, children, and seniors in 45 households had a special holiday because of hundreds of volunteers who participated in our 2014 Adopt-A-Family program. St. John's UMC once again donated space for the 85 volunteers who worked more than 250 hours to sort and wrap Adopt-A-Family gifts as well as the donations of more than 600 toys from Toys for Tots.

Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO

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Advance Specials 2015-2016

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique: Chicuque Rural Hospital, Advance #09734A
Mozambique: Cambine Agriculture Program, Advance #3020561
Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning, Advance #08597A
Chile: Methodist Construction Projects, Advance #3020485
Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Advance #15080N
Haiti: Haiti Emergency Projects, Advance #418325
Cambodia: Mission Initiative, Advance #00230A
Cambodia: Street Children Ministry, Advance #14921A
Macedonia: Macedonia in Mission Together, Advance #00220A
Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project, Advance #11580A
Israel: Bethlehem Bible College, Advance #12017A
Russia: Russia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova, Advance #14053A
Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program, Advance #14377A
Sudan: Sudan Emergency, Advance #184385
Global: Anti-Human Trafficking, Advance #333615
Global: The Medicine Box, Advance #982630
Global: Sustainable Agriculture, Advance #982188
Guatemala: Highland Support Project, Advance #15022A
Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat, Advance #07629A
Mozambique: Evangelization and Church Expansion Ministry, Advance #12580A

NATIONAL

Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission, Advance #761544
USA: Project Crossroads, Advance #781380
District of Columbia: Christ House, Advance #381215
Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Advance #773726
Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Advance #773365
Florida: Cornerstone Family Ministries, Advance #751202
South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry, Advance #123615
Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville, Advance #781350
USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry, Advance #901285
USA: Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction, Advance #901875
USA: Society of St. Andrew, Advance #801600
USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster, Advance #901670

VIRGINIA

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, #5043
Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries, #5046
Tuesday's Table, #5024
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia, #5029

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Henry Fork Service Center, #5008
United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke, #5004
Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery, #5037
Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc, #5020
GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church, #5035
ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support, #5036
Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS), #5010
Heart Havens, #6442
Park View Community Mission, #5019
Wesley Community Center, #5025
Helping Hands Mission Camp, #5026
Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002
Pathways Virginia Advance #5045

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Health and Relief Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Campus ministry in the Virginia Conference continues to be 'a dynamic, diverse demonstration of God's creative and inviting love' expressed through the ministries of seven Wesley Foundations, six ecumenical campus ministries and six chaplains at United Methodist educational institutions in Virginia. These campus ministries touch the lives of tens of thousands of students (most between the ages of 19 and 30) with invitations and opportunities 'to explore, engage and embody an active faith in God'. In varied ways appropriate to each campus ministry context, God is worshipped, faith is explored, communities and people are served and lives are changed – all in the name and through the power of Jesus Christ. I trust you will read the stories shared by each of our campus ministries.

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries is in place to provide oversight, policies, and resources for fruitful ministry with college students. BHECM was better able to meet its charge by filling key board vacancies with persons with specialized skill sets. We welcomed to the board Mr. Bill Pike as our building/facilities expert. Bill has taken the lead with an outside consultant to inspect and assess the short and long term maintenance and safety needs of our eight Wesley Foundation facilities. Many of the immediate maintenance needs have now been addressed and a long-term plan is being developed. We are grateful to the CFA for their support in funding these assessments. We also welcomed Mr. Josh Blakely as our 'data-techy'. Josh, with the support and efforts of Bryan Compton, developed and launched our 'Campus Ministry System' – a data reporting system replacing an unwieldy 'metrics' system that was previously developed and unused. This is a giant step toward our goal of putting a success metrics in place and toward more 'holy conversations about data'.

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The third important vacancy was filled by Mr. John Dunning giving us expertise in Board Development and leadership for our efforts to train and resource local campus ministry boards. We are grateful for the service and commitment of these three new board members and for that of each board member.

This year BHECM has also begun looking at our ‘formulas’ and approaches to determining funding levels for each local ministry and each type of ministry (Wesley Foundation, Ecumenical, Faith Community/Campus Ministry). We have also begun a long term conversation about Conference ownership of the Wesley Foundation buildings.

Things to Celebrate: A new ministry, Ignite, was started at Old Dominion University in partnership with Church Development– a faith community that will reach and serve the students of ODU and young adults in the ODU area. The Ministry at Mary Washington University has a new Campus Minister, Rev. Shannon Waite. The Wesley Foundation at UVA is celebrating 50 years and has kicked off a significant capital campaign to fund renovations at the Wesley UVA building. In an incredibly difficult year at UVA, we give thanks that we have had the presence, leadership and caring ministry of Rev. Deborah Lewis and the Wesley Foundation community at UVA. How important it has been to have a ministry on campus at UVA this year – as it has been in other places in other years. Thank you VA Conference for your continued prayers and support of our campus ministries.

Herb Brynildsen, President

ARISE/United College Ministries in Northern Virginia (UCMNV)

The mission of this ministry is “to share God’s universal love as revealed in Jesus Christ with the campus communities of Northern Virginia by providing and developing an authentic Christian community for students to explore, engage and embody an active faith through worship, missions, small groups and leadership opportunities.

This has been an incredible year! By sticking to our vision and faithfully attempting to follow Christ, ARISE continues to be that place that carries out this mission. In 2014, ARISE witnessed a deeper sense of community and student involvement, than we have experienced yet. Our attendance at worship has increased, the energy among students is palpable and the level of commitment by our core group seems to only grow deeper.

In October we brought Brian McLaren to discuss interfaith dialogue at Mason. We had over 120 people from the community and 20 students in attendance. We ended the day with an interfaith panel consisting of a Rabbi, Imam, Buddhist, Sociologist, Protestant Clergy and Brian. It was an amazing day! In the two weeks leading up and the two weeks following the event we held a series in worship called Faith. We started with talking about having faith like a child and moved to when things get complicated where we focused on why disagreements between Christians have led to different denominations. We closed with having 2 weeks of honest conversation about looking at our own faith and how to interact and love those who have a completely different faith.

Over 200 student volunteers from several student organizations on campus helped at our Stop Hunger Now meal-packaging event in November. This was our fourth SHN and students were already asking when we are hosting the next one. By the grace of God, this year has truly been amazing.

The other noticeable change in ARISE is the level of commitment from our students.

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We now have multiple, weekly small groups. These groups have become a priority for the students who attend.

Thank you for the support you provide to help make ministry possible I do hope you'll share our story with others. I encourage each of you to keep posted on the "happenings" of the ministry through our website www.arise.gmu.edu and through www.facebook.com/arise-gmu. Thank you!

Rev. Mark Montgomery, Minister Director

The Campus Christian Community (CCC)

The Campus Christian Community (CCC) is an ecumenical campus ministry serving the campus of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. It is supported by the Presbyterians, United Methodists, Episcopalians, and Lutherans. The mission of the CCC is: "Welcoming all people, The Campus Christian Community witnesses to the love and power of God in Jesus Christ. The CCC ministers with students, faculty, and staff of the University of Mary Washington and the surrounding community through worship, study, fellowship, and service, and provides a forum to explore and question issues of faith and life."

This mission statement is something that we strive to live into every day at the CCC. We have several recurring weekly events and work to keep students engaged in exploring their faith. Our largest event continues to be our Thursday evening program. We are grateful for the area churches that continue to support us with this event by bringing us meals for students. gathering together at table is an important part of our ministry. We also meet on Sunday nights for worship followed by our Coffeology program. This is a time where we discuss different topics related to theology and how they impact our lives while drinking coffee and tea. We also have small groups that meet during the week. On Wednesday's we gather for a Bible study. The first half of the year was lead by one student and for the spring semester we rotated where each week a different student is leading the study. This is giving more students a chance to delve deeper into scripture and practice sharing where they find meaning in it.

This year marks a big transition for the ministry as we have a new Campus Minister, Shannon Waite, working with the group. This transition allows us to continue to evaluate how we can best be a ministry together and to serve the Mary Washington community. Our student ministry team meets once a week to plan out and implement the weekly events, as well as our other programs. We have been striving to engage more with both our local Mary Washington community as well as the larger community through mission. We are looking forward to continuing to learn together what it means to be a Christian in today's world and how we can grow in our faith. We invite you to check out our website www.campuschristiancommunity.com to see what we have been up to and to keep up to date with our ministry.

The Rev. Shannon Waite

Wesley Foundation at Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College

In faithful response to God's love for all creation, the Wesley Foundation in Farmville, Virginia exists in order to be an expression of this love, primarily to and with the students. We seek to enable students to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to live out that commitment in a life of love and service. In addition, we seek to be in ministry to and with the faculty and staff, larger college community, and local United Methodist Churches.

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This has been another great year for Board development. The local Board has looked for ways to be more supportive both financially and with their presence. They continue to be active by seeking ways to raise money to fund the ministry and properly maintain our property. Board members are often present at our weekly large group gathering. All these efforts are designed to make the students feel more connected to the local Board. Each year we also have several Board members participate in our spring break mission trip. The Board continues to be supportive and encouraging through the implementation of building use policies and staff support. All this has been under the leadership of our Board Chair, Jeff Postans.

As always, missions have been a big part of our faith community at the Wesley Foundation. Our mission efforts have been focused on the Farmville area. They have included Health Kits for Haiti, Homework Buddies with Journey UMC, and the Local Habitat for Humanity. These local mission events have made it possible for students not interested in a weeklong trip to experience the transformation that can take place through service to others. This year for our spring break we travelled to Chocowinity NC. We had 9 students, several Board members and several local church members for a total of 15 participants. It was a powerful trip and God changed lives because of time in the community.

The heart and soul of our full-time program of Campus Ministry continues to be our weekly Tuesday Fellowship Dinner and Program. Farmville District churches, groups and individuals provide meals that are followed by meaningful programs on a variety of topics given by different speakers. These speakers include pastors, college professors and administrators, and students. It is a time of community building and fellowship that serves as the base of our ministry. Our gathering, which includes fellowship, worship, and small group discussion, continue to challenge us to reexamine our commitment to Christ and our Discipleship. We also offer Bible studies and other small group ministries that are designed to challenge and support students. We have a “Round Table Discussion Group” meeting on the campus of Hampden-Sydney. This has become a “guy’s group” and provides an opportunity for discussions that range from deep theological issues to dealing with stress and peer pressure. We have reached out onto the campus more this year with small group gatherings on campus. One of these gatherings is our new Prayer Circle. Students gather in the grill of the student union and have a time of prayer. Other students in the area are invited to offer prayer request or just join in the circle.

The doors of the building are left open most of the time, for study, prayer, relaxation, movies and TV, pool and ping-pong, and many fellowship opportunities. Many groups use the Wesley Foundation Student Center. These groups include AA, NA, the Farmville District Youth program, other community and church organizations, the Farmville District Pastors, and the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. It is our hope and prayer that the Wesley Foundation continues to be “a place where hearts are warmed.”

Richard Meiser, Director and Campus Minister

RISE: A United Methodist Faith Community

This past year at RISE has been one of change and growth among our community. We are continuing to grow and see the lives of college students be transformed. We continue to imagine what it looks like to be with the college students at James Madison, Eastern Mennonite, and Bridgewater. I could go on and on about the amazing students we have and how their lives are being transformed, but we thought it would be best if you heard it directly from them.

Justin Hicks, Coordinator of Campus Outreach RISE

The reason I went to RISE the first time is not nearly as important as the reason I went to RISE a second time. You can go to any church just once, or any event really, and never have any need to return. It happens all the time. But what convinces you to go a second time? I had heard RISE was weird, that it was a bunch of strange hippies- and even that I wouldn't "fit in" with a group "like that." To be honest I have no idea why I went the first time. As a college freshman and a tired out Christian, I was looking for any group to plug into and anyone who would help me feel like I belonged. The world was very black and white then, and easy was better. Easy was safe.

Which ironically (or not so ironically if you think about it), is not who RISE is. I have asked more questions with RISE than I think I'm particularly comfortable with, and black and white turned more and more into a gray; a gray which I'm convinced is starting to be the true color of love and forgiveness. Gray is not easy, which I think is why I went back a second time to RISE and many more after that. It was the first place I had come across that didn't try to explain everything all at once; I wouldn't find any answers to the universe here. And to be honest it was uncomfortable and fascinating at the same time. It wasn't what I was looking for, but I know now that these are the people that I needed. With this community I consider to be my disastrously beautiful family, I have grown to live in the fraying gray of here and now. I have fallen in love with an immensely diverse group of people (which keeps things spicy), and been okay to ask the hard questions without really looking for an answer. We don't work towards answers; we work towards acceptance, honesty, love, and something we call God's dream. These are the things I needed most, and I found them in the most unlikely places.

I think these are some of the few words that I think are befitting to explain the impact that this community has made in my life, and the opportunities of life they have given me. I am proud of the work we do in our community, and the way we unconditionally love everyone we meet. That's something I think is really hard to find, inside or outside of a church. I am so thankful for the love I have been given here and the unconditional love I have been taught to show to others. I have never been part of a group that is so aware of every story that walks through our doors. We ask no questions. We make no judgments. One of our sayings is "Everyone means everyone." We don't care what you look like or what you might believe. We're just glad you came and that we got to meet you, because you matter to God and so you matter to us. That makes things messy sometimes and really painful. It's a big risk to be brutally honest and authentic, but that's how the most beautiful relationships are built.

This is the place I have come to call home and a family I have come to love. As I'm preparing to graduate and move onto another city, I hope to create honest communities like

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RISE everywhere I go. As hard as it will be to leave, I can be RISE to those who may never walk through their doors. I can show the authentic love of God, I know I am a gift to this world and one by one we are working to mend it together.

Jordan Garrett, JMU Senior, RISE Worship Leader

In reflecting on what RISE has meant to me and how RISE has impacted my college career, I can only smile. My entire sense of meaning and faith have deepened far beyond I could have ever imagined. This community took me into a relationship with God that I could have never envisioned before. RISE has taught me what love looks like and what it means to live as a resurrection people. This community has taught me how to question everything I have ever known and challenges me each day to love people like Jesus radically loved every person he came into contact with.

I have become a person that wants to mend every part of creation that I touch with love. Jesus put me here to jump in and love this world he created. RISE has taught me that I am transformed through relationships. RISE has shown me what it looks like to not give up even when loving Jesus is not the “popular” thing to do. RISE has held me when I am broken and reminded me that I am enough and that God is enough. RISE has challenged me to jump outside of my comfort zone and trust that God is going to be there when I may fall flat on my face.

In college, it is easy to get caught up in the bubble that is the whole university life. Through RISE has beautifully torn those bubbles away to show me the Jesus that passes me on every street and whispers to me, “THAT person has something incredible to show you, if you let them”.

Maggie Nave, JMU Senior, RISE Worship Leader

My name is Alexis Ward and I am a junior at James Madison University. I am currently a religion major, music minor and beginning the journey towards ordination in the United Methodist Church. I firmly believe that this is the call that God has placed upon me, and I can testify without a doubt that he placed RISE in my life to get me there.

I started out at JMU as an eighteen-year-old girl with a full ride scholarship to play the bassoon and study to be a music teacher. I grew up as a military child and when I started at JMU my family had just moved to Connecticut, which felt like a lifetime away. I was surrounded by people and yet all alone in a strange valley. As an extrovert I knew this loneliness couldn't last for long, I needed people. I was born, baptized, and raised in United Methodist Churches across the United States; I figured a church was a good place to start. The first Sunday I attended church in the valley was at RISE and they were celebrating their second birthday, and what a day it was. There was celebration, music, laughter, party hats and praise, but the greatest thing that happened on that sunny Sunday morning was I knew that I had found my home in Harrisonburg.

Since my first Sunday at RISE I have gone from being volunteer, to intern, to Worship Coordinator and sitting on the church council which we refer to as the “Roundtable”. I am currently the only college student sitting on the Roundtable, which is both terrifying and exciting. The family I have found at RISE has pushed and encouraged me to use the voice I have been given me to do all that I can to mend God's creation. They've also taught me what it means to own up to my mistakes and ask for help when I need it. Since being at RISE I

have grown as a student, daughter, friend, leader, and follower of Jesus.

Marianne Williamson said, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.” This fear is what has held me back my entire life, and it is probably something I will continue to struggle with, but RISE has taught me to continue to have hope because love is stronger than fear.

Alexis Ward, JMU Junior, RISE Worship Coordinator

IGNITE United Methodist Church (formerly Tidewater Wesley Foundation)

2014 was a year of transition for the United Methodist Campus Ministry at ODU. After Annual Conference, we began the process of transitioning from the Tidewater Wesley Foundation to IGNITE United Methodist Church. This is new approach to campus ministry, creating a hybrid between a campus ministry and a new church.

The vision of IGNITE is to “IGNITE people’s hearts to change the city.” We believe that church is more than just a building or a service. In our words, it’s a verb: it’s who we are, what we do, how we live; it changes lives. This has been a message that has resonated deeply in our community.

For many years, Norfolk has struggled with serious poverty issues. The layout of the city is such that often the very wealthy will live a mere block from the very poor, with little or no interaction between the two. Within the city, there is a great desire for change, but often a lack of clarity for how to begin. We believe that the answer is Jesus Christ and his church.

Within the ODU context specifically, there is a palpable desire within the student body to make a difference through their lives. However, there is obvious resistance to religious institutions, especially the church. Students long to change the world, but do not trust the church. Our goal has been to help them reimagine what it means to be a church, to overcome many of their preconceived notions or past experiences, and to experience the body of Christ in action.

Much of our efforts this year have centered around establishing our name in the community and building a committed team of people who want to help bring a church like this to life. To do this, we have utilized a variety of methods. We have led a variety of mission experiences throughout the city, from feeding the homeless to painting with children from impoverished families. We have held Bible studies and worship nights. We have even handed out free t-shirts and water (almost 10,000 bottles) at home football games as a means of meeting people and sharing our vision.

Perhaps our most unique outreach opportunity has been a monthly gathering we have dubbed Theology on Tap. At this event, we meet at a local restaurant or social spot and discuss current events and how they relate to our faith. For instance, in the wake of the riots and court decisions in Ferguson, MO, we talked about issues of race in our own community, what the Bible speaks to these issues, and how we should respond. Such events have helped us to meet and build relationships with many people who have little interest in the institutional church, but are looking for community and the opportunity to impact the world around them.

What has been quite unique and exciting about IGNITE is that we have been reaching a population far broader than college-age Christians. Almost half of the people who have joined our team or attended our events have been unchurched. Furthermore, many have

also been young adults and young families beyond the campus. Through this, we have experienced a growing momentum that will lead us into IGNITE's launch in just a few months.

Starting on Easter, we will begin monthly worship services. Throughout this period we will continue to build our team and improve our services. Then, in late September, we will "launch" IGNITE, beginning to worship weekly. What is most exciting, though, is not merely holding regular worship or monthly events. It is the experience of making disciples, of watching God transform the lives of those who have joined our team, and anticipating the tremendous hope of what is still yet to come.

Brandon Robb

United Campus Ministries, Christopher Newport University

UCM, CNU has two basic overlapping components: the student discipleship group with the campus minister serving as advisor and resource; and the campus minister's broader role on the CNU campus.

The student discipleship group meets almost every Sunday evening for a meal, fellowship and student-led program on a faith-related topic. Our group has a strong emphasis on showing our love for God by our service to others. Addressing hunger and poverty and alleviating their causes are our central focus. 2014 was our third consecutive year for conducting conversational English classes each Sunday afternoon, to enable them to improve their opportunities for employment. Most of our learners are native Spanish speakers, with a very broad range of prior education and work experience.

UCM's major event to alleviate hunger was the Potato Drop, organized entirely by our students, in cooperation with the CNU Student Assembly and the Society of St. Andrew. 42,000 pounds of potatoes were deposited on the CNU lawn, and roughly 75 volunteers packaged them in ten-pound bags for distribution through food banks, church pantries, and feeding programs. The students have obtained funding for a second Potato Drop, to be held April 10th, 2015. In addition, UCM (and Circle K) assists each year with the local with the local CROP Walk, which circles around the CNU campus.

In October, the students provided two Halloween-related events: a fun house for young children and a Spook House for CNU students after the Homecoming Game. We served about a dozen children and 75 CNU students, and all had an exhaustingly good time. In February, students took valentines to a senior residence, where they participated in leading a worship service.

In November, UCM hosts our annual fundraising event, the Festival of Church Music. The university has been generous in allowing us to use the Chapel without charge for this, and the community loves the venue. One of our supporting churches provides a music director, who leads us to make a truly blessed sound of praise. Members of the Board and the UCM students take speaking parts, which several local choirs join together for a beautiful afternoon of worship. In 2014, we had over 200 participants, and we received the largest dollar amount of contributions ever. This was in large part due to the compelling remarks made by Paul Tribble, president of the university, and those made by two of our student leaders.

Our Board of Directors underwent a large amount of turnover in 2014, due to a number of folks completing 3 or 6-year terms. However, we have been led to a host of new and

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enthusiastic new board members, representing 6 Protestant denominations.

UCM partners with local congregations to provide free snacks and words of encouragement to students during exams. This results in over 1,500 direct contacts with CNU students each semester, helping young adults to connect or reconnect in a very gentle way with the church. Students and local church folks both enjoy this very much!

Over the six years I have been at CNU, I'm pleased that the relationship I have with the administration has grown strong. Simply put, I have become known as a trustworthy colleague who always tries to be considerate of those whose faith perspectives differ from my own. Consequently, I am often called upon to provide prayers for public occasions: Honors Invocation, Commencement, Memorial Services, etc. In the fall of 2014, I was an adjunct professor teaching Western Religions, in which I taught 19 students for 2 ½ hours a week. That's more than I ever had as a pastor!

Susan H. Cothran, Campus Minister

Pace Campus Ministry (Wesley Foundation @ VCU)

As we began 2014, in many ways we resembled a local congregation in that we met every Sunday during the year. God blessed us by allowing us to welcome 6988 persons in our Sunday afternoon worship experience! To me, that's cause for celebrating the glory of our Risen Savior! In addition, there were another 1739 persons in our Monday night bible study (Drop Zone). All glory belongs to our God. A special thanks to the Office of Church Development for trusting us again with a generous grant to compensate our worship team, including a young preacher who has since decided to leave us. And while these numbers are impressive and may indicate fruit to some, they also indicate there's a hunger on the part of young adults for the Living Word.

Bishop Young Jin Cho attended one of our worship services and was so moved that he decided to share with the entire Virginia Annual Conference what God was doing here in response to our prayers. I am humbled to be recognized simply for being obedient to the Holy Spirit.

So we begin 2015 in transition as we wait to behold the wonders of our Lord in this New Year. What will God do? How will we respond to the move of the Holy Spirit? Who will step forward in response to the invitation of Jesus Christ? These and other questions await an answer as we endeavor to be faithful. Please, pray with and for us as we walk with students and others in the VCU Community.

James "JD" Daniely, Director

United Campus Ministries at Virginia State University Home of FLOW: Faith, Love, Outreach & Worship!!!

As always, United Campus Ministries at Virginia State University is extremely grateful for the support of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and the James River District for their prayerful and generous support of our ministry with young adults! God has provided an abundance of new opportunities for the 2014-2015 year and we are rejoicing over what has taken place and what is to come!! Our first class of Oikonomia: A Service Program for Future Church Leaders students provided the communities surrounding VSU with a number of instances to serve the needs of others in the name of

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our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Six students worked in groups of two with a number of local churches to volunteer at adult care facilities, elementary schools, faith communities, men's and women's shelters, and other civic minded organizations in an effort to share the love of Christ with others! In exchange for their services, they were granted stipends of \$2,000.00 at the end of the fall 2014 semester. The same award is awaiting them at the end of the spring 2015 term! We look forward to working with a new class of students in the fall of 2015 as they serve the ministry as interns to help us with a new vision for our campus ministry!!

In December of 2014, a new chapter of ministry in the village of Ettrick was catalyzed! The Ettrick United Methodist Church voted to partner with United Campus Ministries giving birth to a new church idea for young adults on the college campus and the community!! On February 1, 2015, this relationship commenced affording United Campus Ministries the opportunity to worship at the Ettrick UMC sanctuary on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm! By God's grace, by the fall of 2015, Ettrick UMC and United Campus Ministries and will give birth to a ministry by the name of FLOW: Faith, Love, Outreach, & Worship!! With support from the Virginia Conference's Center for Congregational Excellence and the James River District, this new faith community will exist to serve as a vessel through which the power of the gospel will flow through the community of Ettrick!! There is much work to do in the restructuring of the ministry with an emphasis to reach both the campus community and those outside of it!! It is our continued prayer that God's grace and a harvest of dedicated students will continue to provide the levels of discipleship needed to thrust this ministry forward in Jesus' name!! We continue to pray for the spiritual, intellectual, and social growth of all of our ministries including the Avodah music ministry, the Chara performing arts ministry, the Girlz at the Gate intercessory prayer ministry, and the Friday night student led bible study "What's the Word?"

It is has been an exciting year and we are confident that the new year will be even more so! We continue press towards the mark of the high calling of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! We are thankful for the United Methodist Church as we could not answer to call of Christ in our area without your undying support!!

Rev. Delano Douglas, Director

The William and Mary Wesley Foundation

This year has been an amazing year of ministry at Wesley. The numbers of students, their passionate commitment to following Jesus, as well as our mission and ministry, are all very strong. Our campus ministry community continues to lead the way, as our vision statement says, "Through following Jesus, we embrace God's radical hospitality towards all." Not only are the students involved in Wesley aware of the grace and love that is embodied here, other students and the college recognize it as well. The students are following Jesus and leading the way.

Speaking of leading the way, our new Leadership Team took office in January. They are Carolyn Hartley, President; Victoria Gum, Devotions; Cara Dost, Discipleship; Erica West, Communications; Allison Harkness and Sadie Meadows, Fellowship. This group of dedicated, passionate students led the way in Wesley having a new focus and direction to our Sunday Night Programs. We now have themes that guide several weeks of worship, discussion, and reflection. This spring semester, those themes are God and Mental Health,

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Race and Faith, and Christianity as a Call to Action. We are already seeing a great response of students to these meaningful worship services, discussions, and programs.

Students are coordinating our partnerships with local churches in mission and ministry, as our connections with Williamsburg, Wellspring, and New Town UMC continue to grow. Nothing exemplifies this better than the Exam Break that we had at the end of the fall semester, sponsored by the Williamsburg UMC United Methodist Men. The UMM and the students partnered together in planning the event, and made some meaningful changes. The result was over 200 students coming to the Wesley Foundation to share in over 450 cookies baked by the UMM, gallons of hot chocolate. In addition, someone from Wellspring UMC had the idea of bringing their yellow lab puppy to the event, and that grew to three more dogs joining us for the event. We also had tins of cookies to share with students from Urbanna UMC's UM Women, exam break study bags from Wellspring UMC, and stress relief bags from the VA Center for Pastoral Care. In addition, students are also partnering together with Williamsburg UMC in their Messy Church ministry. Finally, this spring semester saw a new partnership develop with WindsorMeade retirement community. A group of four Wesley students lead a weekly Bible Study in their assisted living and health care area.

In addition to our Bible Study and Doubters Club weekly meetings, we continue to partner with other campus ministries and student groups in events, service, mission, and ministry. Already this year, Wesley has partnered with the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist, and Episcopal campus ministries, as well as the student NAACP, the Center for Student Diversity, and the Muslim Student Association from hosting speakers, to partnering in events, to joining together in services of remembrance. Finally, Wesley students are coordinating a service day at Shalom Farms for the entire campus ministry community, and this year our mission trip takes us to Costa Rica to partner with Costa Rica Mission Project. It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve with the students and board of The Wesley Foundation, as the students actively follow Jesus on campus, locally, regionally, and beyond.

Rev. Max Blalock, Campus Minister

Wesley at Virginia Tech

In our second year leading over 100 Roanoke District Youth in a "Mission Weekend" at Wesley, one of the youth remarked, "this generous extension of God's love has made a real impact on so many lives. The students at Wesley are all truly exceptional; they radiate such a magnificent love for Christ and others. I am amazed at the ministry that goes on [at Wesley] that is spread into the community...I experienced sanctifying grace working in my life through you all."

It is this type of transformational ministry that is taking place at Wesley! We challenged our ministry to "Don't Just Go to Church...Be the Church" and they have responded. We are living into our desire to "Love Out Loud" through outreach, discipleship, fellowship, mission, and worship. The students engaged in our ministries are embodying their gifts and strengths to build the Kingdom of God.

One of our growing areas of ministry is leading youth retreats across the Conference. Students are being the Church through leading the district youth in worship, mission, and small groups on their retreats. This ministry to the district youth has enabled our students to live out their faith while sharing about campus ministry to youth that will be attending Colleges and Universities across the Conference. It is incredible how many youth and youth

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leaders have given witness to the impact this ministry has had on them.

One youth shared, “I have been coming on this district retreat for 6 years and this was by far one of the best. I experienced God through the Wesley students in a way I haven’t before.”

The second year of 209 Manna Ministries (our student food pantry for Virginia Tech at Wesley) has seen such growth! The University calls on Wesley any time there are students who have need (such as apartment fires and homelessness) as well as the steady stream of students each week who come to the pantry due to food insecurity. We just recently partnered with another campus ministry to open the pantry more times throughout the week. We believe that this partnership will enable us to reach more students who have need. One student mentioned, “As an international grad student on a student’s budget, I am most grateful that an organization such as this exists to help those like myself or in a similar position.”

Last year over 40 students spent their Spring Break doing mission work in Brooklyn, NY for Hurricane Sandy Recovery. This year over 45 students are going to Edenton, NC to help the NC UMVIM tornado recovery efforts. The students’ passion for mission is witnessed in their desire to be the Church in the world. Whether it is the mission trips, collecting cake mixes for the Christmas Store, handing out 350 hot dogs to students downtown on a Friday night, tutoring at a local trailer park, or getting backpacks and school supplies for a local elementary school, the students at Wesley are truly “Loving Out Loud” in all aspects of mission work.

Being in the second year of our new worship service “Foundations,” we have seen tremendous growth. It is exciting to see students engaged in worship and it is becoming a huge part of our ministry. Our attendance is growing, but more importantly we are seeing students being transformed in the community of worship, gathering at the Table together on a weekly basis. Our small group ministry “Communities of Grace” is helping us be intentional about community. The revitalization of this ministry has seen a shift in our community building and authentic relationships. In just the second year, our “CoGs” have grown in number and in participation. We believe this is only going to continue, as our Outreach Ministry to new students is more active than ever. Reaching out to youth prior to them coming to Tech, more intentional and strategic advertising, and a desire to share the Wesley brand to more people on campus, we are witnessing our ministry being the Church to more and more people.

Wesley at Virginia Tech strives to be a vibrant part of our United Methodist Connection in ways that students can passionately enter into fellowship, discipleship, outreach, worship and mission while being a faithful witness to the love of God for all of our neighbors. As you can see, campus ministry is vital to the lives of our young adults and, at Virginia Tech, we are committed to providing a space where doubt and struggle, hope and joy are a healthy and authentic part of students’ faith journeys.

“When I think about the ways that Wesley is engaged in both the Virginia Tech and Montgomery County communities, and the ways that our students are embodying their faith through loving others and their actions, I see people that are truly striving to be the church. I believe that this importance of Being the Church and Loving out Loud will be something that continues to be a part of my life, as well as the rest of Wesley’s.”

*Lauren Wright, Student Campus Minister
Bret Gresham, Campus Minister*

The Wesley Foundation at UVA

If you followed national news from the University of Virginia this year, you know it is not an easy time to be a college student or to be engaged in campus ministry. But it is precisely times like these when it's so important that our church is already here, in the midst of the community, ministering to and with students, speaking out to the institution, addressing issues of importance and relevance to the real lives of students, and helping to create life-giving change in the lives of students and college communities. At the Wesley Foundation at UVA we were already engaged in conversation about "rape culture" at college, before last fall's revelations. Our campus minister was part of the interfaith campus clergy listening posts offered throughout the fall when tensions were high, and she served as one of the leaders of the interfaith United by Hope prayer service in February for the UVA community. She and other clergy held a special meeting with UVA President Teresa Sullivan in December to discuss how religious groups at UVA can help change the culture. Speaking about Wesley's engagement in the issues, 4th year student Carly Sawyer said, "Our two-part forum on rape culture was so timely and it turned out that we had information we could share and we knew how to talk about sexual violence when all of a sudden everyone was talking about it."

Carly served as a Calling 21 intern last summer and is headed to Duke Divinity School this fall. Christine Dennis, who also served in Calling 21 last summer, is headed into full time mission work this year. The opportunity to engage in Christian community with peers in college – through campus ministry and through Calling 21 – makes a real difference in the lives of students and in the life of the church.

This year our student leaders embraced a new motto: "Just because we've always done it, doesn't mean we always have to." This playful reminder helped us branch out into new territory, offering our first Fall Fest block party with free food trucks, corn hole, outdoor worship, and a lot of fun. Over 180 students took part! We raised money for Imagine No Malaria through a special worship text offering and a Facebook challenge to match donations made by a certain date. Students made and delivered Christmas blankets for infirm and shut-in neighbors, led worship at the Fluvanna women's prison, led small groups for prayer and support, volunteered at the PACEM homeless shelter, and played some mean intramural volleyball. We studied Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible* and MaryAnn McKibben Dana's *Sabbath in the Suburbs* in advance of her visit as our McDonald Lecturer during the Virginia Festival of the Book in March. Throughout the spring we joined with our friends at Hillel for an interfaith dinner and discussion series. Our spring break trip to Atlanta, GA, focused on ministry with homeless people, through the M25 organization.

As our building turns 50 years this year, we are already looking ahead to the next 50 years of ministry. We expect to build on our successes and to branch out into new forms of ministry for new generations. One of the ways we expect to change and grow is by developing new and increased funding to support and grow the ministry, starting with our Building a Foundation for the Future capital campaign, which will renovate our 50-year-old building, add an elevator/lift, renovate our student housing, and add new student living space. Bishop Cho joined us in April for our 50-year celebration and groundbreaking! Please take a moment to listen to students and recent alumni who have been deeply affected by our Conference's commitment to campus ministry: www.wesleyatuva.org/ccvideo Your support really does make a difference in the lives of students. In a year of bad news, hear the good news about our church ministering in the midst of increasingly vulnerable college communities.

Rev. Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director

BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity continues to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering laity so that we might effectively partner with each other and our clergy to live out God's call upon our lives.

Associate Conference Lay Leader, Larry Creamer (S) leads a team of the board for Engaging (Holistic Stewardship) and is developing a culture of call for all laity focusing on prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness identifying networking and learning opportunities for District Lay Leaders and Local Church Lay Leaders, establishing and giving oversight to various means of communication between members of the Board of Laity (i.e. e-mail groups, articles for *The Advocate* and other print communications, website). Additionally developing and offering communications alternatives for meetings of teams.

Associate Conference Lay Leader Joyce Duncan (L) leads Equipping (Leadership Excellence) This office is responsible for developing and offering training to new District Lay Leaders overseeing Lay Servant/Speaking Ministries, developing resources for District and Local Church Lay Leaders, and resourcing Local Church Leadership Development and Nominations Committees.

Associate Conference Lay Leader, Johnnie Morris (F) leads a team of the board for Empowering (Shared Ministry) and is strengthening lay-clergy partnerships for ministry (Partners in Ministry Empowering Shared Ministry has launched this year with the help of Martha Stokes, Conference Staff), advocating for the laity and promoting Laity Sunday, encouraging the presence of the District Lay Leaders, Associate District Lay Leaders, or other laity involved in District ministries at all local church Charge Conferences and the assessment of needs of District and Local Church Lay Leaders in order to better support their service.

Lay Servant Ministries, led by Johnnie Draughon have had a year of fruitful ministry. Johnnie and the District Directors continue to implement our new structure and the courses reflective of the *Discipline* 2012 requirements.

Extremely exciting was our invitation from the Virginia Conference to the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries that was held in Williamsburg, January 22-25, 2015. Directors from all over the country enjoyed creative worship, were greeted by Bishop Cho, conducted very important ministry awareness time and had opportunity to visit ministries in the area and relaxed in Colonial Williamsburg.

The Lay Servant Academy led by David Bailey and his dedicated team created a weekend of learning and fellowship at Blackstone. While hampered by winter snows, all who gathered were well fed by the Spirit.

The Board of Laity will also welcome the Southeast Jurisdiction Conference Lay Leaders in July 2015 to Richmond for their summer meeting. We are grateful for this opportunity to welcome them to our conference and share in their time with us.

We have celebrated the leadership of two District Lay Leaders whose terms have ended on the board. Peggy Oakes (D) and Janie Nuttall (R) have greatly enhanced their respective district ministries. We thank them both. In addition we have celebrated two new faces joining the board. We welcome T. Bobby Thompson (D) and Ron White (R).

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Thank you to Martha Stokes for many years of always being at the ready when the board needed assistance or guidance. And welcome to Cheryl Edley-Worford, our not so new anymore Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. Thanks to Cindy

Ingroff, Administrative Assistant for invaluable assistance and gifted wisdom always. My partner in ministry, Bishop Young Jin Cho continues to shake my spiritual being. I thank him for his ministry among us, as we clergy and laity together look excitedly forward to a new conference year 2015 in continued prayer and spiritual growth.

Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The primary purpose of United Methodist Men is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and all their relationships. Accordingly, the conference UMMen works with the General Commission of United Methodist Men (GCUMM) in Nashville Tennessee. We also work with the Districts and Local fellowships on developing and sharing programs that the needs and interests of men of all ages.

With the support of the General commission of UMMen in Nashville and the Virginia Conference for Ministry to men through men is done mainly with men's chartering and Every Man's Share (EMS) renewals in accordance with the *Book of Discipline*.

The charter is the connectional link that binds our UMMen local units together in ministry with all those even in other annual conferences.

The full UMMen conference cabinet consists of 41 members broken down as follows: Six elected officers, 16 districts presidents 11 appointed positions, six past-presidents and the Bishop as an Honorary member.

In addition to the four cabinet meetings we have spring leadership training day. We also have our annual Men's breakfast during annual conference. We sponsor a men's spiritual retreat the first full weekend at the conference and retreat center in Blackstone Va.

We support the Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) in Virginia which is a bible study for our prisons also Heart Havens and Wesleyan Building Brothers.

Jeff Hall, President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organization of United Methodist Women will be 150 years old in 2019. In the past 145 years we have successfully fulfilled our PURPOSE and served women, children, and youth in our local communities, across the Conference, and around the world. We do this by equipping our women in the local church through education and opportunities to be in mission.

It was a United Methodist Women in the Danville District who saw a need and began a mission which became Henry Fork Center in Rocky Mount; a United Methodist Woman who saw a need to educate the children of Franklin County and began what is now Ferrum College; it was a United Methodist Women in Portsmouth who began what is now Wesley Community Service Center, a National Project of the organization; and it was the United Methodist Women who wrote the Charter For Racial Justice 40 years prior to it

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being adopted by the UMC - leading the fight for justice through foresight and wisdom. We continue to make our women aware of needs and opportunities and are making plans now for the next 150 years.

All women are invited to join this worthwhile organization which is dedicated to improving the lives of women, children, and youth. A woman does not have to be a United Methodist to become a United Methodist Women. She just needs the desire to use her God-given gifts to engage in God's mission in the world.

We will provide many opportunities in 2015-2016 to equip women to be God's hands in the world. All are invited; registration forms for each event can be found at www/vaumw.org.

- Mission Encounter July 24 - 26 in Blackstone sponsored by Conference Board of Mission and United Methodist Women
- Young Women's Event (18 - 40 years), Blackstone, September 18-19
- 43rd Annual Meeting on October 24 - 25, Blackstone
- February 4, 2016 United Methodist Day at General Assembly, Richmond
- Spiritual Life Retreat on April 29 - May 1, at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center.
- June 3 - 5, Southeastern Jurisdictional Meeting in Charleston, SC
- June 11 is our Annual United Methodist Women's Day at Ferrum College

The *Discipline* says there will be a United Methodist Women organization in each local church. Pastors are members of the United Methodist Women and are an important part of the organization and its success. If your church would like help in organizing or reorganizing a unit, please call either Mary Jane Rawley or Joyce Winston for assistance. UMW are great supporters in the church's mission because of its organization and educational opportunities.

Joyce Winston, President

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Church Development Team has been working hard to fulfill its mission to assist in creating New Faith Communities and supporting the work of vitality in existing churches under the All Things New Plan. Below you will find CDT's activities toward this work.

The Five Talent Academy continues to offer training opportunities related to worship, financial stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry with the poor. We also continue to offer these events via web-based simulcast to regional locations throughout Virginia. Recent events have included leadership by Maria Hall Dixon and Shane Claiborne.

The Equipping Planter team directs the invitation, discernment, and training of planters of new faith communities for the Virginia Conference. Those who are interested in planting engage in a process of discernment as to each person's gifts for this unique ministry. The first stage is the Church Leadership Institute, which is held annually each fall. We had over 60 participants this past November. Some who attend this event decide that they wish to explore this call more deeply. These prepare a self-reflective paper and

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are interviewed by members of our Church Development Team. Summaries of these interviews are given to the cabinet, to help inform their appointment of planters of new faith communities. Once appointed, church planters attend a boot camp during the summer of their appointment, and coaches are assigned to help guide their ministry.

The New Faith Community subgroup of the CDT continues to help create a culture of excellence, fruitfulness and vitality in the area of new faith community development in our conference. This year we have continued to resource and encourage recently initiated new faith communities, local churches, district Boards of Mission and their equivalents, the Cabinet and others in our conference to live out the “All Things New” strategy through the planting of new faith communities. The New Faith Community subgroup is eager to work with local churches and groups of local churches who are discerning where, when and how to give birth to a new faith community. We continue to be available to work with district Boards of Mission or their equivalents in the new faith community discernment process. In addition to resourcing our conference in the area of new faith community development, the New Faith Community subgroup also receives, reviews and makes recommendations to the CDT and the Common Table regarding funding for new faith community development proposals. This year we received multiple proposals that were reviewed and given careful consideration. We remain prayerful and excited about the future of new faith community development within our conference.

The Church Development Team partners with the Large, Medium and Small Church leadership teams. In 2015 the training is as follows:

- 1) Just in Time training for Large Church pastors is May 7-8, Mid-Size church pastors is May 12-13. And Small Church will be July 11.
- 2) Fall event for LC is Oct 27 with Gil Rendle leading, Mid Size will be Oct 1, 2 and 3 with Phil Maynard leading and Small Church will be Oct 31 with Lewis Parks leading.

We would like to thank Wayne Snead (former CDT chair), Mark Ogren, Kim Johnson and Pat Hickman for their efforts that help make All Things New in the Virginia Conference.

Melissa Dunlap, CDT Chair

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Commission on Disabilities (COD) is charged with being the primary Virginia Conference resource and advocate for persons with disabilities and their families. While one focus has been the more obvious disabilities and challenges of mobility, visual, speech and hearing deficits, we are no less aware of the difficulties facing those with developmental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual issues. We seek to serve in order that all might participate and reach their fullest potential as valued Children of God.

Education, awareness and spiritual support are the main keys, along with commensurate economic and other forms of assistance. COD continues to provide grants for accessibility improvements and scholarships for those without the financial means to participate in appropriate summer camp opportunities. We all need a little help from our friends from time to time. For many persons with disabilities, just having a friend can be crucial. Camp Rainbow Connection (CRC) lost one of its best friends and energetic

advocates this past year. Dorothy Crowder was so much more than the resident camp nurse for the staff and campers alike. The new part-time CRC Coordinator is Stacy Roberts.

Our Virginia Conference agency should be strengthened and facilitated through our mutual responsibility and partnership with COD, CRC and the Core Leadership Team. COD has greatly benefited from the love, energy and guidance of our former Conference Director of Inclusivity, Martha Stokes. Martha has moved on to other responsibilities. We at COD look forward to continued growth and possible new ministries under the capable leadership of our new Director of Inclusivity, Cheryl Edley-Worford.

Rev. Charles W. Townsend, Chair

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

Having engaged the previous year in identifying objectives and strategies to further its mission of serving as a prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of ethnic and racial minorities into the total life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference, the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) focused this year on seeing that mission in action throughout the conference. In September, we convened a group of conference leaders to seek to connect others who are already doing vital work in this area, and to discuss how our efforts overlap and could be strengthened. The conversation was fruitful, identifying successes and challenges in cross-racial and cross-cultural ministry and explicitly examining the processes by which we go about this, and how it can be improved. One of the needs we identified is the necessity of finding and sharing widely stories of success and challenge in cross-racial and cross-cultural ministry, and so we welcome the input of all in the conference in identifying such stories.

In addition, we are excited about the possibility of renewing the Bishop's Convocation on Race and Religion in 2016, and look forward to the process of prayer and discernment in helping to plan what promises to be a time for holy conversation around difficult issues, as well as a time for rejoicing in common worship among the incredible diversity already present in the Virginia Annual Conference. Finally, CEMCA was pleased to assist with travel to both the Black Methodists Church Renewal (BMCR) national conference as well as the conference of the Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano Americano (MARCHA).

We are indebted to the enthusiasm and fresh ideas the Commission as a whole has brought to this process, and most especially to those outside CEMCA who took the time to share with us the wonderful ministry the conference is already doing, and to learn, together, how we might further these ministries. With their help, your prayers and support, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to continuing the work of living more fully into this vision.

Jake Paysour and Gary Miller, Co-Chairs

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of women in the full life of the United Methodist church. To further this mission, COSROW collects data on the participation of women, minorities, youth and young

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adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church as represented by on-stage and at-the-microphone presence at Annual Conference. Data collection continues with Annual Conference 2015 and the selection of delegates for South East Jurisdictional and General Conference.

Data collection at Annual Conference 2014 continues to suggest women are encouraged to participate, yet we still have work to do. During the planned worship services, men and women are both involved at a relatively equal rate. This modelling of women in leadership has a massive impact, encouraging our congregants to recognize women have an important and active role in the church. Unfortunately, women represent only one-third of the activity in the plenary and business portions of the meeting, compared to men's representation at two-thirds. Likewise, minorities average 10-20% of the participation in plenary, business and worship sessions compared to the 80-90% of those of Caucasian descent. Youth and young adults account for 3-7% of the activity during the business session, and the proportion of persons of disability participating is negligible.

The Virginia Conference still has work to do and it is up to all of us to be part of that work. We need to encourage women, persons of color, young people, and persons with disabilities to be active stakeholders in the life of the United Methodist church. Our churches need to welcome all God's children in the leadership of their churches. It means encouraging women to be lead pastors in large membership churches. It means welcoming women as pastors in all UMC churches in the Virginia Conference. It means encouraging women as leaders in committees, such as Finance and Trustees, beyond the traditional care-giving roles so often assigned to them. Likewise, minorities, youth, and persons with disabilities should be encouraged and welcomed to take up the mantle God passes to them.

We are called to go forth and make disciples of ALL nations. To make ALL feel welcome, ALL need to be visibly and actively involved in the life of the church. Let us strive to become the church for ALL persons.

Shan Sixbey, lay chair

DISCIPLESHIP CIRCLES

Two Discipleship Circles Facilitator Training Events resulted in over fifty (50) trained facilitators equipped to assist in the formation of Discipleship Circles throughout the Virginia Conference. The Discipleship Circles movement formed from the Bishop's *All Things New - Equipping Vital Congregations* Task Force designed to increase discipleship formation and congregational vitality through leadership development. Discipleship Circles focus on connections: to God, to one another, and to the world beyond our local churches. Beta Groups formed in 2014 continue to meet and assist in the development and implementation of Discipleship Circles. Look for updates on the Discipleship Circles Facebook page as Discipleship Circles continue to form throughout the Virginia Conference and become a grass-roots, conference-wide resource. You are invited to join in prayer along with the Prayer Team ministry as we work to increase congregational vitality and fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Cheryl Edley-Worford, Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

The Bishops Initiative, Imagine No Malaria, hit the ground running in June 2014 with our goal of saving 100,000+ lives from the treatable and preventable disease of malaria by Annual Conference 2015. Since then we have worked through our Bishop, our Cabinet, our Steering Team, our Field Coordinator, our District Point People and our pastors to inform our churches and encourage them to participate in this initiative. We have seen tremendous support and creativity from all age groups, especially the children, youth and young adults. We have appreciated the way our churches have reached into their community to educate and involve as many as possible in this effort. We have made a difference in the lives of thousands who will not have to struggle any longer from the devastating effects of malaria. As we have hopefully transformed the lives of so many, we pray our lives have also been transformed in this process!

Maria Maxwell, Virginia Conference Field Coordinator



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

GRACEINSIDE (FORMERLY CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA)

Shot at point blank range in the face with a sawed-off shotgun, it is a miracle that Robert Ball survived. But what happens next is a testimony to the power of grace received. As a young man, left for dead, Robert Ball became a Corrections Officer intent on finding the man who had all but killed him. Twenty-five years later, he retired as a Captain from Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland, Virginia – never having found his perpetrator but having found forgiveness. Called into ministry and convicted by what he had seen and lived, Robert Ball completed his theological education and returned to prison as a chaplain in 2006. Chaplain at both Lunenburg and Baskerville Correctional Centers, Chaplain Ball is a living example not only of how God can transform a heart – but also how God can radically transform lives – inmates and staff. Learn more about Chaplain Ball and other chaplains like him throughout our Commonwealth at www.graceinside.org. Virginia Conference support helps Chaplain Ball and his colleagues continue saving 30,000 incarcerated lives (and the staff who tend them) from the inside-out!

GraceInside has employed chaplains, like Chaplain Ball, since 1920. Although almost 100 years old, we are also brand new! 2014 was a year full of reasons to celebrate something new at GraceInside:

- New name - from Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc. to GraceInside.
- New website! www.graceinside.org.
- New Facebook presence at GraceInside
- New Twitter presence @GraceInsideVA
- New YouTube channel

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- New print and video materials
- New organizational structure

We celebrated a stronger presence in the community and heightened awareness of our ministry and mission. All those things make our real mission, saving lives from the inside-out, more attainable!

Unique in the United States, Virginia is the only state that maintains expressly Christian chaplains inside the prisons and can do this only because GraceInside obtains private funding. The prison mission field is extremely fertile and fruitful. Broken lives open to the healing of Christian influence and the touch of Jesus. Through GraceInside, lives are truly saved and entire families can be transformed. Sharing Jesus through worship services, baptisms, Bible studies, grief groups, recovery programs and pastoral care, GraceInside's 30 privately funded Christian chaplains provide hope for our Christian brothers and sisters incarcerated in Virginia's many state prisons. The Methodist church was among our founding denominations. Your support is ESSENTIAL to the survival of GraceInside. Without your continued help, we cannot do the job you have tasked us to do. We rely on our founding denominations to keep us in their hearts.

We end 2014 with a commitment to increase our efforts to provide our chaplains with the support they deserve as they visit those in prison on behalf of all Christians. We are grateful that six chaplains now can serve full-time for GraceInside but we need to increase the hours our chaplains share the ministry of Jesus Christ within the prison environment. We at GraceInside thank you for your support! We know this vital ministry impacts all of us, whether we see it or not. It is our privilege to see firsthand that lives, through Christ, are changed from the inside-out.

Rev. J. Randy Myers, President

DISCIPLE BIBLE OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF VIRGINIA

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) of Virginia began in Virginia in 2011. There were 39 prisons and juvenile detention centers identified as sites to take the Disciple Bible study and Rings of Fellowship for the youthful offenders ministry into. Since then, with the help of volunteers and contributions D.B.O.M has been able to take the study to ten prisons and one juvenile detention center. Three of those prisons are now studying Disciple II in addition to Disciple I studies they had already completed. Once the studies are started in an institution, they usually continue as there is a turnover of participants at each institution. The motto of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries is "Transforming lives in prisons and pews". Because we are trying to encourage as many people as possible with studying the Word of God, we also provided the necessary materials for a small rural church which asked for help. It is our goal to eventually reach more prisons.

Gene Mims, President

JUST NEIGHBORS MINISTRY

Just Neighbors Ministry is a mission project of the Arlington District. Just Neighbors has a unique focus on humanitarian cases, serving people who for the most part have no other place to turn for immigration legal assistance. The northern Virginia area is fortunate to have an array of legal services providers, but no other organization can assist

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clients who cannot afford to pay any fee amount, however reduced. Just Neighbors helps women who have experienced domestic violence or other violent crimes, the homeless who have lost their documents, and youth and young adults who seek temporary permission to work in the United States.

Our impact is multiplied by the extraordinary talent of volunteers, both professionals and others who provide clerical, interpretive and other services. In 2014, we had 141 volunteers donate 6,969 hours to serve 761 clients in 887 cases. Since Just Neighbors began in 1996, we have helped clients from 127 countries.

One client wrote, “When I first came to you all, I had lost all hope but now I feel like everything I have been through is for a reason. I don’t know what that reason is yet, but I have hope for the future. . . . It wasn’t just the immigration services, it was the conversations we had; the way you encouraged me. Thank God and thank you so much!” Another said, “You care. That makes all the difference in the world.”

With statements of appreciation like that in mind, it is heart wrenching that Just Neighbors turns away two-thirds of the individuals calling for assistance. Our limited capacity forces us to close our door to eligible clients. We expect the need for immigration legal services to those of low-income to increase with any change to immigration law.

The 2015 budget of Just Neighbors is \$520,312. Funding comes from this conference, local churches, foundations, local governments, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and individuals. Six percent of the budget comes from client fees.

Allison Rutland Soulen

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Started by the VA Conference 36 years ago, SoSA has become the most successful, and effective, ministry of its kind in the nation.

During the last 12 months millions of people were blessed by this ministry of “faith into action” by saving and distributing highly nutritious food to our brothers and sisters in need. Also, in the most recent 12 month period tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters were able to “be a blessing” through SoSA.

The ancient Biblical practice of “gleaning” is alive and well. SoSA received national recognition by being invited to speak at three high level national forums and many regional venues to help focus attention on food waste. SoSA also established a formal partnership with the Disciples of Christ denomination and will play a key role in their bi-annual General Assembly in Columbus, OH this July.

Through good stewardship of creation SoSA provides millions of pounds of the highly nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables so important in any diet. For many of the poor in America, SoSA is their only source of fresh produce. As always, SoSA continues to accomplish much:

- All three programs, the Potato and Produce Project, the Gleaning Network, and Harvest of Hope experienced excellent program performance during the past 12 months
- SoSA saved and distributed 28.9 million pounds of fresh produce. All of this food would have otherwise gone to waste!
- The Potato Project distributed over 10.5 million pounds of produce all across the country.

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- The Gleaning Network saved and distributed over 18.3 million pounds of healthful food
- Over 34,800 volunteers put their faith into action by volunteering in SoSA's Gleaning Network and using the Biblical practice of Gleaning to help feed the hungry
- More than 5,600 separate gleaning events were conducted throughout the country providing hands-on opportunities for people to be involved in the ministry.
- Food was distributed nationwide including in every county in the VA Conference area.
- The ministry touched the lives of millions of people all across the country
- Hundreds of churches across the country joined in SoSA's ministry for the very first time and thousands of churches, of all denominations, continued their partnership
- SoSA's influence has played a key role in national associations such as the Alliance to End Hunger, NAHO (National Anti-Hunger Organizations) and others.
- SoSA hosted the VA Conference District UMW presidents for a meeting
- SoSA was invited as a presenter at three national food waste forums
- SoSA's Harvest of Hope program had nearly 500 participants in a dozen work/study/mission retreats in five states.
- SoSA hosted a VA "Day of Gleaning" on behalf of the Governor and First Lady of VA and gleaning events were held all across the Commonwealth on a single day.
- Over 86.6 million highly nutritious servings of fresh produce were provided at a cost of about two cents a serving!
- Our belief in good stewardship of all resources resulted in a total overhead of less than 3.5%!

We are called to love "in deed and in truth" and that has been SoSA's ministry for over 36 years. That ministry happens because many others take that calling to heart. Volunteers, churches, individuals, farmers, feeding agencies, transporters, Board members, staff, and financial partners, all comprise a thriving network to feed the hungry in our land. The leadership demonstrated by the Virginia Conference continues to be a blessing to this ministry and to all those in need of food; for the body and the Spirit.

Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

"At a time like this, when a large part of the world is in turmoil, the work of a council of churches becomes more significant than ever."

The Rev Henry Lee Robison, Jr, 1st Executive Secretary VCC 1945

These words of Rev. Robison seem even more prophetic today as we face challenges on all fronts. Even as we face tight economic times, your council remains strong albeit on very fragile financial footing. During our Annual Meeting in 2014 we elected a new president, the Rev. Dr. John Myers, of the Eastern Association, Southern Conference, UCC to continue the strong leadership tradition of the council and the work of Bishop

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James Mauney(ELCA). Changes in the refugee and migrant head start programs have exacerbated our financial position, creating a significant unexpected loss of revenue, forcing restructure and significant downsizing. Continuing declines to revenue have created the need to reduce our staff to part time and cut all other areas of our budget in an effort to control expenses. Our vice president the Rev. Jenee' Gilchrist(BGC) has stepped up to assist in representing the council at various strategic meetings in Washington, DC, with the NCCCUSA and various denominational gatherings augmenting the work of the staff, as well as having planned the November 6, 2014 Annual Gathering of the Council featuring the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III.

Exciting plans are underway in 2015 with an Ecumenical Young Pastors Summit on September 2-3; followed by a Faith Leaders Fly-In in collaboration with LifeNet Health and UNOS regarding issues of Life, Death, and Regenerative Medicine. The Council continues to support LARCUM, the National Workshop on Christian Unity, and The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and other expressions of ecumenism within the Commonwealth. Rev John Myers' challenge to the denominations is bringing renewal, excitement and technology to the way the Council relates and functions. This challenge has brought new excitement and energy to the Council as we discern God's call in the 21st Century. We also play an enlarging role in Interfaith Dialogues, including our long-standing dialogue in Richmond involving five of our judicatory executives (of which Bishop Cho is one), three Rabbis, and two Imams.

Our work with VA VOAD, VDEM, and the Department of Homeland Security in helping the Faith Based Community prepare for and respond to disasters continues to have a high level of respect and integrity with our partners. We continue to stand with our Native American brothers and sisters of the six Virginia Tribes as they continue to seek federal recognition now in our 15th year of this effort. The Council joined with other religious leaders in providing testimony for the second Congressional Hearing on Solitary Confinement in February. Our partnership with the VICPP and the Virginia Catholic Conference helps give voice to our shared concerns for justice on the floor of the General Assembly. Our Rural Family Development Program continues to serve children in Caroline County through the Head Start Program.

Jesus prayed "that all may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17). The Apostle Paul reminds us we may not all look alike, but we need each other, and together we comprise one body. When we come together through the Virginia Council of Churches, we provide a common voice that becomes believable in the midst of turmoil and change that the Lord God is one.

The Rev. Dr. John Myers – President
Vacant – Treasurer

The Rev. Jenee' Gilchrist – Vice President
The Rev. Kate Costa – Secretary

For further information, contact Virginia Council of Churches, 1214 West Graham Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-1409, (804) 321-3300, FAX (804) 329-5066. The website at www.vacouncilofchurches.org has information about the council and links with member denominations at national and Virginia levels.

The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister



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CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT TEAM Nominations

A full list of nominees to conference boards and agencies will be included in the conference Official Packet.

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy is charged by the *Discipline* to be responsible for the review and evaluation of the Episcopal leader of the Annual Conference. The Southeastern Jurisdiction COE and the College of Bishops approved a Review and Evaluation tool that would be used by all conferences in the Jurisdiction. We began the process in 2014 of meeting quarterly and emphasizing two sections of the evaluation tool at each meeting. We had invited guests who work closely with our Bishop at each meeting to participate in the discussion. The discussions have been open and honest. We began year two of the process at our February 2015 meeting.

The purpose of these discussions is to be supportive of the work of our Episcopal leader both within the Annual Conference and in the General Church. We also offer encouragement and prayers for our Bishop.

I want to express appreciation to our Committee for their dedication to our work and to Bishop Cho for his spiritual leadership in our Annual Conference.

Shirley Cauffman, Chair

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

The Episcopal Residence Committee completed the annual inspection of the Episcopal Residence in September 2014 and it was found to be in good condition. There is a humidity problem for which we have not yet found a solution.

Shirley Cauffman, Chair

Sallye Bowen, President Conference, Board of Trustees

Steven Summers, President, Council on Finance and Administration

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

	Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
ALEXANDRIA	38,245	560	49	55	1,480	295	250	36,884	(1,361)	-3.56%	10,773	437
ARLINGTON	27,902	520	(16)	151	157	79	160	28,161	259	0.93%	9,644	407
CHARLOTTESVILLE	13,111	180	50	39	171	16	186	13,007	(104)	-0.79%	4,560	150
DANVILLE	11,627	131	16	15	5	25	197	11,562	(65)	-0.56%	4,043	106
EASTERN SHORE	7,058	71	11	3	12	15	118	6,998	(60)	-0.85%	2,483	56
ELIZABETH RIVER	31,475	470	(281)	72	279	53	347	31,057	(418)	-1.33%	9,483	298
FARMVILLE	12,595	115	6	15	39	16	219	12,457	(138)	-1.10%	4,211	112
FREDERICKSBURG	17,899	269	40	29	132	35	181	17,889	(10)	-0.06%	5,976	185
HARRISONBURG	17,534	145	50	20	68	47	239	17,395	(139)	-0.79%	5,781	142
JAMES RIVER	18,244	226	29	39	177	21	262	18,078	(166)	-0.91%	5,400	187
LYNCHBURG	16,486	132	29	21	262	92	240	16,074	(412)	-2.50%	5,144	166
RICHMOND	40,420	543	70	67	364	162	382	40,192	(228)	-0.56%	11,546	348
ROANOKE	19,935	182	75	74	7	4	188	20,067	132	0.66%	5,977	145
STAUNTON	13,157	124	9	22	49	21	251	12,991	(166)	-1.26%	4,335	88
WINCHESTER	17,619	264	51	20	22	30	189	17,713	94	0.53%	6,012	172
YORK RIVER	27,385	318	24	63	242	84	342	27,122	(263)	-0.96%	7,516	187
2014 Total	330,692	4,250	212	705	3,466	995	3,751	327,647	(3,045)	-0.92%	102,884	3,186

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Section I

Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2014

Apportioned Funds	Receipts 12/31/2014	Receipts 12/31/13	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Inc.\Dec.
Conference Apportionments				
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	3,084,951	3,159,516	(74,565)	-2.36%
402 Conference Services	1,685,009	1,702,302	(17,293)	-1.02%
403 District Superintendents	1,910,295	1,949,616	(39,321)	-2.02%
404 Equitable Compensation	443,748	491,202	(47,454)	-9.66%
405 Church Extension & Development	415,752	441,067	(25,315)	-5.74%
406 Virginia Education Fund	828,014	873,537	(45,523)	-5.21%
Subtotal	8,367,769	8,617,240	(249,471)	-2.90%
Clergy Benefit Apportionments				
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,430,599	8,102,812	327,787	4.05%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,260,625	5,104,444	156,181	3.06%
409 Pension Liability Assessment-Pre 82	1,842,901	1,246,106	596,795	47.89%
Subtotal	15,534,125	14,453,362	1,080,763	7.48%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments				
410 Episcopal	776,339	791,996	(15,657)	-1.98%
411 World Service	2,606,642	2,653,242	(46,600)	-1.76%
412 General Connectional	397,988	440,391	(42,403)	-9.63%
413 Ministerial Education	833,950	870,688	(36,738)	-4.22%
414 Black College	336,779	355,024	(18,245)	-5.14%
415 Africa University	77,396	81,909	(4,513)	-5.51%
416 Interdenominational Coop.	66,189	70,429	(4,240)	-6.02%
Subtotal	5,095,283	5,263,679	(168,396)	-3.20%
Total Apportioned Funds	28,997,177	28,334,281	662,896	2.34%
Non-Apportionment Receipts				
Advance Specials				
GBGM	813,944	1,183,527	(369,583)	-31.23%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	99,953	108,477	(8,524)	-7.86%
Special Days				
Human Relations	11,363	11,931	(568)	-4.76%
One Great Hour of Sharing	125,751	103,448	22,303	21.56%
Native American Ministries	17,224	20,284	(3,060)	-15.09%
Peace with Justice	10,052	7,650	2,402	31.40%
World Communion	26,890	29,250	(2,360)	-8.07%
UM Student	8,748	11,882	(3,134)	-26.38%
Other Funds				
Christian Education Fund	1,599	2,831	(1,232)	-43.52%
Youth Service	5,328	11,262	(5,934)	-52.69%
Samaritan Fund - VA Homes	32,235	37,021	(4,786)	-12.93%
UMFS	62,922	66,597	(3,675)	-5.52%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	47,350	4,354	42,996	987.51%
Annual Conference Offering	182,727	197,442	(14,715)	-7.45%
Imagine No Malaria	215,064	-	215,064	
Other	93,087	135,389	(42,302)	-31.24%
Total Non-Apportioned Funds	1,754,237	1,931,345	(177,108)	-9.17%
Total Church Receipts	30,751,414	30,265,626	485,788	1.61%

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Balance Sheets

	12/31/2014	12/31/2013
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets:</i>		
Cash	3,151,292	2,402,195
Investments	4,159,760	3,576,435
Receivables	2,751,262	2,731,042
Prepaid expenses	26,658	24,759
Total Current Assets	10,088,972	8,734,431
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>		
Land	780,000	780,000
Buildings	4,770,823	4,770,823
Furniture & fixtures	137,899	137,899
Computer & office equipment	667,770	677,352
Software	11,985	-
Accumulated depreciation	(1,903,557)	(1,758,636)
Total Fixed Assets	4,464,920	4,607,438
<i>Other Assets:</i>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	791,428	746,685
Loans receivable	174,928	281,188
Total Other Assets	966,356	1,027,873
	15,520,248	14,369,742
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	3,613,518	3,396,637
Accrued expenses	9,941	9,091
Unearned revenue	89,036	85,769
Total Liabilities	3,712,495	3,491,497
<i>Net Assets:</i>		
Unrestricted conference reserves	2,025,045	1,524,769
Emerging funds	48,757	40,586
Board designated reserves	1,235,452	1,145,396
Property and Equipment fund	3,216,978	2,976,516
Church Extension Fund	2,676,852	2,825,519
Donor restricted and miscellaneous	2,604,669	2,365,459
Total Net Assets	11,807,753	10,878,245
	15,520,248	14,369,742

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Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Statement of Changes in Unrestricted Conference Reserves

For the Year Ending December 31, 2014

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	114,764
Net gain on investments held at Wespath	14,004
Dividends and interest	46,807
Miscellaneous income	498
Total Income	<u>176,073</u>

Expenses directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net funding for non-budgeted items	74,207
Bank service charges	1,787
Total Expenses	<u>75,994</u>

Income Over/(Under) Expenses

100,079

Apportionment Closeouts:

401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	140,261
402 - Conference Services	87,677
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	55,299
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	116,960
Total Apportionment Closeouts	<u>400,197</u>

Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves

500,276

Beginning balance

1,524,769

Ending Balance

2,025,045

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401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2014

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
3500	Conference Benevolence Grants	189,416	-	-	189,416	189,416	-	-	-	-
5000	Emerging Funds	103,037	(26,948)	153,474	229,563	221,392	8,171	-	40,586	48,757
3700	New Church Start Salary Supp.	388,395	-	-	388,395	296,995	91,400	(91,400)	-	-
3600	Campus Ministry	789,439	-	-	789,439	796,702	(7,263)	7,263	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,614,661	(152,150)	6,103	1,468,614	1,412,490	56,124	(56,124)	-	-
		3,084,948	(179,098)	159,577	3,065,427	2,916,995	148,432	(140,261)	40,586	48,757

Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative

3100	Common Table	4,936	-	-	4,936	3,797	1,139	(1,139)	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	62,932	18,000	-	80,932	69,318	11,614	(11,614)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	103,345	-	-	103,345	61,962	41,383	(41,383)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,230,587	28,212	250	1,259,049	1,269,304	(10,255)	10,255	-	-
3210	CT Information Technologies	28,690	(28,690)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3200	Video Production	4,936	-	5,853	10,789	7,259	3,530	(3,530)	-	-
3220	Common Table Rent	160,109	(160,109)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3230	CT Postage, Printing & Phone	9,563	(9,563)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	9,563	-	-	9,563	850	8,713	(8,713)	-	-
		1,614,661	(152,150)	6,103	1,468,614	1,412,490	56,124	(56,124)	-	-

Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration

3010	Connectional Ministries Office	9,255	-	-	9,255	7,350	1,905	(1,905)	-	-
3020	Communications Office	8,329	18,000	-	26,329	24,193	2,136	(2,136)	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	11,106	-	-	11,106	11,324	(218)	218	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & YYA Office	11,414	-	-	11,414	11,941	(527)	527	-	-
3050	Inclusivity and Lay Ldrshp Exc	10,180	-	-	10,180	4,549	5,631	(5,631)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	12,648	-	-	12,648	9,961	2,687	(2,687)	-	-
		62,932	18,000	-	80,932	69,318	11,614	(11,614)	-	-

Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration

3105	Board of Church & Society	4,319	-	-	4,319	4,333	(14)	14	-	-
3110	Board of Global Ministries	16,350	-	-	16,350	6,152	10,198	(10,198)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	4,936	-	-	4,936	6,489	(1,553)	1,553	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	6,170	-	-	6,170	2,436	3,734	(3,734)	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	15,733	-	-	15,733	9,844	5,889	(5,889)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	2,776	-	-	2,776	1,746	1,030	(1,030)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	9,872	-	-	9,872	7,308	2,564	(2,564)	-	-
3140	CEMCA	4,319	-	-	4,319	1,234	3,085	(3,085)	-	-
3145	COSROW	2,468	-	-	2,468	527	1,941	(1,941)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	2,468	-	-	2,468	1,394	1,074	(1,074)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	33,934	-	-	33,934	20,499	13,435	(13,435)	-	-
		103,345	-	-	103,345	61,962	41,383	(41,383)	-	-

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2014

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Funds that Close to Reserves:										
2100	Treasurer's Office	367,500	25,000	47,204	439,704	449,663	(9,959)	9,959	-	-
2110	Computer Services	79,364	28,690	41	108,095	97,357	10,738	(10,738)	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	198,494	-	3,565	202,059	236,175	(34,116)	34,116	-	-
2130	Conference Publications Cmte	7,414	-	1,234	8,648	15,025	(6,377)	6,377	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	6,403	-	-	6,403	3,687	2,716	(2,716)	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	2,022	-	-	2,022	886	1,136	(1,136)	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	2,022	-	-	2,022	2,443	(421)	421	-	-
2170	Historical Society	7,920	(2,200)	-	5,720	3,461	2,259	(2,259)	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	76,499	-	-	76,499	82,860	(6,361)	6,361	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	19,883	-	-	19,883	4,481	15,402	(15,402)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	16,850	-	-	16,850	4,953	11,897	(11,897)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	10,000	10,000	16,325	(6,325)	6,325	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	26,286	-	-	26,286	26,500	(214)	214	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	24,770	-	-	24,770	13,495	11,275	(11,275)	-	-
2290	Contingencies	9,942	-	28,286	38,228	7,100	31,128	(31,128)	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	163,783	-	-	163,783	145,179	18,604	(18,604)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	14,828	-	-	14,828	9,077	5,751	(5,751)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Ministry	74,477	-	-	74,477	55,500	18,977	(18,977)	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	36,565	-	4,260	40,825	29,281	11,544	(11,544)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	39,598	9,563	12,800	61,961	71,039	(9,078)	9,078	-	-
2450	Mortgage Debt Service	302,628	(302,628)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4501	Episcopal Residence Construct.	99,247	-	-	99,247	-	99,247	(19,101)	(80,146)	-
		1,576,495	(241,575)	107,390	1,442,310	1,274,487	167,823	(87,677)	(80,146)	-
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances:										
4000	United Methodist Center	22,748	160,109	115,682	298,539	272,669	25,870	-	91,586	117,456
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	49,539	24,000	-	73,539	57,161	16,378	-	22,414	38,792
4030	Legal Expenses	19,883	-	-	19,883	30,943	(11,060)	-	152,881	141,821
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,931	-	-	8,931	1,090	7,841	-	10,503	18,344
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	2,006	(2,006)	-	8,563	6,557
4070	Archives	7,414	1,200	50	8,664	13,857	(5,193)	-	1,287	(3,906)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	19,000
		108,515	185,309	115,732	409,556	377,726	31,830	-	456,234	488,064

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2014

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
CFA										
4000	United Methodist Center	22,748	160,109	115,685	298,542	272,669	25,873	-	91,585	117,458
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	49,539	24,000	-	73,539	57,161	16,378	-	22,414	38,792
4030	Legal Expenses	19,883	-	-	19,883	30,943	(11,060)	-	152,881	141,821
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,931	-	-	8,931	1,090	7,841	-	10,503	18,344
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	2,006	(2,006)	-	8,563	6,557
4070	Archives	7,414	1,200	50	8,664	13,857	(5,193)	-	1,287	(3,906)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	19,000
4090	Va Clergy Leadership Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		108,515	185,309	115,735	409,559	377,726	31,833	-	456,233	488,066
Common Table										
6050	Common Table Grants	-	-	95,291	95,291	115,550	(20,259)	-	75,866	55,607
6100	Advocate Publication	-	-	79,803	79,803	105,400	(25,597)	-	277,780	252,183
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	-	21,494	21,494	20,975	519	-	7,096	7,615
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	-	7,612	7,612	8,804	(1,192)	-	7,458	6,266
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	6,521	6,521	2,353	4,168	-	-	4,168
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	2,225	95,882	98,107	106,235	(8,128)	-	36,368	28,240
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	(2,225)	6,764	4,539	5,000	(461)	-	14,974	14,513
6310	UMVIM	-	-	15,602	15,602	5,969	9,633	-	3,834	13,467
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	18,313	18,313	6,500	11,813	-	-	11,813
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233	1,233
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	102,946	102,946	103,564	(618)	-	101,660	101,042
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,333	2,333
6440	Church Staff Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,613	6,613
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	2,000	22,918	24,918	29,525	(4,607)	-	19,190	14,583
6560	CDT Training Events	-	27,365	27,731	55,096	58,527	(3,431)	-	3,432	1
6565	Small Church Pastors	-	798	-	798	773	25	-	-	25
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	2,432	865	3,297	3,210	87	-	-	87
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	(290)	1,627	1,337	2,538	(1,201)	-	-	(1,201)
		-	32,305	503,369	535,674	574,923	(39,249)	-	557,837	518,588
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Dinner at A.C.	-	2,000	503	2,503	3,031	(528)	-	6,387	5,859
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	3,042	3,042	2,165	877	-	770	1,647
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	3,000	3,000	2,375	625	-	131	756
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,277	9,277
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	3,295	3,295	3,051	244	-	1,046	1,290
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	28,165	28,165	28,365	(200)	-	-	(200)
4670	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	290	5,163	5,453	5,944	(491)	-	491	-
4680	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	(2,432)	1,651	(781)	2,064	(2,845)	-	2,845	-
4690	BOM Lunches	-	-	3,758	3,758	4,995	(1,237)	-	1,799	562
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	60,000	60,000	60,000	-	-	-	-
4710	Calling 21	-	5,000	38,871	43,871	26,669	17,202	-	15,164	32,366
4720	Small Church Leadership Init.	-	(798)	-	(798)	-	(798)	-	798	-
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	1,232	1,232	1,423	(191)	-	3,080	2,889
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	-	38,097	38,097	34,578	3,519	-	67,435	70,954
4750	Vocation Care Event	-	-	-	-	149	(149)	-	567	418
4760	Exploration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	608	608
4770	Peer Learning Groups	-	-	-	-	2,392	(2,392)	-	2,392	-
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	70	(70)	-	2,893	2,823
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	-	122,000	10,000	132,000	47,086	84,914	-	13,853	98,767
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	5,627	2,745	8,372	9,144	(772)	-	1,554	782
4810	Extension Ministry	-	-	712	712	948	(236)	-	236	-
4820	Licensing School	-	17,202	8,876	26,078	26,078	-	-	-	-
		-	148,889	209,110	357,999	260,527	97,472	-	131,326	228,798
Total		108,515	366,503	828,214	1,303,232	1,213,176	90,056	-	1,145,396	1,235,452

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2014

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Property & Equipment										
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	207	-	207	142,518	(142,311)	-	4,607,438	4,465,127
4501	Episcopal Residence Construct.	99,247	-	-	99,247	-	99,247	(19,101)	(80,146)	-
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	302,628	-	302,628	-	302,628	-	(1,550,777)	(1,248,149)
		99,247	302,835	-	402,082	142,518	259,564	(19,101)	2,976,515	3,216,978
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	270,223	(140,577)	45,187	174,833	323,501	(148,668)	-	2,825,519	2,676,851
		270,223	(140,577)	45,187	174,833	323,501	(148,668)	-	2,825,519	2,676,851
Donor restricted										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	208,488	-	700	209,188	159,172	50,016	-	450,079	500,095
8000	All Things New	-	(43,000)	225,671	182,671	89,303	93,368	-	930,699	1,024,067
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	18,000	-	18,000	6,467	11,533	-	-	11,533
8050	Francis Asbury Education Funds	-	-	49,380	49,380	3,637	45,743	-	748,943	794,686
8100	Initiatives of Hope	-	-	4,163	4,163	2,518	1,645	-	19,187	20,832
8110	IOH - Mozambique	-	-	22,891	22,891	33,198	(10,307)	-	59,029	48,722
8111	IOH - Brazil	-	-	13,735	13,735	-	13,735	-	9,960	23,695
8114	IOH - Cambodia	-	-	47,199	47,199	44,000	3,199	-	4,406	7,605
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	125	125	-	125	-	9,152	9,277
8150	Imagine No Malaria	-	-	333,666	333,666	297,603	36,063	-	-	36,063
8200	Bishops' Fund	-	(7,000)	5,000	(2,000)	1,021	(3,021)	-	8,517	5,496
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	(852)	6,513	5,661	22,969	(17,308)	-	24,141	6,833
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	-	12,378	12,378	6,374	6,004	-	5,644	11,648
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	5,041	5,041	8,600	(3,559)	-	18,057	14,498
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	8,642	8,642	-	8,642	-	4,915	13,557
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	-	799	799	2,240	(1,441)	-	21,471	20,030
8330	Merit Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
		208,488	(32,852)	735,903	911,539	677,102	234,437	-	2,317,025	2,551,462
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8510	Heritage	-	1,000	424	1,424	1,045	379	-	5,975	6,354
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,939	8,939
8530	Voices of Youth	-	-	21,650	21,650	27,340	(5,690)	-	13,279	7,589
8540	ARMS	-	-	9,620	9,620	5,502	4,118	-	15,769	19,887
8550	AEI	-	-	43,413	43,413	43,413	-	-	-	-
8555	Acad. for Spiritual Formation	-	-	6,876	6,876	5,000	1,876	-	-	1,876
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	1,420	1,420	-	1,420	-	2,393	3,813
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	-	7,703	7,703	4,023	3,680	-	-	3,680
8575	Social Committee	-	-	362	362	180	182	-	427	609
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	-	1,085	1,085	2,277	(1,192)	-	1,652	460
		-	1,000	92,553	93,553	88,780	4,773	-	48,434	53,207
Total Donor Restricted and Miscellaneous		208,488	(31,852)	828,456	1,005,092	765,882	239,210	-	2,365,459	2,604,669

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COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Summary of Conference Budget for 2016						
	Sch.	2015	2016	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,280,000	3,323,000	10.30%	43,000	1.31%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,890,000	1,992,000	6.17%	102,000	5.40%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,055,000	2,055,000	6.36%	-	0.00%
404 - Equitable Compensation		500,000	500,000	1.55%	-	0.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		675,000	675,000	2.09%	-	0.00%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		1,000,000	1,000,000	3.09%	-	0.00%
Total Conference Apportionments		9,400,000	9,545,000	29.56%	145,000	1.54%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	9,710,000	30.04%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,060,000	18.75%	-	0.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		1,550,000	1,000,000	3.09%	(550,000)	-35.48%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		17,320,000	16,770,000	51.88%	(550,000)	-3.18%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		900,000	955,000	2.96%	55,000	6.11%
411 - World Service		3,000,000	2,955,000	9.14%	(45,000)	-1.50%
412 - General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund		487,000	499,000	1.54%	12,000	2.46%
413 - Ministerial Education		1,030,000	1,015,000	3.14%	(15,000)	-1.46%
414 - Black College Fund		410,000	405,000	1.25%	(5,000)	-1.22%
415 - Africa University Fund		92,000	91,000	0.28%	(1,000)	-1.09%
416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		81,000	80,000	0.25%	(1,000)	-1.23%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		6,000,000	6,000,000	18.56%	-	0.00%
Total Apportionments		32,720,000	32,315,000	100.00%	(405,000)	-1.24%

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2015	2016	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Benevolence Grants					
1. Gracelnside (Chaplain Service of Va.)	121,000	125,000	0.39%	4,000	3.31%
2. Virginia Council of Churches	58,000	66,500	0.21%	8,500	14.66%
3. Industrial & Commercial Ministries	1,000	2,500	0.01%	1,500	150.00%
4. Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries	4,000	1,000	0.00%	(3,000)	-75.00%
5. Virginia Interfaith Center	5,000	-	0.00%	(5,000)	-100.00%
6. Society of St. Andrew	2,500	-	0.00%	(2,500)	-100.00%
7. Just Neighbors	3,500	-	0.00%	(3,500)	-100.00%
	195,000	195,000	0.61%	-	0.00%
Special & Sustaining Grants					
	66,000	66,000	0.20%	-	0.00%
Conference Programs					
	90,000	90,000	0.28%	-	0.00%
Campus Ministries					
	813,000	826,100	2.56%	13,100	1.61%
Program & Board Administrative Expenses					
1. Common Table	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration (See below)	64,700	64,700	0.21%	-	0.00%
3. Agency Administration (See below)	106,900	106,900	0.32%	-	0.00%
4. Personnel Costs	1,317,000	1,313,900	4.07%	(3,100)	-0.24%
5. Information Technologies	29,500	29,500	0.09%	-	0.00%
6. Outsourced Graphic Design Services		33,000	0.10%	33,000	NA
7. Video Production & Documentation	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
8. Building Operations & Services	165,000	165,000	0.51%	-	0.00%
9. Postage, Printing & Telephone	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
10. Contingency	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
	1,713,100	1,743,000	5.40%	29,900	1.75%
Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall					
	402,900	402,900	1.25%	-	0.00%
	3,280,000	3,323,000	10.30%	43,000	1.31%
Supporting Schedule, Line 2 - Departmental Administration					
1. Connectional Ministries	9,600	9,600	0.03%	-	0.00%
2. Communications	8,400	8,400	0.03%	-	0.00%
3. Congregational Excellence	11,400	11,400	0.04%	-	0.00%
4. Ministries with Young People	11,800	11,800	0.04%	-	0.00%
5. Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence	10,500	10,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
6. Justice and Missional Excellence	13,000	13,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
	64,700	64,700	0.21%	-	0.00%
Supporting Schedule, Line 3 - Agency Administration					
1. Church & Society	8,900	8,900	0.03%	-	0.00%
2. Discipleship	15,100	15,100	0.05%	-	0.00%
3. Global Ministries	15,900	15,900	0.05%	-	0.00%
4. Committee on Mission Personnel	35,000	35,000	0.11%	-	0.00%
5. Communications	5,200	5,200	0.02%	-	0.00%
6. Higher Education	5,500	5,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
7. Laity	10,200	10,200	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. CEMCA	3,700	3,700	0.01%	-	0.00%
9. COSROW	2,100	2,100	0.01%	-	0.00%
10. Commission on Disabilities	2,500	2,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
11. Church Development Team	2,800	2,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
	106,900	106,900	0.32%	-	0.00%

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Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2015	2016	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	341,800	381,800	1.18%	40,000	11.70%
2. Bishop's Assistant	77,000	77,000	0.24%	-	0.00%
3. Annual Conference Session	240,000	225,000	0.70%	(15,000)	-6.25%
4. Mortgage Payments	305,000	305,000	0.94%	-	0.00%
5. Treasurer's Office	383,000	365,000	1.13%	(18,000)	-4.70%
6. Computer Services	80,000	80,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
7. Wesley Foundation Property Maint	50,000	100,000	0.31%	50,000	100.00%
8. Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.08%	-	0.00%
9. Pastor Relocation & Transition	17,000	17,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
10. Archives	9,500	9,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
11. Council on Finance and Administration	3,500	3,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
12. Historical Society	8,000	8,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
13. Board of Trustees	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
14. Telephone Service	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
15. Insurance	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
16. Postage & Printing	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
17. Building Operations & Services	23,000	23,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
18. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
19. Bishop's auto allowance	9,000	9,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
20. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	10,000	25,000	0.08%	15,000	150.00%
21. Legal	20,000	40,000	0.12%	20,000	100.00%
22. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
23. General Conference		10,000	0.03%	10,000	NA
24. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	210,200	210,200	0.65%	-	0.00%
	1,890,000	1,992,000	6.17%	102,000	5.30%

Board of Ordained Ministry

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	50,000	50,000	0.15%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
6. Personnel Costs	165,000	205,000	0.63%	40,000	24.24%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	75,000	75,000	0.23%	-	0.00%
	341,800	381,800	1.18%	40,000	11.70%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund

	2015	2016	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Salaries & Pension	1,670,000	1,670,000	5.17%	-	0.00%
2. Travel & Meetings	140,000	140,000	0.43%	-	0.00%
3. Other	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	220,000	220,000	0.68%	-	0.00%
	2,055,000	2,055,000	6.36%	-	0.00%

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Section I: Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches

A. TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPORTIONMENT LEVELS:

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

2016 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	3,323,000
402-Conference Services	1,992,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	2,055,000
404-Equitable Compensation	500,000
405-Church Extension & Development	675,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	1,000,000
407-Active Clergy Health	9,710,000
408-Retired Clergy Health	6,060,000
409-Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82	1,000,000
410-Episcopal Fund	955,000
411-World Service	2,955,000
412-General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund	499,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	1,015,000
414-Black College Fund	405,000
415-Africa University Fund	91,000
416-Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	80,000
	\$ 32,315,000

B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:

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

401-Conference Mission & Ministries

This apportionment provides funding for the Conference Common Table benevolences and ministries, including New Church Start Salary Support, Campus Ministries, other Common Table Program Boards and Agencies support.

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402-Conference Services

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

403-District Superintendents Fund

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

404-Equitable Compensation

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

405-Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)

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

406-Virginia Education Fund

This apportionment is apportioned to the districts at \$1,000,000 for 2016. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2016:

❖ Ferrum College	19.5% (\$195,000)
❖ Randolph-Macon College	18.5% (\$185,000)
❖ Randolph College	16.0% (\$160,000)
❖ Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0% (\$100,000)
❖ Shenandoah University	18.0% (\$180,000)
❖ Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0% (\$180,000)

Report on 2014

As set out in the Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in the Apportionments that impact Conference Reserves. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy. Below are the stated Apportionments for 2014.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	495,049
402 Conference Services	239,991
403 District Superintendents	189,705
404 Equitable Compensation	56,252
	<hr/>
	980,997

SECTION III — Apportionment Procedures

A. APPORTIONMENT FORMULA:

- **All Apportionments except for the Active Clergy Health Benefits**

Apportionments are calculated using the last year of available statistics of each local church (i.e. 2016 apportionments are calculated using 2014 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:

$$\text{Individual Church Net Paid/Total of all Conference Churches Net Paid} = \text{Church Decimal}$$

- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**

The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,000) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2015 appointment list. The remaining costs after the tier one calculation will be apportioned to the churches based upon total clergy (regardless of classification) compensation (salary plus accountable reimbursement) paid by a church divided by the total clergy compensation paid in the last year of available statistics (2014 for 2016 apportionments).

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

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

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B. REPORTING GUIDELINES:

- District superintendents will report the apportioned amounts for each church to the Conference treasurer and the apportioned amounts will be shown on the monthly Treasurer's report sent to each church.
- Apportionments are to be calculated and distributed annually rather than on a quadrennial basis.
- The Annual Conference will raise World Service funds only through contributions from the local churches. CFA urges that district superintendents, pastors, and local church leaders seek to fully implement Section 812 of the *2012 Discipline*.

C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:

- The importance of World Service to the life of the Church is lifted up to the Annual Conference. "The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. The World Service apportionment represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church." (Section 812 of the *2012 Discipline*).

SECTION IV - Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2016:

- United Methodist Family Services. It is recommended that December be designated as United Methodist Family Services Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Industrial and Commercial Ministries. It is recommended that Labor Day Sunday be designated for Industrial and Commercial Ministries and that churches receive an offering at that time in support of this Virginia Conference program.
- Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund. It is recommended that the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day be designated in support of the Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund, and that local church offerings collected during that period be dedicated to this ministry.
- Heart Havens. It is recommended that February be designated as Heart Havens Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Annual Conference Offering. CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

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SECTION V - Policies

A. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S FUND

Overall Policies for the Fund:

- In compliance with the *Book of Discipline*, the current salaries and expenses for district superintendents (DS), and those under special appointment, will be published in the *Conference Journal* with each DS's salary individually calculated and assigned each year as part of the appointive process, using the following criteria:
 - Each District Superintendent's salary shall be \$88,000, except those who were appointed at a higher salary prior to 7/1/2012. Those "grandfathered" will continue at their existing salaries while completing their appointment.
 - Each year, the annual salaries of the District Superintendents are to be recommended by CFA to the Annual Conference.
 - CFA also administers salary-related expenses, to include such items as pensions, supplemental benefits, travel by voucher, continuing education, and other Cabinet-related expenses.
 - The total cost of salaries and related expenses apportioned to Districts are to be based on the current approved decimal system (upon recommendation of CFA).
 - All other District Superintendent's costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016:

- The District Superintendents' salaries will stay the same for 2016.

B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES

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

- The mileage reimbursement rate is set at 35 cents for Conference staff and the IRS reimbursement rate for volunteers (currently 14 cents) serving boards and agencies of the Conference.
- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$20 per 24-hour period. (Breakfast on the date of departure from home/office is not accepted; dinner on the date of return is not accepted, except when the arrival to home/office is after 7 p.m.).
- Reimbursement for daily room charges is set at \$100, if the travel incurred extends to a period over three hours prior to the starting time of 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.
- Spouse expenses are not part of allowable expenses.
- To encourage stewardship in this area, CFA suggests: (1) that advance reading materials be provided for study prior to meetings; and (2) that there be use of teleconferencing, where feasible.

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C. INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Provided for and managed as follows:

- Each charge is responsible for the expenses of both the clergy and lay members (including diaconal ministers) from that charge to the annual conference, working out its own plan of compensating for actual expenses.
- Persons not covered through local church appointment shall receive annual conference reimbursement not to exceed \$100 a night for mileage, meals and lodging; the Conference treasurer shall reimburse the claimant through voucher of approved expenses. Coverage under this section extends to:
 - (a) retired clergy who retired with pension under one of the Disciplinary options and who are not serving full-time;
 - (b) clergy on medical leave;
 - (c) clergy on sabbatical leave who are members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
 - (d) retired diaconal ministers who served at least eight years in the Virginia Conference and who are granted a retired relationship by the Conference;
 - (e) persons expecting their first appointment;
 - (f) members of the conference who have been appointed to attend a theological school;
 - (g) those serving as chaplains in Armed Forces;
 - (h) deaconesses under appointment;
 - (i) furloughed missionary members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
 - (j) those on loan to other annual conferences, whose expenses are not otherwise provided for; and
 - (k) clergy returning from an approved leave of absence receiving local church pastoral appointments.
- Each district is responsible for the expenses of its district superintendent, youth members and members-at-large.
- Each board, agency or committee is responsible for the expenses of its chairpersons, if that person is not a clergy or lay member whose costs are covered by their charge or district.

D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

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

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- b) Reserve funds for cash flow purposes.
- c) Reserve funds for economic and financial downturns.
- The Council has set the following target for Conference Reserve Funds:

Core Reserves:

A. 20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,578,000
a. 401 – Conference Mission and Ministries	
b. 402 – Conference Services	
c. 403 – District Superintendents’ Fund	
d. 404 – Equitable Compensation Fund	
B. 15% of Invested Assets	<u>622,000</u>
	\$ 2,200,000

Additional Reserves:

A. Non-budgeted negative balance in Debt Service (mortgage)	<u>945,000</u>
	<u>\$ 3,145,000</u>

At December 31, 2014 the Annual Conference had reserves less than the target amount.

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

E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND:

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by full-time clergy appointed to their charge as pastor may request reimbursement on the following schedule for an incoming pastor, if the previous pastor served two years or less in the appointment to their charge:
 - One-year appointment – Seventy-five percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 reimbursement.

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- Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 reimbursement.
3. No moving expenses will be reimbursed that are not in compliance with the Virginia Annual Conference Guidelines for Moving Expenses as printed in the *Journal* of the Virginia Annual Conference.
 4. Payment will be made at the end of the year based on a pro-rata share of the apportionment receipts from the churches.

F. CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The *2015 Journal* is to be made available by posting on the Virginia Conference website (www.vaumc.org) as a PDF file. It will be available as a CD or printed copy upon request at a cost of \$10 for the CD and \$25 for the print version. Requests for printed copies must be made by August 1 of the calendar year, and payment must be made at the time the order is placed. Only a small quantity of *Journals* will be printed and distributed in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* (606.2), to district offices, Conference staff, and those purchasing copies before the August 1 deadline.

G. CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

It is recommended that the Conference-Provided Publications Committee be continued, composed of the following: (1) the Director of Connectional Ministries; (2) Conference Business Manager; (3) the *Journal* Editor; and (4) the Conference Director of Communications, who will serve as the convener of the committee. The Committee may convene at any time at the request of any committee member as long as a majority of the committee members are present. [The committee oversees the production and publication of the conference *Journal* and other such publications and mailings that are appropriate to keeping the conference members linked to the business of the Annual Conference.]

H. CLERGY DIRECTORY:

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

I. AUDIT REPORTS:

The Council on Finance and Administration reminds all district offices, agencies, institutions, and organizations receiving any financial support from conference funds or from any authorized conference-wide appeal to be in compliance with the *2012 Book of Discipline* 617.2 and 617.3 to submit audited financial statements to the Conference Treasurer by later than six months after the end of the organization's fiscal year.

J. IRS REGULATIONS:

CFA recommends that all church and/or charge treasurers comply with the IRS regulations.

K. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING:

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

SECTION VI – A Church in Mission

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Dr. Steve Summers, President

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry enables disciples of Jesus Christ to become effective clergy and certified lay professionals. To this end, the Board assists these persons in the areas of call, development and collegial support. Our full report on changes in conference relationship has been reported to the clergy executive session for its action.

This year we welcomed the Reverend Meredith McNabb as Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence. Meredith's abilities and passion are furthering the mission and effectiveness of the Board and other ministries which the Center has oversight. We are grateful for her presence in this position.

This spring saw the graduation of the first cohort of clergy participating in the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program. This program which Bishop Cho has supported so faithfully, identifies gifted clergy and helps them: grow deeper in their spiritual maturity, excel in the areas of interpersonal and leadership skills, bring out the missional potential in their faith communities and strengthen their disciple-making abilities. A second cohort will begin in the fall. Funding for this program is provided by the Center for Congregational Excellence, the Bishop's Foundation, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation and the Council for Finance and Administration. The Board is grateful to these groups for providing this funding.

The Calling 21 program places interns in local churches so they may experience the intersection of their gifts with the life of a congregation. This year marks the first Calling 21 intern who will be ordained at this annual conference with Megan Roth Clayton. It also marks the beginning of the new Connections 21 where interns spend a second year but this time at the Conference Center in Glen Allen. This summer there will be seven Calling 21 interns serving: Casey Akers at Basic (S), Steven Field at Belmont (Rd), Susan Pullin at Braddock Street (W), Matt Simpson at Charity (ER), JoAnn Batteiger at Culpeper (C), Andrew Dietz at Lane Memorial (L), Virginia Greer at St. Luke's (YR) – and three Connections 21 interns – Elijah Ferebee, Michelle Hettmann and Sara Nichols -- assigned to the conference center but also relating to: Welborne (Rd), Boulevard (Rd) and Woodlake (Rd), respectively.

Across the United Methodist connection, there is much conversation to address the growing problem of clergy debt. While our Board provides grants and loans to assist seminary students, we are also looking at ways to educate candidates early in the process to understand personal finances and how to make healthy financial decisions – including loans for education.

The work of the Board continues sponsoring the annual Licensing School for all first-time appointments, supporting the gathering of the Orders of Deacon and Elders and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, examining persons seeking credentialing as ministers, interviewing those of United Methodist and other denominations who wish to transfer to the Virginia Conference, holding two Candidacy Summits for those embarking upon the candidacy process, interviewing those seeking retirement, reviewing requests for extension appointments, visiting students – those from Virginia and those interested in coming to Virginia -- at eight seminaries, awarding scholarships and service loans to seminary students, training district Committees on Ordained Ministry, providing continuing education assistance to clergy, guiding

provisional members on their journey, promoting lay professional certification, providing ongoing ethics training, assisting those on clergy medical leave, and attending to conference relationship matters.

Ed Walker, chair

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Board of Trustees met for their regularly scheduled meetings plus an additional conference-call meeting.

The Articles of Incorporation for the Virginia Conference Board of Trustees were approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

The final figures for the net proceeds from the sale of the previous Episcopal residence and the total cost of the current Episcopal residence, which was built in 2012, were submitted to the Board of Trustees.

The net proceeds from the sale of the former Episcopal residence, which was situated in the Fox Run area of Richmond, were \$390,372. In addition, some items of furniture were sold with net proceeds of \$1,000. These totalled \$391,372.

The expenses for the new/current Episcopal residence were as follows: construction costs were \$472,629; the cost for new furnishings was \$80,697; moving costs were \$5,630; and landscaping costs were \$11,280. This makes the total cost for the new/current Episcopal residence \$570,236.

The Episcopal residence meets the Minimum Parsonage Standards for the Virginia Conference, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and has been certified as a “green house” with energy efficiency. Everything in the residence is in good working order, and work on the driveway has been completed.

Because of the changes that have taken place in our society over the past fifteen years and the subsequent changing needs of the Church, the United Methodist Conference Center, in Glen Allen, is addressing how these changing needs affect the Conference Center. The Conference Board of Trustees appointed a Facilities Use Plan and Process Committee, which will look into re-configuring some of the areas of the building to meet current needs. Architectural plans, including electrical needs, will be presented to the Trustees in late March. Cost projections are not yet available. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-April, and is projected to take place in three stages.

Dewitt Hartwell, President of the Virginia Conference Board of Trustees from 1984 to 2004, claimed the promise of the Resurrection on November 25, 2014. DeWitt, a World War II veteran, was decorated seven times while serving as a navigator with the 8th Air Force in the European theatre. DeWitt was a devout Christian and a faithful United Methodist. We remember DeWitt with love, respect, and appreciation for his many years of service to the Virginia Conference. During his years as President of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Conference, he served with gracious dignity, with expertise borne of many years of experience in the savings and loan industry, and with the greatest degree of integrity. Thanks be to God for DeWitt Hartwell, and the contributions he made to the life and work of the Virginia Conference Board of Trustees.

The Conference Board of Trustees elected the following officers for the coming conference year: Carl L. Moravitz, President; Kathleen Lutman, Vice-President; Clyde T. Nelson, Secretary; David Dommissie, Treasurer.

Sallye E. H. Bowen, President

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides training for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism and preaching. Three predecessor organizations, the Goodson Foundation for Preaching, the Stockton Endowment for Evangelism, and the Pennel Endowment, merged and formed the assets of the Bishops' Foundation. The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the Cabinet with endowment funds invested with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

The Bishops' Foundation is not a funding source for scholarships or local church financial assistance but is an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring organization that supports the training of both lay and clergy. In 2014-2015 the inaugural Clergy Leadership Program was financially supported. Preparations are underway for a preaching event, similar to the Academy for Preaching, at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center on September 21 – 24, 2015. Seeking to raise the level of vital preaching in our congregations, this small group participant event is designed to encourage and inspire those who have engaged in preaching for many years.

During the year the foundation has reviewed incorporation issues and clarified its investment policy. The board remains interested in addressing any “gaps” that may exist in current conference ministry programming to foster opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching all generations in the areas of evangelism, preaching and discipleship. www.vaumc.org/BishopsFoundation

Kevin W. Bruny, Chair

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Ferrum College

At “100 years and counting!” Ferrum College enters its second century with purpose, passion and pride.

Our sense of purpose has never been stronger, a feeling that was certainly felt by the visionary Methodist women who founded Ferrum Training school in 1913. Ferrum treasures this heritage that grew into today's Ferrum College and is extraordinarily grateful for this enduring relationship.

We remain passionate about our historic mission of opportunity, access and affordability that has allowed legions of young men and women, many who are first generation, minority, underprepared or otherwise “at risk” to obtain a college education when other doors were closed to them.

The pride we take in our beautiful campus, our second-to-none facilities, our outstanding academic programs and extracurricular activities and our incredibly devoted faculty and staff is boundless. The “spirit of Ferrum” is palpable as you stroll across campus and catch snatches of student conversations about class projects, play rehearsals and athletic accomplishments. Faculty members are making full use of the new “Saari Faculty House” on campus, named in memory of our late, beloved professor, Sasha Saari. This space has been set aside solely for use by faculty for meetings, seminars, and receptions with fellow academics.

We were thrilled by the success of our recently concluded 5-year Centennial Campaign. We surpassed our \$25M goal to support academic programs, additional classroom

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and science lab facilities, endowed professorships, scholarships. Most importantly, the successful \$1M endowed chaplaincy component of the campaign will help ensure the strength and continuity of our Dean of the Chapel position. We particularly thank United Methodist Women for their enthusiastic support of this effort since this is core to our Mission.

Jan Nicholson, our Dean of the Chapel, has begun her second year of service to the campus and has become the “face” of our faith at Ferrum. She has reinvigorated Vaughn Chapel with much needed technology upgrades and the installation of inspirational banners, and has reinvested the campus into the daily use of that beautiful facility. The chapel is the venue not only of regular weekly services but is also used daily for classes and special activities such as our exciting worship service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day that featured the student Gospel Choir.

Dr. Nicholson also presided over another memorable United Methodist’s Women’s Day in June that, as always, included worship, fellowship, food and fun for the hundreds of UMW members who gather on our campus for this annual event.

And, at “100 years and counting” we are incredibly blessed by strong support from alumni, friends, foundations, the UMW, The United Methodist Church and the Virginia Annual Conference to help us build a better college, a stronger community, and a world filled with opportunities. With the encouragement and trust of all of our constituents, Ferrum will continue to thrive and succeed.

It is always a privilege for me to take part in Virginia Annual Conference activities and have the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of clergy and lay people who are involved in so many important ministries. Most importantly, we thank the members of the Conference who recommend the unique Ferrum educational experience to potential students. We acknowledge this with gratitude and ask you to always remember our campus community and our students in your prayers.

Jennifer L. Braaten, President, Ferrum College

Randolph College

My first year at Randolph was one of great excitement and success for the College. We are building on that momentum as I near completion of my second year at the helm of this wonderful institution. I am pleased to share positive news in enrollment: the College is experiencing its largest enrollment since 2008. A significant contributor to this enrollment success has been our focus on retention, which continues to improve. In addition, support from the College’s alumnae and alumni has increased yet again, both in terms of actual dollars, as well as the percentage of this group who give back to the College.

The enhancements we continue to make on campus are proving popular with students. Students are overwhelming enthusiastic about the recently opened Grosvenor Apartments, our first apartment-style housing we have been able to offer. The first phases of the renovation of Wright Hall and Cheatham Dining Hall were completed in August with the second phases scheduled for completion by the time students arrive in the fall. The students are eager to return to the historic Wright Hall with its vaulted ceilings and hard wood floors but with the new amenities of an elevator, laundry facilities, air conditioning, and more.

The College has launched a new partnership with the National Gallery, London. Each

year we will receive a high level visitor who will lecture on our campus while we will send two students to the Gallery for summer internships. Our first visitor was Dr. Ashok Roy, director of collections for the Gallery. He spent several days on campus speaking with our students and faculty and delivered a keynote to a standing room only crowd from the community. The partnership continues to grow, and this year will feature an alumnae and alumni event at the Gallery, as well as a visit from the retiring director of the Gallery, Nick Penny.

U.S. News and World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review, The Washington Monthly, and others continue to name Randolph a “best college.” While I caution that one should never put too much stock in the various College rankings, the fact that Randolph is consistently mentioned as one of the nation’s finest indicates that the quality of the education we offer students is one that others find valuable. Most remarkable is that we provide this highly regarded educational experience at an affordable cost to our students, thanks to the College providing over \$13 million in institutional grants to students.

We at Randolph are thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the College and the Conference. An important focus for my presidency has been to strengthen the opportunities for spiritual development of our students. Our campus chaplain, Rev. V. Jennifer Moore is developing new and exciting programs to help minister to the needs of students. We continue to seek ways to increase her ability to impact the lives of our students. I conclude by thanking the Conference for its ongoing support of our mission. Your contributions help us to create the next generation of civic and economic leaders.

Bradley W. Bateman, President

Randolph-Macon Academy

This past year was a time of mixed blessings for Randolph-Macon Academy, but one in which the Lord’s grace and provision have been evident throughout. We were profoundly blessed in our college acceptances and scholarship offers this past year—the 73 graduates of the Class of 2014 earned 292 college acceptances to 171 different colleges, with nearly \$9 million in college scholarship offers. It is a record amount for our school, and we are thankful to God for providing those opportunities to our students.

Our students continued to serve our school, local, and international communities, topping in 15,000 hours of service last school year. They raised funds for Special Olympics, collected food and coats for the Salvation Army, ran a campus recycling program, held bake sales for a child in need of a heart transplant, cleaned roadways, and wrote letters to soldiers, among many other projects. In addition, we received word in the late spring of 2014 that our Air Force JROTC unit earned the Distinguished Unit Award with Merit, placing it among the top Air Force JROTC units in the country.

In September 2014, Maj Gen Maury Forsyth resigned from his post as President of R-MA and I was named Acting President. Gen Forsyth was well-loved on campus, and the days following his departure were emotional. However, with God’s help, our campus community pulled together. Our Lord of course knew the storm was coming and he prepared many things to help us through this time of transition. Among those was the appointment of Joshua Orndorff to serve as our chaplain.

We have always had a mandatory weekly chapel service at Randolph-Macon Academy. Under Chaplain Orndorff’s leadership, students look forward to these services, and have

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become more involved than ever in their planning and execution. He implemented the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible Study at both our Middle School (grades 6-8) and our Upper School (grades 9-12). R-MA has a unique blend of students from over a dozen countries, coming from a wide variety of faiths. At the start of the year, Chaplain Orndorff held an ice cream social and invited local Christian pastors and leaders of other faiths to come in and meet our students. He challenged the R-MA community to truly be a “city on a hill,” and they have responded. One of the major events we have held during this school year was a “Nothing But Nets” basketball game to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria. Chaplain Orndorff also formed a SALT (Serving as Leaders Together) team of students to help plan and lead chapel services, Bible studies, and ministry events.

This past fall we celebrated the 50th anniversary of John Campbell Boggs Chapel. Through this service we were able to re-dedicate the chapel to God’s service, and also come to a renewed appreciation for the blessing of this wonderful facility. It is the site of not only our own services, but guest speakers, weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

We thank God for his continued blessing and provision throughout this past year. We also thank you for your prayers and financial support, the latter of which has made it possible for us to provide scholarships to United Methodist students, many of whom could not attend Randolph-Macon Academy without financial assistance. Please know that your gifts are making a difference in the lives of children every day.

In March 2015, we welcomed Brigadier General David Wesley, USAF Retired, as our new president. We are excited to have him join the Randolph-Macon Academy family and ask that you keep him and all of us in your prayers.

Jonathan Ezell, Acting President

Randolph-Macon College

Randolph-Macon is a selective, co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia, just minutes north of Richmond and 90 miles south of Washington, D.C. The college achieves its mission of “developing the minds and character of its students” by balancing a demanding academic program with individualized attention or “moments of connection” between its exceptional faculty and students. The student-faculty ratio is 11:1 and the average class size is 15 students. The college has an outstanding reputation for its national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

Randolph-Macon College integrates an exceptional, individualized education with an intentional, personalized four-year program called The Edge, which is focused on preparing our students for careers and post graduate success. Faculty serve as mentors and offer important advising, while instilling important career success strategies and life skills in the classroom. The Edge, offers our students the tools they need to lead the pack and have a “competitive advantage” after graduation. This success of this program is reflected in the college’s new tagline, Building Extraordinary Futures.

R-MC offers a Four-Year Degree Guarantee, which pledges in writing that freshmen who meet all necessary requirements will graduate within four calendar years. If not, Randolph-Macon will waive tuition costs for R-MC courses needed to complete the degree. Currently, 95 percent of Randolph-Macon graduates complete their degrees in four years or fewer.

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The 2013-2014 academic year began with a total enrollment of 1,325 students. Nineteen states and five foreign countries are represented in the Class of 2017; 51% of the students are male and 49% are female. In addition, 21% of the 410 students are minorities, and 34% are Presidential Scholars, R-MC's signature scholarship that recognizes students who demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement and leadership.

Randolph-Macon's Building Extraordinary campaign reached its \$100 million goal in 2014—a full 19 months ahead of schedule. The Campaign, which launched in April 2011, was designed to build or renovate residential, academic, athletic and student-centered facilities, greater opportunities for faculty and students in and out of the classroom, scholarship assistance, and programs that support the continued improvement of student outcomes through career and graduate school preparation. The goals for the campaign were set forth by the college's strategic and master plans. Because of its early success, the campaign goal was extended to \$115 million to include building a new science building.

Alumni support for their alma mater is at an all-time high with 38% of the alumni making a gift to the college. This ranks R-MC's alumni participation among the top 30 of all colleges and universities, private and public, in the country.

Brock Commons, a new student center, was completed in summer 2013 and is the new “hub” of activity on campus. Brock Commons includes a movie theater, campus bookstore, dining services with an open café, balcony, portico with tables, student mailroom, and multi-purpose rooms and spaces to support campus camaraderie. Construction of Brock Commons was made possible by a \$5 million gift from Joan and Macon F. Brock Jr. '64 and by the generous support from numerous alumni and friends of the college. During summer 2013, construction began on Birdsong Hall, a residence for upperclassmen. This three-story facility opened in summer 2014 and includes 30 suite-style residences, plus common areas, study rooms and a two-story 3,280-square-foot multipurpose room, the Lindgren Pavilion. Birdsong Hall, which borders the football/lacrosse field, is named for Constance and Thomas Birdsong '49 and The Birdsong Corporation; construction was made possible through their \$2 million gift.

Renovations to Copley Science Center, which took place during summer 2013, include a new roof and window replacements. In addition, a new Psychological Sciences Complex was created in Smithy Hall. Fundraising is underway for a new science building, which will connect to the Copley Science Center on the northwest side. This three-story, 2,700-square-foot facility, with state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, plus classrooms, faculty offices, and the Office of Pre-Health Advising, will also house the biology, environmental science/geology, and chemistry departments.

The faculty also approved a new behavioral neuroscience major, the college's fifth new major in the past four years.

Randolph-Macon's pre-med program continues to flourish. In April 2013 the college announced its Guaranteed Admission Agreement with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Nursing Program. In October 2013, the college formed a Guaranteed Admission Agreement with the George Washington University School of Nursing and established an Early Assurance Program with the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) Physician Assistant program. In addition, the college has medical school partnerships with George Washington University, EVMS, and VCU.

R-MC was also thrust in the national spotlight in June 2014 when Economics

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Professor Dave Brat defeated incumbent Eric Cantor in a stunning upset during the 2014 Republican primary for Virginia's 7th District Congressional Seat. One day earlier, R-MC Sociology Professor Jack Trammell announced his candidacy for the same race representing the Democratic Party. National and international media were drawn to the college campus, to cover the impact this "living civics lesson was having on the R-MC community and highlighted R-MC's rich, long-standing history of political and civic engagement.

R-MC's January Term is a four-week session in which students can immerse themselves in other cultures, conduct a regional, national or international internship or take an on-campus course in a specific area of interest. In 2014 students studied abroad in Austria, Germany, England, France, Japan, Greece, Turkey, and Italy. J-term not only offers global educational opportunities, but life-changing experiences. January term internships that provide unique opportunities for our students would not be possible without the support of Randolph-Macon alumni who offer students one-of-a-kind experiences. Other students gained experience interning at companies and non-profits such as Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, Mailing Services, Inc., the Children's Theatre of Virginia, Genworth Financial Services, and the Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen.

The Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF) is an endowment to support scholarly undergraduate research by students in all disciplines. SURF allows students the opportunity to conduct original research, under the guidance of a faculty member, and to be paid a stipend. Many students present their findings at academic and professional conferences both nationally and internationally.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program, designed to support students who express an interest in a Christian vocation in ordained ministry, established in 2004, continues to flourish. A limited number of select students are awarded this scholarship each year and receive half-tuition for the first two years and full tuition for the junior and senior years; mentoring; and assistance in fulfilling the requirements needed for acceptance into seminary in the United Methodist Church. Two internships in a ministry setting are also mandatory during the students' college careers.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of a Randolph-Macon College education. The SERVE program (Students Engaged in Responsible Volunteer Experiences), in the Office of Student Life, is an integral part of Randolph-Macon's community engagement and leadership initiatives. R-MC coordinates dynamic opportunities for service and service-learning to help students explore the root causes and contexts of social needs through connections with the greater community. Students are actively engaged in Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and in April, students volunteer for Macon a Difference Day, which is held annually in conjunction with Earth Day.

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

Shenandoah University

With 4,000 graduate and undergraduate students, Shenandoah University educates and inspires students through its College of Arts and Sciences, Harry F. Byrd, Jr. School of Business, Shenandoah Conservatory, Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing, Bernard

J. Dunn School of Pharmacy, and the School of Health Professions. As a proud United Methodist institution, Shenandoah University continues to collaborate within The Four Areas of Focus initiative of the United Methodist Church to engage the Church's mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and to reach beyond the university to engage the world. However, this year I would like to concentrate on just one of them — how the university develops principled Christian leaders.

Calling 21

Next year Calling21, the partnership of Shenandoah University's Institute for Church Professions, the Virginia Conference Cabinet and Office of Clergy Excellence, the Fund for Theological Education, and Wesley Theological Seminary, will celebrate a decade in helping students explore and discern their call to ministry in the 21st century! Since the program's beginning in 2007, more than 70 young adults have been placed in local churches in the Virginia Conference and have discerned their call to ministry as Calling21 interns. Approximately two-thirds of these interns have started the candidacy process, have entered the seminary, or are currently serving local churches. Shenandoah University continues to offer the orientation for the interns on campus led by Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, our dean of spiritual life, and Emma Johnston, a spiritual life intern, a student at Wesley Theological Seminary, and 2007 Calling21 intern, who provide mentoring for the interns. Twelve Shenandoah University students have participated in Calling21 over nine years, including two this year — first-year student, JoAnn Batteiger, second-year student, Andrew Dietz, and recent graduate, Virginia Greer, who will be attending the Candler School of Theology in the fall.

Faith Seeking Justice Christian Leadership Program

The Faith Seeking Justice Christian Leadership Program at Shenandoah University continues to educate and inspire new leaders. In April our students coordinated and led a large event (in partnership with the Winchester District) for our United Methodist youth groups titled Thy Kingdom Come. Shane Claiborne, from The Simple Way, and Lisa Sharon Harper, from Sojourners Magazine, led the event with the Keith Elgin Band providing music. The proceeds for the event went to our Imagine No Malaria initiative. The "every life save a life" rally cry was a reality as every student that attended the event paid \$10 that went directly to the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

This April our Faith Seeking Justice students also welcomed Brother John from the Taizé community in France. After our students visited Taizé for a week last year, we invited Brother John to lead us in a day discussing young adult leadership and spirituality. The United Methodist community was invited to participate in a Taizé worship experience at noon on Wednesday, April 22 and a session at 4 p.m. led by Brother John addressing the question, "Why do over 100,000 young people flock to Taizé each year?"

Next year our Faith Seeking Justice students are gearing up to attend General Conference in Portland, Oregon! This will be our second time attending General Conference with our students. In 2012, twelve students accompanied Rev. Dr. Rhonda VanDyke Colby, Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, and Rev. DeLyn Celec to Tampa. Before the trip our students and spiritual life staff will study the General Conference committees, the issues on the table, and then they will observe the process for our global United Methodist Church.

Multiple Worshiping Communities

Shenandoah University continues to provide multiple worshiping communities. We have a University Chapel worship service on Sundays at noon and a Wednesday Night Live (WNL) service at 10pm. Students not only worship at these two services, but they provide the music, lead the community in prayers, and they also preach at every WNL service.

This year we have also created an interfaith prayer and meditation space. Providing a place where people of all faiths on our campus can pray and meditate represents the radical hospitality that we hope to create for all children of God. Additionally, Shenandoah University was nationally recognized as part of President Obama's Honor Roll for Interfaith Community Service in 2014. Only two other Virginia schools of higher education were recognized for this award.

Finally, it is my joy to announce that we installed a new trustee at the October meeting of the board. Beatrice B. von Gontard has joined our team, dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students.

We are grateful for the continued relationship with the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church as together we seek to make an impact at the local, national, and global levels. I can assure you that Shenandoah University is embodying the mission of the United Methodist Church as we simultaneously seek to engage our calling to educate and inspire leaders for our church and the world.

Tracy Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., President

Virginia Wesleyan College

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students would like to thank those in the United Methodist community for their leadership and support of Virginia Wesleyan College. We are grateful for our connection to the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and respectful of our Methodist heritage.

The 2014-2015 academic year can be characterized as one of achievement and transition. On May 21, 2014, the Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan that provides a path for growth and positive change for the College. VWC 2020: Pathway to Prominence grew out of the College's existing mission of preparing each student for a meaningful life and career. At its core is a new vision for Virginia Wesleyan College as a beacon for the liberal arts in the 21st century, where experiential learning opportunities empower students to grow as principled scholars and community leaders. At this same Board meeting President Greer announced that he would be retiring on June 30, 2015 after 23 years of dedicated service as Virginia Wesleyan's president. This announcement launched a comprehensive nationwide search which culminated on February 26, 2015 with the selection of Dr. Scott D. Miller as VWC's fourth president. Dr. Miller has been the president at Bethany College in West Virginia for eight years. He was previously president of Wesley College in Delaware and Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee. He earned his B.A. in communications from West Virginia Wesleyan College, an M.A. from the University of Dayton, an Ed.S. from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. from The Union Institute and University. Dr. Miller, 55, brings to VWC a lifetime of commitment to the values of a residential, liberal arts campus in a pluralistic society, with an emphasis on teaching, service, student-faculty engagement,

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and lifelong learning. Dr. Miller and his wife Annie are lifelong Methodists.

In May 2014, the College graduated 230 students, earning their degrees in 31 different majors. Currently, the College has over 1,400 undergraduate students with a student faculty ratio of 13:1. Our students receive individualized attention and are encouraged to grow, both as students and citizens of the world. They are challenged by talented, supportive professors, 90 percent of whom hold the highest degrees in their respective fields.

Here are some of the highlights from this past academic year:

- In October, a new documentary about Virginia Wesleyan's annual on-campus winter homeless shelter premiered. *Winter Shelter, On Campus: College Students Encounter Homelessness at Home* is a 16-minute documentary directed by VWC Associate Professor of Communication Stu Minnis and Director of Community Service Diane Hotaling. The film brings viewers through one full night of the shelter, breaking down the evening's events into segments including arrival, dinner, social time, lights out and departure. The filmmakers hope that other colleges and universities will view this structured sheltering model and consider adopting a similar program.
- In January, Virginia Wesleyan College's 9th Annual On-Campus Winter Homeless Shelter was once again a transformative experience, not only for the shelter guests but for the VWC students, faculty and staff who volunteered for this unique event. Many students who volunteer for the shelter enrolled in a Winter Session course that addresses the sociological underpinnings of homelessness and encourages students to look beyond stereotypes about the homeless.
- Dr. Wansink and Dr. Lindvall led a March 2015 trip with 23 students to explore Religious Freedom and Expression in the Continental Reformation. October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 theses on the Wittenberg Door. Students experienced Castle Church and the city of Wittenberg, traveled to Worms and learn about the Swiss reformers in Geneva and Zurich.
- We acknowledge a gift from the Board of Missions of the Elizabeth River District of the UMC to provide scholarships for thirteen VWC students toward the March 2015 Spring Break Nicaraguan mission trip lead by our Chaplain, the Rev. Greg West. Once again, students worked with the House of Hope, a ministry to women and children who have been trapped in prostitution or human trafficking and with several local churches.
- In addition to the annual mission trip, Chaplain Greg West continues to lead Marlin Ministries on campus, a growing Christian community. He encourages students to be a part of the College's weekly worship gathering on Sundays as well as participate in any one of fourteen different Christian gatherings during the week. Chaplain West leads four Life Groups during the week. They are an experience in Christian community where students share life together while studying the Bible, praying and serving together. The vision statement for Marlin Ministries reads: Discovering who we are in God's eyes; Experiencing Jesus' love and grace together and Living by the Spirit and sharing Jesus' ministry with everyone.
- In connection with the Virginia Conference, Virginia Wesleyan continues to host the

annual Continuing Education Seminar for Clergy. This year's speaker, who led a two day workshop on March 16-17 on the topic of Turbo-Charging the Wesleyan Tradition in the 21st Century was Rev. Jorge Acevedo of Grace United Methodist Church in Florida.

- Our students have also participated in projects such as the Empty Bowls fundraiser and Marlins Read neighborhood tutoring projects. With the success of Marlins Read has come another opportunity for community service, Marlins Add, an expansion of the highly successful student led mentoring program.
- With the retirement of Dr. Paul Rasor, long-time Virginia Wesleyan College faculty member Dr. Craig Wansink was appointed the Joan P. and Macon F. Brock Jr. Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom (CSRF). Created in fall 1996, the CSRF is a resource for education, respectful dialogue, and mutual understanding relating to issues of religion and faith perspectives. Wansink is leading the College's plans to modernize the Center along with Kelly Jackson, who joined the CSRF team as Associate Director and Dr. Eric Mazur, who will serve as Fellow for Religion, Law, and Politics. "The goal of the CSRF is to equip students to be leaders and citizens who recognize how the reconciliation of religious differences creates the most meaningful opportunities for civil solutions to difficult and urgent problems," Wansink says. "Our challenge is to do so in ways that are both exciting and meaningful for our students and the broader community." The reorganization of the CSRF creates new and unique opportunities for increased student involvement, curriculum-based programming and dynamic community partnerships that support the Center's mission. Among other events, the Center hosted speakers on Islam, a sponsorship of the One Love Festival, and a lecture via Skype from Amman, Jordan on health care and Palestinian refugees.

Throughout the past year, the College has celebrated its Methodist heritage and its strong ties to the larger community, while continuing to reconfirm its aspiration to be a supportive community that is committed to excellence in our academic programs, higher learning, social responsibility, ethical conduct, and religious freedom.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND SPOUSES (ARMS)

ARMS is an association of retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses in the Virginia Conference that promotes fellowship, encouragement, support, learning, and sharing. ARMS provides a voice for retirees by facilitating vital connections with each other and the church. All retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses are members of ARMS.

The main ARMS event has traditionally been an annual fall retreat. However, in response to suggestions received via a survey of members in October 2014, we are in the process of setting up a series of regional meetings that will allow our members to come together without traveling great distances or staying overnight. As of this writing, the first series of these gatherings is being planned for April, 2014. ARMS is sponsoring these initial gatherings in partnership with the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

ARMS maintains contact with members through its newsletter *To Arms* and

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electronically through the conference Retiree Net.

The theme of this year's Fall Retreat, Oct 7-8, is *Seeing the World through the Eyes of the Millennials: A Path to Justice and Peace*. Our main facilitator will be Joe Eldridge who has spent more than twenty-five years working in the public policy arena as an advocate and analyst on international human rights and humanitarian issues. Also featured is an evening of music with Joshua N. Wortham, a graduate of Campbellsville University with a degree in Church Music. As always, worship and fellowship will be central to the retreat. Retreat brochures are available at the ARMS Display Table, the Retiree Banquet, and from VUMAC.

Harry & Gale Kennon, co-presidents

BLACKSTONE CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

The Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center or as many remember it –VUMAC – continues to do well and serve our Annual Conference. Sam McCracken is the Executive Director and is a smiling face for all who use and come to BCRC. The Board of Trustees works very hard to make sure that BCRC is the Retreat Center that our whole Conference will love and use.

In 2014 we saw many changes and additions:

- The Biomass Boiler and Heating System came into its own. There was a great deal of fine tuning but this system now heats all the hot water, heats the entire building and heats the swimming pool. The new system burns wood pellets and saves the Center \$8500 a month over what was previously paid for oil.
- A challenge Grant from the Titmus Foundation was met and now the historic building's front portico has been restored to its original beauty. The wicker room under the front porch is being restored and will be dedicated in October as the UMW Room. This room will be restored and commemorate all the funds the UMW has given to BCRC through "Dimes and Dollars" for Blackstone.
- In 2014 BCRC accommodated over 12,000 overnight guests and hosted nearly 200 events an increase of 1500 people and 50 events over 2013.
- Our Annual "Christmas at Blackstone" this year featured Elizabeth Von Trapp, the granddaughter of the Von Trapp's of the "Sound of Music" fame, who entertained us with a mix of traditional and contemporary music and song for nearly two hours to a group of over 150. The event started with an open house, delicious meal, and concert and concluded with an open carol sing in the Virginia room.
- We are in the process of hiring a Development Person and Program Person, so we will have staff to go all over our conference to spread the good news about all the programming that is happening and sharing the good news of how individuals and groups can help us continue the renovation. We are looking for individuals and groups to sponsor a room on the second and third floor. Renovation includes new windows, two new twin beds, new sleeper sofa, new ceiling and new handicap bathrooms in every room. It's been more than 40 years since the last renovation and we need to make the second and third floor shine like the first floor. When we contact you, please give us a

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hand in this renovation so Blackstone will continue to be a place of beauty and rest for many years to come.

BCRC's commitment is to "Let Every Soul Be Jesus' Guest". Give us a hand and schedule your next event at BCRC. Be part of the thousands who come to Blackstone every year to find fellowship and a closer walk with Jesus.

Tommy Herndon, chair

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

In the past year between its annual meetings, November 2013--November 2014, the Preachers' Relief Society made five grants to assist clergy families who were experiencing severe financial distress. The needs of these families were all brought to the attention of the Society by the superintendents of the districts in which the families lived. The crisis for which four of the five grants were made came about because of medical expenses which were incurred but not covered by insurance.

The work of the Society is currently supported primarily by proceeds from its investments but also by income from bequests from estates. The Society also welcomes contributions from the living.

The trustees of the Society are Robert N. Baker, III; James R. Bergdoll, secretary; Sallye Bowen; Robert F. Cofield, vice-president; Katherine Kidwell; K. Dane Mills, treasurer; Henry Rogers, Harold E. White, Sr.; and Robert T. Casey, president. Larry Field of Scott and Stringfellow is the investment advisor.

Robert T. Casey, president

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

The Retired Clergy Housing Corporation began serving the needy Ministers of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1932. In the beginning, however, the Corporation was known as the Home Corporation. Thanks to Ministers and Lay Members of the Conference, funds and property have been contributed with enthusiasm that now our assets are almost five million.

Now we have 23 homes located in the communities of Danville, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Raphine, Staunton, Bridgewater, Winchester, Richmond, and Hampton. One in Roanoke is vacant at this writing which gives us an opening in case someone has to take leave of absence or retire unexpectedly.

Perhaps someone reading this report would want to explore the possibility of including Financial Contribution or Property to the RCHC through their will. To do so is very easy and the leadership of our Corporation is eager to help anyone so motivated. Your help can and will mean so very much to needy Ministers in future years.

Nancy and I have been serving our Corporation since 1994. During our Annual Board Meeting in November we asked the Board to explore avenues of cooperation with the Virginia United Methodist Homes. Chris Henderson, President of VUMH, with Nancy and I, will seek avenues in which this cooperative effort can be achieved, and present our discussion to the respective Boards for approval. We invite you to be in prayer for us as we seek to move forward.

Again, I would like to emphasize that I remain ready to share with any Organization in

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your local Church the importance of our work. There is a short video available and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. There is a completely free service to you and your church. Perhaps, Superintendents might find time (about 7 minutes) for this video presentation at their District Conferences which in turn would reach many individuals on the local level.

Dr. Thomas L. Coffman, President

SOCIETY FOR WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Society for Wesleyan Studies (SWS) was established in 1983 to renew Wesleyan themes in the life of the Virginia Annual Conference and in the United Methodist Church. For thirty years, the society has sponsored events devoted to the study of issues related to the history, theology, practice and mission of John and Charles Wesley and the Wesleyan tradition. We seek to understand more thoroughly the richness of our unique heritage, and to do so with an eye toward applying those resources in the service of the contemporary church in its ongoing mission and ministry. We welcome all interested laity and clergy at our events and to contribute to the mission of the society. Continuing Education credit is available at all our events.

The Society for Wesleyan Studies typically sponsors one or two public events annually. In recent years, we have given special attention to introducing the Virginia Conference to some of the younger and most promising of a new generation of Wesleyan scholars/church-persons.

In years to come the Society for Wesleyan Studies will continue to search out the best-informed contemporary guides to our Wesleyan tradition, in order to make accessible to the disciples and churches of the Virginia Conference our distinctive heritage of faith and practice as a vital resource for “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We hope you will join us for our events as we explore together our living Wesleyan legacy.

R. Bruce Johnson

VIRGINIA CHAPTER PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECRETARIES

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

Legislation was adopted at the 1988 General Conference which states that the General Conference of Finance and Administration (GCF) has the authority and responsibility to provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of professional standards, training and certification programs and to provide assistance to PAUMCS (2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶807.19).

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The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS sponsors two meetings each year: a one-day fall training event and a two-day spring spiritual growth retreat. Members are persons presently or previously, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, engaged in administrative work in any local church or agency of The United Methodist Church.

Highlights of Virginia PAUMCS activities in 2014-2015 include a six-page mailing sent to the administrative staff of the 1,200 charges of the Virginia Conference and the fall “Experience Your Conference Connection” event held in October. This gathering featured several members of the board of Virginia Conference Communications, Inc. who brought much-needed information about the importance of communicating using the most current methods: FaceBook, Instagram, blogging, and website design and hosting.

Our spring training/spiritual growth retreat in May was led by Buena (Beanie) Rankin, retired Assistant Director of Records and Statistics with the General Council on Finance and Administration. Beanie shared her knowledge on a range of subjects: membership, church software, record retention, cyber communications and apportionments. Attendees also valued the networking and spiritual component of this time together.

If you have administrative staff in your church, either paid or volunteer, we encourage you to help them become a part of Virginia PAUMCS for their professional growth, to the benefit of your church!

Beverly Myers, President

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist movement and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 the Virginia Conference established our credit union to help pastors pool their resources to help each other. As we celebrate 63 years of service in 2015, our membership has grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies and institutions within the Virginia Annual Conference.

We are a full service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of lay and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa credit cards, online services and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We sponsor scholarships for college bound students and have partnered with several conference churches to establish Jubilee Assistance Funds; a program that assists churches with short term help for persons in need during a financial crisis, as well as financial management tools to guide them toward long term financial stability.

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

Our goal is to be the premier financial institution and primary resource for encouraging sound stewardship principles and helping Virginia United Methodist churches, individuals and institutions “to earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can” as servants of Christ in the world.

Alvin J. Horton, Chair

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“People have made at least a start at understanding the meaning of life when they plant shade trees under which they know full well they will never sit.”

-D. Elton Trueblood

Every year, more of the “Greatest Generation” and “Baby Boomers” are leaving this world to claim the promise of the resurrection. They leave behind a legacy of incredible testimonies of sacrifice and service. They often leave a hole in the annual support of the local church. Finance committees, trustees and church staff cope with shrinking budgets while working harder to reach more of the lost or needy. Faced with the reality of an aging church membership, Age Wave experts point to this generational shift increasing more rapidly around 2018 when deaths in our country is projected to rise sharply.

The dilemma for church leaders is to continue “to serve Christ by setting disciples on fire with Spirit-filled, risk-taking love for all God’s children” while increasing budgets, meet a continued and dramatic decrease in the faithful contribution base. For leaders with a vision for their church to continue to be relevant, only two options appear to be considered: trim ministry, which eventually results in the decline of the effectiveness of the local church; or proactively seek a new funding base. The Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to assist churches who are looking to face this dilemma with a strategic planning approach and an effective solution through Planned Giving and Endowment building.

There is a need for churches to re-envision their future with fresh goals for mission and ministry. Such vision is birthed through concerted prayer and holy conferencing. Vision alone may only be wishful thinking if not structured with clear metrics and benchmarks. Vision for tomorrow’s outreach must have a parallel track and resources to make that vision reality.

Helping congregants understand that they may make the largest giving impact of their lives through effective planning can provide the much needed boost to resource a vision for future outreach into their community. One church this past year experienced the blessing of a bequest through a planned estate gift that came as a surprise benefit to their church. The Foundation staff was able to come alongside the church leadership to discern and strategize what God was calling the church to do in mission – and how these new resources could be effective in opening doors and extending ministry. The role of the Foundation is to educate and elevate the importance of charitable gift planning in endowing the church’s vision into the future. This is ‘planting shade trees for future generations!’

Foundation assets have grown over the last three years as we have increased the number of churches and ministries we serve by more than 30%!

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

I've been involved as a pastor and Conference member for more than 70 years. I remain committed to see ministry expand in local churches. I believe that as we help churches through the loan program of the Development Fund, we can see a renewed harvest of church growth and expanded ministry. It is an approach that has been done all across the country, and it has come at the right time to Virginia to help us expand impact through local churches.

I made a wise decision to invest in the Development Company, because it was a win-win situation. It was a win for me on my return on my investment. It also is a win because the Foundation invests in people and in churches by helping them to improve their ministries.

- Dr. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn, the longest serving ordained Elder in the Virginia Conference.

Virginia United Methodist Development Company, LLC was created in May 2014 by The Virginia United Methodist Foundation as a subsidiary entity, managed by its own Board. Investments are offered to United Methodist individuals, churches and ministries at competitive interest rates, so that the Development Fund may in turn lend those funds to local United Methodist churches and related entities for construction projects, property acquisition, capital improvements and loan re-financing. Everyone wins when you purchase interest-bearing certificates from the Development Company!

Investors may purchase either Savings Certificates for 30 days at adjustable rates, or Loan Certificates from six months through sixty months, at a fixed rate of interest. Churches, agencies, entities and individuals (18 years of age or older), who reside in Virginia and are affiliated with The United Methodist Church or one of its related entities may invest. \$1,000 minimum investment is required.

Interest rates are set by the Development Fund's Investment Committee on at least a quarterly basis. Rates are determined by taking into consideration the rate of interest earned from current loans, market conditions and rates of similar investments. At least 30 days prior to the maturity date, the Development Company will notify investors that they have the option to either redeem the certificates or extend them.

The Development Fund is a registered Offering with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Although investments are not insured, they are safeguarded through strict investment and lending policies, strong board leadership and competent staff. The purpose for the Development Company is to enable United Methodist investors to fund church capital improvement loans. Initial deposits have been encouraging though not sufficient to meet the loan demand. Our prayer for 2015 is increased participation in the deposits to help meet the loan demand! The purpose for the loans is to enable local churches to expand ministry in their community; and thereby, our motto: United Methodists Investing to Impact Virginia!

In 2014, the Development Company realized:

- 2014 Deposits - \$1,525,871
- 2014 Loan Commitments to Churches - \$355,562

Stephen B. Clark, President

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE WELLNESS MINISTRIES (VCWM)

This year marks both a milestone and a sea change in wellness ministry. Seven years ago, in collaboration with Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), Bishop Charlene Kammerer appointed The Reverend Charles F. Reynolds to establish a new wellness ministry. This ministry was charged with developing an educational program on wholistic wellness, and working with clergy and their families, advocating for healthy lifestyles and better choices in matters of physical, mental/emotional, and spiritual health.

Over the past seven years, Reverend Reynolds has logged tens of thousands of miles – across Virginia and in six other States. He has delivered numerous educational presentations, participated in multiple research working groups, sponsored legal affairs seminars for clergy and lay employees, and from 2008-2012 served on the denomination's Church Systems Task Force (CSTF). VCWM's Board of Directors has performed detailed analysis on volumes of current health and wellness data, identifying issues and offering recommended solutions to leadership at the District, Conference, Jurisdictional, and General Church levels. Reverend Reynolds served as a presenter at multiple annual Ministers' Convocations, District clergy meetings and retreats, the Order of Elder retreat, and training for Provisional Members. VCWM became a regular fixture in the Annual Conference display area.

VCWM partnered with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits' *Center for Health* and Duke University's *Clergy Health Initiative* to create and help fund a three-year study of clergy health and wellness across the United States. Reverend Reynolds was invited to participate in the Drew University School of Theology's working group on Theological Education and Clergy Health, and the COSROW-sponsored Clergy Family Health Task Force (CFHTF).

Ecumenically, VCWM worked closely with the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) CREDO Institute and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) *Healthy Congregations* and *Bridgebuilder* programs. These mutually supportive efforts resulted in Reverend Reynolds working with pastors and lay members of several Lutheran congregations, as well as his assisting in the vocational development of ELCA pastors through the Virginia Synod's First Call Theological Education Program. An additional benefit of this ecumenical cooperation was the mutual sharing of educational opportunities between United Methodist and Lutheran clergy.

Perhaps most significantly, VCWM selected Health Advocate, Inc. (HA) to serve as VUMPI's contracted wellness partner. VCWM oversaw the day-to-day operations of the VUMPI-HA relationship and, primarily through the efforts of Program Director Ms. Lynn Rhein, created *Wellness 100*, a program through which clergy, lay employees and their spouses can improve their personal health and wellness while reducing their personal health plan contributions.

Now, after seven years of wellness ministry efforts, it is time for the torch to be passed. Through the hard work of VCWM, and the inspirational leadership of Bishop Young Jin Cho, the clergy and laity of Virginia Conference have gained a renewed understanding of the importance of the Spiritual Disciplines, and the need to be attentive to their spiritual health. Our clergy, lay employees, and their respective families better comprehend the importance of mental, emotional and physical health, and the roles personal responsibility

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and self-care must play in their wellness efforts. This demonstrated appreciation for the importance of wholistic wellness offers tremendous hope for the future life and ministries of our Virginia Conference.

Effective June 30, 2015 VCWM will conclude its work in support of the Virginia Conference. In its place, VUMPI will assume oversight of the wellness and advocacy services which will continue to be provided by Health Advocate, Inc. The Center for Clergy Excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry will continue to be attentive to matters of clergy mental/emotional health, and will serve as a resource for clergy/families in need of professional assistance. The Office of Connectional Ministries, under the leadership of The Reverend Marc Brown, will continue to emphasize the critical importance of spiritual health and vitality for all Christians through the content of its numerous programmatic offerings.

One chapter draws to a close, and another begins. On behalf of Reverend Reynolds, and the Board of Directors of VCWM, we conclude our ministry with this simple prayer for all our sisters and brothers in Christ: *May you have life, and have it abundantly.*

Donald C. Yesukaitis, CPA, President

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions and Petitions are ordered alphabetically by title. This does not indicate the order in which they will be considered.

RESOLUTION 1

Ban the Box

Whereas Scripture teaches us to provide a refuge for the outcasts and that in welcoming a stranger we welcome Christ into our midst;¹

Whereas our Social Principles “affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God” and support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to employment;²

Whereas the majority of the over 325,000 ex-felons in Virginia who have completed all court-imposed punishment find it almost impossible to obtain gainful employment because most employers use a check box on their job applications to ask if the applicant has a felony conviction/arrest record – and then pass over applicants who check that box, even though the vast majority of such offenses were nonviolent and the ex-offenders have since tried to turned their lives around;

Whereas the inability to obtain employment makes it impossible for ex-offenders to support themselves and their families, and thereby contributes to a vicious cycle of higher unemployment, increased crime, more recidivism and higher taxes to support imprisonment;

Whereas this vicious cycle begins early in life for a large segment of our population – as revealed by recent studies which have found that by age 23, half of all black males and 40 percent of all white males have been arrested – and thereby virtually destroying the lives of such persons and depriving our nation of contributions they could make to our society;³

Whereas these trends affect not only men but also women, with the number of women in prison nationally “increasing at a rate fifty percent higher for women than for men since 1980,” and among all persons incarcerated in Virginia over eight percent are women – with such women who are the head of a single parent household facing especially daunting challenges upon their release;⁴

Whereas 14 states and at least 96 cities and counties (including 13 cities and counties in Virginia) have enacted “ban the box” policies to eliminate questions about an applicant’s criminal history from the initial employment application so that selection of persons to be interviewed will be based on skills and qualifications for a specific job position;⁵

Whereas several major corporations, including three of the nation’s top retailers – Home Depot, Target, and Walmart – have enacted ban the box policies by removing questions about criminal history from their job applications, thereby joining several other employers who have taken steps to end hiring exclusions that make it nearly impossible for anyone with a criminal record to get a job, even if that offense be in the distant past;⁶

Whereas deferring questions about any criminal history or conducting a criminal background check until after an applicant is selected for an interview, given a conditional offer of employment or found otherwise qualified for the job will provide an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate their qualifications and enable employers to select the most qualified applicants;

Whereas jobs relating to public safety, handling finances or requiring contact with vulnerable populations such as working with children and the elderly will continue under

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law to require full criminal background checks prior to employment, and

Whereas, as some perceptive members of the clergy have pointed out, while banning the box is about fairness for people with records, it is also good for the “economy and for the safety of our communities to ensure we’re maximizing job opportunities for everyone.”⁷

Be it hereby resolved by this 233rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church that:

1. We commend the states, municipalities and private employers who have eliminated questions about past criminal history from their initial job applications in order to provide all job applicants an opportunity to be considered on the basis of their qualifications for a specific job.
2. We call upon our Virginia state legislators to enact legislation banning questions about criminal history from the initial job application for public and private employment so that questions about criminal history or conducting a criminal background check can be deferred until after an applicant has been selected for an interview, given a conditional offer of employment or otherwise found qualified for a specific job.
3. We urge private employers to follow the example of those private employers who have already banned the box from their employment applications.
4. We urge our clergy and lay members to contact their state legislators, urging support of a ban the box policy for Virginia.
5. We authorize the Board of Church and Society to join with other like-minded groups in a campaign to ban the box in Virginia and request that it keep the Conference updated on progress toward this goal.

Submitted by Dot Ivey on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

1. Isaiah 16:4; Matthew 25:31-46.

2. *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-2016*, ¶162.

3. “Study: Half of all black males, 40 percent of all white males arrested by age 23,” Press Release, University of South Carolina, 6 Jan 2014, accessed 8 Feb 2014, http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2014-01/uosc-sho010314.php.

4. “Fact Sheet: Trends in U.S. Corrections,” The Sentencing Project, www.sentencingproject.org; “Annual Report of the Quarterly Report of Demographic, Offense and Health Information of Offenders Incarcerated in VADOC Facilities - CY2014,” Virginia Department of Corrections, 2015, accessed 11 Feb 2015, <http://leg2.state.va.us>.

5. The 14 states that have enacted ‘ban the box’ policies are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico and Rhode Island. In Virginia, Alexandria, Arlington County, Charlottesville, Danville, Fairfax County, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, and Virginia Beach have enacted ban the box policies. Nationally, other cities that have enacted this ban include Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Durham, Memphis, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. <http://bantheboxcampaign.org/>; “Advancing a Federal Fair Chance Hiring Agenda,” National Employment Law Project, accessed 11 Feb 2015, <http://www.nelp.org/>; “Victory! Georgia becomes the first state in the South to ‘ban the box’ on state employment applications,” Georgia Justice Project, accessed 24 Feb 2015, www.gjp.org.

6. “Advancing a Federal Fair Chance Hiring Agenda,” National Employment Law Project, accessed 11 Feb 2015, <http://www.nelp.org>.

7. Father Gregory Boyle and Rev. Joseph Clopton, “Fair hiring policy gets an unfair rap,” *The Sacramento Bee*, accessed 8 Feb 2014, <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/10/5721634/another-view-fair-hiring-policy.html>.

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RESOLUTION 2

Caring for God's Creation through Improved Investment Policies

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of global warming and climate change from fossil fuel dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement (§ 1001) in the *Book of Resolutions* and has called in that statement for the greatest investment to be made in energy efficiency and renewable energy and directed that “all United Methodist programs and missions must model our sustainable and just energy values.” And;

Whereas, we confess that the Church has not reoriented its own investments toward energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. And;

Whereas The investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the *Book of Resolutions* § 4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in *The Social Principles* and the *Book of Resolutions*, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values. *The Social Principles* § 160-D state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions.”

Be it resolved that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms the investment policies of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church which have begun to focus on strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We particularly commend the policies which exclude from investment companies with revenues from the extraction and/or mining of thermal coal, and further encourage the agency to continue exploring opportunities to invest in companies which focus on the development and utilization of renewable energy sources and improved energy efficiency.

Be it resolved that the Virginia Conference encourages all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the General Board of Church and Society, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations and local churches to work to promote meaningful legislation at the local, state and federal level which will effectively address climate change concerns.

Be it resolved that the Virginia Conference encourages all general boards and agencies, annual conference boards and agencies and local churches to follow investment practices which are focused on the mitigation of the impacts of climate change, particularly those policies which exclude from direct investment any companies with revenues from the extraction and/or mining of thermal coal, and to consider opportunities to invest in companies focusing on the development and utilization of renewable energy sources and improved energy efficiency.

Submitted by Jaydee Hanson on behalf of the Board of Church & Society

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RESOLUTION 3

Establish a Mentoring Ministry for Adolescents in the Community that It Serves

Whereas, educational success is frequently the essential element in achieving economic opportunity and social advancement; and

Whereas, the American educational system has fallen short of its goal of promoting economic and social mobility; and

Whereas, a recent landmark report on American education, entitled “Separate and Unequal,” found that the likelihood of children exceeding their parents’ educational level is “lower in the United States than in any other advanced nation”; and

Whereas, the federal Title 1 educational program, including No Child Left Behind, whose goal has been to improve the academic performance of economically disadvantaged children, has done little to improve student performance; and

Whereas, successful student performance results from significant investment by the student, of time and effort to learn; and

Whereas, many students being raised in poor families are performing worse than any other group because they are the least motivated to put in the time and effort to be successful; and

Whereas, in Virginia, nearly 20 per cent more students from middle to high income families graduate from high school than students from low-income families; and

Whereas, the situation in Virginia is most desperate and unjust for African-American young men, where about 40% of these students are not graduating from high school while only 20% of white males are not graduating from high school; and

Whereas, in responding to the commandment of Jesus to love others as Jesus has loved us, Christian men and women have been given clear direction to provide guidance and encouragement to those underperforming adolescents living in their communities; and

Whereas, included in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church is the declaration: “We believe that every person has the right to education. We also believe that the responsibility for education of the young rests with the family, faith communities, and the government”; and

Whereas, because United Methodists believe that “quality education opens doors of hope and possibility”, the church has declared that serving others by advancing their education is a priority of the transformational process called “Rethink Church”.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on each congregation to establish a ministry to adolescents who are not reaching their full academic potential, where congregation members would provide these adolescents in their community with the guidance and encouragement that they so desperately need to be successful in school, thereby giving these students a greater chance for social and economic advancement and justice.

Submitted by Dave Stegmaier on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

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RESOLUTION 4

Parsonage Air Conditioning Costs

Whereas the Virginia Annual Conference has a well defined and long standing policy regarding heat reimbursement for parsonages and whereas the rationale that varying parsonage ages and constructions require varying costs to heat is valid and whereas at the time of that policy's adoption, many parsonages did not have cooling systems and most now do, and whereas the same rationale also applies to parsonage cooling costs,

Be it resolved that the current policy should be amended to include reimbursement of cooling expenses. Unless otherwise determined by the church, a possible mechanism for reimbursement would be to take the lowest bill of the year and subtract from each other bill, leaving the difference of heating and cooling expenses to be reimbursed.

Submitted by Brian Siegle

RESOLUTION 5

Resolution on Predatory Lending

Whereas, the practice of charging interest on a loan in an excessive amount is considered usury and is against the common good;

Whereas, Christian and Jewish tradition warn in scripture of such usurious practices that harm the welfare of the poor;

Whereas, usurious practices have always been odious to a healthy society and often only been available in the shadows of illegal loan sharking;

Whereas, the 2002 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia made the practice of loan lending at rates far exceeding the caps of loans made through traditional banking processes possible, at rates of triple digit annual percentage rate or higher, raising rates much more than the market traditionally bore;

Whereas, the resulting proliferation of an industry focusing on high interest rate loans, known as "predatory" loans, has effectively raised concerns that such practices are against the general welfare and good of all persons especially those who are in the most desperate situations, namely young and older people, immigrant populations, who are vulnerable and unfamiliar with banking, credit, and legal obligations in this new land, and others financially marginalized in our society;

Whereas, this industry that offers loans of this nature have mutated into many forms, exploiting legal loopholes, sometimes using and encouraging illegal tactics when offering or collecting on such loans and evolving into more precarious lending practices to the detriment of the most vulnerable;

Whereas, predatory lending shops are most frequently located in areas of poverty or economic blight, or targeting the financially vulnerable, undermining the fabric of stable family life as predatory practices move onto the internet, open ended credit loans, car title lending loans, and any practices that suggest easy access and little or no verifiably sound lending practices;

Whereas, the lawmakers/decision makers have been reticent to legislate strong boundaries that would protect the public from practices that encourage a cycle of debt

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that creates a weakened community and perpetuates a culture of greed and easy money;
Therefore, be it resolved that this Virginia Annual Conference authorize Bishop Young Jin Cho to communicate that this conference condemns the usurious practices of predatory lending in whatever form it takes, whether pay day lending, internet lending, open ended credit lending, or car title lending and that these practices should become illegal;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference authorize Bishop Young Jin Cho to communicate to the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia that we urge strict enforcement of laws pertaining to illegal internet lending practices that impinge on the welfare of all persons;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church promote practices of teaching sound financial principles and of promoting ways and means to offer alternatives to predatory lending that are available through the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union and other resources.

Submitted by Charles Swadley

*Co-signers: Bill Jones, Larry Tingle, Sarah Manner,
Jay Speer, Carol Mathis, Rodney Hunter*

RESOLUTION 6

Responding to Requests from Christians in the Holy Land

Whereas it is God's will that all people enjoy peace/shalom/salaam, i.e. peace, security, prosperity, and right relationships with one another and the earth.

Whereas the psalmists calls us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122.6), and to "seek peace and pursue it" (Ps. 34:14)

Whereas we affirm Israel's right to permanent, recognized and secure borders, and Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state; and,

Whereas the 2012 *Book of Resolutions* states "we seek for all people in the Middle East region an end to military occupation, freedom from violence, and full respect for the human rights of all under international law." Resolution #6073, 2008 *Book of Resolutions*, amended and readopted in 2012

Whereas "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings (Resolution 6111: "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land." 2012 *Book of Resolutions*); and,

Whereas we are called to support members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation; and,

Whereas the Palestinian Christian community, through the Kairos Palestine document, has requested the support of the wider Church; (Kairos Palestine. "A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering" <http://www.kairos-palestine.ps/content/kairos-document> Web. December 2009); and,

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Whereas Palestinian Christian leaders have specifically requested the support of the United Methodist Church; (Letter to the United Methodist Church from Rifat Odeh Kassis, General Coordinator, Kairos Palestine, November 28, 2014 https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat_Kassis.html. Web. January 2015); and,

Whereas the 2012 General Conference reiterated the call to end the occupation, through boycotts of goods produced in the occupied territories (Resolution 6111: “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land.” 2012 Book of Resolutions); and,

Whereas all UMC missionaries serving in the Holy Land over the last 25 years support concrete actions by our denomination to show our support of Palestinian rights. (United Methodist Missionaries Support Divestment from the Israeli Occupation, https://www.kairosresponse.org/UMC_Missionaries_Divestment.html. Web. January 2015),

Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference shall create a diverse and representative task force to review and research actions that can be taken to respond to these requests by our UMC missionaries and our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ, and formulate recommendations for the 2016 annual conference; and,

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on the U.S. government, the government of Israel, and the elected Palestinian leadership to work for diplomatic and nonviolent solutions to the problems of the region, to respect the equality and dignity of all the region’s people, and to forge solutions based on the principles of international law and human rights.

Submitted by John Copenhaver on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

RESOLUTION 7

Recognize the Right of the Nation of Israel to Exist

Statement for discussion in accordance with the Holy Bible, the Doctrine inspired written word of our LORD God Almighty, and due to a growing anti-Semitic movement in our nation and the World today, we must review certain truths:

Whereas, the first truth: The Lord told Abram: “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12: 2-3 (NLT)

Whereas, the second truth: “And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. Then the LORD told him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.” Genesis 15: 6-7 (NLT)

Whereas, the third truth: “So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, “I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River— the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.” Genesis 15: 18-21 (NLT)

Whereas, the fourth truth: Abraham’s obedience was tested, God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Because Abraham proved his faith, the LORD told Abraham: “I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their

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enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” Genesis 22: 17-18 (NLT)

Whereas, the fifth truth: The LORD appeared to Isaac at Beersheba to reaffirm the covenant He made to his father Abraham: “where the LORD appeared to him on the night of his arrival. “I am the God of your father, Abraham,” he said. “Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. I will multiply your descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant.” Then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the LORD. He set up his camp at that place, and his servants dug another well.” Genesis 26: 24-25 (NLT)

Whereas, the sixth truth: The LORD reaffirmed the covenant to Jacob (Israel) that was made to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac: Jacob had a dream at Bethel. In his dream he saw a stairway to heaven. “At the top of the stairway stood the LORD, and he said, “I am the LORD, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. What’s more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you.” Genesis 28: 13-15 (NLT)

Whereas, the seventh truth: The LORD reaffirms the covenant to Moses and tells why He chose the Nation of Israel: “Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.” Exodus 19: 3-6 (NLT)

Whereas, the eighth truth: The LORD reaffirmed the covenant concerning King David and his descendants: “Yes, our protection comes from the LORD, and He, the Holy One of Israel has given us our king.” Psalm 89: 18 (NLT) “I will extend his rule from the Mediterranean Sea to the west to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the east.” Psalm 89: 25 (NLT) “if they do not obey my decrees and fail to keep my commands, then I will punish their sin with the rod, and their disobedience with beating. But I will never stop loving him nor fail to keep my promise to him. No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said.” Psalm 89: 31-34 (NLT)

Whereas, the ninth truth: The Apostle Paul explains God’s mercy is for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike: “Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.” Romans 11: 28-29 (NLT)

Whereas, the tenth truth: The study of the Holy Scriptures confirms the Nation and the People of the Nation of Israel have the right to exist and possess their land, for this is God’s purpose for them to His Glory.

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Therefore Be it Known: That we the leadership and body of the Virginia Annual Conference of United Methodist Church do recognize the right of the Nation and People of Israel to exist in accordance with the Holy Covenant made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as described in the Holy Scriptures meaning the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, the written inspired word of the LORD GOD Almighty, thus let us pledge our support of the Nation of Israel in word and deed. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

Submitted by Robert Gray, Onley United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District

RESOLUTION 8

Tax Fairness

Whereas Scripture teaches us that we are called to be our ‘brother’s keeper,’ that loving one’s neighbor as yourself is part of the greatest commandment, second only to loving God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind; that payment of taxes is a virtue which contributes to peaceful living with all people; that God punishes those who “crush the weak, tax their grain (daily life necessities) and turn away the poor who seek help,” and that “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded;”¹

Whereas John Wesley held that Christians should not merely tithe but give away all extra income, and in 1744 set for himself the high standard of “If [when I die] I leave behind me ten pounds, . . . you and all mankind bear witness against me, that I lived and died a thief and a robber;”² “taught and practiced that excessive wealth, absence of effective stewardship and radical charity, prevents a believer from growing in grace and cultivates sinful actions and attitudes” . . . “believed that stewardship that centers on care for the poor is a means of grace” . . . [and] “encouraged government leaders to develop public policies that provided for the well-being of the poor and just distribution of wealth;”³

Whereas our Social Principles proclaim that “We support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. We further support efforts to revise tax structures and to eliminate governmental support programs that now benefit the wealthy at the expense of other persons;”⁴

Whereas the above commandments, practices, principles and teachings are being widely disregarded in our society as evidenced by:

- Growing economic disparities between the ultra-rich and the rest of us: In the U.S. in 2013 the top 1 percent received 20.1 percent of all income, and the top 10 percent received 48.9 percent of all income.⁵ In Virginia and 15 other states all of the increased income, on average, went to the top 1 percent while income for others stagnated or declined.⁶ World-wide, the richest 1 percent of the world’s population owned 48 percent of the world’s wealth in 2014, with its share projected to grow to over 50 percent by 2016, leaving less than half of the world’s wealth for the other 99 percent. The 80 richest people in the world now own as much wealth as the bottom 50 percent of the world’s population – in other words, 3.5 billion people must subsist on the same amount of wealth as these 80 extremely wealthy people.⁷
- Growing educational disparity. Schools: 51 percent of U.S. public school students now come from families living in poverty.⁸ Colleges: In 1970, students from high

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income families (\$108,650 or more in current dollars) were 5 times more likely to complete college by age 24 than students from low income families (\$34,160 or less in current dollars). By 2013, students from high income families were 8 times more likely to have completed college by age 24 than students from low income families. Actual completion of a bachelor's degree rose from 55 percent to 99 percent for students from high income families but dropped from 23 percent to 21 percent for students from low income families.⁹

- False claims that the poor do not pay taxes: According to a January 2015 report by the non-partisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, “Virtually every state tax system is fundamentally unfair, taking a much greater share of income from the low- and middle-class than from wealthy families.” Taking into account all state and local income, property, sales and excise taxes that Americans pay, the poorest 20 percent of individuals and families (those earning less than \$21,000) pay an effective tax rate of 10.5 percent while the top 1 percent (those earning \$542,000 or more) pay only 5.4 percent. In Virginia, the poorest 20 percent pay an effective tax rate of 8.9 percent while the top 1 percent pay only 5.1 percent of their income for taxes; the consumption tax is highly regressive with the poorest 20 percent paying an average of 4.9 percent of their income on sales and excise taxes while the wealthiest 1 percent pay only 0.5 percent of their income for such taxes.¹⁰
- False slogans that tax cuts for the rich will help grow our economy: A study by the Congressional Research Service, the non-partisan research arm of the Library of Congress, covering 65 years of data, found that “reduction in the top tax rates has had little association with saving, investment or productivity growth;” the main effect has been to further enrich those already wealthy.¹¹
- Huge loopholes that benefit large corporations: A study of the five year period of 2008-2012 found that 26 large U.S. corporations paid no federal income tax during that period, even though collectively they earned \$170 billion in profits. At least 28 of the largest public American companies listed on the S&P 500 stock index with headquarters in the U.S. are incorporated in low-tax countries to avoid paying U.S. taxes – even though they receive substantial U.S. government benefits paid for by the rest of us. 362 of the biggest companies listed on the Fortune 500 have more than 7,800 tax haven subsidiaries in foreign countries to avoid paying U.S. taxes. A 2014 Bloomberg study found that 307 U.S. based multi-national corporations have accumulated nearly \$2 trillion in offshore accounts to avoid U.S. taxes – which could be as much as \$90 billion annually.¹²
- Other loopholes by which the rich preserve and pass on their wealth such as (1) the ‘trust fund loophole’ under which the rich can, at the time of their death, pass on to their heirs stock of unlimited value without any tax being paid for the growth in the value of that stock while with the original owner; (2) low estate tax rates, increased exemptions to the estate tax rate, and the elimination of the estate tax – all of which contribute to the growing concentration of wealth among the super-rich, and (3) current laws which permit companies to deduct as business expenses payment of more than \$1 million to company executives if it is considered

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‘performance based.’

Whereas the above realities are inherently unfair since they promote extreme wealth and income accumulation at the top, undermine the common good, and threaten the well-being of all of us since more unequal societies “have higher rates of violent crime, lower life expectancy, poorer mental health and physical health, worst educational outcome and a whole range of social ills of greater magnitude than the more equal ones,¹³

Be it therefore resolved that in view of the above, and in affirmation of the principle of ‘leveling the playing ground’ for all taxpayers so that everyone will be responsible for their fair share of taxes and uphold the common good, this 233rd session of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Calls upon our federal and state governments to reform our tax system by:
 - (a) Implementing a more progressive individual income tax under which the share of income paid by the rich for all taxes will be at least equal to the share of income for all taxes paid by the poor.
 - (b) Raising the cap on payment into Social Security so that contributions as a proportion of income by high income persons will be similar to the proportion of income contributed by low income workers.
 - (c) Closing corporate loopholes by imposing a tax on global income to remove incentives for firms to move to low-tax jurisdictions (with credit for any tax paid in other jurisdictions), blocking the use of tax havens, and providing incentives in the form of lower taxes for firms that invest and create jobs in the U.S.
 - (d) Taxing returns on capital at the same rate as for earned income, thereby removing the current unjust practice of taxing those who work hard to earn a living at higher rates than those who derive their income from speculation, dividends and capital gains.
 - (e) Creation of a financial transaction tax which will help to reduce volatility in the financial system and raise significant revenue, while affecting primarily the richest 10 percent.¹⁴
 - (f) Reduce or eliminate corporate welfare such as ‘bailouts’, which primarily benefit those already wealthy, and agricultural subsidies that primarily benefit large agro-businesses (corporations).¹⁵
 - (g) Reduce or eliminate exemptions in federal inheritance and estate tax laws, and reinstate the estate tax in Virginia.¹⁶
2. Requests Bishop Cho to communicate adoption of #1 above to President Obama and members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and to the Virginia Governor and members of the Virginia General Assembly.
3. Encourages our clergy and lay members to join in this justice mission by contacting their congressional and state legislators, urging implementation of point #1 above.

Submitted by Hunter Mabry

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1. Genesis 4:9; Luke 10:25-28; Romans 13:7; 12:18, Amos 5:11-12; Luke 12:48.
2. The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, Vol. 8, 40, accessed 2 Feb 2015, www.books.google.com.
3. The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2012, #4056, "Greed".
4. Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-2016, ¶163.
5. Emmanuel Saez, "Striking it Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States," (updated, 2015), assessed 4 Feb 2015, www.eml.berkeley.edu/~saez.
6. "The Increasingly Unequal States of America: Income Inequality by State, 1917-2012, accessed 2 Feb 2015, www.epi.org.
7. "Wealth: Having it All and Wanting More," Oxfam Issue Briefing, Jan 2015, accessed 3 Feb 2015, www.policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk.
8. Roanoke Times, 18 Jan 2015:11.
9. "Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States," the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunities in Higher Education and the University of Pennsylvania Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy, 2015, 31, accessed 3 Feb 2015, www.pellinstitute.org.
10. "Who Pays: A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States," 2015, Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, accessed 2 Feb 2015, www.itep.org.
11. "Tax cuts for the rich don't boost the economy," Roanoke Times, 20 Sept 2012: 14.
12. "The Sorry State of Corporate Taxes," Citizens for Tax Justice Report 2014, Executive Summary, 1; Just Taxes, Winter, 2014:5; "Positively un-American Tax Dodges," Fortune, 7 Jul 2014; "Corporate America Is Hiding \$2Trillion From The IRS," accessed 4 Feb 2015, www.thinkprogress.org.
13. "The 1% are Bad for Your Health – It's Time to Tax Them More," Truthout, 23 Jan 2015, accessed 15 Jan 2015, www.Truth-out.org.
14. A financial transaction tax is a small fee on trades of financial instruments – such as stocks, bonds, and derivatives. Currently there is no tax on such transactions in the U.S., although there is in more than 30 other countries. In an analysis of a bill in Congress proposing such fees, the Joint Committee on Taxation has concluded "that a tax of 0.03% on stock, bond, and derivative trades could raise \$350 billion over 10 years." Such fees would not affect the approximately half of U.S. households that have no investment in financial markets. "FAQs on Financial Transaction Tax," Institute for Policy Studies, accessed 2 Feb 2015, www.ips-dc.org.
15. A recent study found that corporate welfare in the federal budget costs about \$100 billion a year – which is approximately 50 percent more than what the federal government spends on traditional welfare programs that serve vulnerable populations. "Reforming Taxation To Promote Growth and Equity," Roosevelt Institute White Paper by Joseph Stiglitz, 28 May 2014: 12, fn. 38, accessed 29 May 2014, www.rooseveltinstitute.org.
16. Virginia dropped the estate tax in 2007. In fiscal year 2006-2007 it affected only estates exceeding \$2 million in value but had provided approximately \$150 million annually from the ultra-wealthy in much needed state revenue.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 1

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Add “Disciple” to the Index

Discipline: Index

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Whereas Jesus said to his eleven disciples in Galilee after his resurrection “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Holy Bible, Matthew 28:18-19. (NIV)

Whereas “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” ¶ 120 in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2012*.

Whereas ¶¶ 121, 122, 123, 133, 136, 138, and 1117(1 & 2) in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2012* discuss the importance of disciples.

Whereas the word “Disciple” is not listed in the Index of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2012*, as it should be, given the mission of our denomination.

Petition Text:

Require the publisher of the 2016 *Discipline* to include the word “Disciple” at the appropriate alphabetical position in the Index along with appropriate paragraph numbers, including the mission paragraph.

Submitted by Thomas A. Hassler, Carol Bookwalter, Ron Hardman

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 2

Total Number of Pages 2

Suggested Title: Additional Definition for Self-Avowal

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶ 304.3, Footnote 1

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

¶ 304. Qualifications for Ordination –

...

3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all of the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals¹ are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.²

...

¹“Self-avowed practicing homosexual” is understood to mean that a person has entered into a civil union, domestic partnership, or marriage with a person of the same sex or gender, communicates in any public setting that they are a practicing homosexual, or

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openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual.

Rationale: The added language identifies other means by which an individual openly acknowledges that they are engaged in the practice of homosexuality and can be determined by access to public records or declarations made in public forums.

Submitted by H. O. Tom Thomas, David Ford, R. Bruce Johnson, Edward H. Johnson, Becky Livermon, Burt Robinson, Tom Barnard, Keith Boyette, Diane M. Smith (Petition originated by Thomas A. Lambrecht, Elder of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.)

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 3

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Avoid Investment in the Production of Petroleum, Coal and Natural Gas

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶717

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Budget Implications: There are no financial implications to the Conference operating budget but conference investments will be realigned if the desired action is taken by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits or the General Conference.

Implications for the Conference: The conference would join a growing list of churches, religious, educational, student, governmental bodies, and individuals calling for divestment and/or divesting from fossil fuel.

Rationale:

Whereas the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) manages more than \$20 billion in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions; and

Whereas The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement in the *Book of Resolutions* ¶1001; and

Whereas the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the *Book of Resolutions* ¶4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles and the *Book of Resolutions*, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values; and

Whereas the *Social Principles* state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions;” and

Whereas, despite a strong commitment to the *Social Principles*, none of the GBOPHB’s investment screens speak to the climate concerns named in the Natural World section of the Social Principles; and

Whereas the GBOPHB maintains significant holdings in petroleum, coal and natural gas companies; and

Whereas while shareholder advocacy can be effective in pressuring industries to

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change practices, it cannot change fossil fuel companies' core business model, which is to produce fossil fuels; and

Whereas fossil fuel companies are spending up to \$600 billion each year to seek additional reserves while governments worldwide spend another \$600 billion each year subsidizing fossil fuel consumption;¹ and

Whereas the processes and byproducts related to the extraction of petroleum, coal and natural gas are damaging to the health of people who work in these industries as well as those who live on or near extraction sites; and

Whereas the extraction and burning of petroleum, coal and natural gas exacerbates climate change;² and

Whereas limiting the warming of the earth to 2-degrees Celsius, the internationally agreed upon limit for human survival, requires that the vast majority of the world's fossil fuels be left in the ground;³ and

Whereas avoiding the worst impacts of climate change urgently requires a transition to sustainable energy; and

Whereas United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change;⁴ and

Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries to the most vulnerable among us--including those who are hungry, sick and/or living in poverty; and

Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies signals a grave disregard for the lives of young people;

Be it resolved that the *Book of Discipline* ¶717 be amended as follows:

It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of petroleum, coal, natural gas, nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.

Rationale: United Methodists serve on the front lines of extreme weather events that will increase in frequency and severity with climate change. Limiting climate change requires that most fossil fuel reserves stay underground. Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with young people and vulnerable people.

*Submitted by Katharine Layton
(Petition originated by Fossil Free UMC.)*

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1. Justin Gillis, "U.N. Panel Issues its Starkest Warning Yet on Climate Change," The New York Times, November 2, 2014, accessed November 24, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/03/world/europe/global-warming-un-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change.html?_r=0.
2. "Causes of Climate Change," United States Environmental Protection Agency, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/causes.html>.
3. Bill McKibben, "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math," Rolling Stone, July 19, 2012, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>.
4. Gillis, "Starkest Warning Yet."

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 4

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: **Balancing Lay and Clergy Membership of the Annual Conference**

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶32. Article I. (and the same sentence in ¶602.4)

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Petition to Amend: ¶32, Article 1 (and the same sentence in ¶602.4): "If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members in attendance of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize, as far as possible, lay and clergy membership in attendance of the annual conference."

Rationale for General Conference: Clearly, the intent of ¶32 of the Constitution our *Book of Discipline* is to ensure equal representation of laity and clergy at sessions of the annual conference. With the current wording, this is not being achieved in actual practice as well as it could be. The reason is that many retired clergy, clergy serving extension ministries, and clergy on incapacity leave are not able to attend annual conference sessions, due to infirmity, illness, or distant location. There are no alternate clergy members prepared to attend in their absence, as there are for lay members of annual conference. Electing lay persons to balance out such absent clergy requires the expenditure of considerable funds, and increases the size of the annual conference session unnecessarily.

Further Rationale for the 2015 General Conference Session: The 2014 Virginia Annual Conference elected a total of 474 lay members to balance clergy serving in extension ministries, clergy on various forms of leave, and retired clergy. In 2014, 1,353 lay members attended the Annual Conference session, and 1,153 clergy attended. This means that there were 200 more lay members than clergy members in attendance. Those 200 additional lay members were present at an additional cost of \$80,000 to the annual conference (200 persons x \$200 per diem x two days). This is an expense which we pay every year.

A similar petition to change ¶602.4 was overwhelmingly (as a part of the consent agenda) approved by the 2012 General Conference, but was ruled unconstitutional, because it did not address ¶32 of the Constitution.

Submitted by Kirk Nave

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 5

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: To Change from an Annual Conference to a Biennial Conference

Discipline Paragraphs:

- Section I. Conferences. ¶ 8. Article IV.
- Section VI. Annual Conferences ¶32. Article I. through ¶36. Article V.
- Section IX. The Annual Conference ¶601 through ¶657

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Whereas, in *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church 2012, (pages 25-26) Section I. Conferences. ¶ 8. Article IV. states, “There shall be annual conferences as the fundamental bodies of the Church and, if necessary, provisional annual conferences, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.”

Whereas, there are 57 Annual Conferences in the United States and 76 Annual Conferences throughout Africa, Europe and the Philippines per the General Conference website.

Whereas, approximately \$11,400,000 is possibly spent in annual conference expenses just in the United States alone if each of the 57 Annual Conferences in the United States spend approximately \$200,000 in annual conference expenses. The \$200,000 was derived by using the numbers which are shown in the *Book of Reports* for the Virginia Annual Conference in years 2012 (\$210,000), 2013 (\$214,357), 2014 (\$200,000), and for 2015 (\$240,000 is budgeted). The \$11,400,000 does not include the delegate expenses paid by the individual churches, nor the delegate expenses paid by the districts.

Whereas, there also are Jurisdictional Conferences (8-15 annual conferences per year) and Central Conferences (approximately 7 per year) which also would realize a significant amount in savings if these were to also become biennial conferences rather than annual conferences.

Whereas, the General Conference meets in the even years; therefore, the biennial conferences could meet in the odd years. For example, if the biennial conference schedule began in 2017, the biennial conference would again meet in 2019, the year before the General Conference would meet again in 2020.

Whereas, during the “even” years when the biennial conferences would not be meeting, with the current technology (video conferencing and live-streaming events) which is readily accessible in most areas of the world, delegates of annual conferences and church members could gather locally in one place in their districts rather than having to travel great distances to participate in conference-level meetings, worship services, or other seminars and conference-wide events.

Therefore be it resolved, (1) amend ¶8. Article IV to read: “There shall be annual biennial conferences...” (2) Amend Section VI. Annual Conferences ¶32 Article I. through ¶36. Article V. wherever “annual conference(s)” appears to “biennial conference(s).” (3) Amend Section IX. The Annual Conference ¶601 through ¶657, wherever “annual conference” appears to “biennial conference.” These are the major sections of the *Discipline* which deal with annual conferences. (4) Add a new paragraph

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where appropriate: “The biennial conference will meet in the odd years, i.e, 2017, 2019.” (5) There are numerous references to “annual conference” in the *Discipline*; if the changes in (1) through (3) above are approved, then all references in the *Discipline* where “annual conference(s)” appears would be amended to “biennial conference(s).” With the General Conference convening in 2016, this would be an opportune time for the governing body to take a critical look at reevaluating the frequency of the conference meetings termed “annual conferences” and to discern if we are being good stewards and wisely using the gifts, tithes and offerings which faithfully have been given to carry out God’s work in being a light in the world and in helping our neighbors and communities in need. “It’s not our parent’s church anymore,” meaning let’s not stay in the yesteryears of doing things a certain way rather than looking for ways to improve them.

Submitted by N. T. Daley, Onley United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 6

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: Clergy Pension Preserved

Discipline Paragraphs: *Discipline* ¶ 361

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Add new subparagraph to ¶ 361:

¶361.5. *Pension Status* – When an ordained member withdraws from the ordained office or from the denomination for any reason, the withdrawing clergy person shall be entitled to the full pension credit they have earned up to the time of withdrawal, including all years of service and all funds deposited in their name, whether personal contributions or funds contributed by a salary-paying unit.

Rationale: This provision would reassure those who contemplate withdrawal that their pension benefit would not suffer due to withdrawal. This language codifies what is already part of the current pension plan document. The language would guard against future changes in the plan document that might deprive persons of their pension benefit.

Submitted by Tom Barnard, Keith Boyette, David Ford, R. Bruce Johnson, Edward H. Johnson, Becky Livermon, Burt Robinson, Diane M. Smith, H. O. Tom Thomas (Petition originated by Thomas A. Lambrecht, Elder of the Wisconsin Annual Conference)

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 7

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Create a Fossil Fuel Investment Screen

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Budget Implications: There are no financial implications to the Conference operating budget but conference investments will be realigned if the desired action is taken by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits or the General Conference.

Implications for the Conference: The conference would join a growing list of

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churches, religious, educational, student, governmental bodies, and individuals calling for divestment and/or divesting from fossil fuel.

Rationale:

Whereas the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) manages more than \$20 billion in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions; and

Whereas The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement in the *Book of Resolutions* ¶1001; and

Whereas the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the *Book of Resolutions* ¶4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in the *Social Principles* and the *Book of Resolutions*, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values; and

Whereas the *Social Principles* state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions;” and

Whereas, despite a strong commitment to the *Social Principles*, none of the GBOPHB’s investment screens speak to the climate concerns named in the Natural World section of the *Social Principles*; and

Whereas the GBOPHB maintains significant holdings in petroleum, coal and natural gas companies; and

Whereas while shareholder advocacy can be effective in pressuring industries to change practices, it cannot change fossil fuel companies’ core business model, which is to produce fossil fuels; and

Whereas fossil fuel companies are spending up to \$600 billion each year to seek additional reserves while governments worldwide spend another \$600 billion each year subsidizing fossil fuel consumption;¹ and

Whereas the processes and byproducts related to the extraction of petroleum, coal and natural gas are damaging to the health of people who work in these industries as well as those who live on or near extraction sites; and

Whereas the extraction and burning of petroleum, coal and natural gas exacerbates climate change;² and

Whereas limiting the warming of the earth to 2-degrees Celsius, the internationally agreed upon limit for human survival, requires that the vast majority of the world’s fossil fuels be left in the ground;³ and

Whereas avoiding the worst impacts of climate change urgently requires a transition to sustainable energy; and

Whereas United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change;⁴ and

Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies undermines The United Methodist Church’s ministries to the most vulnerable among us--including those who are hungry, sick and/or living in poverty; and

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Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies signals a grave disregard for the lives of young people;

Be it resolved that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church petitions the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church to adopt the following policy: Investments shall not knowingly be made in any company or entity whose core business activity involves the production of petroleum, coal, or natural gas. Core business activity refers to a company's primary, or central focus of activity and is an essential element in the company's economic success. A "core business" is one that accounts for 10% or more of a company's revenue derived from the objectionable products and/or services.

Rationale: United Methodists serve on the front lines of extreme weather events that will increase in frequency and severity with climate change. Limiting climate change requires that most fossil fuel reserves stay underground. Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with young people and vulnerable people.

Submitted by Katharine Layton (Petition originated by Fossil Free UMC.)

1. Justin Gillis, "U.N. Panel Issues its Starkest Warning Yet on Climate Change," The New York Times, November 2, 2014, accessed November 24, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/03/world/europe/global-warming-un-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change.html?_r=0.
2. "Causes of Climate Change," United States Environmental Protection Agency, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/causes.html>.
3. Bill McKibben, "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math," Rolling Stone, July 19, 2012, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>.
4. Gillis, "Starkest Warning Yet."

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 8

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: Expedited Exit

Discipline Paragraphs: New ¶2548 and ¶361.3

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Add new ¶ 2548 as follows:

¶ 2548. *Surrender of Charter of Local Church and Disaffiliation For Reasons Of Conscience* – Because of the current deep conflict over the church's position on the practice of homosexuality and the blessing of homosexual unions, a local church may surrender its charter from The United Methodist Church and disaffiliate based upon the local church's declaration that for reasons of conscience, witness, or mission it can better serve Christ and his kingdom by not being affiliated with The United Methodist Church and its annual conference. Such disaffiliation shall require:

- a) A minimum of ninety (90) days of study and discernment by the congregation
- b) The affirmative vote of two-thirds (66.7%) of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called church conference
- c) Repayment to the annual conference any money invested by the conference in that local church through grants or loans during the previous five (5) years. The amount to be repaid shall include any payments made to the local church's clergy by the annual

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conference, such as salary support, but shall not include subsidies to provide health insurance.

d) Payment to the annual conference of its current year's apportionments in full and an additional sum equal to the current year's apportionments

e) Other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* shall not be a bar to such disaffiliation.

Upon such surrender and disaffiliation, the local church shall be released from the provisions of ¶ 2501 and shall retain full rights to its property and funds, provided that any debts upon such property and any other debts payable by that local church are assumed by that local church. In the event of such proposed disaffiliation, the bishop, the cabinet, annual conference board of trustees, and other appropriate individuals of The United Methodist Church shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process.

Renumber following paragraphs from existing ¶¶ 2548-2551.

Rationale: Despite efforts to preserve unity in the Church, irreconcilable differences persist regarding the practice of homosexuality. The Church needs to value the consciences of our people and provide an honorable way for those whose consciences are violated to disaffiliate without the loss of property and in a ministry-affirming way. For forty years the General Conference has consistently maintained that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. In spite of this, there are local churches and ordained ministers for whom the position taken violates their conscience. Irreconcilable differences persist, diverting time and energy from our central mission of making disciples.

*Submitted by Keith Boyette, H. O. Tom Thomas, Tom Barnard, Diane M. Smith, David Ford, Edward H. Johnson, Becky Livermon, Burt Robinson, R. Bruce Johnson
(This petition was modified from a petition that originated by
Thomas A. Lambrecht, Elder of the Wisconsin Annual Conference)*

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 9

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Investment Screen for Petroleum, Coal or Natural Gas

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number, if applicable: #4071

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Budget Implications: There are no financial implications to the Conference operating budget but conference investments will be realigned if the desired action is taken by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits or the General Conference.

Implications for the Conference: The conference would join a growing list of churches, religious, educational, student, governmental bodies, and individuals calling for divestment and/or divesting from fossil fuel.

Rationale:

Whereas the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) manages more than \$20 billion in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions; and

Whereas The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel

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dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement in the Book of Resolutions para. 1001; and

Whereas the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the Book of Resolutions para. 4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles and the Book of Resolutions, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values; and

Whereas the Social Principles state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions;” and

Whereas, despite a strong commitment to the Social Principles, none of the GBOPHB’s investment screens speak to the climate concerns named in the Natural World section of the Social Principles; and

Whereas the GBOPHB maintains significant holdings in petroleum, coal and natural gas companies; and

Whereas while shareholder advocacy can be effective in pressuring industries to change practices, it cannot change fossil fuel companies’ core business model, which is to produce fossil fuels; and

Whereas fossil fuel companies are spending up to \$600 billion each year to seek additional reserves while governments worldwide spend another \$600 billion each year subsidizing fossil fuel consumption;¹ and

Whereas the processes and byproducts related to the extraction of petroleum, coal and natural gas are damaging to the health of people who work in these industries as well as those who live on or near extraction sites; and

Whereas the extraction and burning of petroleum, coal and natural gas exacerbates climate change;² and

Whereas limiting the warming of the earth to 2-degrees Celsius, the internationally agreed upon limit for human survival, requires that the vast majority of the world’s fossil fuels be left in the ground;³ and

Whereas avoiding the worst impacts of climate change urgently requires a transition to sustainable energy; and

Whereas United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change;⁴ and

Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies undermines The United Methodist Church’s ministries to the most vulnerable among us—including those who are hungry, sick and/or living in poverty; and

Whereas continued investment in fossil fuel companies signals a grave disregard for the lives of young people;

Be it resolved that the *Book of Resolutions* section 4071, Socially Responsible Investing Strategies, 1. Portfolio screening, be amended as follows:

Socially Responsible Investing Strategies

The Church shall pursue its investment policy goals through widely practiced socially responsible investing tools such as:

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1. Portfolio screening

Based on long-standing United Methodist values, the Church does not invest in companies deriving significant revenue (usually 10 percent or more) from:

- alcoholic beverages
- tobacco products;
- gambling equipment or enterprises;
- pornography;
- operating or managing prison facilities;
- the production of coal, oil, or natural gas;
- antipersonnel weapons, armaments, ammunition, or weapons-related systems provided for commercial and private markets and nuclear weapons.

Rationale: United Methodists serve on the front lines of extreme weather events that will increase in frequency and severity with climate change. Limiting climate change requires that most fossil fuel reserves stay underground. Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with young people and vulnerable people.

Submitted by Katharine Layton (Petition originated by Fossil Free UMC.)

1. Justin Gillis, "U.N. Panel Issues its Starkest Warning Yet on Climate Change," The New York Times, November 2, 2014, accessed November 24, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/03/world/europe/global-warming-un-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change.html?_r=0.
2. "Causes of Climate Change," United States Environmental Protection Agency, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/causes.html>.
3. Bill McKibben, "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math," Rolling Stone, July 19, 2012, accessed November 24, 2014, <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>.
4. Gillis, "Starkest Warning Yet."

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 10

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: Limiting Apportionments

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶ 615

General Church Budget Implication: Yes, an incentive to curb spending

Global Implications: No

AMEND ¶ 615 by adding a new sentence as follows:

¶ 615. *Apportionments*—When a change to the apportionment formula or method is proposed, the council should provide for a study of the proposed change's effects. After its study, which may include resources supplied by the General Council on Finance and Administration, the council shall recommend such formula or method to the annual conference for its action and determination which shall include the approved budgeted amounts for clergy support, administration, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other apportioned causes (¶ 614.1-.4), the sum of which shall be apportioned to the districts, churches, or charges of the conference.⁶¹ The amount apportioned to each local church for general church and conference apportionments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the previous year's income for operations and missions.

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Rationale: The burden of high apportionments, often exceeding 15-20% of a local church's budget, hampers the ability of the local church to make disciples and engage in effective local ministry. Having a cap on apportionments forces the prioritization of budgeting decisions. Such a cap would not preclude appeals to local churches to voluntarily support conference agencies, benevolences, and missions over and above the cap.

*Submitted by Burt Robinson, H. O. Tom Thomas, Keith Boyette, David Ford, Edward H. Johnson, R. Bruce Johnson, Diane M. Smith, Becky Livermon
(Petition originated by Thomas A. Lambrecht, Elder of the Wisconsin Annual Conference)*

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 11

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: Mandatory Penalty For Violation of ¶ 2702.1(b)

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶ 2711.3

General Church Budget Implication: None

Global Implications: Yes

AMEND ¶2711 by addition as follows:

¶ 2711. *Power of the Trial Court*

3. *Penalties - If the Trial Results in Conviction.* Further testimony may be heard and arguments by counsel presented regarding what the penalty should be. The trial court shall determine the penalty, which shall require a vote of at least seven members. The trial court shall have the power to remove the respondent from professing membership, terminate the conference membership and/or revoke the credentials of conference membership and/or ordination or consecration of the respondent, suspend the respondent from the exercise of the functions of office, or to fix a lesser penalty. Except the trial court does not have the power to and may not fix a penalty for violations of ¶ 2702.1(b) less than the following:

a) First (1st) offense – One (1) year's suspension without pay.

b) Second (2nd) offense - Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of licensing, ordination, or consecration.

The penalty fixed by the trial court shall take effect immediately unless otherwise indicated by the trial court.

Rationale: Assigning a penalty of less than a suspension for a first offense or less than termination of conference membership and/or revocation of conference membership and ordination or consecration in such circumstances encourages open defiance of the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church.

*Submitted by Keith Boyette, Diane M. Smith, R. Bruce Johnson, David Ford, Edward H. Johnson, Becky Livermon, Burt Robinson, H. O. Tom Thomas, Tom Barnard
(Petition originated by Thomas A. Lambrecht, Elder of the Wisconsin Annual Conference)*

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 12

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: Peacemaking in Israel and Palestine Through Political Action

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number, if applicable: new Resolution

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Whereas, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has proven to be one of the world’s most intractable conflicts in spite of strong support for a two-state solution on the part of both the Israeli and Palestinian people. Years of a “peace process” have not resulted in a solution and the Palestinians remain under military occupation. The United Methodist Church has passed multiple resolutions related to this conflict without any tangible result.

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has committed itself to peacemaking and seeks to act as an advocate for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the United Methodist Church recognizes that true peace must reveal itself in both the spiritual and temporal aspects of life and culture in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and

Whereas the United Methodist Church “affirms the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny,” (Social Principles, ¶ 165 B), the preferred solution to this conflict is the creation of two independent sovereign nations, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and in economic justice and cooperation. (Social Principles, ¶ 165 B & C). The 1967 war between Israel and the surrounding Arab nations resulted in Israel occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli/Palestinian peace process, which was supposed to end with a sovereign Palestinian State and an end to the occupation, began in 1993 with the Oslo Accords. Although two peace offers were made -- one in 2000 and a second one in 2008 -- a final deal was never reached and both parties have, at different times, walked away from the negotiations.

Whereas, the result has been on-going suffering for both parties with Israeli settlement growth and control over the Palestinian population and economy on one side, and violence and Palestinian terrorism on the other side. This situation is not sustainable.

Politically, the end of the Israeli occupation will occur with a negotiated peace treaty between Israel and Palestine.

Whereas, after years of occupation and violence, a deep and fundamental lack of trust exists between Israelis and Palestinians and in order for a lasting, just and peaceful solution to be successful, the difficult work of reconciliation, restoration of right relationship and trust building must also be done.

Whereas that the 2016 General Conference call on The United Methodist Church to:

1. Lobby the United States government to draft a just and comprehensive peace process agreement to be presented to the Israelis and Palestinians with the expectation that they sign onto it within a two year period, with strong built-in incentives to encourage both parties to so sign. In addition to foreign aid, these incentives may include many things such as favorable trade and shipping agreements, favorable student and work related visa arrangements, and coordination on various diplomatic fronts. The comprehensive agreement would recognize a sovereign Palestinian State, define borders, and resolve all core issues such as status of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees and security arrangements; and

PETITIONS

2. Fully support commitments by the General Board of Pensions and United Methodist Foundations to research and identify investment opportunities that support the Palestinian economy and also support joint ventures between Israelis and Palestinians so they can begin the work towards building trust and reconciliation.

Submitted by James R. Noland, Clarence Brown, Tim Gerde, Harry Kenon

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 13

Number of Pages: 6

Suggested Title: Peacemaking in Israel and Palestine Through Restorative Justice

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: new Resolution

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has committed itself to peacemaking and seeks to act as an advocate for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and The United Methodist Church recognizes that true peace must reveal itself in both the spiritual and temporal aspects of life and culture in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church “affirms the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny,” (Social Principles, ¶ 165 B), the preferred solution to this conflict is the creation of two independent sovereign nations, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and in economic justice and cooperation. (Social Principles, ¶ 165 B & C).

Whereas, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has proven to be one of the world’s most intractable conflicts and in spite of strong support for a two-state solution on the part of both the Israeli and Palestinian people, years of a “peace process” has not resulted in a solution and the Palestinians remain under military occupation. The United Methodist Church has passed multiple resolutions related to this conflict without tangible impact.

Whereas, a significant portion of both the Israeli and Palestinians populations are exposed to traumatic events, many of them life-threatening, and after years of suffering under occupation and Israeli military incursions, Palestinians have experienced profound victimization and trauma. The Gaza Community Mental Health Program declares that PTSD is nearly universal in Gaza, with 92 percent of all Palestinian children there suffering from it. (“Psychological Impact of War on Children in Gaza,” Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East Factsheet Series No. 149, (March 2012). (<https://www.cjpmo.org/DisplayHTMLDocument.aspx?DO=795&ICID=4&RecID=863&SaveMode=0>).

Whereas, Israelis too, have suffered both victimization and trauma through years of wars and terrorism, at different times Israelis and Palestinians have both been victims and both have been aggressors. According to a 2008 Center for Victims of Terror and War study, between 70 and 94 percent of Israeli children in Sderot suffer from symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This is in addition to the roughly 30 percent of Sderot adults who are also diagnosed with PTSD. (Eli Ashkenazi & Mijal Grinberg, “Study: Most Sderot kids exhibit post-traumatic stress symptoms,” Haaretz, 17 January 2008. Web. 7 August 2013. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/945489.html>).

Whereas, trauma and a sense of victimization profoundly impact individuals,

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communities and nations and can result in the perpetuation and prolongation of the very conflict which caused the trauma in the first place, a deep lack of trust exists between Israelis and Palestinians after years of occupation and violence, making resolution of their conflict difficult, seemingly impos-sible. In order for a lasting, just and peaceful solution, the difficult work of building trust must first be done. There has been far too much suffering and violence on both sides. It is time for peacemakers to get involved in trust building.

Whereas, restorative justice is a growing social movement in the Church and elsewhere which seeks to repair damages, establish trust, establish dignity, and integrate all people who have been harmed and alienated through conflict, the goal of restorative justice to heal and trans-form conflict into a pact of mutual cooperation fits the needs of the Israelis and Palestinians. Re-storative justice, a peace-building or conflict transformation approach to justice, can be of great assistance in trust building between parties who have been in even prolonged conflict like the Palestinians and Israelis.

Whereas, there are different types of restorative justice dialogue where the parties meet in a safe and structured setting, the dialogue includes both victims and aggressors/offenders and some sort of mediator. The focus of the encounter involves naming what happened, identifying its impact, and coming to some common understanding, often including reaching agreement as to how any resultant harm will be repaired. Restorative justice dialogue may be especially effective in a situation like the Israeli/Palestinian conflict where both parties see themselves as the victim and the other as the aggressor/offender. For example, Dr. Howard Zehr a Professor of Restora-tive Justice at the Center for Justice and Peace building, Eastern Mennonite University, Harri-sonburg, Virginia, described his experience of watching a role play in the United Kingdom by high school students and their principal. In the first role play they showed how a fight between two girls had been handled in the past: the principal sat behind his desk, interrogating participants and meting out judgment. In the second, they illustrated a restorative justice circle process in which the principal took part as one of the participants, without dominating the process, led by a facilitator. Each party told their story and expressed their own sense of harm and wrongdoing. Through this process they each began to acknowledge their responsibility in the conflict. A con-sensus was achieved that acknowledged some mutual harm as well as shared blame and allowed the disputants to leave as friends. (http://www.wiscomp.org/pp-v1/Howard_Zehr_Paper.pdf). As shown by this role play, restorative justice seeks not to shame or to punish, but to heal, not by ignoring or denying wrongdoing, but through the process of acknowledging all injustices. This model offers hope for reconciliation in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict where both sides suffer, both sides are traumatized and each accuses the other of bearing the blame. Through the sharing of personal and national narratives, mutual articulation of needs and mutual acceptance of re-sponsibility, restorative justice processes can ultimately create empathy for the "other" -- previ-ously seen only as an enemy -- in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Restorative justice can lead Israelis and Palestinians toward conflict resolution and trauma recovery.

Whereas, a process of restorative justice may provide a new and creative way forward where trust might be developed and the beginning of a solution found and

Whereas, "Justice" in the Bible is restorative as God seeks to bring about healing in

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relationships, transform alienation into community, restore offenders into God's family, and bless all the families of the earth. While it contains retributive components, God's justice is fundamentally a restoring and renewing justice. In the New Testament, Jesus' focus is on restorative responses to wrongdoing. Knowing this, the Church is obliged to practice restorative justice in its own ranks and to call our own society and all nations to move in the same direction.

THEREFORE be resolved that the 2016 General Conference call on The United Methodist Church locally and denominationally to:

1. Affirm strategies which will engage both Israelis and Palestinians in an effort to learn more about their historic and current lived experiences and to gain an understanding of both of their fears, aspirations, and hopes; and
2. Strive to develop an understanding of the concerns and perspectives of both Palestinians and Israelis and then communicate them within the church in a manner that dispels stereotypes and caricatures and promotes better understanding; and
3. Commit to lifting up the voices within both Israel and Palestine, especially those of victims of violence and injustice, that seek peace with justice through nonviolent and restorative responses to the conflict; and
4. Actively seek ways to restore right relationship and promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians through restorative justice dialogue and projects involving mutual cooperation; and
5. Commit to supporting U.S. and international efforts at serious and effective diplomacy that promotes a just peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict and that will lead to a two-state solution, an end to the occupation and the creation of a viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace with Israel.
6. Encourage concrete measures that can be taken by the Church, Church Boards and Agencies and Church members to support ways in which United Methodists actively pursue restorative justice mechanisms for peace and justice between Israelis and Palestinians.

Submitted by James R. Noland, Clarence Brown, Tim Gerde, Harry Kenon, Clark Williams

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: Remove the Incompatibility Phrase

Discipline Paragraph: *Discipline* ¶ 161F

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Whereas, ¶ 161F in the 2012 *Book of Discipline* states that, "We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God... We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons"; and

Whereas, the following statement in ¶ 161F, "The United Methodist Church does not

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condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching,” contradicts the above sentences; and

Whereas, most laity, clergy, theologians and biblical scholars interpret scripture passages such as Leviticus 20:9 (put to death a child who curses his parents), Exodus 21:20-21 (humans as property in slavery) and I Timothy 2:12 (women should not teach or have authority over a man) to be bound by historical context and not God’s Will for all time; and

Whereas, scripture passages such as Genesis 19:1-29 (gang rape); Leviticus 18:21-23 (pagan worship rituals); Leviticus 20:13 (death as penalty); and Romans 1:22-27 (as consequence of idolatry of graven images) describe violent, sacrilegious and exploitative behavior that most people would view negatively, regardless of whether they occurred in a homosexual or heterosexual context. These passages do not address the practice of homosexuality that is affirmed in a life-long, covenanted relationship that embodies “celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage”; and

Whereas, a thorough interpretation of the Word of God as expressed in the Old and New Testaments reveals a God of grace whose love reigns over all creation and whose righteousness calls us “...to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves,” as professed in the United Methodist Church’s baptismal vows; and

Whereas, medical science has established that homosexuality is a state of being and not a personal choice (See Amicus Brief filed by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and other widely respected and authoritative medical, psychological and psychiatric associations in the recent case of Hollingsworth v. Perry before the United States Supreme Court) and therefore homosexuals – including their sexual orientation - are part of God’s creation; and

Whereas, the previous understanding of homosexuality as treated in ¶ 161F of the *Book of Discipline* presumed that it is a choice, and the current understanding is that it is a state of being which therefore can be affirmed in a life-long, covenant relationship that embodies “celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage”;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to delete the sentence found in ¶ 161F of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* that states, “~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~”

Submitted by Mark Ogren, W. Clark Williams, Jr.

Co-signers:

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GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 15

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: Use of “Disciple” in the Baptismal Covenant (Membership)

United Methodist Hymnal (Next edition)

An on-line Addendum to Baptismal Covenants to be created.

General Conference Budget Implications: The cost should be minimal by making it available on-line. The cost would be minimal at the next United Methodist Hymnal revision.

Global Implications: All United Methodist Churches will be affected because this will be a new aspect of baptism and membership process and the life that follows.

1. *Whereas*, Jesus, in Matthew 28:18-20, commanded His followers to “make disciples,”
2. *Whereas*, Matthew 10:1 says: “Jesus called “his twelve disciples.”
3. *Whereas*, Jesus’ followers in the Gospels and New Testament are called “disciples” in the NIV, 257 times; NKJV, 239; NASB, 234; NRSV, 235; NLT, 274; and AMP, 258.
4. *Whereas*, the United Methodist Church and the Virginia Conference state: “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
5. *Whereas*, the 2015 Virginia Annual Conference theme is “From Members to Disciples.”
6. However, in the United Methodist Hymnal under “The Baptismal Covenants I, II, and III,” persons making the covenant are referred to as “members” and the congregation expresses that “We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples...” noting that they are never called “disciples.” (UMH page 38, #16; page 40, #4, #8; page 42, #10, #11; page 43, #11 and #16). (bold added)
 - a. Also in the Congregational Pledge 2, it is stated on page 44 “...whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God.
 - b. In the Baptismal Covenant III, page 47, the pastor questions “Do you prom-ise... and walk in the same all the days of your life as faithful members of Christ’s holy church?”
 - c. In this same Covenant under “Laying on of Hands, Confirmation, or Reaffirmation of Faith: “...and by his Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ.” (bold added)
7. *Whereas*, references to “members” and to “disciples” are dispersed in the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Part IV THE MINISTRY OF ALL CHRISTIANS: THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH beginning on page 91 especially noting ¶123 through ¶138. These paragraphs provide good information about the role of Christian laity with some guidelines and purposeful action, but still referring mostly to “nurture for disciples to come to maturity” (¶137, page 98) and “guiding Christian disciples in their witness to Jesus Christ” (¶138, page 98).
8. *Whereas*, the identification of those making a decision to the United Methodist Church is as “members” only appears incongruent with our “mission” and with the New Testament identi-fication of Jesus’ followers.

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9. *Whereas*, United Methodists are often members of many other wonderful organizations that advance society, being a follower of Jesus is something more, a great deal more. It is a calling to love everyone, to make sacrifices, and to surrender one's life to our Creator, Savior, and Redeemer. The name "disciple" conveys this life-changing commitment clearer than "member"

Petition Text

Add to our Baptismal and Membership Covenants in the United Methodist Hymnal to identify those in union with the United Methodist Church as "disciples", the biblical identification title, as an addition to becoming members of the United Methodist Church.

Add two questions to the next revision of the United Methodist Hymnal and an addendum created for on-line access:

a. In the Baptismal Covenant I on page 34, following the question: "Do you confess Je-sus Christ as your Savior put your whole trust in his grace, and promised to serve him as your Lord, union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?"

"I do."

Add the following two questions:

"Do you accept Jesus's call to you to be his disciple and follow him?"

"I do."

"Do you commit yourself to practice those spiritual disciplines that encourage growth towards becoming a mature disciple?"

"I do."

b. Add the two questions above to Baptismal Covenant II on page 40, section 4, following the same question in Covenant I.

c. Add the two questions above to Baptismal Covenant III on page on page 46 following the question "Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?" "I do."

d. Add the two questions above to Baptismal Covenant IV on page 50 following the same questions found in Baptismal Covenants I and II.

Submitted by Thomas A. Hassler, Carol Bookwalter, Ron Hardman

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION 16

Total Number of Pages: 4

Suggested Title: Withdraw from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Discipline Paragraph: Non-Dis

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Whereas, "The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) was originally founded in 1973 as the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR) to safeguard the newly-won constitutional right to privacy in decisions about abortion." ("History," <http://rcrc.org/homepage/about/history>, accessed on 01/15/15);

Whereas, RCRC works to defend and expand the absolute right to abortion – that is,

the right to all abortions, whatever the circumstances, without exception – in American law;

Whereas, one RCRC publication describes aborting unborn children as “God’s work” or “holy work, service provided by God’s people on behalf of God’s people,” and encourages religious leaders to bless the work of providing elective abortions (Prayerfully Pro-Choice: Resources for Worship, RCRC, <http://www.readbag.com/rcrc-pdf-prayerfully>, pp. 73-74, 101-102, accessed on 02/02/15);

Whereas, RCRC, in its “Words of Choice: Countering Anti-Choice Rhetoric” (https://web.archive.org/web/20110320103739/http://www.rcrc.org/pdf/Words_of_Choice.pdf, accessed 02/02/15), explicitly argues against using the following words, phrases, and moral claims that are found in The United Methodist Church’s central teaching on abortion (§ 161), *The Book of Discipline* [2012]: “abortion as...birth control,” “[abortion] as...gender selection,” “adoption,” “crisis pregnancy centers,” “mother,” “notification and consent,” “partial-birth abortion” opposition, “sacredness of...life,” “sanctity of...life,” and “unborn child;”

Whereas, RCRC works for abortion rights in any and all circumstances, while The United Methodist Church teaches that moral discernment, on matters related to abortion, is essential, because the Church “[is] equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child,” “cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control,” and “unconditionally reject[s] [abortion] as a means of gender selection or eugenics” (§ 161) on Abortion, *The Social Principles, The Book of Discipline* [2012]);

Whereas, RCRC has consistently lobbied government against any attempt to limit the practice of partial-birth abortions, while The United Methodist Church has since 2000 “oppose[d] the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call[s] for the end of this practice” with rare exceptions (§ 161) on Abortion, *The Social Principles, The Book of Discipline* [2012]);

Whereas, RCRC has consistently favored the availability of partial-birth abortion, while the 2012 General Conference decided that the Church’s General Council on Finance and Administration “shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall expend United Methodist funds in a manner that violates the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church to ‘oppose the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the end of this practice [with rare exceptions]’ (§ 161J). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.” (§ 806.10, *The Book of Discipline* [2012]);

Whereas, RCRC supported the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which if adopted would have overturned all federal, state, and local laws even mildly restricting abortion, while The United Methodist Church’s General Board of Church and Society withdrew its support of FOCA in 2008, because this RCRC-supported bill was in conflict with The United Methodist Church’s position on abortion (“Living in the Truth: Church and Society, Obama, and Abortion,” *Lifewatch* [03/01/09], p. 6, www.lifewatch.org/pdf/lifewatch_newsletter_03-09.pdf, accessed 02/02/15; and § 161) on Abortion, *The Social Principles, The Book of Discipline* [2008]);

Whereas, Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker, retired bishop of The United Methodist Church, has declared: “At the 2004 General Conference, the church endorsed our [United

PETITIONS

Methodist] agencies' continued participation in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice without much of a debate about how participation in this coalition compromises our public witness against abortion" ("Do No Harm!" *Lifewatch* [03/01/05], p. 3, www.lifewatch.org/pdf/lifewatch_newsletter_03-05.pdf, accessed 02/02/15);

Whereas, the 2008 General Conference narrowly voted, when many African delegates were not present, to continue participation in RCRC;

Whereas, during the 2012 General Conference, although a legislative subcommittee and committee had both voted to withdraw The United Methodist Church from RCRC, a regular plenary vote on this matter never took place, so that this petition had no opportunity to be adopted;

Whereas, "the members of our denomination are not of one mind over the precise conditions in which abortion can be supported" (#2026, *The Book of Resolutions* [2012], p. 124), and therefore agencies of the entire United Methodist Church should not be permitted to join a political lobby such as RCRC;

Whereas, other mainline denominations, with positions on abortion similar to that of The United Methodist Church, have either chosen not to become members of RCRC (e.g., the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Disciples of Christ) or severed ties with RCRC (American Baptist Churches USA and the Northern Province of the Moravian Church);

Whereas, "Reverends like us should never oppose access to abortion or sex ed" (sic, www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/09/29/reverends-like-us-should-never-oppose-access-to-abortion-or-sex-ed/, accessed on 02/02/15) – written by RCRC's President and CEO Rev. Harry Knox, and by RCRC's Board of Directors Chair Dr. Alethea R. Smith-Withers – advocates for "abortion care" and thereby demonstrates that RCRC's work continues to be divisive in The United Methodist Church because of its lack of care for the unborn child; and

Whereas, individual United Methodists can dialogue with RCRC without leading The United Methodist Church to legitimate RCRC's educational and political agenda, which conflicts with our Social Principles' teaching on life and abortion (§ 161J on Abortion, *The Social Principles, The Book of Discipline* [2012]).

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2015 session of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby charges its Conference Secretary to forward this resolution, in a timely and appropriate manner, to the 2016 General Conference to withdraw immediately the General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist Women from membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC).

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the 2015 session of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby charges its Conference Secretary because of the fifty-word limit that has been imposed on the printed rationales in the public listings of General Conference petitions, to include with this petition the following rationale: "RCRC is a one-sided political lobby that opposes all disapproval or limitation of abortion. RCRC's advocacy often directly contradicts our Social Principles on abortion, but it still uses our Church's name. Several Annual Conferences and many United Methodist leaders have urged the Church to end all association with RCRC."

Submitted by Tom Barnard, Keith Boyette, David Ford, R. Bruce Johnson, Edward H. Johnson, Becky Livermon, Burt Robinson (This petition originated with Lifewatch.)

**A REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS
OF THE 2015 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

June 19, 20, 21, 2015
Bishop Young Jin Cho, presiding
Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.
— *Ministry of the Laity*

The Purpose of Annual Conference

The *2012 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶601, Section IX, THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The *2012 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶131, Section II, THE UNITY OF MINISTRY IN CHRIST. There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God's grace in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.

Dear Lay Member of the Virginia Annual Conference:

Welcome to the 2015 Virginia Annual Conference. In The United Methodist Church we often speak of the church's “connectional system.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your local church/district/agency to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your local church/district/agency.

AS A LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE YOU SHALL:

Attend all sessions and participate in all sessions of the Annual Conference: “The lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures..” ¶602.6 *2012 Book of Discipline*

“Connect” with your local church when you return: “The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.” ¶251.2 *2012 Book of Discipline*

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

THIS GUIDE IS PRINTED TO:

- aid lay members in recording their experiences and feelings about the events of this Annual Conference session;
- encourage lay members to interpret the mission and ministry we have together through our Annual Conference;
- assist lay members in preparing their report and interpretation of the actions and business of the 2015 Annual Conference session for sharing back in their local church.

You make a difference by your attendance and participation in the Annual Conference session, and by reporting back to your local church or agency represented!

SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

You have the right to speak and vote on all issues except those that have to do with clergy and ministerial orders. If you wish to speak: Take a few moments to think about what you want to say. Pray. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point.

Stand and raise the designated colored card with your *Book of Reports* so that the bishop can recognize you. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Cho, I am ___your name___, a lay member from ___name of your local church and district___.

State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point!

If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. When action is complete, write the motion on the approved form and take it to the conference secretary. The blank forms can be found near the secretary’s desk on the stage.

REMEMBER:

There is an equal number of lay and clergy making the decisions;

Standing Rules govern the session (see Order and Procedure and Standing Rules starting on page 8 of this *Book of Reports*);

Items to be voted on come from this *Book of Reports* and from issues raised by members of the conference.

GENERAL INFORMATION

To help you while at Annual Conference, please follow the agenda as printed in this *Book of Reports*. Be on time for all scheduled events, including Singing Our Faith, Bible study and worship.

You are representing the approximately 342,000 United Methodists in about 1,200 churches which are divided into 16 districts across the conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Young Jin Cho
- Director of Connectional Ministries: The Rev. Marc Brown
- Conference Secretary: Rev. Susan Reaves
- Conference Lay Leader: Warren R. Harper
- Conference President of United Methodist Women: Joyce Winston
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Jeff Hall
- Student Chairperson of Conference Youth Council: Emily Stallings, Adult Council Rep. Alison Malloy
- Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries: Johnnie Draughon and David Bailey

SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER while at Annual Conference. A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” and “flavors.” We suggest that you:

- Select significant happenings and impressions, and then make notes.
- Observe the diversity and unity of our conference and identify some of the challenges this creates and some of the benefits this brings.
- Consider the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

HOW, WHEN, WHAT will you share of the Annual Conference session?

HOW:

- A panel with members presenting different aspects of conference.
- A dialogue between clergy and lay members.
- Be interviewed by someone in the congregation.
- Write an article(s) for your church newsletter.
- Display pictures, resource material, etc.

WHEN:

- Sunday morning during worship.
- Administrative Board/Church Council meeting.
- United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings.
- Adult church school.
- Conversation with others.
- Special all-church dinner, picnic, etc.

WHAT:

- Write notes in the margins of your *Book of Reports*
- Materials received in your packet, as well as handouts.
- Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials).
- Information obtained from display areas. Be certain to visit the displays and the Cokesbury book store during free time.

LAITY SESSION: In addition to the regular agenda, all lay members of Annual

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

Conference shall gather at 10:00 a.m. Friday, June 19, in the Berglund Center (formerly the Roanoke Civic Center) for worship, prayer, testimony, and information related to conference issues and a time to meet nominees for 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

This guide is prepared for you by the Board of Laity, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Any comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to Virginia Conference Lay Leader Warren R. Harper, 200 Ladybank, Williamsburg, Va. 23188. For more information, e-mail wrscharper@gmail.com; or call (757) 258 - 4498.

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Mulligans Against Malaria Golf Tournament..... Thurs June 18 at 12:30 pm

This golf tournament will be at Blue Hills in Roanoke (off of 460/Orange Ave). Cost will be \$35 per golfer, including greens fees & dinner. Tee time is 12:30 pm for a shotgun start. We can have 124 golfers; and pre-registration is required. Each golfer is asked to get sponsors from their church for birdies or eagles to raise money for Imagine No Malaria. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. There will be prizes for the best score, but the emphasis will be on the team that brings in the most money for Imagine No Malaria.

Contact: Rev. B. Failes bfailes@vaumc.org.

Blue Hills Golf Course, 2002 Blue Hills Drive NE, Roanoke 24012 540-344-7848

“Bring Your Own” Picnic at Bonsack – bring your own food

.....Thurs June 18 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Bring your own meal and come for a relaxing time of fellowship in the picnic shelter with a playground, corn hole and time to unwind. No pre-registration required.

Bonsack UMC, 4493 Bonsack Rd, Roanoke 24012 540- 977-4212.

Pub TheologyThurs June 18 at 7 pm

Fellowship gathering to listen/discuss theology with Dr. Kendall Soulen from Wesley Seminary and Rev. Jason Micheli from Aldersgate UMC in Alexandria (who started a Theology on Tap there) at a downtown restaurant. No pre-registration required.

Contact: Ted Sutton, pubtheologyroanoke@gmail.com.

Corned Beef & Company 107 Jefferson St, Roanoke 24011 540-342-3354

Potato Drop – Society of St. Andrew..... Fri June 19 at 7 am at Southview UMC

Contact is Sarah Ramey, Society of St. Andrew, vaglean@endhunger.org.

Southview UMC, 3539 Peters Creek Rd, Roanoke 24019 540-362-1767

(Take the south exit off of I-581 onto Peters Creek Rd.

The church is ¼ mile on the left of Peters Creek Rd.)

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Each year members of local churches are encouraged to help raise money for global mission projects designated by the bishop. The pastor or lay representative of each church will take that money to Annual Conference where it will be collected during a special time of the session.

Checks may be made payable to “Virginia Conference of the UMC” with “Conference Offering” in the memo line.

This year the Annual Conference special offering goal is \$150,000. Bishop Young Jin Cho is requesting contributions to support three different ministries. “I want to offer a great challenge to you this year as we approach the 2015 Annual Conference session of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. That challenge is that we accept a renewed call to being disciples of Jesus Christ and explore together all that comes with that calling!” Bishop Cho stated in his letter that went to all churches.

Contributions are asked for the following ministries:

We will be offering our continued support to our partnership with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia with \$50,000 as they continue to purchase property for new churches and expand their fast growing mission.

\$50,000 will go to UMCOR Global Health ministries to aid the Ebola-ravaged countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Both of these countries have trained and equipped Health Boards in their United Methodist Conferences that are working to meet priorities and needs of communities recovering from the Ebola outbreak as well as a holistic approach to health that empowers people to take charge of their own lives and develop positive health-seeking behavior in their communities.

In Virginia our goal is \$50,000 that will be offering support to mission projects working with the poor in the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts. Both of these districts are working in ministry in areas of Virginia that are well below the national and state poverty levels. Of particular concern and emphasis are children that are living in poverty.

For more information, go to www.vaumc.org/ac2015.

“4 CANS 4 CONFERENCE”

Members of Annual Conference are encouraged to bring at least four cans of food or boxes of dry food to the session in Roanoke for “4 Cans 4 Conference.” Requested are: one can of vegetables or fruit, one can of meat or fish, one can of soup or stew and one can with a pop-top. ALL gifts benefit the local ministries’ services to those in need in the Berglund Center area. And YES, 4 boxes or even 400 cans will help! Our 2015 Annual Conference Goal is 10,000 pounds of canned and dry / staple foods. Bring your gifts to the 24’ U-Haul truck parked near the Kits Collection trucks - not inside the Berglund Center! (And yes, there will be plenty of opportunities to serve in the Collection Point!)

POTATO DROP

The annual potato drop at Annual Conference, sponsored by Society of St. Andrew and the Office of Justice and Missional Excellence, will take place this year at 7:00 am Friday

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

morning June 19th at Southview United Methodist Church, 3539 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke. Come get dirty and help bag potatoes for local food banks and still have time to get cleaned up and ready for the start of conference!

For more information, contact Sarah Ramey at 1-800-333-4597

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

The 2015 Virginia Annual Conference kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana reports there is a need for all types of kits. Kits should be taken to the two tractor-trailers at the far end of the Berglund Center Parking Lot A, near the intersection of Williamson Road and Orange Ave. (across from the Sheetz gas station). Kits will be received 12 to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 19; and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 20.

Local churches are encouraged to collect items for any of the following most requested UMCOR kits and bring them to Annual Conference for delivery:

Itemized kit lists and directions are below. For more information about kits collection or to volunteer to help with the kit collection e-mail Virgil Decker at vdecker@cox.net or contact Jeff Wilson at Huntington Court UMC, (540) 366-3465, to indicate what time you would be available. You may also sign up to volunteer using Sign Up Genius.

UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$1.50 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit. Please do NOT bring checks to Annual Conference. ALL checks (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste and in lieu of providing kits) should be made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "kits" and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference, but no later than Aug. 31.

Bedding Kit

2 flat sheets double size flat only, no fitted

2 pillow cases

2 pillows

Notes:

- All items must be new.
 - Do not wash any of the items as they will then be considered used.
 - Linens may be of different colors.
 - Items may be removed from packaging.
 - All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Birth Kit

- 1 small bar soap 1 oz. to 2 oz. size; do not remove from original packaging; small bars such as those found in hotels are acceptable
- 1 pair thin gloves surgical, latex or thin rubber gloves are acceptable
- 1 square yard of clear plastic sheeting must be 4 millimeters thick; plastic trash bags and shower curtains are not acceptable
- 3 12-inch-long pieces of cotton string must be clean secure the pieces of string by bundling and tying them together; no yarn
- 1 single edge razor blade must be covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury; regular shaving razors are not acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets sizes may range from 28" x 28" to 32" x 32"; no thermal or fleece blankets
- 1 plastic bag one gallon size sealable bags only

Assembly Directions

Fold the plastic sheeting and blankets so they will fit easily into the plastic bag. Lay the loose items on top of the blankets and plastic sheeting. Slide all items into the plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag and then seal it.

Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.

DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Cleaning Bucket

- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid Buckets from fast food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned; do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner; advertisements on the outside are acceptable.
- liquid laundry detergent two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottles only
- liquid household cleaner 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water; no spray cleaners
- dish soap 16-28 oz bottle any brand
- 1 can air freshener aerosol or pump
- 1 insect repellent spray 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover
- 1 scrub brush plastic or wooden handle
- 18 cleaning wipes Handi-Wipes or reusable wipes; no terry cleaning towels; remove from packaging
- 7 sponges no cellulose sponges due to mold issues; remove from wrapper
- 5 scouring pads remove from wrapper; no stainless steel, Brillo pads or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in)
- 50 clothespins remove from packaging

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- clothes line two 50 ft. or one 100 ft. cotton or plastic.
- 24 roll heavy duty trash bags 33-45 gallon sizes; remove from the box
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair kitchen dish washing gloves should be durable enough for multiple uses; remove from packaging
- 1 pair work gloves cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly Directions

Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items. Sponges, scouring pads, clothespins and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. Ensure the lid is closed securely.

Notes:

- All items must be new except for the actual bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders please.
- If you cannot find the requested size of a liquid item, use a smaller size. Including larger sizes of any item will prevent the lid from sealing.
- If all of the items on the list are not included, please put a label on the bucket indicating what has been omitted.
- Cleaning buckets are only used within the United States. They are not opened to verify the contents unless there is indication some items have been omitted.

Health Kits

- 1 hand towel 15" x 25" to 17"x 27" kitchen; cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable
 - 1 washcloth
 - 1 comb needs to be sturdy and at least 8" long; no pocket combs or picks; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable
 - 1 metal nail file or clipper no emery boards or toenail clippers
 - 1 bath size soap 3 oz. and larger sizes only; no Ivory soap due to moisture content; do not remove from original packaging
 - 1 toothbrush adult size only; do not remove from original packaging
 - 6 adhesive bandages ¾" to 1 " size; common household Band-Aids
 - 1 plastic bag one gallon size sealable bags only
- [*\$2 to purchase and ship.]

Assembly Directions

Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the wash cloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- *UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect money for toothpaste and shipping place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit.

Layette Kit

- 6 cloth diapers pre-folded or plain diapers only; no disposable diapers
- 2 shirts undershirts or onesies
- 2 wash cloths infant size only; no adult wash cloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers 2 diaper pins must have protective plastic closures no regular safety pins
- 1 sweater or jacket must open from the front may be hand knitted, crocheted or sewn hooded; sweatshirts are acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets sizes may range from 28" x 28" to 32" x 32"; no crib blankets

Assembly Directions

Lay one of the receiving blankets flat on a table. Set aside the diaper pins and place all remaining items on top of the blanket. Fold the blanket around the items and secure the bundle with the diaper pins.

Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Sewing Kit

- 3 continuous yards of fabric cotton or cotton blend only; no heavy duty, corduroy, knit etc. no patriotic, religious, holiday, camouflage, or military patterned fabric
- 1 pair scissors fabric scissors only
- 1 package needles hand needles in original packaging only
- 1 spool thread medium to large spool; no travel kit thread
- 5-8 buttons 5/8 inch size or larger; no loose buttons; leave buttons in original packaging or fasten all together
- 1 plastic bag one gallon size sealable bags only

Assembly Directions

Place kit in the plastic bag and seal.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Notes:

- All items must be new.
 - Do not wash the fabric as it will then be considered used.
 - All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

School Kit

- 1 pair blunt scissors rounded tip only; no plastic scissors
- 3 pads of paper spiral- or top-bound pads 150 sheets or less of loose leaf can be substituted for 1 pad combinations of spiral, top bound, side bound or loose leaf is acceptable
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener must be at least one inch long; remove from packaging
- 1 30 centimeter ruler hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable; no advertisements
- 6 unsharpened pencils no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage; cartoon characters are acceptable
- 1 2 inch or larger size eraser no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage; cartoon characters are acceptable
- 1 24 count box of crayons only 24 count boxes
- 1 14"x16" cloth bag homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable; heavy-duty fabric only-denim, corduroy, drapery fabric etc.; no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage; closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro sewn in middle of opening if used

Assembly Directions

Place all loose items on top of paper. Turn items sideways and slide into the cloth bag. Fold over the top of the bag so loose items don't fall out.

Notes:

- A pattern for the bag can be found on the internet at www.umcor.org. Go to "How To Give" at the top of the page and scroll down to "Relief Supplies". Click on "Relief Supplies" and scroll down until you find the "School Kit" section. Click on "sewing patterns".
 - All items must be new.
 - All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

If you prefer to contribute cash to enable United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$50 for each bedding kit; \$8 for each birthing kit; \$55 for each cleaning bucket; \$12 for each health kit; \$35 for each layette kit; \$11 for each school kit; and \$18 for each sewing kit.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

- 19-21 Virginia Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke
- 20 UMMen Annual Prayer Breakfast, 6:30 a.m., Thrasher Memorial UMC

JULY 2015

- 2 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 3 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- 7 Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministry, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 8 Annual Conference Planning Evaluation Mtg., 10 a.m.
- 10-12 SEJ Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders meeting
- 11-17 Camp Rainbow Connection, BCRC
- 16 Clergy Womens' Collective, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 17-18 Candidacy Summit, BCRC
- 21-22 Provisional Members Residency Event, BCRC
- 23-24 Helping Hands Mission Event, Woodlake UMC
- 24-26 VA Conference Mission Encounter, BCRC

AUGUST 2015

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
- 2-7 All God's Children Camp, Camp Occohannock, Eastern Shore
- 8-14 Camp Rainbow Connection, BCRC
- 9-14 All God's Children Camp, Westview on the James, Goochland
- 14-15 Lay Supply Ministers' Orientation, BCRC

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 3 UM Development Company Board, UM Center
- 4 UM Center Closes at 1pm for Labor Day Observance
- 7 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 11-13 CCYM fall meeting, Eagle Eyrie
- 12 School for Children's Ministry, Timberlake UMC, Lynchburg, 9 a.m.
- 12 Board of Laity, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 12 Commission on Disabilities, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 14 ARMS Board, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 15 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 16 Committee on Episcopacy, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 17 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 17 Common Table for Church Vitality, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 17 Clergy Ethics II Training - James River District, Chester UMC
- 18-19 UMW Young Women's Retreat, BCRC
- 21-24 Goodson Preaching Academy, BCRC
- 23 Church Development Team, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 24 UM Foundation Board, UM Center
- 26 Board of Church and Society, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 29 Ethics 101: Sexual Ethics Training (for newly appointed and interested church professionals), UM Center

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2015

- 1 Conference Historical Society Board Mtg., 11 a.m., UM Center
- 1 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 1-3 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 3 Mid-Sized Church Clergy and Lay Training, Location TBD
- 4-9 Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Ctr, Richmond
- 5-6 First year Provisional Members and Mentors Retreat, BCRC
- 7-8 ARMS Retreat, BCRC
- 8 Conference Board Chairs Meeting, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 9 Randolph Macon Academy Trustees, 12 noon, R-MA Middle School
- 10 Ethics 101: Sexual Ethics Training (for newly appointed and interested church professionals), UM Center
- 10 UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
- 10 UM Development Company, UM Center,
- 12 Bishops' Foundation Board, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 12-14 Church Leadership Institute, UM Center
- 15-17 "Do No Harm: Best Practices for Health, Accountability, and Wholeness," Chicago, IL
- 16-17 Randolph-Macon College Trustees, 9 a.m. Mullen Board Room
- 21 PAUMCS "Experience Your Connection" event, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 17 School of Children's Ministry, Thalia UMC, Virginia Beach, 9:00 a.m.
- 22 UMW Mission Team Meeting, location TBD
- 23 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, location TBD
- 24 "Tearing Down the Walls" event with Shane Claiborne, First UMC, Salem, 9 a.m.
- 24 Folklife Festival, Ferrum College
- 24-25 43rd Annual UMW Meeting, BCRC
- 27 Large Church Lead Pastor Training, Roslyn Retreat Ctr, Richmond
- 31 Small Church Clergy and Lay Training, Location TBD

NOVEMBER 2015

- 4 Board of Ordained Ministry, UM Center
- 6 Ferrum College Board of Trustees, Ferrum
- 6-8 UMMen's Spiritual Advance, BCRC
- 7 School for Children's Ministry, Good Shepherd UMC, Dale City
- 10 5 Talent Academy, Faith Development, Location TBD
- 12 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 13-15 Middle School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 18 Clergy Ethics II Training - Fredericksburg District, Wright's Chapel UMC
- 25 UM Center Closes 1 p.m.
- 26-27 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2015

- 2 Church Development Team, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 3 UM Development Company Board, UM Center
- 4-6 High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 9 Committee on Episcopacy, UM Center, 10 a.m.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- 17 UM Foundation Board, UM Center
- 23 UM Center Closes 1 p.m.
- 24-28 UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance

JANUARY 2016

- 1 UM Center Closed, New Year's Day
- 8-9 Candidacy Summit, BCRC
- 8-10 UMW Leadership Development Days, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 12 ARMS Board, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 18 UM Center Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 27 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 31-Feb.3 Board of Ordained Ministry, BCRC

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1 Deadline for Conference Benevolence Grants
- 4 UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond
- 4-6 CCYM Spring Meeting, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 5 Board of Church and Society, UM Center
- 11 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 4-6 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 18 Clergy Ethics II Training - Harrisonburg District, Dayton UMC
- 19 Randolph-Macon College Trustees, 9 a.m., Mullen Board Room
- 25 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 28-Mar 2 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, BCRC

MARCH 2016

- 1 5 Talent Academy, Worship, location TBD
- 3 UMW Mission Team Meeting, Location TBD
- 4-5 UMW Executive Committee Mtg., Location TBD
- 4 Deadline to submit for 2016 Book of Reports
- 4 Deadline to submit resolutions for 2016 Annual Conference Session
- 5 Conference Historical Society, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.,
- 7 Randolph Macon Academy Trustees, R-MA Middle School, 12 noon
- 9 ARMS Board, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 12 UMMen's Spring Training Event, Location TBD
- 24 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 30 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 31 Common Table for Church Vitality Meeting, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 24 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 25 UM Center closed for Good Friday

APRIL 2016

- 21 Clergy Ethics III Training - Roanoke District, Thrasher Memorial UMC
- 29-30 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Meeting, 9 a.m., Mullen Board Room
- 29-May 1 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, BCRC

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

MAY 2016

- 3-4 Provisional Members Residency Event, BCRC
- 6 Ferrum College Trustees, Ferrum
- 5-7 Randolph College Board of Trustee, Randolph College
- 7 Ferrum College Commencement
- 10-20 General Conference, Portland, OR
- 10-20 UMW General Conference, Portland, WA
- 11 ARMS Board, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 15 Randolph College Commencement
- 25-29 HARAMBEE! Rust College, Holly Springs, MI
- 26-Jun 3 Licensing School, Virginia Wesleyan College
- 27 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 28 Randolph-Macon College Commencement, 10 a.m.
- 28 Randolph-Macon Academy Commencement, 10 a.m.
- 30 UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance

JUNE 2016

- 3-5 UMW SEJ Quadrennial Meeting, Charleston, SC
- 11 UMW Day at Ferrum College
- 17-19 Virginia Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke
- 18 UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference
- 27 Randolph Macon Academy Trustees, 12 noon, R-MA Middle School

JULY 2016

- 1 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 4 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- 8-9 Candidacy Summit, BCRC
- 19-20 Provisional Members Residency Event, BCRC

AUGUST 2016

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Program Grant applications

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 2 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 5 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 22 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 2016

- 4 5 Talent Academy featuring Andy Crouch, 9 a.m., Locations TBD
- 6 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 13 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 24 Randolph Macon Academy Trustees, 12 noon, R-MA Middle School

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2016

- 10 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 23 UM Center Closes 1 p.m.
- 24-25 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2016

- 23 UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance
- 26 UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

- ARMS Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses
- BCRC Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center
- CCYM Conference Council on Youth Ministries
- CFA Council on Finance and Administration
- CLDDT Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team
- HRCC Hampton Roads Convention Center
- RMC Randolph Macon College
- SoSA Society of St. Andrew
- TBD To Be Determined
- UMC United Methodist Church
- UMMen United Methodist Men
- UMW United Methodist Women
- UM Center Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen
- VUMPI Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.

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One free copy of the *2015 Directory of the Ministry* is sent to all Virginia Conference clergy (active and retired, including lay pastors and diaconal ministers; widows/widowers of clergy are also entitled to a free copy upon request.) Lay members attending Annual Conference do not receive a free copy of the *2015 Directory of the Ministry*. Anyone wishing to purchase a directory in addition to what is automatically sent should fill out this form, detach it from the booklet and drop the completed form off at the Virginia United Methodist Communications display at Annual Conference. Or mail it to the Communications Office at: P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA, 23058. Payment is requested at the time of purchase. Make checks payable to: "Virginia Conference United Methodist Church" (earmark for "*2015 Directory of the Ministry*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like _____ copy(ies) of the *2015 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

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2015 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The *2015 Journal* will be made available in the following ways:

- Posted on the Virginia Conference website, www.vaumc.org, in pdf format.
- Provided as a printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25. Requests for printed copies must be made by Aug. 1. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.
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NOTES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION HOURS

Thursday, June 18: 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Friday, June 19: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Saturday, June 20: 8:00 a.m. to noon, Laity and Clergy Registration

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: (540) 853-1545. This phone is for incoming emergency messages only. Calls must be returned at other phones.

NEWS MEDIA PHONE NUMBER: (804) 517-8147 (Director of Communications mobile). No emergency calls can be taken at this number.

PER DIEM– By conference action, retirees, persons receiving their first appointment and selected others (see page 122 of this *Book of Reports* for the list) are authorized to receive reimbursement for expenses to attend Annual Conference. This reimbursement is not to exceed \$100 per night (\$200 maximum reimbursement, receipts required,) and is subject to the limitations of conference approved rates. Per Diem vouchers are available at the Pensions display and online (www.vaumc.org/AC2015) and should be submitted to the Conference Treasurer's Office with appropriate receipts. The Conference Treasurer encourages all reimbursements to be made by direct deposit. Instructions will be attached to the vouchers to make provisions for direct deposit. Vouchers will not be accepted after July 31st.

MESSAGE BOARD RULES: Persons needing to page someone at the conference must go to the pages' desk. The pages will see that the name of the person being paged is put on the electronic message board. This message will run twice only; however, they will not be shown during worship or major program presentations. The individual will be asked to come to the pages' desk for his or her message. If the message is not retrieved from the pages' desk during that session, the message will be placed on a bulletin board at the information booth. The bulletin board will be cleared of unclaimed messages at the end of each day.

BANQUETS: A list of banquets is included with the mailing of this *Book of Reports*. Other information may be obtained from the banquet host or from the information desk at the Berglund Center Coliseum.

FOOD SERVICE: The Berglund Center Food and Beverage Services will provide several concession stands with menu options that will include healthful items for snack and meal options as well as a variety of beverages.

CHILD CARE: Grace United Methodist Church (4044 Williamson Rd) will be hosting free child care this year, due to the generosity of the Roanoke District. Child care is available for ages 0-10 and will be offered Fri., June 19, 8am-5:30pm; Sat. June 20, 8am-5:30pm and 7-10pm; and Sun., June 21, 8am-1pm. Registration forms are available on the Conference website, www.vaumc.org/AC2015. For questions, contact Rev. Dan Elmore at danelmore@vaumc.org.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING: 100 designated accessible parking spaces will be available in the front lot (on Williamson Rd.) of the Berglund Center.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING SECTIONS: Reserved areas for those who use wheelchairs or scooters will be available within the bar of the conference on both the main arena floor

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

of the Coliseum; on the inner concourse level at Boxes 1, 3, 7 and 9; and in the corners of the inner concourse near boxes 1 and 12. The easiest access into the Coliseum for those with mobility challenges is on the concourse level. There is access to the Coliseum floor from the concourse by chair lift located between gates 1 and 2. An indoor accessible route between the Coliseum (concourse level) and Special Events Center for those who require it will be clearly marked near gate 5.

ACCESS FOR THOSE WITH HEARING AND VISION CHALLENGES: A television monitor will be situated in a designated seating section near the stage on the floor of the Berglund Coliseum to provide Computer Assisted Notetaking (CAN) of the proceedings for persons with vision and hearing challenges. Assisted listening receivers will be available with sign-out of the equipment at the CAN table. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided for all sessions. Braille materials must be requested by June 14th. Large print materials for the Memorial and Ordination Services will be available at the CAN table. For more information, contact Cheryl Edley-Worford, 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 153 or 154.

TO ORDER JOURNALS OR CLERGY/DIACONAL DIRECTORIES: An order form is available on page 198 of this *Book of Reports*. Order forms will also be available at the information desk and at the communications display table in the Berglund Special Events Center; or call the communications office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 110.

