

2016 BOOK OF REPORTS

BOOK OF REPORTS

234th Session of the
Virginia Annual Conference

Thy will be done



2016 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 17-19, 2016
Roanoke, Virginia



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 *2016 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. 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 troubleshooting area. You will receive your updated name badge, if necessary, and official packet at the troubleshooting table.
4. 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 *2016 Journal* and *2016 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.

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 TO RESTROOMS: Restrooms at gates 1-2 and 11-12 provide the best access for people using wheelchairs. Ushers will be available to assist those needing help entering restrooms that have lips at the entry making access by wheelchair difficult.

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 173 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.

The 234th session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

June 17-19, 2016

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 2016 Annual Conference theme is
"Thy Will be Done."*

Logo designed by Cathryn Huff

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP CHO



Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

I welcome all of you to the 234th session of the Virginia Annual Conference at the Berglund Civic Center in Roanoke, Virginia. As we gather after our General Conference in May, we may deal with new situations and face some challenges. But I am very excited about our annual gathering and look forward to seeing you soon.

The theme for this year is “Thy Will Be Done.” For the past three years we focused on prayer, a renewal of our churches and growing from members to disciples. All these themes arrive at one conclusion: seeking God’s

will. This is important in every disciple’s life and the way to a renewal of our churches. The ultimate goal of our prayers is seeking for God’s will to be done on earth and in our churches as it is in heaven. If we truly focus on God’s will, we will have a different future.

We invited Dr. Gregory Jones for two sessions of teaching. Our conference preachers will be Bishop Mark Webb for the service for the Ordering of Ministry, Rev. Eun Pa Hong for Saturday morning worship, Rev Myrtle F. Hatcher for the Service of Remembrance and Rev. James M. Tongue will speak on behalf of the retiring class. I will preach the closing service for the Fixing of the Appointments.

This year our conference offering will continue providing support for our partnerships with United Methodist missions in Cambodia, Mozambique and Brazil and help in the recovery and rebuilding of the three areas in Virginia hit by tornadoes last February. Your prayers for these mission projects and your generous giving will touch many lives and make differences in the world.

Time flies very fast. I feel like it was only yesterday that I presided over my first Annual Conference as your Bishop. Now this is my last Annual Conference. I cannot thank enough those of you who planned and will support our annual gathering on the stage and behind the scenes. Thank you very much. The one word I want to say while preparing for my last Annual Conference is “Hallelujah.”

Once again, I ask you to pray for our 2016 Annual Conference. If we prepare for our gathering with prayer, great things will happen through the Holy Spirit who renews and leads our churches today. I look forward to seeing all of you soon in Roanoke.

In our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Young Jin Cho'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'Y' and 'C'.

Young Jin Cho
Bishop, The Virginia Annual Conference

SPEAKERS

STUDY LEADER



Dr. L. Gregory Jones is Duke University's Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Programs. From 1997-2010, he was Dean of Duke's Divinity School when he led the institution to a significant expansion of resources, networks and impact.

Jones currently serves as the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School, Senior Strategist for Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, and as Senior Strategist for the Fuqua-Coach K Center for Leadership and Ethics. He also serves as Senior Advisor to the President of Baylor University and to the Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor. In addition, he is the Executive Director of A Foundation for Theological Education that supports the John Wesley Fellows Program in doctoral education.

Jones is the author or editor of 17 books, including his most recent book, *Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness*.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS



Rev. Eun Pa Hong (*preacher for the Saturday morning mission service*) is the senior pastor of Bupyeong Methodist Church (BPMC) in Incheon, Korea. Under his leadership for the past 35 years BPMC has grown into one of the largest, most vital churches in Korean Methodism. About 3,000 adults and 2,500 children and youths participate in worship at BPMC every Sunday. Throughout its 76-year history, BPMC has planted 22 churches, and most of them became independent congregations serving their community. Also the church has sent and sponsored numerous missionaries to many different countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hawaii, India, Japan and South Africa.

In 2002, BPMC built a new sanctuary and Mission Center with God-given vision to serve churches and their leaders around the world. The church has hosted Pilgrimage to Korea for Spiritual Renewal programs at their Mission Center and for the past 12 years more than 3,700 clergy and laity from 122 different groups from all around the world have visited BPMC.

Rev. Hong has always emphasized prayer as the center of his own spiritual discipline and as the engine of BPMC's ministry. Under his leadership "Early Morning Prayer Service" is held every morning at 5:00 a.m. with several hundred prayer warriors participating. Rev. Hong and BPMC members witness that their ministry is an answer to their prayers, and it is only possible by the grace of God.

SPEAKERS



The Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher (*preacher for the Friday evening memorial service*) currently serves as pastor of Main St. UMC, Suffolk, in the James River District. She has also served as pastor of Norfolk UMC, Norfolk District; Galilee UMC, Rappahannock District; and St. James UMC, Peninsula District. She was superintendent of the Peninsula District from 2004 to 2011. She is a member of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, Cross-Cultural Resource Team and Mid-size Church Resource Team. She is a former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

A native of Staunton, she received her undergraduate degree from Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, and her Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School where she completed the Royce and Jane Reynolds Program in Church Leadership. She was ordained an elder

in the Virginia Conference in 1988.

She is married to John G. Hatcher who is executive director of Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth. They are parents of one deceased son and grandparents of five grandchildren.



The Rev. Mark J. Webb (*preacher for the Saturday evening ordination service*) was elected bishop on July 19, 2012, at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in Charleston, W.Va. , and was assigned to serve as the episcopal leader of the Upper New York Area effective Sept. 1, 2012.

Webb holds an M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Shippensburg University. At the time of his election to the episcopacy, he was serving as district superintendent of the York District of the Susquehanna Conference. He served pastorates at Aldersgate UMC, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 1994-2007; St. Paul's UMC, Wormleysburg, Pa., 1991-1994; and Linglestown UMC 1989-1991. He received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award in 2002.

Webb was a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2004, 2008 and 2012. He previously served as a director of The Board of Discipleship and a member of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

He currently serves the General Church on the Path1 Advisory Team and the Division on Young People's Ministries of Discipleship Ministries. He is also a trustee of United Theological Seminary.

AGENDA

Virginia Annual Conference

June 17-19, 2016

Berglund Center Coliseum

Roanoke, Virginia

Bishop Young Jin Cho Presiding

“Thy Will be Done”

Friday Afternoon, June 17

(Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

1:00 p.m.	Laity Session	Berglund Center Coliseum
1:00 p.m.	Clergy Session	Berglund Performing Arts Center
3:00 p.m.	Call to Order.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	“And Are We Yet Alive”	
	Opening Prayer	Rev. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn & Ms. Hannah Hale
	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
	Commission on Status and Role of Women.....	Rev. Mary Dadisman
	Episcopal Address.....	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Report of Cabinet.....	Rev. Robert Parks
	Minute Questions	
	Recognition of New Faith Communities.....	Rev. Robert Parks
	Approval of Consent Agenda	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 17

7:30 p.m.	A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion	
	Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher

Saturday Morning, June 18

(Registration: 8:30 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	Dr. L. Gregory Jones
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Nomination of Conference Lay Leader.....	Mr. Robert Forrest
	Laity Address	Mr. Warren Harper
	Board of Pensions Report	Mr. Robert G. Sanford, Jr.

AGENDA

	Common Table Report.....	Mr. Warren Harper Rev. Marc Brown
	Election of Boards and Agencies	Mr. Warren Harper Rev. Marc Brown
	Election of Conference Chancellor	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	Consecration of Conference Leadership	Bishop Young Jin Cho
	General Conference Report.....	Ms. Martha Stokes Rev. Tom Berlin
	Nomination for Episcopal Election	Ms. Martha Stokes
	Recognitions	
	Denman Award	Rev. Don Jamison
	United Methodist College Presidents.....	Dr. Jennifer Braaten
11:00 a.m.	Worship.....	Rev. Eun Pa Hong
	Annual Conference Offering	
12:00 noon	Recess for Lunch	

Saturday Afternoon, June 18

1:45 p.m.	Singing Our Faith	
2:00 p.m.	Recognition of Retirees.....	Rev. James Tongue
	Recognition of Bishop Cho's Ministry	Ms. Shirley Cauffman
	Site Selection	Rev. Doug Geeting
	Recognitions	
	United Methodist Credit Union.....	Mr. James Eads
	20-Year Recognition of Order of Deacon	Rev. Jason Stanley
	Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center	
	Resolutions	
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Saturday Evening, June 18

7:30 p.m.	A Service for the Ordering of Ministry.....	Bishop Mark Webb
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Sunday Morning, June 19

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Prayer Room – Parlor A
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith	
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Dr. L. Gregory Jones
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Report of Statistician	Mr. David Dommissee
	Report of Treasurer.....	Mr. David Dommissee
	Report of Council on Finance and Administration (CFA)	Rev. Steven Summers
	Unfinished Conference Business	
	Break for Worship Preparation	
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 care for 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 2015 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;

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- 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; submitter(s) must be a member of the annual conference.
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 three minutes to address the resolution. The resolution shall then be subject to floor debate and action. 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. 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

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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.

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 at the session of the annual conference held not more than two years preceding the session of General Conference.

1. **Special Sessions.** Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.

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2. **Number of Delegates.** The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.
3. **Election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates.** The number of General Conference delegates authorized by the secretary of the General Conference shall be first elected, followed by balloting on the authorized number of the jurisdictional conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized numbers of the jurisdictional conference delegates have been elected, 10 clergy and 10 lay reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.
4. **Speeches/Printed Materials.** No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed at the site of the annual conference on behalf of any nominee 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

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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

AND

- 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 ju-

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

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, complet-

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ed 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 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. On the first ballot lay and clergy members may cast write-in votes for those eligible for election by using a paper ballot.
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

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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 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

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

V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

The following are defined as program boards and agencies: The Board of Church and Society, the Church Development Team, the Board of Discipleship, the 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

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Church and Society. The total membership shall be 20 (10 lay and 10 clergy).

b. Church Development Team. There shall be a Church Development Team dedicated to working on strategies for and implementation of church development and new faith communities in the annual conference. This team/board will consist of a minimum of 12 and up to 16 persons: six nominated by the bishop and Cabinet, six nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, and up to four additional persons who may be co-opted by the team for expertise and diversity. The membership of this team will be placed in four classes to ensure continuity. The team is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

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

The Directing Board will consist of the following 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*.

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

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

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

d. Missional Ministries. The Missional Ministries Board, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the annual conference. The Conference Director of Justice and Missional Excellence shall serve as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM), fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶ 633.3 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into two (2) mission teams: (1) Missional Discipleship and Engagement; and (2) Missional Connection. The position of Conference Coordinator of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) shall be appointed by the bishop and shall be an ex-officio member of the Mission Connection Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board, as outlined in ¶ 633.2 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*.

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

e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶ 1405 of the *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

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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 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 direc-

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

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

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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.

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 intellectual 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.

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- 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.
- 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.

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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.

- 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).

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C. TASK FORCES

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

D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

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

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the *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

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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 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.

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C. SUFFICIENT SEATS SHALL BE PROVIDED

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

D. VOTERS TO DISPLAY PROPER CREDENTIALS

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

E. METHOD OF VOTING

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

F. EXCEPTIONS TO THE NO INTERRUPTION RULE

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

G. LIMITS ON SPEAKING

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.

NAME BADGE COLORS

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

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

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

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

NAME BADGE COLORS

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

Lay Members
At-Large District Lay Members
District and Conference Lay Leaders
Conference President of United Methodist Men
Conference President of United Methodist Women
Conference Director of Lay 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)

YELLOW (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*)

NAME BADGE COLORS

PD	Provisional Deacon (§35, §327.2 and §602.1b)
PE	Provisional Elder (§35, §327.2 and §602.1b)
EP	Full member other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Elder (§35, §347.3b, §327.2)
DP	Deacon recognized from other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Deacon (§35, §347.3b and §327.2)
RA	Retired Associate Member (§35, §602.1c)
RP	Retired Probationary/Provisional Member (§35, §327.2)

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

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

SALMON (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)
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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)

GRAY (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. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with ¶634.3)
7. Eight at-large members equally divided between clergy and laity in annual classes, including two young adult/youth representatives, as elected in III

B. Non-voting Members

1. Representative from Council on Finance and Administration assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration

The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table without vote. It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference.

III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

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

IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS

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

V. MEETINGS

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

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

Thomas Lott, Head Teller

Clergy:

Alexandria District
Arlington District
Charlottesville District
Danville District
Eastern Shore District
Elizabeth River District
Farmville District
Fredericksburg District
Harrisonburg District
James River District
Lynchburg District
Richmond District
Roanoke District
Staunton District
Winchester District
York River District

Devon Earle
Jason Duley
David LeFOn
Tammy Franklin
Derek E. Tomek
Fred Brockhausen
Loretta Benninghove
George Warner
John B. Haynes
James Carey
Paul Greer
Larry Cochran
LeRoy Worley
Bob Sharp
Karen Adams
Robert Haley

Lay:

Matthew Motley
William R. McKenney
Deborah Reynolds
Joshua Banks
Rebekah Greer
Donn Lee
Jared Utley
Terry Bain
Tom DeVore
Marie Hawks
Teresa Watson
Bill Chaffin
Ray Sandifer
Margie Sharp
Elizabeth Jackson
Angeline Hoen

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The main focus of the work of the Rules Committee this year has been the improvement of the process for electronic voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in light of the historically low number of ballots cast at the last annual conference. Interviews with the head tellers and a representative from the technology company overseeing the electronic voting process brought several concerns to light which slowed down the voting process: validating nominations from the floor on Friday afternoon; alternating voting between clergy and lay ballots; the requirement for reading or distribution of the names and votes received for three times the number of delegates remaining to be elected, which was cumbersome and did not lend itself to the electronic voting process. A task force was appointed to address these issues. After reviewing the electronic voting processes of the Great Rivers, Mississippi, and Florida Annual Conferences, the task force presented a series of recommended changes to the voting process. It is recommended that nominations from the floor only be received during the Clergy and Lay Sessions, and Nomination Forms must be submitted to the Head Tellers and reviewed by the Clergy and Lay Nomination Review Committees. To facilitate this process, it is recommended that the Director of Clergy Excellence be a member of the Clergy Nomination Review Committee. The Clergy Nomination Form will only require the name of one eligible clergy to be nominated unless nominating self. Both the Clergy and Lay Nomination Forms will include a box to be checked stating, "Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected," and a line for the signature of the nominee. With regard to the reporting of votes, it is recommended that on the first ballot for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates, the names of all those voted for and votes received be read/displayed. For all subsequent ballots only the top 25 names and votes received will be read/displayed. Finally, it is recommended that the Virginia Conference move to block voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates, with clergy and laity meeting in separate rooms simultaneously to vote and allowing up to five hours for voting. This will require the assistance of a retired bishop to preside at one of the sessions. Block voting will allow laity and clergy to focus on the central task of electing delegates without being confused by alternating between clergy and laity ballots or by conference business interspersed between ballots. The Rules Committee approved these recommendations and recommends them to the Annual Conference.

In other business, the Rules Committee recommends that the annual conference expenses of chairs of boards and agencies who are also local church clergy or lay delegates be paid by the local church or charge. Under the organization of the Board of Discipleship, it is recommended that the number of regional networks be reduced from 5 to 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended changes to the Standing Rules are:

paragraph I.C.5. Insert "Unless otherwise covered by a local charge," at the beginning of the section.

paragraphs III.B.4., III.B.5., III.B.5.c. Strike "or write-in candidate".

paragraph III.C.2.a. In the sentence that begins, "The form shall include the names of at least two clergy ..." substitute "The form shall include the name of one clergy who is eligible to vote who is making the nomination." In the sentence beginning, "All nominations shall include the nominee's name, ..." add after "2 1/2" "(unless nominated at Clergy Session)"; after "church, district and" add "should include". At the end of that sentence add a new

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sentence: “There shall be a box to be checked stating: “Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected.”, and a line for the signature of the nominee.”

paragraph III.C.2.b. Insert and renumber: “Clergy Session Nominations. Nominations for clergy delegates may be made at the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference by submitting a clergy nomination form to the Head Clergy Teller which shall be made available upon request.”

paragraph III. C.2.c. Clergy Nomination Review Committee. After the first sentence, insert: “The Director of Clergy Excellence shall serve as an ex-officio member.” At the end of the paragraph add: “This committee will also be responsible for reviewing and validating any nomination forms submitted at the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference.”

paragraph III.D. LAY NOMINATIONS. Strike the words “FROM DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES”

paragraph III.D.1. Lay Nominations. Add the words “from Districts.” In second section strike “2. Number of Persons to be Nominated.” and renumber.

paragraph III.D.4. Nomination Forms. In first sentence after “2 1/2” insert: “(unless nominated at Laity Session)”; after “church, district and” add “should include”. At the end of that sentence add a new sentence: “There shall be a box to be checked stating: “Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected.”, and a line for the signature of the nominee.”

Add new section III.D.5. “Laity Session Nomination. Nominations for lay delegates may be made at the Laity Session of the Annual Conference by submitting a lay nomination form to the Head Lay Teller which shall be made available upon request.”

paragraph III.E.2. At the end of the section add: “This committee will also be responsible for reviewing and validating any nomination forms submitted at the Laity Session of the Annual Conference.”

paragraph III.E.3. In the first sentence, place a period after “forms” and strike the rest.

paragraph III.F. BALLOTING PROCEDURES. Add a new section and renumber: “1. Separate Voting Areas. Following the convening of Annual Conference, clergy and laity will separate to elect General and Jurisdictional delegates and alternates, allowing five (5) hours to complete the process.”

paragraph III.F.2. Ballots shall be Counted Electronically. Strike the last sentence.

paragraph III.F.4. Voting Area. Replace the first sentence with: “The presiding officer shall designate the areas of the Lay and Clergy Sessions where members shall be seated during balloting.” In the second sentence, add an “s” to “area”.

paragraph III.F.7. Reading or Distributing Names. In the first sentence, replace “distribute” with “display”. In the second sentence, replace “three times the number of General Conference delegates remaining to be elected” with “the 25 nominees receiving the highest number of votes”, and replace “distributed” with “displayed”.

paragraph V.A.4.c. Discipleship. In the fourth sentence, which begins, “The Directing Board will consist of ...”, change “ten (10) members” to “nine (9) members” and “five (5) Regional Network Leads” to “four (4) Regional Network Leads”.

As this was the last meeting of the quadrennium, the committee expressed appreciation to departing members Steve Bray, Sue Lewis, and Bart Weakley and elected as new officers for the next quadrennium: Chair – Joshua King, Vice-Chair – Terry Bain, and Secretary – Jim Smith.

Stephen G. Bray, Chair

CABINET

The Virginia Conference Cabinet under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Cho seeks to equip the clergy and laity to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is hard to believe that it has been almost four years since Bishop Cho began his episcopal leadership leading to change our culture of prayer. The culture of prayer is changing and will continue in the coming years as we seek to move ourselves into the presence of God. As a Cabinet we continue to move beyond our comfort zones to guide our conference in becoming more effective and vital in making disciples of Jesus.

The sixteen district superintendents continue to live into our role as the chief missional strategists. Vitality and fruitfulness are happening throughout our districts:

The Alexandria District: launched a new faith community last Christmas Eve. The Potomac campus of Spirit and Life Church is a multi-site new church plant, creating a bilingual worship community in a diverse area of Prince William County. Ghana Wesley Church set the standard for the district with 80 professions of faith in 2015. Christ Church moved into a major new facility last August, and has grown to an average worship attendance of well over 800. Last September, the Alexandria District conference became a 75th anniversary celebration of the district's history, with participation from every church and sermons from Dr. Raymond Wrenn, former executive secretary of the Alexandria District Board of Missions, and Bishop Young Jin Cho. We look forward to building on the legacy we have received as we plan for more new church multi-site starts.

The Arlington District: experienced exciting movement of the Holy Spirit through: Graham Road UMC making the bold decision to open their building for Vine Church to plant a second site; Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church initiating a satellite campus, called "Impact" at the site of their preschool, seeking to reach young families in their community; and 9 churches in the District completing an intensive 12-month learning and coaching process for church revitalization called "Shift."

The Charlottesville District: The district missions team sponsored a bowling fundraiser, and the district vision team sponsored three shows for Christian comedian, Michael Joiner. Proceeds from these fundraisers went towards the Heart Havens Charlottesville Apt. Project. We are raising \$400k for an apartment building for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Lay Servant ministry work area is planning a training event this fall.

The Danville District: District churches are recognizing the transformative possibilities of our ongoing emphasis on the issue of poverty, especially as it affects children. We are committed to exercising faithful stewardship of the Annual Conference (2015) offering allocated for this purpose. As home to some of the most economically-depressed and most generous communities in Virginia, we have a clear sense of our particular mission, relying on prayerful discernment to provide a "holy intervention" in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Eastern Shore District: a new district mission plan was received that envisions the Shore as "a place where clergy, congregations, and communities are freed for edge-

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walking action on behalf of the gospel of Jesus.” Recognizing our location at the margins of the land, we want to live out a ministry that meets people who are also living on the margins of security and acceptance — something that happens through our district Una Familia program, in which 5 churches (UM & Episcopal) are tutoring primarily Latino/a children, and through the Agape Christian Children’s Community Center in Horntown. We also envision ministries that help us walk to the edge of our faith through growth in discipleship and trust in the God of big visions, a belief that motivates a new church transition team working with local churches on revitalization and discernment of new paths in ministry.

The Elizabeth River District: is working hard to equip the laity and clergy to reach new people by getting out into the community. We have provided excellent training events with Jim Griffin, Tom Bandy and our District Training Event. Many churches are experiencing new vitality in their congregation especially as they reach out into their communities and get to know new people.

The Farmville District celebrates meeting and going beyond our INM goal of saving 4,156 lives, a total of 4,662 lives saved with 74 of 108 churches participating. The district continues to live into our new reality of 13 Connectional (geographical) Circles focusing on fellowship, training and charge conferences, and this new reality allows the district superintendent to be more involved in the churches. Two of our smallest churches: Union Chapel and Rehoboth (Boydton) have a seen 30% increase in average worship attendance in the last 3 years. Vitality and fruitfulness is evident in church throughout the district.

The Fredericksburg District: will celebrate our fifth birthday on July 9th, 2016. At our chartering event we set in place a four-part ministry strategy of unity, empowering laity, spiritual growth, and reaching neighbors near and far. This vision has remained at the forefront of our focus, programs, and training opportunities. Through discernment and prayer, we have also been able to transform a vacant lot into a vibrant ministry location for outdoor ministry. The outdoor ministry is a 501.c.3 organization called “The Heartwood Center,” with the primary goals of serving children and teens who live in poverty as well as the ministry of creating a regional Mission Training Center. To date, ministries of The Heartwood Center include a summer backpack lunch serving more than 250 children, a summer teen day camp, school season backpack meals, and vacation bible school. We are blessed to provide these ministries through the support of our UM congregations, our clergy, and many community partners.

The Harrisonburg District: has had another great year. We have started “Mission Central”, which is the District Mission Center. We are utilizing Cedar Grove UMC. This church was on the downswing, and they have opened up their doors to let the district have a district-wide mission center arise. In six months we have served over 1000 children who did not have adequate clothing. We have already established a medical equipment room where folks can check out what they need. The long range plan is to build a large building to house a food closet, adult clothes closet and have a social service person to help families get the help they need. We have also established Aisle 7 at Verona United Methodist Church. This will be a second site ministry for Verona UMC and it will establish the Verona Community Center for the whole Community.

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The James River District: The vision for the James River District is, “Disciples Making Disciples.” To this end we are focusing on the revitalization of existing churches and the formation of new faith communities. We work toward revitalization by sponsoring “Reach New People” events, the “Ten Brave Churches Initiative,” and “Hope for the Small Church” rallies. Two new faith communities are “The Flow” at Ettrick and “Dante’s Inferno” (worship in a diner) at Highland UMC. Two more new communities are currently being envisioned. We are engaged in many missions including VIM teams and covenanting with the UMC in Hungary. We praise God that 96% of our churches are Prayer Covenant congregations and we exceeded the conference’s goal of \$10 per worshipping member for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign!

The Lynchburg District: The 89 churches that represent the Lynchburg District continue to be excited about the growth of Park View Community Mission which now provides more than 600 families per month with at least 2 weeks’ worth of groceries. They also provide a free health clinic, counseling for young addicts, internet access for the poor and the branch offices of United Methodist Family Services. The Lynchburg District is also excited to welcome Rev. Scott Davis as our new district superintendent.

The Richmond District: We continue to seek God’s kingdom in ministry settings from urban to suburban to rural. God is good in multiple places in our district. Our ministries at Shalom Farms continues to grow, providing more fresh food to more of God’s special people. Our camps and our campus ministries continue to seek new disciples in diverse settings. God has more in store in the coming year and we look forward to seeking the kingdom together!

The Roanoke District: Equipping clergy and laity for ministry in their community context centered the Roanoke District’s work this year. The Clergy Summit focused on changing realities in the appointment process and welcomed Cheryl Edley-Worford to introduce Discipleship Circles. In partnership with the Danville, Lynchburg, and Staunton Districts, the Church and Society Team sponsored a day with Shane Claiborne on “Breaking Down the Walls”. Youths and young adults were well-represented among the 100 participants. Church secretaries and administrative assistants were welcomed to the district office for breakfast fellowship, learning more about the EVC system, and peer support.

The Staunton District: As part of the conference Imagine No Malaria initiative in 2015, 71 of the 82 churches of the Staunton District took part in sending our DS “down the river and off the district” in his kayak — and blessing 3,900 lives along the way. 2016 has seen the beginning of a new ministry partnership in the Waynesboro area, conceived to reach and engage lower-income youths, and district leadership is encouraged by the prospect of replicating this model elsewhere. Staunton’s laity and clergy greet Bishop Cho’s retirement this year with a measure of sadness, as his many visits to us and sustained emphasis on prayer have sharpened our focus on becoming disciples who make disciples; to God be the glory.

The Winchester District: The Winchester District Committee on Congregational Excellence focused on reaching youths and young adults in April by cosponsoring with Shenandoah University an event featuring Shane Claiborne and Lisa Sharon Harper; it

was a two-day event of mission and social justice. *Thy Kingdom Come: Where Our Mission in the commonwealth of God is Justice* was an event for senior high youths, young adults, local church leaders and pastors. The event included a sleepover on the football field, SHN event and an emphasis on learning about and raising funds for INM. In October the Winchester District hosted a “Reaching New People” seminar with 22 churches/charges participating, 20 of which are continuing a year’s coaching with Jim Griffith prayerfully expecting a new level of fruitfulness. The WD Change the World fall event at the Clark County Fairgrounds in October emphasized INM, World Service kits, and 100,000 SHN meals. The WD sent three UMVIM teams to La Gonave, Haiti as a part of our 4-year commitment.”

The York River District: is celebrating its 5th year as a new district by embracing challenges as well as hope for a new future. The District Board of Missions has continued partnering with the churches and agencies to support their local, regional or national missions. The District Ministry Excellence Team has coordinated various trainings and workshops for clergy and laity to enhance their spiritual development and ministry excellence. Clergy peer learning groups have been formed to cultivate mutual support and accountability. 18 churches have become Prayer Covenant Congregations. In 2015, the people of the YRD welcomed 545 new members, including 237 by profession of faith; gave over 2.4 million dollars through apportionments; and saved 6,946 lives through INM campaign!

The district superintendents remain grateful to our Extended Cabinet members: Rev. Marc Brown, Warren Harper, Rev. Mark Ogren, David Dommissie, and Rev. Meredith McNabb for their valuable ministry and guidance. This year after 8 years of service the Rev. Larry & Mell Davies will be returning to the local church and we are grateful for his ministry among us. We welcome the Rev. Scott & Laurie Davis as the new DS of the Lynchburg District. We are grateful to the ministry and spiritual leadership of our bishop, Young Jin Cho. Bishop Cho and his wife Rev. Kiok Cho will be retiring on August 31 and pray for a blessed retirement.

Bob Parks, 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 \$222,495 was provided to 43 charges in 2015. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2015 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the *Journal*.

There were 18 charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in 2014 that did not require salary support for all or part of 2015. These are Andrew Chapel (Fredericksburg), Basic UMC (Staunton), Bassett Memorial UMC (Danville), Brucetown UMC (Winchester), Christ Community Fellowship/Fairview (Lynchburg), Epworth UMC (Staunton), First Vietnamese (Arlington), Fort Grove UMC Sussex Charge (James River), Glossbrenner UMC (Staunton), Heathsville UMC (Fredericksburg), Iron Gate Charge (Staunton), Leemont Charge (Eastern Shore), McKendree UMC (Elizabeth River), Parnassus UMC (Harrisonburg), Salem UMC (Danville), Welltown UMC (Winchester), Wesley Chapel UMC (Elizabeth River), and West End UMC (Roanoke). 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 2017 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 2017 is \$63,086 which is an increase of 1% percent from 2016. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2017 and recommends the changes as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2017 be \$350,000.
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2017 proposed to be:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Current</u>
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$41,500	\$41,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$38,000	\$37,500
c. Local Pastors	\$35,500	\$35,000

3. The Floor Schedule for 2017 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 2013-2015 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided on the next page:

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EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year Ending 2013	Year Ending 2014	Year Ending 2015
Apportioned	550,000	500,000	500,000
Uncollected Apportionment	58,798	56,252	76,908
Apportionment Income	491,202	443,748	423,092
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>89.31%</i>	<i>88.75%</i>	<i>84.62%</i>
Grants	425,721	325,061	222,495
Meeting Expense & Other	449	1,727	1,030
Total Expenses	426,170	326,788	223,526
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	65,031	116,960	199,566

Tom Nealley, Chair

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE, a publication of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, continues to publish articles of both timely and historical significance to Virginia United Methodists, with bulletins which appear in the spring and in the fall. Annual subscription fees are print edition: \$10.00; online edition: \$7.00, and both: \$12.00. Contact: Virginia United Methodist HERITAGE, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058 (visit table in display area). Of particular note was the passing of Patti Russell in late 2014, following many years of service as Conference Archivist. Her husband Jack followed her in death in January of 2015. Both were founding members of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation. Patti is remembered through the Patti Russell Endowment, which provides funds to help support the salary of part-time Conference Archivist Stephanie Davis. At the October meeting of the Historical Society, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation presented a memorial plaque, which was subsequently placed within the Archives Office, to recognize Patti and Jack's outstanding leadership over a span of many years.

The Historical Society will present its work in a new format this year, a short, yet informative video that tells the story of the Society in words and images. It is our hope that this presentation will encourage churches and districts to do all they can to preserve their history and to share it widely for new generations to strengthen appreciation of Methodism's rich heritage within the Commonwealth and to continue building upon the strong foundation laid by that great stream of witnesses, namely, our Wesleyan forebears!

The following persons are presented to the Annual Conference for election as clergy and lay trustees of the Conference Historical Society for 2016-2017. CLERGY: Paul A. Beighley, Jr., Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., Michael Browder, Carlton Casey, Robert. T. Casey, Alexis Fathbruck-

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ner, William R. Freeman, Daniel L. Garrett, Myrtle F. Hatcher, H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., James M. John, *Alexander B. Joyner*, Kirk C. Mariner, John T. Martin, Jr., Reginald H. Potts, III, Lee B. Sheaffer, Carl O. Stewart, James M. Tongue, *Margaret A. Turbyfill*, Kenneth B. Walco, Roy P. White, J. Brooke Willson, Gary Ziegler; LAITY: Marcella Bullock, Thelma Crowder, *Betty Duley*, Jesse Fanshaw, Queen Green, Margaret Kidd, Mark Leep, Audrey Lewis, Myra P. Lindsey, L. Boyd Lucas, Stephen S. Mansfield, *Marianne R. Martin*, Harold "Rockie" McKee, *Sam McKelvey*, Margaret Mock, Catherine D. Mock, Brenda NeSmith, William A. Olson, Laurie Preston, Leona Salter, Ann P. Shappell, William Stead, Charles Williams [*Italics – new to position*]

John T. Martin, Jr., President

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.

The Annual Meeting was held at Leesburg, UMC on September 15, 2015. Board members elected were: Charles Williams, Lou Legard, Shirlita West, John Creamer, Dennis Hanrahan, Dr. Michael Browder, James Roberts and Ralph Carver. Three ad-hoc members were elected from the floor; Chuck Reavis, Jack King and David Meyer. The next Annual Meeting for the Foundation will be held the Saturday, September 10th, 2016 at the Old Stone Church site where we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the site. 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 the small Adams-Wren-Watters Cemetery in McLean, VA. William Watters, the first American born itinerant Methodist Minister and his wife are buried there. 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.

A Fairfax County Historical Marker commemorating William Watters was dedicated on April 19, 2015. The marker reads as follows: William Watters (1751-1827) was appointed to a circuit at the first American Methodist Conference in Philadelphia in 1773, making him the first officially appointed American-born Methodist itinerant circuit rider. During the Revolutionary War American Methodism, a movement within the Church of England, grew, although most English-born Methodist ministers left the country. In 1780 Watters helped avert a division between northern Methodist societies and those farther south over preachers performing the ordinances of communion and baptism. Following American independence, the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed and American preachers were

ordained. Watters, who served circuits in Virginia, Maryland , and New Jersey, is buried nearby. The Fairfax County History Commission, 2014

The marker was provided by bill Olson and researched by Myra Lindsey.

For additional information write: The William Watters Foundation, P.O. Box 6144, McLean, Virginia 22106-6144.

E. Jean Balcom, President

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization, has been active in preserving and enhancing the historic properties that we own, which include the Edward Dromgool House, the only existing circuit rider home in the Conference, and the original site of Randolph-Macon College, which later became the Boydton Institute after R-MC moved to Ashland. The OBCF also has responsibility for the care of the Ebenezer Academy site, the first Methodist school in America.

The Dromgoole house has been stabilized and the exterior wrapped to help preserve the existing structure. The College of William & Mary's Department of Archaeology recently conducted a site survey and partial dig, providing a footprint of the buildings that existed on the property, as well as some artifacts dating to its earliest use. The OBCF has developed a master plan to make the property into a destination where visitors can come and learn more of our pioneering Methodist heritage and the culture of the late 1700s. This plan includes building a caretaker cottage, establishing walking trails and information on sites along Virginia's portion of the Francis Asbury Trail. Efforts have been made in fundraising with some favorable results, including a matching grant from the Titmus Foundation.

The Ebenezer Academy site near Warfield is open for day visitors to take self-guided tours. The R-MC project is pending.

These are long-term projects that require persistence, financial support and encouragement from our Conference and all interested friends. We are grateful for the strong support of the Conference Historical Society and our able Board of Directors that meet at least four times annually. Membership in the OBCF is open: Dues \$25; Family \$40. Contact: Jim Mott, P.O. Box 385, Lawrenceville, VA 23868-0385; web: www.oldbrunswick.org

Jim Mott: 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: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans

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

Active Clergy Health Plans

Health plans made available to clergy serving in full time appointments in the Virginia Conference include a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, a Health Maintenance Organization Point of Service (HMO) plan, and the Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP), which pairs a plan with a relatively higher deductible with a Health Reimbursement Account that is funded by VUMPI.

The majority of the cost of the health plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation

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1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

Retired Clergy Health Plans

VUMPI administers health plans for eligible retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. The eligibility requirements include a minimum of ten consecutive years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference immediately prior to retirement. As is detailed in recommendation 2, clergy having ten or more consecutive years of ministry who go on approved leave or are appointed to an Extension Ministry may freeze their years of service by paying the Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee.

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

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

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

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

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

Report 3: Pension Plan Structure

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

- A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) for service and benefits accrued on and/or prior to December 31, 1981.

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- 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 apportions our local churches for the cost of these plans.

In addition to these defined benefit plans, annual conferences provide their clergy pension benefits from the CRSP-DC, a defined contribution (“DC”) plan. Each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference serves and receives pension credit, the Virginia Conference determines how much pension contribution each clergy participant will receive in his/her pension account. 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 4: Welfare Plans Structure

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

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

The GBOPHB has recommended a change in the eligibility rules for the CPP. That recommendation is being addressed at General Conference in 2016. The recommended change in eligibility rules allow for annual conferences to maintain a degree of discretion over specific eligibility rules, and VUMPI is recommending eligibility guidelines to become effective in 2017 that will match the current eligibility guidelines as closely as possible. VUMPI’s recommended CPP eligibility rules are included in Recommendation 4.

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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:

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

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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.

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 2016 to 2017 as follows:

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Denominational Average Compensation	
2016	\$67,333
2017	\$69,574

Report 6: 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 reduction of the Pre-82 pension apportionment. Reserve funds that have been dedicated under this strategy for the 2017 through 2021 period amount to over \$4.2 million.

Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

Recommendation 1: 2017 Pension and Health Plan Apportionment Recommendations

For 2017, 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 - 2017	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 9,710,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,060,000
Pension Liability Assessment – Pre-82	1,000,000
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.

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VUMPI will continue to bill Conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministries) in 2017. The amount billed will be \$11,671 for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2017 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

The Pension Liability Assessment associated with the Pre-1982 pension program is calculated by the GBOPHB, and is partially based on the projected funding liability that VUMPI is required to meet in 2017. 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 GBOPHB. Based on input from multiple entities, including the Virginia Conference Treasurer and the Virginia Conference Council on Finance & Administration, the recommended Pre-82 pension apportionment in 2017 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.

Recommendation 2: 2017 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 2017:

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 \$1000 deductible	
	PPO
Individual	\$626
Family	\$1659

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

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

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

Group Plan Option: The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group

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plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2017 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

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

Connector Option: The Connector option allows qualifying clergy to select any available Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. Retirees electing coverage through this option receive Retiree Reimbursement Account (“RRA”) funding, which can be used to offset the cost of the selected coverage. VUMPI recommends 2017 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

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

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

General Virginia Conference Health Plan Information

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 2016. 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 2017, 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 2016. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

Eligibility for the Conference-sponsored retiree medical plans requires a minimum of ten consecutive years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference immediately prior to retirement. Virginia Conference clergy on approved leave or serving in an Extension Ministry appointment do not earn additional years of service toward retiree health plan eligibility while on approved leave or appointed to the Extension Ministry, and such leave or Extension Ministry appointment would reflect an interruption of the consecutive years of full time ministry required for retiree health plan eligibility. However, clergy having at least ten consecutive years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference prior to going on approved leave or taking an Extension Ministry appointment are able to “freeze” their years of service until they retire or until they return to an appointment within 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, which will be billed monthly by the VUMPI office. As part of the recommended participant contributions for 2017, VUMPI recommends that the Clergy Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee remain at \$20 per month for 2017.

Recommendation 3: 2017 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 2017, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$563 to \$564.

Recommendation 4: Eligibility Guidelines for the Comprehensive Protection Plan

The GBOPHB has recommended changes in the eligibility rules under the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). The General Board’s recommendation is being considered at General Conference, and for the purposes of VUMPI’s Recommendation 4 is assumed to have been adopted in advance of the 2016 session of the Virginia Annual Conference.

The recommended eligibility guidelines for the CPP beginning January 1, 2017 have been designed to match the current eligibility guidelines as closely as possible. Under the revised general eligibility guidelines, full time Elders, Deacons and Local Pastors will be eligible for CPP benefits. VUMPI recommends that the Virginia Conference approve the eligibility of Elders and Deacons appointed to 75% appointments. VUMPI recommends

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that clergy on medical leave maintain eligibility to remain enrolled in CPP. In addition, VUMPI recommends that Virginia Conference clergy on sabbatical leave and voluntary leave maintain eligibility to remain enrolled in CPP for up to one year.

Under the revised eligibility guidelines recommended by the GBOPHB, annual conferences do not have the ability to extend CPP coverage to Deacons and Elders in 50% appointments. Accordingly, the CPP eligibility guidelines being recommended will result in the loss of coverage for Deacons and Elders appointed to 50% appointments. VUMPI will work with District Superintendents and local churches to evaluate the potential for alternative strategies to secure disability insurance coverage for those clergy who lose eligibility for CPP benefits under the revised eligibility guidelines.

Recommendation 5: 2017 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2017 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 2017 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.

Clergy on voluntary leave who elect to enroll in CPP are responsible for payment of CPP premium, which will be calculated as 4.4% of plan compensation immediately preceding the leave of absence. As indicated in Recommendation 4 above, clergy on voluntary leave may remain enrolled in CPP for up to one year.

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 6: 2017 Comprehensive Funding Plan

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the GBOPHB for review and be approved annually by the Annual Conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the GBOPHB. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the Virginia Conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2017 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the VUMPI office.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

Program 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 program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982. CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

Current funding plan information:

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$1.271 billion, while total plan assets are \$1.407 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111%. The Virginia Conference portion of the liability is 4.0454% and the 2017 contribution is \$4,687,087. VUMPI anticipates that the amount will be funded by direct billing to local churches in accordance with the billing methodology detailed in Recommendation 5 above. 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%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2014 the 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

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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. The 2017 CRSP-DC contribution is anticipated to be \$1,055,531 and will be funded by direct billing to local churches in accordance with the billing methodology detailed in Recommendation 5 above.

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 the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, into an IRA or another qualified plan, or it may be paid out as a lump sum.

Current funding plan information:

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$3.122 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.509 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 112% and no required contribution for 2017. The Virginia Conference's share of the total liability is 3.2532%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.145 billion and the Virginia Conference's portion of that balance is \$152,020,913 or 3.67% of the total.

PRE-1982 PLAN

Plan overview:

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-1982 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-1982 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) the Conference pension rate. Years of service with pension credit are approved by each Conference in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the Past Service Rate (PSR), 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-1982 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-1982 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 and, at that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated, but the DBSM based benefit does not change.

Current funding plan information:

The 2017 PSR recommended to the Virginia Conference is \$564, as described in Recommendation 3 above. VUMPI expects future increases to be recommended in a manner that recognizes 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.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM**Program Overview:**

The Virginia Conference offers a self funded health benefit plan to its active eligible participants.

Current funding plan information:

The program will be funded in 2017 by apportionments and participant contributions.

Claims Incurred But Not Reported:

The Virginia Conference provides a self funded health benefit plan to its eligible participants. As of December 31, 2015, the estimated incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims total is \$1,875,056. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 5.0%, based on the expectation that underlying health trends will continue to be mitigated by plan design adjustments. It is anticipated that the IBNR claims, if applicable, will be funded through apportionments.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)**Program Overview:**

The Virginia Conference post-retirement medical program includes a self funded health benefits plan for eligible retirees who are not yet enrolled in Medicare, and the choice between a fully insured group Medicare Advantage plan and individual market plans with Retiree Reimbursement Account funding for eligible retirees who are enrolled in Medicare.

Current funding plan information:

The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$7,140,694, which will be funded by apportionments and participant contributions.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated January 1, 2015, the following is the funded position of the post-retirement medical benefits:

1. Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost
\$143,370,033
2. Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost
\$113,970,895
3. Assets designated for PRM
\$8,000,000

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4. Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost
\$2,113,452

As a preview of the 2018 CBFP requirement, a new PRM Funding Contribution requirement will be mandatory for conferences requesting a full favorable CBFP opinion. This year the calculation for informational purposes only is as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 5. Unfunded APBO, [2. – 3.] | \$105,970,895 |
| 6. Number of Annual Payments | 20 |
| 7. Portion of Unfunded APBO, [5. / 6.] | \$5,298,545 |
| 8. PRM Funding Contribution, Informational purposes only [4. + 7.] | \$7,411,997 |

These values are based on a 4.40% long term discount rate, a 7.0% long-term expected rate of return, and a current increase trend of 8.0% with an ultimate medical increase of 5.0%, beginning in 2024.

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.

Current funding plan information:

For 2017, the Virginia Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,759,219, which is anticipated to be funded by direct billing to churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be approximately 2.0% 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.

Current funding plan information:

Contributions to UMPIP are funded via contributions from participating clergy and local churches.

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OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS: DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) TYPE

Plan Overview: The Virginia Conference currently offers a supplemental life insurance benefit for eligible clergy in the conference.

CONCLUSION

The 2017 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 7: 2017 Housing Allowance/Exclusion

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 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

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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 Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

Robert G. Sanford, Jr., Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

In 2008, the Virginia Annual Conference approved a strategic direction identified as All Things New: Fruitful and Multiplying – The Virginia Conference with the identified goal of changing the culture of the Virginia Conference to fruitfulness and multiplication. This desired goal was undergirded by a focus on leadership development as expressed in beginning 250 new faith communities in 30 years and increasing the vitality of existing congregations. For the past eight years, the Common Table for Church Vitality has been guided by All Things New as it has fulfilled its chartered purpose “to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference.” As the Virginia Conference prepares to enter its 9th year under the same strategic direction, it is good to be reminded of what has happened since the approval of All Things New.

- 1) Thirty-seven new faith communities have begun. Included in this total are 19 Anglo faith communities and 18 faith communities from other demographic backgrounds. While some of these new faith communities have begun through the initiative of the annual conference, the majority are the result of existing congregations living into the strategic direction of fruitfulness and multiplication by accepting the vision of launching new faith communities. It is good to note that two of the new faith communities begun since 2008 (The Vine, Spirit and Faith) have now launched new faith communities as part of their ministry.
- 2) Conference ministries have focused on leadership development as a foundational objective. Since the approval of All Things New some of the new ministries that have begun in the area of leadership development are:
 - The 5 Talent Academy that is livestreamed semi-annually across the conference with an average participation of 450+.
 - How to Reach New People workshops that have been conducted in all 16 districts and have included over 300 congregations. Many of these congregations have chosen to be part of a year-long process that includes coaching.
 - Large, mid-size, and small church ministry training groups.
 - Just-in-Time Training for pastors who are being appointed to large, midsize, and small membership congregations.
 - Church Leadership Institute for both laity and clergy in helping congregations to live into ministry in a new day.
 - Clergy Leadership Initiative for identified clergy who are early in their ministry.
 - Continuing implementation of Discipleship Circles seeking to engage laity and clergy together in the practice of spiritual disciplines and growth of congregational vitality.
 - Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer
 - Launching in 2016 of accelerator ministry model for ministries receiving

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conference grants that are beyond their current resources. The purpose of the accelerator is to provide assistance in strategic development and ongoing ministry support.

- Launching in 2016 of Young People's Ministry discernment group through Spiritual Leadership Inc.
- Launching in 2016 of on-line Lay Servant training.

- 3) In 2017, the share of the annual conference budget for which Common Table has responsibility has been reduced by over \$800,000 from 2008.

Reports from Common Table affiliated agencies are included in the *Book of Reports* and provide information about the ministries that are amenable to Common Table. The names of these conference agencies are Board of Church and Society, Board of Communications, Church Development Team, Board of Discipleship, Missional 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.

One new staff member was added to the Connectional Ministries staff since the last annual conference year as Paulo Lopes assumed the position of Director of Ministries with Young People. Common Table expresses appreciation to the faithful ministry of all the Connectional Ministries staff for their tireless work in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the following recommendation 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 Missional Ministries regarding the continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements;

By Missional Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services, and Virginia United Methodist Homes.

By Missional Ministries regarding Advance Special Offerings.

Marc Brown, VAUMC Director of Connectional Ministries

The following reports, from page 72 to page 108, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* (§629) specifies the purpose of the Conference Board of Church and Society. The Conference Board is to help the conference, districts and local congregations employ our Social Principles to connect our faith communities to the world around us. This work is both individual and societal. We are called to invite faithful disciples to lead the church prayerfully into the world of Christ.

We have organized our board to follow the issues raised by our United Methodist Bishop's letter: "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In this 2009 letter, our bishops raised virtually the same issues, as did Catholic Pope Francis this past year, namely that the world is awash in 1. Violence, 2. Environmental Destruction, and 3. Poverty. Following the need to address these three interconnected disasters, we have organized three work areas: 1. Peace and Non-Violence, 2. Caretakers of God's Creation, and 3. Eradicating Poverty. We include Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries now under the Eradicating Poverty work area.

The Conference Board promotes the Peace with Justice Sunday Special Offering, one of the six Church-wide offerings that The United Methodist General Conference asks of each local church. In 2015, only 106 of our churches gave to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. Of particular note were the following:

1. Scholarships for participants to join the Conference Board of Church and Society study trip to Israel and Palestine. We co-sponsored this trip jointly with Jewish Voices for Peace.
2. Remember and Recommit: A program of racial reconciliation and study of race relations by two Richmond churches.

The deadline for conference Peace with Justice grant proposals for next year is Jan. 30, 2017

The Board Caretakers of God's Creation ministry has begun a program of district workshops to help churches become "Green Churches". The Caretakers are also working to help congregations divest of stocks of thermal coal companies are required by the resolution voted by the conference in 2015. They are promoting <http://fossilfreefunds.org/> a project of As You Sow, a corporate responsibility program. The fossilfreefunds.org tool makes it very easy to evaluate your portfolio for all kinds of fossil fuel investments.

The Peace and Non-violence Work Area is giving continued leadership to persons interested in peace in the Middle East.

The Eradicating Poverty Work Area will be leading our board work in mentoring youths and in banning the "box" which allows prospective employers to discriminate against persons who have served their time for crimes and are now trying to become employed.

Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. We are pleased that every year of his tenure, Bishop Cho has been a key participant in this event. Next year will be the 25th anniversary of United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We hope every church will plan to send participants to this exciting day in the life of the conference.

Jaydee Hanson, Chair, Board of Church and Society

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Church Development Team has been working hard to fulfill its mission to assist in creating New Faith Communities and support 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 Shane Claiborne, Jim Harnish and Barbara Day Miller.

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 more than 50 participants this past October. Some who attend this event decide that they wish to explore this call more deeply. These prepare a self-reflective paper and 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. 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 CDT deeply appreciates our working partnerships with the Cabinet and conference Finance and Administration as we have negotiated conference policy regarding legacy congregations, adoptions and church planting mergers.

The Church Development Team partners with the Large, Medium and Small Church leadership teams. These teams offer training events both for pastors who have just moved (Just in Time trainings) as well as training for clergy and laity in order to increase vitality. In 2015 we brought Gil Rendle to speak to large church pastors and Lew Parks to speak with small membership churches. Phil Maynard was scheduled to speak to the Mid-Size church but was unable to be with us due to a weather event. These teams are working to schedule Just In Time trainings for pastors as well as fall training events for each size church.

We would like to thank Mark Ogren, Kim Johnson and Pat Hickman for their efforts that help make All Things New in the Virginia Conference.

Melissa Dunlap, CDT Chair

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.

Over the past year, we have carried out our mission through several different projects. We created a tips sheet for local churches searching for a church database management system. Working with Brenda Capen, our conference webmaster, we increased access to more United Methodist-related logos and graphics making them available to local churches through the conference website. Maintaining our commitment to increase communication training, board members participated in district training events and will be hosting a brand new communication training event at our 2016 Annual Conference. Recognizing the need to provide support for local church communicators around the conference, we have set out to establish a local church communicators fellowship, and to date, have over 90 interested participants. Our board members are also working to create a Church Communication Self-Assessment tool for local churches to use to discern what kind of communications assistance they are seeking and to match those desires with resources and information. Finally, our board also heavily supports the operation of Annual Conference by providing camera operators, helping on the tech desk, producing conference communication and photography and developing a display to provide resources to attendees of Conference including the availability to order Conference DVDs and subscribe to the *Advocate* magazine.

The board feels it is vital to support our Communications staff and for staff and the board to work together in supporting the growth of communication ministry throughout the conference. This year, we welcomed Madeline Pillow to the conference communications staff as *Virginia United Methodist Advocate* editor and news associate. We also were excited to bring Nick Ruxton from part-time to full-time videographer.

The Virginia Conference Communications staff won six awards at the denomination-wide communications/media awards contest held during the annual meeting of United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC), Jan. 19-20 in Portland, Ore.

Madeline Pillow, *Advocate* editor, won first place in the portrait category of the photography class for her photo of Bishop Young Jin Cho and Maria Maxwell celebrating when they learned that the Virginia Conference had raised more than \$1 million for Imagine No Malaria, exceeding the conference goal.

The *Virginia United Methodist Advocate* won a third place award in the magazine category of the print publications class.

Nick Ruxton, conference videographer, won four awards for his videos, including sweeping all the awards in one category. "District Sends D.S. Down River," a video of the Rev. David Rochford's canoe trip to raise money for Imagine No Malaria, won first place in the promotion category of the video production class. "Imagine No Malaria: Sipping Lemonade to Save Lives" won second place in the same category, and "Called 2015: Youth Retreat Promo Series" won third place. "United Methodist Day at Virginia's General Assembly" won third place in the video news story category.

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 has been working diligently to focus the efforts of the board on becoming the resource center for the Virginia Annual Conference concerning all aspects of discipleship, church vitality, and discipleship circles. As such we are moving to align our regional directors in line with the organization of the Cabinet in regions that will allow us to work more closely with district superintendents and district lay leaders. Recognizing that this type of change takes time, we are moving forward. Our directing board is working at training, definition and a compilation of resources to become a “one stop center” where local churches can find assistance with local discipleship and church vitality. In addition we continue to support the Bishop’s initiatives for spirituality by working closely with host churches for the Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer.

Shortly we will have available a website center with “best practices” in the area of discipleship. Local churches will be able to find resources including books, programs and consulting sources to assist them in their efforts to be fruitful. Regional directors are compiling lists of clergy and laity in areas of Vital Congregations, Five Practices, etc. so that local churches will have consulting resources without the prohibitive cost that generally keeps smaller to mid-size churches from these resources. We are working closely with the Cabinet to develop our own leaders through training and agreement with top name organizations with proven records of transformation. Areas will include church assessment, From Membership to Discipleship, Vital Congregation areas, etc.

The Board of Discipleship, working closely with the Bishop’s steering committee is devoted to promoting, teaching and guiding local churches and small groups in Discipleship Circles. Discipleship Circle facilitators are available through the regional directors to come and assist groups in the formation of spiritual discernment where we open ourselves to God as we enter into discussion, transformation and activity. Discipleship Circles is not a program, but a tool of spiritual discernment and formation that transforms a small group from a task force to a Holy Spirit-driven cluster of voices.

Donald Jamison, Chair

Discipleship Circles

Discipleship Circles exist to help leaders throughout the Virginia Conference grow in openness to God and establish trusting, collaborative relationships while working together to lead our churches to increased fruitfulness through God’s transforming power. A total of three Discipleship Circles facilitator training events resulted in 90 people receiving training to assist in the implementation of Discipleship Circles throughout the Virginia Conference. Trained facilitators now represent every district. Refresher training events are planned for each of four regions with the first event occurring on Friday, March 18 for the 20 trained facilitators from southwest region districts (Danville, Farmville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke). District lay leaders are invited to the refresher training events in their region. The purpose of the refresher training is to offer facilitators additional training, practice of spiritual disciplines together, opportunities for facilitators to get to know one another, peer problem-solving, gathering and responding to feedback, an adjustment of focus and opportunity for forming district Discipleship Circles among trained facilitators. The Eastern

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Shore Discipleship Circle continues to meet with impressive results around the challenging and critical topic of “Race Relations.” As Discipleship Circles continue to form throughout the Virginia Conference, please join us in prayer that our lives, churches, communities and world might be transformed as we work to become more spirit-led, connected and accountable.

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

Older Adult Council

The Older Adult Council has begun a strategic effort to provide resources to the district and local church level to encourage and equip older adults in their personal faith development and in reaching out into the world to serve older adults, those age 55 and older. We endeavor to equip those, who serve older adults to encourage discipleship.

We recognize ageism, often unrecognized, may interfere with our goals. Such statements as, “Why would we spend money and waste energy on programs for our seniors, when we all know the future of our church is our children and youth?” fail to appreciate the wealth of resource of older disciples, their continued need for faith development, and their gifts and graces to serve the community. We recognize intergenerational programing may be challenging, but important to the building of the kingdom. As older adults share their faith experiences, they are an integral part of making and growing disciples.

Programs on Experiencing God, How Faith Shapes Us, Leaving a Legacy of Faith, and liturgical dance are offered upon request by members of the Council. An Old Time Revival, cosponsored last year with Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, was well received and will be repeated this year at Centreville UMC. For 2016, the Council partnered with Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. to develop and distribute worship suggestions for Older Adult Recognition Sunday which is recognized within our Annual Conference on the first Sunday in May. Members of the Conference Council continue to serve as representatives on the board for the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Older Adults (SEJAOA). The major event sponsored by the SEJAOA is the annual Festival of Wisdom and Grace which will be held on August 1 – 4, 2016, at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center.

Suzanne Spencer, Chair

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Grace and peace to you from the Virginia Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM)! Our Council just finished our spring meeting and are looking forward to gathering again September 9-11, 2016. March 3-5, 2017 will be our next spring meeting.

This year we learned that multiple local colleges and universities have received grants to put “institutes” that will likely address many similar issues to our LEAD program. While we intended to run LEAD again in Summer 2016, it no longer seems like an area of need. The council will take time to evaluate if the program should still exist and if not, what area of opportunity exists that we can fill.

In partnership with the office of Ministries with Young People, our 2015 Fall Retreats featured Keith Elgin (a nationally recognized artist and worship leader at Vine Church in the Virginia Conference). Keith was asked to support General Conference 2016 as a worship leader, so having him at our fall retreats links us in a small way to the global gathering of

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the UMC. Paulo Lopes, our new director of Ministries with Young People, served as our speaker. We were fortunate to partner with UMFS to collect items that would support their Bridges Out of Poverty program in Lynchburg, Virginia. Hearing directly from a graduate of that program was powerful and provided a direct connection to those who benefit from the in-kind offerings from our youths.

Efforts to increase marketing have continued. Please like *VAUMC Youth* on Facebook or follow *vaumcyouth* on Twitter and/or Instagram.

CCYM relies on districts to provide names and contact information for council membership. Please encourage your district to be in touch and send members to the council meetings. Members' names should be submitted from district offices to alisonmalloy@vaumc.org

On March 5, 2016, our incoming co-chairs were elected: Hannah Hale from Fairview UMC in Danville and Sarah Williams from Floris UMC in Arlington. We look forward to their leadership as we thank Ethan Adams from Bonsack UMC in Roanoke and Katie Wax from Oak Grove UMC in Elizabeth River for their service!

Alison Malloy, adult chair

CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

"Engaging, connecting and equipping clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference for God's mission" is the base for the new structure of the board. Facilitating the board's function are two teams: Missional Discipleship and Engagement and Missional Connections. Through these two teams, we have been exploring and discerning new ways to be in mission partnerships locally, nationally and internationally.

The Missional Discipleship and Engagement team includes the inter-related work of several conference committees: Disaster Response, Initiatives of Hope, Volunteers in Mission and Voices of Youth.

Disaster Response is coordinated by Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz. Disaster Response provides conference-wide alerts, training and coordination of volunteer response teams.

Initiatives of Hope (IOH), chaired by Rev. Judy Fender, has a mission to increase awareness of and generate increased participation in partnership-in-mission opportunities in identified countries or local and national missional ministries. Our overseas connections are currently with Mozambique, Brazil, and Cambodia.

Rev. Glenn Rowley and Erin McKenney attended the Mozambique Consultation. Our primary ministry in Mozambique is supporting lay and clergy leadership and training. Discussions continue on how we continue to be in mutual relationship as funding decreases. The Bishop of Mozambique who is the Episcopal Leader for South Africa has asked that we explore developing relationships with the UMC in South Africa and that has begun. Rev. Glenn Rowley and Rev. Haley Mills dos Santos attended the 15th anniversary celebration of the Shade and Fresh Water Project (for at-risk children) in Brazil. VAUMC partnership was recounted and celebrated, and a strong desire to continue our relationship with the Shade and Fresh Project and the Amazon Medical Boat was voiced. Rev. David Vaughn chairs the Brazilian Initiative. Juanita Csontos chairs the Cambodian Initiative. Two VIM teams traveled there in 2015. The United Methodist Church continues to grow and values their mutual relationship with Virginia United Methodists. In February, Rev.

Glenn Rowley traveled to Cambodia to discuss and assess our goals and continuing our relationship beyond 2016. Plans are underway to send 1-2 VIM teams there in 2017. Glenn will also visit Vietnam where the UMC is rapidly growing. Volunteer in Mission teams are a vital means of keeping relationships alive, and our goal is to ensure at least 2 teams travel to designated countries. We are exploring new initiatives and relationships with Native Americans, recognizing we have much to learn from them and share with local churches.

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM), coordinated by Forrest White, offered four team leader trainings in 2015, with 29 persons trained; and three re-certification events with 27 persons. There have already been three training events in 2016 with 50 persons. 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 e-mailing 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."

Voices of Youth (VOY), coordinated by Rev. Rebecca Minor, has as its mission statement: "Fill your mind with truth, your heart with love, your life with service." We are a group of youths and adults who have a passion for music and mission and combine those two gifts into a unique service experience. This summer we will spend three weeks in July giving of ourselves in service to the high population of homeless in Hawaii — a group that is avoided, overlooked and forgotten. We will be in ministry with the homeless in Honolulu, and then again in Hilo on the Big Island. We will also be working in construction at the only United Methodist Camp in Hawaii, Camp Mekokiko.

The Missional Connections Team includes the work of mission contexts and relationships; mission education, interpretation and resources; and health and relief connections.

Mrs. Anne Klotz, Missionary Itineration Coordinator, has facilitated connections and visits for many 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, Christina Trager, a US2, is serving at Henry Fork and Ferrum College. We anticipate additional placement sites being created within the Virginia Conference.

Mission Encounter, is a cooperative school offered by the Conference Missional Ministries Board and the United Methodist Women to help us understand God's work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. Mission Encounter 2016 will be offered July 29-31 at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center (VUMAC). The studies focus on three areas: Social Issue — *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*; Spiritual Formation — *The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*; and the Geographical Study — *Latin America: People of Faith*. There will be a Korean Study on *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*, and a Children's Class – *God's Extravagant Garden: A Children's Study on Climate Justice*.

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

Verónica G. Barrell, CMMB Chair

PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Heart Havens

Throughout 2015, Heart Havens continued to further its mission of empowering adults with intellectual disabilities to live and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. We continued to operate eleven (11) group homes throughout the conference, but Heart Havens is about so much more than a roof and a bed. This year, people we support participated in sports leagues and community theater, gave back to their communities through pet food drives and other service projects, attended festivals, planted gardens, and so much more. We are so thankful for the support of our VAUMC friends that make this empowerment possible.

In 2015, we continued to hold the Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity Seal and Guidestar Gold. In addition to the generous support of our brothers and sisters throughout the Conference, we also received over \$126,000 in grants to help us pursue our mission. Some highlights are:

- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, \$57,955 (vans for the Macleigh-Holland home in Virginia Beach and the Mary Beth Graff home in Richmond)
- Knights of Virginia (KOVAR), \$20,000 (towards new vans and replacement furniture at the Winchester, Colonial Beach, and Garber Morris homes)
- The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, \$25,000 (towards home maintenance, including new roofs at the Bonnie home in Stuarts Draft and the Mary Beth Graff home in Richmond)
- Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, \$10,780 (year two of a three year grant to build a career ladder for Direct Support Professionals)
- Commission on Disabilities, \$430 (towards modifications to make the Kilmarnock home more accessible)

We continued to strengthen our connections with congregations and small groups throughout the Conference. We were pleased to share our message of empowerment at 55 different churches, small groups, and events around the conference. Additionally, we welcomed many volunteers from local churches, including youth and UMM groups. These volunteers blessed us by raking leaves, painting, or simply having fellowship with the

people we support. We were proud to announce that our 2015 Manwiller Award recipient was Jim Butts of the Elizabeth River District. Jim has been a tireless advocate for Heart Havens from the very beginning, and has been very involved with our Tidewater area homes. He comes up with fun and inclusive activities for the people we support, and he builds meaningful relationships with both residents and staff.

Looking forward, the Charlottesville District is currently raising funds with us to build an integrated community. We also know that many of the people we support are aging, and we are exploring ways to support people with intellectual disabilities throughout the aging process, including the possibility of bringing on a nursing coordinator.

With your continued support, Heart Havens can continue to empower people with intellectual disabilities to live vibrant lives with as much independence as possible. We invite you as the Church to be an advocate for Heart Havens and for people with intellectual disabilities. After all, “we are one body in this one Lord!”

Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer

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.

We provided services in 2015 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. Through our five core values of collaboration multiplies impact, relationships are our building blocks, relentlessly pursue solutions, passion unleashes greatness and starting with strengths; we are transforming lives of children and families across the commonwealth.

Since 1900 the United Methodist Church has partnered with us to be an advocate for those most at risk. With the help of the Church Partnership Program 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. Our 60 church partners are ministering in their communities by recruiting and supporting foster and adoptive families; serving as mentors and tutors; conducting work projects and special events; providing transportation for children and families; and hosting the prom for Charterhouse School. UMFS and the Lynchburg District partner together at the Park View mission by hosting the “Bridges out of Poverty” class and “What every church member should know about poverty” class. This is in an effort to help our brothers and sisters break the cycle of poverty by partnering the local church with UMFS staff and resources through a hand up rather than a hand out approach. Church partners are making a huge impact across the Conference for high risk children and families in your communities.

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Alongside our church partners our Child Champion Councils (CCCs) are a critical resource to our children and UMFS. The CCCs are a collection of church partners that grow in ministry together by combining their efforts and energy on multiple fronts. The Child Champion Councils exist in Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Edinburg, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg/Roanoke and South Hill, and are advocates for our ministry on their districts and local churches. Our relationship with the United Methodist church is vital for us to achieve our mission of serving and loving the most vulnerable children in Virginia. We have 87 new foster /adoptive families approved and over 1495 volunteers last year, a large percentage of which were church affiliated.

We ask you as the Church to be the champion for at risk youth and their families and also help UMFS 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 and want to invite you and your congregation to join forces with us. Together we can make a difference.

Margaret Hardy, Chair, UMFS Board of Directors and Greg Peters, Chief Executive Officer

Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.

Reflecting on this past conference year, I am amazed by all that has taken place at Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH). Today there are nearly 1,300 residents who call one of our seven VUMH communities home, and overall occupancy has grown to 1,065 occupied residences. We have nearly 1,000 full time and part time team members who work 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to enhance the lives of those residents. In 2015, our dedicated board and countless volunteers provided over 33,300 hours of service in our seven communities – an average of more than 91 volunteer hours each and every day!

We realize that to be successful in today's senior living market, we need to grow the services and programs we offer. With the help of a dedicated group of professionals, our team members have embraced culture change efforts, a movement of transformation that shapes relationships, organizational structure, and physical settings to create a genuine sense of "home" and greater opportunity for elders to direct their own lives. Although much work remains to be done, the stories our team members share are amazing! We have worked collectively with our residents, board, consultants and team members as part of this process to develop new ideas for Cedarfield and WindsorMeade. Those planning efforts will continue throughout 2016 and into 2017 with new construction starting at WindsorMeade soon and at Cedarfield shortly thereafter. Our board is committed to maintaining and upgrading all of our communities, and to that end we have seen significant improvements in all of our physical plants.

Transformation in an organizational context can be defined as a process of profound change that orients an organization in a new direction and takes it to higher level of effectiveness. As our efforts toward culture change bring about this type of profound change we are led toward new ways of communicating this person-centered focus while lifting up our Wesleyan heritage. A new branding initiative will assist us in describing this transformation to the broader community.

In our culture change and branding efforts, VUMH is called to acknowledge and honor both the new and innovative work that guides us toward the future and the history and

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faith connection that are the roots of our mission. It has been the tradition of VUMH that we recognize the ten local congregations across the Virginia Annual Conference with the highest level of giving each year to the Samaritan Program. Provided since 1948, benevolent assistance to residents through this program is at the heart of the mission of VUMH. During 2015, we were honored to recognize the following churches with the Samaritan Award for their support of the Samaritan Program:

- Reveille (Richmond District)
- Westover Hills (Richmond)
- Saint Stephens (Alexandria)
- Fairmount (Richmond)
- Sydenstricker (Alexandria)
- Trinity (Richmond)
- Burke (Alexandria)
- Fairfax (Alexandria)
- Williamsburg (York River)
- Greene Memorial (Roanoke)

Community Guilds also recognized the tremendous contributions of the following churches with the Innkeeper Award. This award honors and offers appreciation to congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference for exemplary support of the mission of VUMH with older adults. It recognizes both the stewardship and volunteer service of members of the congregation:

- Cokesbury (Alexandria District)
- Messiah (Elizabeth River)
- Greene Memorial (Roanoke)
- Shady Grove – Mechanicsville (Richmond)

We are deeply appreciative of the prayers, gifts, and volunteer service that come from our Conference churches and organizations. VUMH is proud to be carrying on the tradition of advocacy and support for older adults that the Methodists of Virginia began discussing at Annual Conferences in the early 1940s. We hope that United Methodists of the Virginia Conference today consider VUMH a valuable resource and extension of local church ministries with older adults.

Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO

Wesley Housing Development Corporation

Wesley Housing's mission is to preserve, develop, own, and operate affordable housing and sustain quality communities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals who might otherwise face homelessness. Since 1974, we have served over 25,000 residents in Northern Virginia. We currently manage 19 properties (serving more than 2,100 residents) in Alexandria, Arlington County, Manassas, and Fairfax County. We also manage four Community Resource Centers and five special needs Resident Services Centers that offer a full range of programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, people with chronic disease, and people with disabilities.

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 housing for low-income seniors. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Wesley Housing. Construction will begin this year and finish in 2017.
- Lynhaven Apartments (Alexandria) and William Watters Apartments (Arlington): The combined 49 units are being fully renovated to include energy efficient upgrades and new interiors. Renovation work is nearing completion.
- Wexford Manor Apartments (Falls Church/Fairfax County): In 2016, critically needed renovations will begin on 74 apartments. The project will preserve the community as affordable for 30 years and the Community Resource Center will triple in size.
- Culpepper Garden (Arlington): Wesley Housing will lead the renovation of this landmark seniors' community. We will work with the owners to preserve 204 affordable units.
- Union on Queen, formerly Pierce Queen Apartments (Arlington): This Metro-accessible Arlington County project will incorporate two of Pierce Queen's garden apartment buildings and construct a new 12-story residential tower, resulting in a total of 193 total units with 78 affordable apartments. The mixed-income project will preserve affordability for 60 years.

Resident Services & Volunteers

- Housing Stability Initiative: Every month, approximately 200 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. In 2015, 754 households accessed our services, including 249 children in youth programs and 52 adults who found first-time or better employment.
- Thirty-two Wesley Housing families, including 155 children, enjoyed a special holiday because of hundreds of volunteers who participated in our 2015 Adopt-A-Family program. St. John's UMC again donated space for volunteers who worked to sort and wrap Adopt-A-Family gifts as well as the donations from Toys for Tots. During the holiday season, Wesley distributed quality food items to 400 families, as well as sponsored a flu shot clinic.
- In 2015, 540 volunteers served Wesley Housing and its residents.

Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO

Advance Specials 2016 -2017

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique: Chicucue 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

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
Wesley Community Center, #5025
Helping Hands Mission Camp, #5026
Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002
Pathways Virginia Advance #5045
Caretakers of God's Creation #5016

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

As stated in previous reports, campus ministry in the Virginia Conference strives 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. This year BHECM has been focused on moving toward a grant-based funding system for each ministry, establishing standards to determine the grant levels and providing resources and training for local campus ministry boards. The board is grateful to John Dunning for his exceptional and dedicated work on these initiatives. BHECM has continued to work to develop and improve its Campus Ministry System of data collection and reporting. Though this has been a continuing frustration for many we are still hopeful that a “more perfect” system can be developed. We are grateful to Josh Blakely for his continued work on this. We are also grateful to Bill Pike for his expertise and consistent efforts to address all the maintenance and improvements on our Wesley Foundation facilities. An understanding of the responsibilities of the local boards and those of BHECM/Wesley Foundation, Inc. in maintaining the facilities has been more clearly established. We are making great strides. Additionally, local boards at each of the Wesley Foundation were asked to assess their building and facility needs and whether their current building was meeting those needs effectively. One ministry, RISE at JMU, after making this assessment determined that the Wesley House at JMU was no longer meeting their needs. So in consultation with Wesley Inc. and the conference trustees, the facility at JMU was sold. Proceeds will be used to support campus ministry facilities and program needs across the Conference.

Following a year or more of transitions and challenges with the campus ministry at VCU, the BHECM decided in November to suspend the ministry at VCU for one year — and relaunch the ministry in 2017. A new minister director for this new ministry at VCU has been selected and will begin in July. We are excited about the new possibilities God is opening at VCU.

This year we welcomed a new chaplain at Randolph Macon College, Kendra Grimes; a new minister director at our ecumenical ministry at CNU, Donna DeSarro-Raynal; and a new director of Ministries with Young People, Paulo Lopes. We look forward to welcoming a new minister director for our ministry at George Mason this July.

Students and young adults are hungry, yearning and desire the love, mercy and good news of Jesus Christ. It is a great mission field. Thank you, VA Conference for your continued prayers and support of your campus ministries in Virginia.

Herb Brynildsen, president

Arise Campus Ministry, George Mason University

What a year it has been with the students at George Mason and Arise Campus Ministry! If there was one word to describe it, it would be transitions. About four years ago, Arise rebranded and part of that involved the tagline, “Explore Faith, Discover Grace”. When I came on board in July, this is the phrase that I prayed over and based the projections for the semester. I felt that this would be a strong foundation for how our students would experience one another in community and reach out to other students on the campus of George Mason.

Arise is supported by two program staff and myself. Amy Cox, is a worship leader at a local United Methodist Congregation and lends her energy and gifts to Arise on a weekly basis. This year we brought on a new team member, Michelle Cashwell, as the administrative assistant. A lot of things would not happen at Arise without their creativity, support, attention to details and passion for ministry with students!

The biggest transition was in the essence of our weekly gatherings from the fall semester to the spring semester. Once the fall rolled around, I was carrying out the calendar of weekly worship, small groups and mission opportunities as had been previously laid out. This included two small groups and a Stop Hunger Now event where we packaged 20,000 meals. We were meeting new students—transfers, freshmen, and upperclassmen—but the weekly programming was becoming static. There was a disconnect between the students and what was happening. But perhaps more importantly, there were not varied opportunities to truly “Explore faith, Discover grace”. By the end of the fall semester, we had a “town meeting” of sorts for students to reflect on the past semester (or two), dream about what could happen next (without any limitations), and articulate how Arise could connect with the greater Mason population. From that fruitful discussion a comment came from Andrew Miller, a sophomore, and he said, “I believe that if people really knew that Arise is ‘come as you are’ and that we aren’t just saying that, they would find a real community.” This resonated with me along with the comments of wanting informal gatherings and missional opportunities.

With prayer and brainstorming with Amy as well as students we presented a new “model” for the spring semester. Basically, we worked through a rotation of Worship, Social Action (Mission), and social events. Worship is modern and laid back; social action is an opportunity for students to learn about a local mission effort and then put their hands to work. This semester we partnered with a local church to package meals for a local elementary school; we prepared and served dinner at a hypothermia shelter and prepared Health kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief. Finally, the main social event was hosting Trivia nights on campus. This rotation has given balance to the community as well as attracted new students.

In regards to organization and structure, one new endeavor has been to meet weekly with a Student Leadership Team. It functions with all the elements such as the accountability of a small group, planning of a team and learning from a bible study. This has allowed students to really get to know one another and has encouraged them to take ownership in the ministry versus coming solely from the campus minister. I am thankful to Noelle, Will, Ruth, Allie, and Kyle for saying yes to something new and challenging.

We also continue to be supported by an ecumenical board that has welcomed several new members this year. The board seeks to spread the word of Arise’s mission and ministry

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to the local community. We have found new local churches to partner with and individuals who are extremely passionate about being in ministry with students.

Finally, after what has been an enriching year, it is difficult to transition away from the Arise Community. However, I feel confident in the students, the student leadership team and the incoming Campus minister to continue serving the campus of George Mason. I am eager to see how the Spirit rushes through the community and connects students with one another and to our God. We are thankful to God for inspiring us as a community and thankful to the many members in the body of Christ for their support.

Lindsey M. Baynham

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. This year we have spent time re-evaluating our programs and the life at the CCC to see how this statement represents us. As a result, we have increased the amount of mission work and outreach that we have been doing in our community. Our leadership retreat expanded from a one-day event to two, so that we would have more time to do leadership development and dig into the different areas we were discussing. Gathering together at table is an important part of our ministry. 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. In addition to the meals, we have a program portion as well. Some of the favorites this year were Pastor’s Panels, where local clergy were asked any questions the students could come up with, spirituality centers, and a conversation on privilege. The students also cook for each other on Tuesday night for a time of fellowship. On Wednesday’s we gather for a Bible study. This is giving more students a chance to delve deeper into scripture and practice sharing where they find meaning in it. Some highlights from our year include completing a large fundraiser to replace the roof of our building, a mission trip to help with the lasting effects of Super Storm Sandy, and our retreats.

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.

Shannon Waite

RISE: A United Methodist Faith Community

My name is Alexis Ward and I am the Coordinator of College Outreach at RISE. I am also a graduating senior at James Madison University. Four years ago I began my career at JMU, I was searching and wandering, an eighteen-year-old girl trying to find herself. Four years later I am twenty-two, I am still at JMU, I am still at RISE, and I am still trying to find myself. The difference between the girl from four years ago and the woman I am now

is that I have grown and changed, and I have had the opportunity to do this alongside the incredible community called RISE. Over the past year this community has fed the hungry and clothed the naked, we have journeyed with those suffering from mental illness and addiction. This community has grieved and struggled, we have laughed and loved with a passion beyond imagination. Most of all, this community has asked the hard questions and pushed past the boundaries that our society has set as the limitation of what any organized group of people should be able to accomplish. We do not have all of the answers, and I don't think we ever will, but we have faith that God will help guide us along our journey and point us in the direction of those who need a community to call their own.

Alexis Ward, JMU Junior, RISE Worship Coordinator

IGNITE United Methodist Church (formerly Tidewater Wesley Foundation)

Our year began with a question: How can you start a church until you know what one is?

After several hours of praying and discerning the direction God wanted for IGNITE. This was the question that lingered, that ate at me day and night. We had received clear confirmation that ours was not to be a typical church. We weren't going to worship every Sunday. We weren't going to have a band or sermons - at least not for the present.

But if not that, then what?

What evolved of the next few months was an entirely new idea of church for us. In many ways, it was church in reverse. Instead of starting our church with worship and moving towards discipleship and missions, we were going to start with missions. We were going to connect with the students of ODU in the area where they seemed most passionate: serving others. If the hall-mark of the millennial generation was a desire to make a difference with their lives, we were going to offer it to them, while also introducing them to the one who would make the greatest difference in their lives: Jesus.

Within a few months, it became clear that this was clearly the path to which God was calling us. Our number of volunteers surged. Our Bible studies filled up. And suddenly we had more people than we could even handle at the events we were hosting.

As a result, we began to expand our outreach in the community. Each month, we fed over 300 hungry people through a local community supper. We worked with several dozen children whose families were homeless through a ministry called Hot Meals and Homework. We adopted a third grade class, building relationships with the students, their parents, and their teacher. And in each of these, we found ourselves being introduced to dozens of new students each month who were curious about this new vision of church we were forming.

Before long, we realized that God was providing opportunities for us to not only serve those in need in the community, but also those on the campus itself. We began to work with the university to research a possible situation of food insecurity among students. We learned that while around 18% of people went hungry each day in the city of Norfolk, the need was even greater on campus. Many students were without enough food to eat each day, and there was nothing in place to address it. As a result, we have begun to build a partnership with the university to form a student food pantry that will provide food resources to students, faculty, and staff on a weekly basis. Not only will this allow us to serve students in need, it will allow us to engage an untold number of students who have already signed up to volunteer at the food pantry.

Most important, though, have been our efforts in the area of discipleship. Were it not for these, we might risk becoming little more than a service organization. Therefore, we formed what we call Missional Communities. They are small groups that meet weekly with the intention of building fellowship, fostering service, and nurturing discipleship. They are a place where we begin to bond and grow as the body of Christ, helping one another to wrestle with the question of “how is it with your soul” and dreaming together of the ways in which we can continue to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” More than anywhere, this is where lives change and disciples are made.

What I have realized over the past year is that in pursuing this vision of a new kind of church and campus ministry, we are not so much paving new ground as returning to our roots. We are embodying the image of the church in Acts, a church not defined solely by worship, but by shar-ing in communion, eating together, discipling one another, and offering such generosity that no one in their community had need. And we are returning to the beginnings of our Methodist heritage, a movement begun by feeding the hungry, working in schools, and meeting in small groups.

Throughout my ministry, I have scarcely felt as much excitement as I do for the untold possibilities of what lay ahead. The path God has laid before us, though evident, is far from clear. And perhaps that is the way it should be. For such mystery demands faith and requires obedience. Why would we desire to do anything else?

Brandon Robb

Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist and Presbyterian (USA) Churches seeking to impact the College, the Community, and the Current Culture with Christian Principles, Open Hearts and Open Minds. It is our mission to provide a safe place to explore and to experience one’s faith, while offering a respectful and non-threatening environment of love, service to others and learning. Friendship, fellowship and faith are enhanced at The Foundation House. Students enjoy a space where they can learn, grow and develop their faith. Bible Study, Prayer, Small Groups, one-on-one conversations and weekly meals are offered. We worship and work together. As a family, we support one another and seek to strengthen our Christian walk.

This summer three from our ministry traveled with the other young adults in the Virginia Conference to Cambodia for a two-week mission trip. We taught youth and young adults during a week long Christian Camp. This was a memorable event that has changed the way we see missions. We then traveled to Milwaukee to experience street ministry first hand. This week-long intensive afforded us the privilege to serve in soup kitchens, meet Franciscan monks and provide food to several homeless populations while learning the essentials of initiating viable ministries for outreach.

Students come to The Foundation House to study, to relax and to just have fun. We have hosted game nights, Super Bowl Parties, Movie Nights and even a Christian House Party. Reaching out to help others is vital to our vision for Campus Ministry. During our Back to School Campus and Community Cookout we welcomed more than 200 students, staff and community members. On several occasions we have provided over 200 lunches to homeless men and women through our street ministry (#Lunchbag). Students gather to pray, pack lunches and then distribute them in three specified locations. When we arrive at

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the destinations, we give out lunches, offer prayer, sing songs of praise and encourage those present. In the future, we hope to provide coats, gloves and hats while serving lunch during the winter months. This will be a continuous outreach for us. Additionally, we have adopted a second grade classroom at James Monroe Elementary School in Norfolk, Virginia. Both our board members and our students participate in ministry to these young people by helping to host holiday parties, provide activities and engage them in arts and crafts as a way of demonstrating care and concern and encouraging them to be the best students they can be.

Every year our students look forward to our Faith Enhancement Retreat. We enjoy traveling to Still Waters Retreat Center and basking two days in spirit filled worship, devotion, prayer, and introspection. Rev. Lisa Johnson is an amazing retreat facilitator. This year Thirsty Thursdays has consisted of Life Support, a series addressing the daily life of the believer. About 20 of us gather each week for this Bible Study. Additionally, the students meet for a student led Bible Study on Wednesday nights and small groups throughout the week. This year we hosted our very first Campus Ministry Week offering several opportunities for worship, outreach and fun. More than 75 students attended our worship services during this week. We also hosted our first Benefit Banquet.

We have been invited to more than ten churches to lead worship and to offer the morning message. As a family we attended the movie Woodlawn and hosted a discussion on Race Matters. During No Strings Attached (NSA) Bible Study we have given out over 400 tokens of our appreciation to faculty and staff including flowers for breast cancer awareness, you were "mint" to touch lives candy bags and let your light shine tea light candles. The students have been intentional about spreading the gospel and led several prayer walks throughout campus. The Great Hunt is always a success and offers the students a chance to be children again by hunting for Easter eggs filled with candy and scriptures. We hide hundreds of filled plastic eggs and give away prizes.

Students and their parents attended Family Weekend and enjoyed music and the message during the worship service we hosted. In efforts to make disciples we always march in the Homecoming parade giving out literature and candy, of course. One of our students was even asked to pray for one young lady as we passed. We have joined with other Christian organizations on campus to develop what we have coined as the Coalition of Christian of Organizations (C.O.C.O.). Together we are working to raise at least \$1000 to donate to CHKD a Children's hospital during our Dance Marathon.

Joy Denise Carrington

Pace Campus Ministry (Wesley Foundation @ VCU)

This has been an exciting year at Pace United Methodist Campus Ministries! We offer weekly worship and fellowship opportunities to the students at VCU, and have been blessed to see students growing in their faith, and developing relationships with others as well.

This year we began a new partnership with UKirk, the Presbyterian Church (USA) campus ministry at VCU. This offers the students an opportunity to grow spiritually in an ecumenical environment. It has been a great joy to work with Rev. Aaron Houghton of UKirk.

The Pace Center also joined the Interfaith Campus Ministries Association of VCU, and has been able to network with other faith groups here on campus. We continue to see our

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role grow within the broader VCU community.

We are home to many other groups ministering to the campus and community. This year two more ministries have come to call Pace home, and we rejoice in the work they are doing to live out God's love in this area of Richmond. Whenever we can, we work together to offer the love of Christ to all of our neighbors.

Pace is grateful for the work of our Board, as well as the support of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. Together, Pace will forge ahead into God's future for the ministry, making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Michael Lee Nelson, Director

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

UCM FLOW is a new faith community partnership on the James River District that developed when the Ettrick United Methodist Church graciously opened its doors to United Campus Ministries at Virginia State University. The Lord Jesus Christ has blessed this relationship mightily resulting in a number of new opportunities for ministry in the village of Ettrick!! The church now hosts weekly worship services at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm in the sanctuary with a number of members who attend both!! Highlights from this new day for ministry include the following opportunities:

- A church cleanup project in basement and on the grounds outdoors on Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015 consisting of 15 VSU student volunteers.
- The use of drums during the 11:00 am Sunday service, as a FLOW student and new member of the Ettrick UMC family began playing in the summer of 2015.
- A Village of Ettrick "Love Thy Neighbor" Fair on Saturday, September 12, 2015 consisting of free food, kids bounce equipment, door prizes, school supply giveaways, and more. In attendance to interact with the community were members of the local police force, fire department, and community service providers. More than 50 VSU student volunteers were present to help including UCM FLOW members, Oikonomia student leaders, and the VSU Women's Basketball Team. The fair was made possible by a \$5,000.00 grant given by the Ettrick Neighborhood and Business Foundation which was written by Mr. James Barber, a VSU FLOW student intern and member of Ettrick UMC.
- The development of the Concerned Citizens of Ettrick (CCE), a gathering of local business owners, pastors, former educators, public servants, and people of good will who meet weekly at the church to address the issues which challenge our community. This CCE has adopted the issue of maintaining the existence of the Amtrak Train Station in the village as it is an asset to the students at Virginia State University and other locals as a means to travel to and from the village. A relocation at any other site would hinder student access to campus as the station is currently walking distance away from the university.
- A couple of students have joined the Ettrick United Methodist Church as members with others having been baptized for the first time in life as members of FLOW.

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- A visit to the 2:00 pm worship service by Bishop Young Jin Cho on Sunday, October 11, 2016. During his visit, Bishop Cho shared the story of his healing of a severe illness and his call to ministry during the worship service's period of Witness and Testimony. Our students were moved by the generosity of his time, talent, and resources.
- A new relationship with the Chesterfield County Food Bank wherein students and members of both services volunteer on the third Saturday of each month to assist with the food distribution at the Ettrick Elementary School. Rev. Bob Lamb, Senior Pastor of Ettrick UMC delivers a gospel message each week to a gathering of 95 to 145 citizens per month.

In addition to aforementioned areas of growth and development, our existing ministries have continued to progress in their very own way!! We host Soul Food Bible Study on Wednesday nights on the second floor of Jones Dining Hall at 6:00 pm. We have been blessed by the stability and faithfulness of the Avodah music ministry, the Chara performing arts ministry, Girlz at the Gate intercessory prayer ministry, and the Oikonomia missions' ministry. We have also been graced to develop a couple of new ministries including the Synados hospitality and usher ministry, the Naomi's Girls Youth Mentoring Program, and the revitalized Men of Troy Men's Mentoring Program which is now a full-fledged men's ministry. Each of these groups meets at least once a week and reaches out to the campus of Virginia State University, the village of Ettrick and the city of Petersburg to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ!!

In closing, we would simply like to give a shout out to the Virginia Conference, the James River District, and the Ettrick UMC for aiding us in taking our ministry to the next level!! We could not be a home of Faith, Love, Outreach, and Worship with you!! May God continue to bless every ministry of the Virginia Conference!!

Blessings,

Delano Douglas, Director

The William and Mary Wesley Foundation

This year has been another 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 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 Sadie Meadows, President; Emily Crawford, Devotions; Allison Harkness, Discipleship; Erica West, Communications; and Jen Peek and Erin Kitchens, Fellowship. This group of dedicated, passionate students leads the way in the focus and direction to our entire ministry. This spring semester, we are building on the momentum from our powerful winter break Civil Rights and Faith trip. On that trip, we not only did meaningful service work with Urban Ministries in their urban garden and home painting ministries, we also volunteered with Highlands UMC's ministry with persons who are homeless, and also at

the food co-op at Woodlawn UMC. We also visited the Civil Rights Museum and Institute and 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, and the Martin Luther King National Monument and Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Furthermore, we discussed with veterans of the Civil Rights movement and persons who are continuing the work today about how their faith continues to empower them. This spring semester we are utilizing the Ten Commandments of Nonviolence as our guiding theme. Thus, each Sunday night Large Group focuses on a different commandment, as well as our Bible Study is focused upon the commandment, "Meditate daily on the life and teachings of Jesus."

Students are coordinating our partnerships with local churches in mission and ministry, as our connections with Williamsburg, Wellspring, and New Town UMC continue to be strong. Nothing exemplifies this better than the Exam Break that we have at the end of each semester, led by the Williamsburg UMC United Methodist Men. We have over 200 students coming to the Wesley House to share in over 450 cookies, gallons of hot chocolate, water, coffee, and lemonade. In addition, we have folks from all three churches and the community bring 8-10 dogs to help relieve the stress of finals. In addition, we are also partnering with Williamsburg UMC in their respite and homeless shelter ministries and with WindsorMeade UMC retirement community in leading worship, hymn sings, and bingo.

In addition to our Bible Study and Java and Jesus 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, Baptist, and Episcopal campus ministries, as well as the Muslim Student Association from hosting speakers, to partnering in events, to joining together in mission projects. Furthermore, Wesley continues meet the very real needs of students in crisis on campus. Finally, Wesley continues each semester to coordinate a service day at Shalom Farms for the entire campus community.

Wesley students also led workshops on how to develop and implement a vision for ministry at the Summer Institute for the United Methodist Campus Ministers Association. 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.

Max Blalock, Campus Minister

Wesley at Virginia Tech

*Holy Spirit, You are welcome here. Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere.
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for; to be overcome by Your presence, Lord.
Let us become more aware of Your presence. Let us experience the glory of Your goodness.*

These words from Francesca Battistelli's song, "Holy Spirit," are guiding words for our ministry over the past year at Wesley. Our desire to follow the Spirit's movement in all of our ministries has produced amazing fruits! We have felt the Spirit's presence in mighty ways through our many ministries of outreach, fellowship, worship, discipleship, and mission.

This past fall our "Welcome Week" activities were a tangible expression of how the Spirit's presence is overcoming our ministry! Having over 400 students attending a welcome cookout, over 300 attending our life-sized game night, and Wesley being a more visible presence on campus has enabled our students to embody a spirit of hospitality and evangelism.

Our continued ministry of leading youth retreats is a manifestation of the Spirit's movement to youth in our conference. During one of our welcome events the first week of classes a new student was asked, "What was it that brought you to Wesley?" She remarked that she had been coming to the Youth Weekends that Wesley puts on for the Roanoke District and that not only is that why she is at Wesley, but that is the reason she is at Virginia Tech! This story is one of so many this past year where youth from our Conference are getting connected in campus ministry primarily because of our Wesley students' impact of leading youth retreats across the Conference over the past 4 years. The fruits of this ministry are just beginning to be seen, but it is so very exciting to see how the Spirit's movement is enabling us to reach so many more youth and keeping them connected to our Church.

The Spirit's overwhelming presence is being felt in our student food pantry, 209 Manna Ministries, as well. This past year has seen the ministry grow from 1 day a week and around 20 students to now being open for 3 days each week and seeing over 60 students coming through our doors to receive emergency food support. Student after student that comes through the pantry remark that this ministry has been vital to their ability to be nourished while in school at Tech.

We had 45 students spend their Spring Break in Edenton, NC to help NC UMVIM with tornado recovery. Our students see this as one of the best moments of our year! The missional mindset of our community is witnessed in their passion for being in ministry WITH others. They see their mission as one of building relationships and sharing the love of Jesus. Whether that is doing recovery work on Spring Break, handing out 350 hot dogs downtown on a Friday night, tutoring youth at a local trailer park, collecting cake mixes for a community Christmas store, or packing Operation Christmas Child boxes with a local youth group, our students desire to "Love Out Loud" in all they do!

Our 3rd year of our new worship service is another way that the Spirit is leading us to grow in our ministry. We have seen the fruits of this part of our ministry through growing numbers in worship, a passion for making worship a primary aspect of our ministry, and students leading in a number of ways to enhance our service. Students are aware of the Spirit's presence and we are seeing the glory of God's goodness in the many opportunities for worship.

Our small group ministry "Communities of Grace" is also witnessing the power of the Spirit's presence. We have increased how many "CoGs" we have and our students are seeking new ways to enhance this area of ministry. Students are becoming more and more engaged in the ministries of Wesley through this small group ministry.

A very exciting Spirit led experience happened with college students across the Conference with an event called "RE3: rethink, reclaim, renew." This event was geared towards college--aged students in Virginia with an emphasis on how to think about the future of the Church. We brought in speaker Sarah Bessey and had different ministries provide opportunities for worship.

As we "become more aware" of the Spirit's presence among our ministries it is exciting to see how campus ministry at Virginia Tech is providing a space for students' to explore, engage, and embody an active faith in God.

"I've seen and felt the Spirit this year at Wesley through the intentional ways people care for each other and desire to grow together. Being a senior, I've seen a lot and can truly say this has been the most lively and fruitful year of ministry I've been a part of. I'm constantly

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thankful for both the joy and the times of confusion that we get to walk through together in community.”

Michelle Hettmann, Student Campus Minister

The Wesley Foundation at UVA

Our Conference’s commitment to campus ministry is a statement of faith, that our Church is committed to being an engaged conversation partner on college campuses, sending clergy and funds to support young people in a vulnerable and fruitful time of personal, professional, and spiritual development, with the hope and expectation that their young lives are part of the way God’s Spirit is moving in and transforming the world.

Here’s what this looks like “on the ground” at UVA this year: Spending Thursday nights enjoying home-cooked meals from churches throughout the Charlottesville District, while exploring topics as varied as the Syrian refugee crisis, the Black Lives Matter movement at UVA, listening for the Holy Spirit in “secular” music, learning about General Conference with delegates Meredith McNabb and Alex Joyner, and a fun-filled Q&A conversation with our District Superintendent. We also gathered for a “Refresh Your Spirit” retreat at Wintergreen, visited the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women to help lead worship, slowed down for special weekly worship services in Advent and Lent, and partnered with Wesley Memorial to welcome the PACEM men’s shelter. We spent a weekend baking 200 dozen cookies to help support our interfaith spring break service trip to Tuba City, Arizona, where we stayed on a reservation, serving and learning from the Navajo people, alongside our Jewish friends from the University’s Hillel group.

In March, we welcomed Lutheran pastor, writer, and speaker Nadia Bolz-Weber, who led a vespers worship service, gave a public talk as part of the Festival of the Book, reflecting on “Finding God in All the Wrong People,” and spent time in a small group setting with students from Wesley and other campus ministries, exploring how God’s radical grace is liberating and convicting good news for college students.

As you know, we have also been engaged in our Building a Foundation for the Future capital campaign, which has raised \$785,000 in gifts and pledges so far! In the fall we began work on a limited “phase one,” as we continue to work towards our total fundraising goal. It’s not too late to make or increase a contribution to support this effort – or to view our video: wesleyatuva.org/ccvideo

We are thankful for and inspired by the ways our students choose to answer God’s call. Once again, Wesley at UVA has two students who will serve as Calling 21 interns this summer, and alumnus Ryan LaRock is being commissioned as a provisional elder at this Annual Conference. The faithful work that begins on campus, one student at a time, ripples out into the life of the Church and the world, thanks be to God!

Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director

Community College Ministries

Community College Ministries is your campus ministry with community colleges in southwestern and central Virginia where over 50,000 students deal with faith, family, classes, and careers every single day! Colleges in the Virginia Conference include Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Blue Ridge Community College in

Weyers Cave, Dabney Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Danville Community College in Danville, New River Community College in Dublin, and Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville. Denominational partners are the Presbyterian Church USA and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Community College Ministries sponsors Alliance for Excellence involving hundreds of students in a partnership of community colleges with African American congregations! Launched with support from the GBGM EMLC and the United Methodist Self-Development Fund in 1986, Alliance for Excellence (www.allianceforexcellence.org) sponsors fellowships, seminars, opportunities for students to participate in gospel choirs, and scholarships. Patrick Henry Community College has sponsored a virtual mission program in which students provide tutoring overseas via the internet. For the 7th year in 2016, Community College Ministries (www.facebook.com/communitycollegeministries) will sponsor the "Rally in the Valley" bringing community college students of faith together from across the entire Commonwealth! The rally is organized in cooperation with the Blue Ridge Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Jim Wright and is held each year in April. CCM launched a global service program in 1989 called Peacework (www.peacework.org) where student groups serve overseas in projects involving poverty housing, education, school renovations, gardens, and other community partnerships. Your campus minister is the Reverend Stephen Darr (steve@peacework.org). The office is at 620 N. Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060, phone (540) 230-8581. Sandy Saunders of Danville Community College is board president. Alliance staff members are Jean Wilson in Martinsville and Jamesia Harrison in Lynchburg. The virtual mission advisor is Susan Christian. We welcome your involvement in this exciting ministry with community colleges!

Stephen Darr

United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University

I took the position of UCM Campus Minister for United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University in August 2016, following the retirement of Rev. Suzy Co-thran. Thus, I spent the first month or so, meeting the current student leadership, familiarizing myself with the history of UCM at CNU and the campus environment, meeting other religious organization's leaders on campus, introducing myself to administration, staff, and faculty, and beginning activities for the new academic year. The following are things we have accomplished and enjoyed throughout this year:

- We hold weekly fellowship/discussion ministry group on Mondays at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Union at CNU, and have dinner once a month. About 5-6 students regularly attend the group.
- We offered support for the annual CROP Walk in October, providing water to walkers, as they walked on campus, an annual tradition for UCM; this event provides a way to reach-out to the community and have students volunteer for an important mission.
- We held our annual Festival of Church Music in November, which is our large fundraising event, in which 8 area churches performed pieces individually and together as one choir in the lovely setting of Pope Chapel on campus. We raised over

\$2500 for our ministry.

- The students also created a Christmas card and greeting to send to donors and constituents in December and that garnered more donations before the end-of-the-year.
- During exams, 9 local churches came to campus and provided “exam snacks” for the community throughout the week, serving over 2000 people in that time. It was wonderful to have them provide support and a little sustenance to the students during the stressful time of exams. This is a tradition in both the fall and spring for UCM at CNU.
- Two students and I went to the Annual College Conference at Montreat Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC, with five others from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia in January, where the keynote speakers were Jason Brown of NC (former NFL star who now runs a social outreach farm) and Nadia Bolz Weber (Lutheran pastor, public theologian, and writer). The conference included worship, workshops, and discussion groups on a variety of topics, as well.
- We held the annual Potato Drop on February 20th. We bagged and helped distribute 45,500 pounds of potatoes. The event involved two volunteer days – one in which the students tied the bags to be prepared for bagging the potatoes when they arrived, and two, the day the potatoes came, and we bagged them and helped the food banks, agencies, and churches load them up to take to distribute to the folks in need. It was a wonderful mission to be a part of together. We had about 2 dozen student volunteers for the first event and about 4 dozen for the second. It was tremendous!
- We offered an open opportunity on campus for students to make Valentine cards that UCM participants would take to the Hidenwood retirement center to share with the residents there, as an outreach ministry of goodwill and fun.
- Beginning in November, we began collaborating with the Lutheran Ministries of Reformation Lutheran Church (Warwick Blvd.), who have about ½ dozen students attending CNU, to offer a worship, Chapel service on campus on Thursday evenings. The service includes singing, prayers, reading Scripture, and reflection on the Word. We promote this worship opportunity for all in the campus community.

Donna DeSarro-Raynal

BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity continues in 2016 to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering laity to 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 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 David Bailey have had a year of fruitful ministry. David and the District Directors continue to implement our new structure and the courses reflective of *The Discipline* 2012 requirements. In an effort to spread our teaching abilities, with a grant from the Bishop's Foundation the team has created "On Demand Learning for Laity" concentrating on the six courses required for the Lay Speaking track. This is an exciting time for our ministry.

The Lay Servant Academy led by Beth Christian and her dedicated team created a weekend of learning and fellowship at Blackstone with nearly 200 attending in February.

We have celebrated the leadership of two District Lay Leaders whose terms have ended on the board. Dan Dietze (Fr) and Larry Scheuble have greatly enhanced their respective district ministries. We thank them both. In addition we have celebrated new faces joining the board. We welcome Debbie Dietrich (Fr) Lay Leader; Gerry Fuss, (Jr) Co - Lay Leader; Sue Mayo, (F) Co - Lay Leader; Mira Suddreth, (C) Co - Lay Leader; and Joe Amend, (H) Associate Lay Leader.

We thank Rev. Danny Kesner, for being our Cabinet representative. We continue to thank Cheryl Edley-Worford, the Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence for much needed guidance. Thanks to Cindy Ingroff, Administrative Assistant for invaluable assistance and gifted wisdom always.

Bishop Young Jin Cho has been our spiritual guide to all the laity and clergy of the Annual Conference. Personally I cannot believe it has been almost four years since we welcomed Bishop Cho. On behalf of you, the laity, I thank Bishop Cho for his ministry among us, may the Spirit of the living God be with you always.

Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Although declining slightly, The United Methodist Men of the Virginia Conference continue to lead the nation in fellowship charters with eighty-seven. The charter represents the connectional link binding all men in our local fellowships together across the conference with all men in other annual conferences of the United Methodist Church. We finished second in “Meals a Million,” a hunger relief competition across the nation. The men support a variety of service ministries including Heart Havens, Prison Ministry, Hunger Relief, Scouting, Wesleyan Building Brothers Leadership Training, Camp Rainbow, and the Upper Room Prayer Line, just to name a few. We publish a monthly newsletter, the Beacon, distributed to over 2,000 men. We conduct an annual Spiritual Advance weekend each fall and leadership training each spring to equip our men for service. Our Spiritual Advance has shown a steady increase in first-time attendees for the past two years.

For next year we have planned a visioning and goal-setting retreat for conference officers and District Presidents. We plan to increase the number of chartered units and promote District-level leadership, while supporting conference efforts to reach new people. We recognize that mentoring our replacements is an essential quality of servant leaders. “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ...but encouraging one another—and all the more...” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV). In response to the closure of our retreat center in Blackstone, we are already making plans to enhance the experience in 2017, still focusing on attracting first timers and featuring a more in-depth look each year at one of our key ministries. Next year’s focus will be on Hunger Relief. We have also begun collaborating with the Virginia Conference UMW to plan a project for addressing domestic violence, a joint initiative from the General Commission in Nashville.

Please join the Methodist Men for breakfast during Annual Conference on Saturday June 18th at Thrasher Memorial UMC in Vinton and hear more about what God is doing through us!

Andrew Kissell, President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

Throughout our nearly 150-year history, United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations brought women together in small groups to grow in faith, learn about their own needs and potential, learn about others and organize and raise funds so that we could reach out to marginalized neighbors in our local communities and around the world.

One of our Church’s best kept secrets is its Mission Encounter event held each summer at the Virginia Conference and Retreat Center in Blackstone. This is an event shared by Virginia United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women and is for everyone —

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clergy, laity, youths and children. Topics for 2016 are: Latin America; Climate Justice, and the Bible & Human Sexuality. The Reverend Pat Watkins will teach Climate Justice. The dates are July 29-31, 2016 — it is not too late to register.

In May 2015 we were given a unique opportunity to attend a cross-Jurisdictional Charter for Racial Justice Seminar. The theme was *Making Racial Justice Happen* and we made plans to further the mission of the Charter for Racial Justice. As part of Virginia's plan, each delegate to General Conference was given a copy of the charter.

Young Women's Retreat in September was a great opportunity for 31 young women. The theme *Being Enough* was played out through worship, music, sharing and crafts. This year's retreat will be September 16-17, 2016 at Blackstone with the Rev. Beth Anderson as retreat leader.

Annual Meeting in October was a time of celebration. We dedicated the Wicker Room with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, presented a plaque honoring all conference United Methodist Women, honored Ethel Born who suggested the giving of Dimes and Dollars for Blackstone and included a Legacy Auction which raised money for the continued legacy of United Methodist Women for the next 150 years. Sunday morning included a panel which focused on attracting new women, which made it an educational and fun weekend.

We invite all women to join in this great ministry. Check us out on VAUMW.com.

Joyce Winston, President

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Commission on Disabilities has restructured the commission, developed three committees and rewritten their Standing Rules. These changes were made to get the committee refocused and to make us more effective and efficient.

The committees are: Grants, Finance and Monitoring, Education, Programs and Accessibility, and Advocacy and Collaboration and Nominations.

The main focus of the commission over the next 2 years is education and awareness. We have pushed hard since the inception of COD to make our buildings and parsonages accessible, but there seems to be some apathy that has developed and it needs to be overcome. Education will overcome this as it not a major problem. The education will start with the trustees and building committee representatives on the conference level and then at the district level. Help we will need from the conference toward this goal is making it mandatory to attend.

The ultimate goal of the training and awareness is to heighten the level of acceptance and understanding of disabilities by the majority of the conference members to the point that people with disabilities are not seen as "less than" or "people with special needs" — rather people just like anyone else.

People are not handicapped; they are handicapped by the environments they are forced to work, live and worship in. When the barriers to accessibility are removed, the handicaps will go away!

Shaun Smith, COD Chairperson

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

This has been a year of reflection and evaluation for the Commission. We are in the process of reorganization for the commission. The commission has continued in its mission: to serve as a prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference (its churches, boards and agencies, and institutional and connectional structures) by educating, advocating, and holding to account God's church to inclusivity as God's intended design for all structures and processes, towards the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in word and deed. We are indebted to the following ethnic agencies:

- African-American Ministries
- Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- Immigration Work Group
- Asian-American Ministries
- Native American Ministries
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Inc.
- Strengthening the Black Church -21

for the work these groups are doing within our conference. 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.

Gary Miller, Chair

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, youths and young adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. Data collection will continue at Annual Conference 2016.

Data collection at Annual Conference 2015 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.

Further challenges remain in the plenary and business portions of the annual conference. Womens' level of active participation continues to be lower than mens' level of active participation. Likewise, the same pattern emerges for racial and ethnic minority participation compared to that of those of Caucasian descent, and youths and young adults relative to adults. The proportion of persons of disability participating is negligible.

We who serve the Virginia Conference still have work to do. We need to encourage women, racial and ethnic minorities, young people and persons with disabilities to be active stakeholders in the life of The United Methodist Church. Our churches must welcome all God's children in the leadership of their churches. This includes, but is not limited to, welcoming women as pastors in all churches in the Virginia Conference, encouraging women to be lead pastors in large membership churches and encouraging

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women to serve as leaders in committees, such as Finance and Trustees. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, young people, and persons with disabilities have gifts and talents. They have and continue to make significant contributions to the life of the church. Any artificial limits on these persons deny the church body the blessings that God has bestowed on this conference.

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

Shan Sixbey, lay chair and Mary Dadisman, clergy chair



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

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, DBOM 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. In 2015 one of the prisons started the *Disciple III* study. 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 to study 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 all the prisons in Virginia.

Gene Mims, President

GRACEINSIDE (FORMERLY CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA)

Grace is a gift you share over and over again. Within Virginia’s prisons, your impact is being felt more now than ever before! Your hand of grace is extending to our incarcerated brothers and sisters to help heal deeply-broken wounds. Through grace, you are following the teaching of Jesus Christ to “visit those in prison,” and you are restoring people, families and communities.

Unique among all of the states, the chaplains in Virginia’s state prisons are NOT state employees. They are OUR employees, supported by “the people in the pews.” Currently we have 32 chaplains serving in 35 state prisons. As members of our GraceInside family, you ensure that those in prison have the opportunity to attend worship, participate in spiritually based classes (Bible study, grief group, baptism class, etc.) and spend one-on-one time with a chaplain. These chaplains serve as Christian pastors inside the prisons,

seeking to tend the sheep in their care. They coordinate, organize and lead religious services and activities for all seeking hope. In the words of one ex-offender: *"If it hadn't been for you, I would never have made it. You saved me. You really saved me."*

In 2015, GraceInside increased our impact by adding more ministry service hours for the chaplains serving in our unique mission field. More men and women moved toward healing. And with your help, we've come to see that the more grace you give away, the more grace there is! More than 30,000 men and women had the opportunity to interact with a chaplain because of YOUR support and care. As many as 14,000 inmates are released each year back into our communities. You make the prisons and our commonwealth a safer place in which to live and work.

We know we still have much work to do. For example, at Augusta Correctional Center, our part-time chaplain (a United Methodist minister) serves 1,350 men! Everyone from the warden to the religious volunteers to the inmates want and need their chaplain to be full-time. (The American Correctional Association says that there should be a full-time chaplain for every 500 inmates, warranting almost THREE full-time chaplains for Augusta alone!) Our goal is to find support for our chaplains to minister full-time so that more lives can experience the gift of grace. Currently, six major facilities need full-time chaplains — right now! Men and women are waiting to hear that they matter to God.

It starts with one heart in prison, impacted by grace...overflowing to others...to families...to neighborhoods...to churches...to communities...to our commonwealth. One heart changed because YOU believe in the value of GraceInside.

Thank you.

Together, lives are changed forever. Every. Single. Day.

J. Randy Myers, President

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES

The November 2015 *Advocate* cover stated, "LIVES OF SERVICE, Ministries Outside the Church Wall." This is good description of our volunteer ICM Chaplains as they make their visits in many different workplace settings each week.

ICM Chaplains are "a caring presence" reaching many who are unchurched and not knowing that God cares about them and loves them.

Our ICM Chaplains, many who are United Methodist, receive initial training and continued training through seminars which cover: Theology of Industrial Ministry, Becoming A ICM Chaplain, Listening & Communication, Referrals, Addictions, Dealing with Conflict, The Chaplain at Work & What Management Expects.

The VA Conference of United Methodist Church has since 1972 been of tremendous help to ICM, through financial help, allowing us to hold many of our ICM Training Seminars in their churches and their prayers. The need is great, but ICM is determined with God's help and yours to continue to grow, in chaplains and meeting the needs of our fellow men and women in the workplace.

Want to know more? Visit our website icmAmerica.org or give us a phone call @ (540)432-1919 or email icmmin@aol.com.

We ask for your support and prayers as we continue to minister outside the church's walls as did our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Wayne Wright, ICM Executive Director

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Society of St. Andrew continues to be a national leader in feeding the hungry while demonstrating superior stewardship of all resources and creation. Begun by the Virginia Conference 37 years ago, SoSA has become the most successful and effective ministry of its kind in the nation.

As a ministry that “puts faith into action,” the vast SoSA network of farmers, volunteers, feeding agencies and partners has blessed millions of people during the last 12 months. This ministry network consists of thousands of farmers in all 48 contiguous states, tens of thousands of volunteers, and thousands of vital feeding programs across the country. Thousands of churches and individuals in all 50 states partner with SoSA to “be the blessing” that helps make it all possible.

SoSA continues to receive national recognition as an innovative and successful nonprofit on the subject of food waste and hunger. Religious and secular national forums on these subjects continue to ask for SoSA representation and presentations to help increase awareness among the nation in general. In July of 2015 SoSA played a prominent role in the bi-annual General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination.

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 28.4 million pounds of fresh produce. All of this food would have otherwise gone to waste!
- The Potato Project distributed more than 11.9 million pounds of produce all across the country.
- The Gleaning Network saved and distributed more than 16.5 million pounds of healthful food.
- Over 32,454 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 4,900 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 Virginia Conference.
- 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.

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- SoSA was invited to present at two 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's seasonal devotion programs focused on Advent, Lent, and VBS demonstrated explosive growth, reaching thousands of congregations and individuals in all 50 states.
- SoSA hosted a Virginia "Day of Gleaning" on behalf of the governor and first lady of Virginia and gleaning events were held all across the commonwealth on a single day.
- Over 85.3 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 3.0%!

We are called to love "in deed and in truth," and that has been SoSA's ministry for over 37 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. Henry 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 2015 our president, the Rev. Dr. John Myers, of the Eastern Association, Southern Conference, UCC continued to roll out his action plan for renewal of the Council. The Rev. Jeneé Gilchrist(BGC) finished her term as vice president after assisting 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, 2015 Annual Gathering of the Council featuring the Rev. Dr. James Forbes Jr. We elected the Rev. Lauren Cogswell Ramseur, pastor of the Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church UCC in Virginia Beach as our new vice president.

In April and May, the council worked closely with our Armenian Orthodox brothers and sister on special commemorations of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. There were special services held at St. James Armenian Church in Richmond and later at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Over the course of the year we have worked closely with the Virginia Synod ELCA and Bishop Mauney in efforts to reduce childhood hunger within the commonwealth. In 2015 we began a new initiative with

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our first Ecumenical Young Clergy Summit on September 2-3. This meeting planned by and for young clergy (under the age of 40) took a look at the future of the church and the vocation of ministry. 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, including Bishop Cho, three Rabbis and two Imams.

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
Ms. Cathy Griffin – Treasurer

The Rev. Lauren Ramseur – vice president
Vacant – 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.

Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (VICPP)

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) is a strong resource for advocacy on social justice issues that are in line with the Social Principles and the Va. Conference Board of Church and Society. We work closely with the Conference Legislative Network in planning for the annual UM Day at the General Assembly, providing planning and material to assist in understanding the issues and in ways to advocate these issues to the legislators of the Virginia General Assembly. During the course of 2015, we spoke one evening to the Mission Encounter at VUMAC in Blackstone to give a report on issues and to help familiarize with the services that we can provide. We also were prepared to present a series of regional training sessions on what advocacy is about, how UM's can interact before, during, and after a General Assembly with legislators over topics of concern.

VICPP had an annual meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond, featuring Michael Cassidy, the Executive Director of The Commonwealth Institute. We awarded the "Legislator of the Year" to Senator John Watkins for his outstanding service and his ability

to work with all legislators on both sides of the aisle. This year he showed a profile in courage to take some stands that kept the legislature from becoming gridlocked.

VICPP also for the first time gave a “Beacon of Light” award to the Virginia Poverty Law Center for their sustained efforts to improve the quality of life in childhood hunger, predatory lending, and healthcare for all Virginians. The Executive Director, Jay Speer, a United Methodist layman from Reveille UMC, received the award on their behalf.

The Center hosted an annual Day for All People at Virginia Union University on Jan. 20, 2016. The theme was “Racism, Beyond the Confederate Flag.” Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Pastor Emeritus of Riverside Church, NYC, reminded us that the devil’s most effective tool that once it gets in the human heart is powerfully successful. That tool is the “wedge of discouragement.” An interfaith panel responded to Dr. Forbes with insightful perceptions of racism in our society today. His message is on video at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

VICPP provided support in briefings and preparation for the February 4, 2016 UM Day at the General Assembly. With an energetic group of over 100 people, led by Bishop Young Jin Cho, we visited legislators to present the concerns on immigration, healthcare, criminal justice

VICPP grew out of the Virginia Council of Churches in 1982 to become an Abrahamic expression of combined forces to speak from an interfaith community perspective about the important issues that impact our world and connect with our shared faith values. We are the only inclusive multi-faith group that has this capacity across the Commonwealth. We have been privileged to have the leadership of many UM clergy and laity. As an example, a former Executive Director was Dr. Dow Chamberlain. Currently, Rev. Charles Swadley had been the Interim CEO/President during from April 2015-February 2016, when a new permanent Executive Director was hired. Mr. Warrant Hottle, Rev. Scott Hopkins, and Dr. John Copenhaver (Vice Chair) currently serve on the Board of Directors.

This new Executive Director is Kim Bobo, who comes to Virginia from 18 years of service and the Executive Director of Interfaith Workers Justice in Chicago, IL, having achieved national recognition for her work. She also has led workshops and training events and has written five books.

We are grateful to provide service to the Virginia Conference of the UMC. Now, also for the first time we have an online learning module to tutor on the General Assembly legislative process and on the ways to be effective in advocacy. We also look forward to the joining the 25th year celebration of the Conference Legislative Network in 2017. Congratulations to the Virginia Conference on this remarkable journey of faith in action.

Charles Swadley



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CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Chairpersons:

Marc Brown, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Warren Harper, *Conference Lay Leader*

District Representatives:

Alexandria – Burton Robinson	Harrisonburg – David M. Burch
Arlington – Karen McElfish	James River – Jim O’Quinn
Charlottesville – Robert Forrest	Lynchburg – Jan Klahn
Danville – vacant	Richmond – Lisa Sykes
Eastern Shore – Tampa Miller	Roanoke – N.L. Bisho
Elizabeth River – Christa Springstead	Staunton – Won Un
Farmville p Mike Davis	Winchester – Kathy Lutman
Fredericksburg – Carolyn Nelson	York River District – Doug Gestwick

NOMINATIONS

Director of Connectional Ministries

Marc Brown

Common Table for Church Vitality

CLDDT Nominee:

Jonathan Page

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:

Yunho Eo

Anita Mays

Dan Kim

Emily Moore-Diamond

Jim O’Quinn

Lay:

Roger Pendergrass

Teresa Reiter

Church Development Team

Janet Bracey

Greg Duncan

Chad Herndon

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Board of Discipleship

Larry Lehman
Matthew Sergeant

Jeffrey Smith
George Warner

Youth Council

Jennifer Coffey

Young Adult Council

Kathleen Royston

Older Adult Council

M. Quentin Haynie

Annie Leigh Pierce

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Jennifer Braaten

Bret Gresham

Kamesha Miller-Waters

Missional Ministries Board

Clergy:

Drew Colby
Nancy Robinson

Lay:

Katie St. Germain
Jessie Swann
Melinda Thornton
Emily Turner
Mary Fulton

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

Clergy:

Lynda Moore

Lay:

Joon Shin

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy:

Ashley Allen
Timothy Barth

Lay:

Faye Godbey

Equitable Compensation Commission

Thomas Nealley

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy:

Janet Grissett
Les Kurtz
Harold White, Jr.

Lay:

Patricia Schang

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Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:
Will White

Lay:
Ray Ergenbright
Cecelia Pike

United Methodist Foundation

Robert Billingsley
Wayne Rickman
Malcolm White

Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.

Clergy:
Steve Bray
Myrtle Hatcher
Larry House
Gretchen Simpson Nelson
Sue Ann Salmon

Lay:
Stacey Anthony
Stuart Blankenship
Gale Kennon
Mark Leep
Sally McGrath
Jim Pearman
Kevin Sheppard
Ann Taylor

Committee on Rules

Clergy:
Rosemary Welch
Sung Woon Yoo

Lay:
Scott Diamond
Mary Brett Wright

Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Lay:
Janae House
Suzanne Joyner

Conference Trustees

Clergy:
Sandra Benton Plasters

Lay:
Carl Moravitz

Committee on Resolutions

N.L. Bishop
Mochelle Morris
Lynda Moore
Craig Newman
Linda Porter

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Site Selection Committee

Clergy:
Elizabeth Lutz

Lay:
Neal Wise

Virginia United Methodist Housing Corporation

Larry Dickenson
Willard Douglas
Steven Wanye Greer
Elizabeth Honea
Julius Malinowski

Society of St. Andrew

Harriet Bryan
David Moseley
Robert Spencer

Randolph College

Elizabeth A. Grimm
Elizabeth A. Maffey
Dixie Nash Sakolosky
Randall J. Watts
Katherine Clay Willis

Randolph-Macon Academy

Conrad E. Koneczny
John D. Simar

Randolph-Macon College

Philip G. Emerson
Anne Cabell Birdsong Pearce
Susan P. Quinn
Mary Lynn Reed
R. Douglas White

Virginia Wesleyan College

Nancy DeFord

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COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Discipline*. The COE completed this work in the fall of 2015 and submitted the report to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy in December. I would like to thank the colleagues of our Bishop who came to participate in the discussion on particular segments of the evaluation tool. We had very open and honest discussions.

I would like to express appreciation to the committee for their commitment to this process and for their support of Bishop Cho. I especially want to thank Ron Hardman for his many years of dedicated service to the committee and for serving as our secretary for the past eight years. Ron will rotate off the committee after annual conference.

I am so grateful for the opportunity of working with Bishop Cho. He has been such an inspiration to me and to so many others. He is truly living his faith and is a role model for us all. I appreciate 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 and found it to be in good condition. In the summer, we will be preparing the residence for a new Episcopal family.

Shirley Cauffman, Chair

Carl Moravitz, 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 United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
ALEXANDRIA	36,884	702	(62)	76	523	207	249	36,621	(263)	-0.71%	10,378	395
ARLINGTON	28,161	536	46	154	158	82	130	28,527	366	1.30%	9,429	383
CHARLOTTESVILLE	13,007	176	80	80	55	30	176	13,082	75	0.58%	4,384	123
DANVILLE	11,562	99	(314)	(6)	4	45	210	11,082	(480)	-4.15%	3,817	88
EASTERN SHORE	6,998	81	(91)	2	12	30	98	6,850	(148)	-2.11%	2,395	60
ELIZABETH RIVER	31,057	383	(114)	88	147	206	357	30,704	(353)	-1.14%	8,965	270
FARMVILLE	12,409	96	33	29	11	6	208	12,342	(67)	-0.54%	3,957	102
FREDERICKSBURG	17,879	282	32	56	45	47	163	17,994	115	0.64%	5,620	170
HARRISONBURG	17,400	155	26	57	-	10	253	17,375	(25)	-0.14%	5,528	129
JAMES RIVER	18,078	134	(34)	14	34	30	247	17,881	(197)	-1.09%	5,193	133
LYNCHBURG	16,186	135	34	40	15	33	213	16,134	(52)	-0.32%	4,877	109
RICHMOND	40,192	472	145	89	386	81	400	40,031	(161)	-0.40%	10,712	311
ROANOKE	20,067	172	34	54	27	19	235	20,046	(21)	-0.10%	5,673	133
STAUNTON	12,991	106	(37)	(4)	8	11	217	12,820	(171)	-1.32%	4,370	80
WINCHESTER	17,713	227	(38)	43	-	30	174	17,741	28	0.16%	5,554	145
YORK RIVER	27,122	254	48	25	40	96	349	26,964	(158)	-0.58%	7,401	167
2015 Total	327,706	4,010	(212)	797	1,465	963	3,679	326,194	(1,512)	-0.46%	98,253	2,798

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Section I

Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2015

Apportioned Funds	Receipts 12/31/2015	Receipts 12/31/2014	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Inc.\Dec.
<i>Conference Apportionments</i>				
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	2,748,099	3,084,951	(336,852)	-10.92%
402 Conference Services	1,630,839	1,685,009	(54,170)	-3.21%
403 District Superintendents	1,785,453	1,910,295	(124,842)	-6.54%
404 Equitable Compensation	423,092	443,748	(20,656)	-4.65%
405 Church Extension & Development	542,320	415,752	126,568	30.44%
406 Virginia Education Fund	796,546	828,014	(31,468)	-3.80%
Subtotal	7,926,349	8,367,769	(441,420)	-5.28%
<i>Clergy Benefit Apportionments</i>				
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,574,641	8,430,599	144,042	1.71%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,319,003	5,260,625	58,378	1.11%
409 Pension Liability Assessment-Pre 82	1,340,816	1,842,901	(502,085)	-27.24%
Subtotal	15,234,460	15,534,125	(299,665)	-1.93%
<i>General & Jurisdictional Apportionments</i>				
410 Episcopal	764,681	776,339	(11,658)	-1.50%
411 World Service	2,498,537	2,606,642	(108,105)	-4.15%
412 General Connectional	389,143	397,988	(8,845)	-2.22%
413 Ministerial Education	813,543	833,950	(20,407)	-2.45%
414 Black College	327,158	336,779	(9,621)	-2.86%
415 Africa University	74,072	77,396	(3,324)	-4.29%
416 Interdenominational Coop.	65,533	66,189	(656)	-0.99%
Subtotal	4,932,667	5,095,283	(162,616)	-3.19%
Total Apportioned Funds	28,093,476	28,997,177	(903,701)	-3.12%
Non-Apportionment Receipts				
Advance Specials				
GBGM	729,912	813,944	(84,032)	-10.32%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	76,809	99,953	(23,144)	-23.15%
Special Days				
Human Relations	12,124	11,363	761	6.70%
One Great Hour of Sharing	97,968	125,751	(27,783)	-22.09%
Native American Ministries	17,199	17,224	(25)	-0.15%
Peace with Justice	10,049	10,052	(3)	-0.03%
World Communion	26,464	26,890	(426)	-1.58%
UM Student	10,554	8,748	1,806	20.65%
Other Funds				
Christian Education Fund	1,624	1,599	25	1.56%
Youth Service	3,027	5,328	(2,301)	-43.19%
Samaritan Fund - VA Homes	30,638	32,235	(1,597)	-4.95%
UMFS	54,473	62,922	(8,449)	-13.43%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	21,401	47,350	(25,949)	-54.80%
Annual Conference Offering	174,018	182,727	(8,709)	-4.77%
Imagine No Malaria	526,018	215,064	310,954	
Other	52,891	93,087	(40,196)	-43.18%
Total Non-Apportioned Funds	1,845,169	1,754,237	90,932	5.18%
Total Church Receipts	29,938,645	30,751,414	(812,769)	-2.64%

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Balance Sheets

	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets:</i>		
Cash	3,054,129	3,151,292
Investments	4,703,900	4,159,760
Receivables	2,638,179	2,751,262
Prepaid expenses	73,170	26,657
Total Current Assets	<u>10,469,378</u>	<u>10,088,971</u>
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>		
Land	780,000	780,000
Buildings	4,981,660	4,770,823
Furniture & fixtures	236,187	137,899
Computer & office equipment	700,629	667,770
Software	11,985	11,985
Accumulated depreciation	(2,115,945)	(1,903,557)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>4,594,516</u>	<u>4,464,920</u>
<i>Other Assets:</i>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	797,445	791,428
Loans receivable	272,982	174,928
Total Other Assets	<u>1,070,427</u>	<u>966,356</u>
	<u>16,134,321</u>	<u>15,520,247</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	4,220,743	3,613,518
Accrued expenses	6,484	9,941
Unearned revenue	38,607	89,036
Total Liabilities	<u>4,265,834</u>	<u>3,712,495</u>
<i>Net Assets:</i>		
Unrestricted conference reserves	2,163,400	2,025,044
Emerging funds	70,226	48,757
Board designated reserves	975,483	1,235,452
Property and Equipment fund	3,642,734	3,216,978
Church Extension Fund	2,355,998	2,673,981
Donor restricted and miscellaneous	2,660,646	2,607,540
Total Net Assets	<u>11,868,487</u>	<u>11,807,752</u>
	<u>16,134,321</u>	<u>15,520,247</u>

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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, 2015*

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	(47,723)
Dividends and interest	30,668
Miscellaneous income	646
Total Income	(16,409)

Expenses directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net funding for non-budgeted items	65,402
Bank service charges	2,633
Total Expenses	68,035

Income Over/(Under) Expenses **(84,444)**

Apportionment Closeouts:

401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	1,035
402 - Conference Services	92,334
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	(70,138)
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	199,568

Total Apportionment Closeouts **222,799**

Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves **138,355**

Beginning balance **2,025,045**

Ending Balance **2,163,400**

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401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2015

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	186,321	-	-	186,321	186,321	-	-	-	-
3510	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	62,931	(62,931)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5000	Emerging Funds	86,016	(21,065)	138,383	203,333	181,864	21,469	-	48,757	70,226
3600	Campus Ministry	776,613	-	-	776,613	802,738	(26,125)	26,125	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,636,218	(202,390)	2,604	1,436,432	1,409,272	27,161	(27,161)	-	-
		2,748,099	(286,386)	140,987	2,602,699	2,580,195	22,504	(1,035)	48,757	70,226
Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative										
3100	Common Table	4,672	-	-	4,672	2,306	2,366	(2,366)	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	61,557	-	-	61,557	58,173	3,385	(3,385)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	101,954	(7,000)	180	95,134	61,597	33,538	(33,538)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,258,354	(33,000)	-	1,225,354	1,231,554	(6,200)	6,200	-	-
3210	CT Information Technologies	28,305	(28,305)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3240	Outsourced Graphic Design Serv	-	33,000	-	33,000	32,960	40	(40)	-	-
3200	Video Production	4,672	-	2,424	7,096	13,506	(6,410)	6,410	-	-
3220	Common Table Rent	157,466	(157,466)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3230	CT Postage, Printing & Phone	9,618	(9,618)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	9,618	-	-	9,618	9,176	442	(442)	-	-
		1,636,218	(202,390)	2,604	1,436,432	1,409,272	27,161	(27,161)	-	-
Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration										
3010	Connectional Ministries Office	9,069	-	-	9,069	5,990	3,079	(3,079)	-	-
3020	Communications Office	7,969	-	-	7,969	7,924	45	(45)	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	10,992	-	-	10,992	10,650	342	(342)	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & YYA Office	11,267	-	-	11,267	12,091	(823)	823	-	-
3050	Inclusivity and Lay Ldrshp Exc	9,893	-	-	9,893	3,222	6,671	(6,671)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	12,366	-	-	12,366	18,296	(5,930)	5,930	-	-
		61,557	-	-	61,557	58,173	3,385	(3,385)	-	-
Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration										
3105	Board of Church & Society	8,519	-	-	8,519	5,814	2,705	(2,705)	-	-
3110	Missional Ministries Board	15,115	(4,000)	180	11,295	4,107	7,188	(7,188)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	4,947	-	-	4,947	6,002	(1,055)	1,055	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	5,221	-	-	5,221	4,347	875	(875)	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	14,290	(3,000)	-	11,290	6,717	4,574	(4,574)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	2,748	-	-	2,748	1,618	1,130	(1,130)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	9,618	-	-	9,618	5,692	3,927	(3,927)	-	-
3140	CEMCA	3,573	-	-	3,573	2,613	959	(959)	-	-
3145	COSROW	1,924	-	-	1,924	892	1,032	(1,032)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	2,473	-	-	2,473	1,405	1,068	(1,068)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	33,527	-	-	33,527	22,391	11,136	(11,136)	-	-
		101,954	(7,000)	180	95,134	61,597	33,538	(33,538)	-	-

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2015

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	371,831	-	50,700	422,531	418,777	3,755	(3,755)	-	-
2110	Computer Services	77,628	28,305	55	105,988	108,977	(2,988)	2,988	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	233,047	-	4,265	237,312	236,116	1,196	(1,196)	-	-
2130	Conference Publications Cmte	7,339	-	1,617	8,955	15,091	(6,136)	6,136	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	3,099	-	-	3,099	2,263	836	(836)	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	1,957	-	-	1,957	631	1,326	(1,326)	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,957	-	-	1,957	1,411	546	(546)	-	-
2170	Historical Society	7,828	(1,600)	-	6,228	1,621	4,607	(4,607)	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	74,692	-	-	74,692	83,709	(9,017)	9,017	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	-	15,402	-	15,402	7,544	7,858	(7,858)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	16,471	-	-	16,471	14,943	1,528	(1,528)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	10,000	10,000	18,646	(8,646)	8,646	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	25,767	-	-	25,767	26,500	(733)	733	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	24,300	-	-	24,300	12,120	12,180	(12,180)	-	-
2270	General Conference Delegation	-	-	300	300	250	50	(50)	-	-
2290	Contingencies	9,785	-	21,744	31,529	798	30,731	(30,731)	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	160,148	-	-	160,148	147,394	12,754	(12,754)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	14,514	-	-	14,514	7,866	6,649	(6,649)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Ministry	72,735	-	-	72,735	58,155	14,580	(14,580)	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	35,715	-	3,315	39,030	34,651	4,380	(4,380)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	38,814	9,618	12,663	61,096	44,216	16,880	(16,880)	-	-
2450	Mortgage Debt Service	296,160	(296,160)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1,473,789	(244,434)	104,658	1,334,013	1,241,679	92,334	(92,334)	-	-
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances:										
4000	United Methodist Center	22,343	307,466	115,924	445,733	549,770	(104,037)	-	117,456	13,419
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	(100,000)	-	(100,000)	-	(100,000)	-	150,000	50,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	48,599	-	-	48,599	48,985	(386)	-	38,793	38,406
4030	Legal Expenses	19,407	-	-	19,407	31,723	(12,316)	-	141,821	129,505
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,807	-	-	8,807	1,142	7,665	-	18,343	26,008
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,557	6,557
4070	Archives	9,296	1,600	6,421	17,317	19,218	(1,901)	-	(3,906)	(5,807)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	19,000
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	-	-	(129,596)	129,596	-	4,465,127	4,594,723
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	296,160	-	296,160	296,160	-	-	(1,248,149)	(951,989)
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	48,599	-	-	48,599	50,544	(1,945)	-	98,767	96,823
		157,050	505,226	122,346	784,622	571,786	212,836	-	3,803,810	4,016,646

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2015

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	22,343	307,466	115,924	445,733	549,770	(104,037)	-	117,456	13,419
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	(100,000)	-	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	-	150,000	50,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	48,599	-	-	48,599	48,985	(386)	-	38,793	38,406
4030	Legal Expenses	19,407	-	-	19,407	31,723	(12,316)	-	141,821	129,505
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,807	-	-	8,807	1,142	7,665	-	18,343	26,008
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,557	6,557
4070	Archives	9,296	1,600	6,421	17,317	19,218	(1,901)	-	(3,906)	(5,807)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	19,000
		108,451	209,066	122,346	439,863	650,838	(210,976)	-	488,064	277,089
Common Table										
6050	Common Table Grants	-	62,931	24,991	87,922	113,700	(25,778)	-	55,607	29,830
6100	Advocate Publication	-	-	64,189	64,189	89,502	(25,313)	-	252,183	226,870
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	6,000	17,203	23,203	20,083	3,120	-	7,616	10,736
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	-	6,541	6,541	6,971	(430)	-	6,266	5,836
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	-	-	3,217	(3,217)	-	4,168	950
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	-	97,761	97,761	62,324	35,437	-	28,239	63,676
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	-	2,189	2,189	5,330	(3,141)	-	14,513	11,372
6310	UMVIM	-	-	3,029	3,029	3,424	(395)	-	13,466	13,071
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	-	-	4,900	(4,900)	-	11,813	6,913
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233	1,233
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	61,052	61,052	87,915	(26,863)	-	101,042	74,180
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	282	(282)	-	2,333	2,052
6440	Church Staff Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,613	6,613
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	20,124	20,124	25,779	(5,655)	-	14,582	8,927
6560	CDT Training Events	-	-	78,900	78,900	78,900	-	-	-	-
6565	Small Church Pastors	-	7,500	11,224	18,724	10,306	8,418	-	25	8,443
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	7,500	325	7,825	1,941	5,884	-	88	5,971
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	7,500	193	7,693	1,325	6,368	-	(1,200)	5,168
		-	91,431	387,720	479,152	515,899	(36,747)	-	518,587	481,840
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Dinner at A.C.	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,441	(441)	-	5,859	5,418
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	3,169	3,169	3,187	(18)	-	1,647	1,629
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	1,170	1,170	802	367	-	756	1,123
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,277	9,277
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	2,578	2,578	2,365	213	-	1,291	1,504
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	29,115	29,115	27,994	1,121	-	(200)	921
4690	BOM Lunches	-	-	3,824	3,824	2,662	1,163	-	563	1,726
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	65,000	65,000	65,000	-	-	-	-
4710	Calling 21	-	15,000	17,412	32,412	35,021	(2,609)	-	32,366	29,758
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	556	556	667	(111)	-	2,889	2,778
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	-	33,286	33,286	42,668	(9,382)	-	70,954	61,571
4750	Vocation Care Event	-	-	-	-	418	(418)	-	418	-
4760	Exploration	-	-	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	-	608	605
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	14	(14)	-	2,823	2,809
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	48,599	-	-	48,599	50,544	(1,945)	-	98,767	96,823
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	3,897	1,799	5,697	5,867	(170)	-	782	612
4820	Licensing School	-	19,222	12,401	31,622	31,622	-	-	-	-
		48,599	39,119	170,306	258,025	270,271	(12,246)	-	228,801	216,555
Total										
		157,050	339,617	680,373	1,177,039	1,437,008	(259,969)	-	1,235,452	975,483

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2015

Project #	Project Name	Apportion- ment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Property & Equipment										
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	-	-	(129,596)	129,596	-	4,465,127	4,594,723
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	296,160	-	296,160	-	296,160	-	(1,248,149)	(951,989)
		-	296,160	-	296,160	(129,596)	425,756	-	3,216,978	3,642,734
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	542,320	(25,500)	22,222	539,042	859,895	(320,853)	-	2,676,852	2,355,999
		542,320	(25,500)	22,222	539,042	859,895	(320,853)	-	2,676,852	2,355,999
Donor restricted										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	203,386	-	4,605	207,991	175,027	32,964	-	500,095	533,059
8000	All Things New	-	(15,000)	44,438	29,438	359,050	(329,612)	-	1,024,067	694,455
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	15,000	-	15,000	3,282	11,718	-	11,533	23,251
8050	Francis Asbury Education Fund	-	-	18,786	18,786	12,779	6,007	-	794,685	800,692
8100	Initiatives of Hope	-	-	4,765	4,765	12,624	(7,859)	-	20,833	12,974
8110	IOH - Mozambique	-	-	-	-	11,409	(11,409)	-	48,722	37,313
8111	IOH - Brazil	-	-	-	-	150	(150)	-	23,694	23,544
8113	Sierra Leone	-	-	4,106	4,106	-	4,106	-	-	4,106
8114	IOH - Cambodia	-	-	39,503	39,503	23,128	16,375	-	7,604	23,979
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	625	625	258	367	-	9,277	9,644
8150	Imagine No Malaria	-	250	624,969	625,219	661,282	(36,063)	-	36,063	-
8200	Bishops' Fund	-	(6,000)	16,784	10,784	10,678	106	-	5,496	5,602
8300	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	-	361,113	361,113	72	361,041	-	-	361,041
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	-	9,164	9,164	13,790	(4,626)	-	6,832	2,206
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	-	14,554	14,554	10,030	4,524	-	11,648	16,172
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	-	-	11,500	(11,500)	-	14,498	2,998
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,557	13,557
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	-	812	812	-	812	-	20,030	20,842
8330	Merit Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
		203,386	(5,750)	1,144,224	1,341,860	1,305,059	36,801	-	2,551,459	2,588,260
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8510	Heritage	-	-	947	947	1,493	(546)	-	6,354	5,808
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	-	578	578	611	(33)	-	8,939	8,906
8530	Voices of Youth	-	2,000	17,361	19,361	19,617	(256)	-	7,589	7,333
8540	ARMS	-	-	10,265	10,265	12,829	(2,564)	-	19,886	17,322
8550	AEI	-	-	41,666	41,666	41,666	-	-	-	-
8555	Acad. for Spiritual Formation	-	-	24,104	24,104	2,131	21,973	-	1,876	23,849
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	245	245	-	245	-	3,813	4,058
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	-	5,405	5,405	4,933	472	-	3,680	4,152
8575	Social Committee	-	-	304	304	382	(78)	-	609	531
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	(250)	560	310	348	(38)	-	461	423
		-	1,750	101,435	103,185	84,010	19,175	-	53,207	72,382
Total Donor Restricted and Miscellaneous		203,386	(4,000)	1,245,659	1,445,045	1,389,069	55,976	-	2,604,666	2,660,642

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COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Summary of Conference Proposed Budget for 2017

	Sch.	2016	2017	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,323,000	3,250,000	10.18%	(73,000)	-2.23%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,992,000	1,975,000	6.18%	(17,000)	-0.90%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,055,000	2,055,000	6.42%	-	0.00%
404 - Equitable Compensation		500,000	350,000	1.10%	(150,000)	-30.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		675,000	675,000	2.11%	-	0.00%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		1,000,000	900,000	2.82%	(100,000)	-10.00%
Total Conference Apportionments		9,545,000	9,205,000	28.81%	(340,000)	-3.62%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	9,710,000	30.39%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,060,000	18.97%	-	0.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		1,000,000	1,000,000	3.13%	-	0.00%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		16,770,000	16,770,000	52.49%	-	0.00%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		955,000	900,000	2.82%	(55,000)	-6.11%
411 - World Service		2,955,000	2,985,000	9.34%	30,000	1.00%
412 - General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund		499,000	482,000	1.51%	(17,000)	-3.49%
413 - Ministerial Education		1,015,000	1,025,000	3.21%	10,000	0.97%
414 - Black College Fund		405,000	410,000	1.28%	5,000	1.22%
415 - Africa University Fund		91,000	92,000	0.29%	1,000	1.09%
416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		80,000	81,000	0.25%	1,000	1.23%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		6,000,000	5,975,000	18.70%	(25,000)	-0.42%
Total Apportionments		32,315,000	31,950,000	100.00%	(365,000)	-1.12%

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2016	2017	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Benevolence Grants					
1. Gracelinside (Chaplain Service of Va.)	125,000	125,000	0.39%	-	0.00%
2. Virginia Council of Churches	66,500	54,000	0.17%	(12,500)	-18.80%
3. Industrial & Commercial Ministries	2,500	1,000	0.00%	(1,500)	-60.00%
4. Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-	0.00%
5. Virginia Interfaith Center	-	4,000	0.01%	4,000	
6. Society of St. Andrew	-	5,000	0.02%	5,000	
	195,000	190,000	0.59%	(5,000)	-2.56%

Special & Sustaining Grants	66,000	66,000	0.21%	-	0.00%
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Conference Programs	90,000	79,000	0.25%	(11,000)	-12.22%
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Campus Ministries	826,100	826,100	2.59%	-	0.00%
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Program & Board Administrative Expenses

1. Common Table	5,000	3,500	0.01%	(1,500)	-30.00%
2. Departmental Administration (See below)	64,700	56,600	0.17%	(8,100)	-12.52%
3. Agency Administration (See below)	106,900	73,200	0.24%	(33,700)	-31.52%
4. Personnel Costs	1,313,900	1,313,900	4.11%	-	0.00%
5. Information Technologies	29,500	29,500	0.09%	-	0.00%
7. Video Production & Documentation	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
8. Building Operations & Services	165,000	165,000	0.52%	-	0.00%
9. Postage, Printing & Telephone	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
10. Contingency	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
	1,743,000	1,699,700	5.32%	(43,300)	-2.48%

Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	402,900	389,200	1.22%	(13,700)	-3.40%
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	3,323,000	3,250,000	10.18%	(73,000)	-2.20%
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Supporting Schedule, Line 2 - Departmental Administration

1. Connectional Ministries	9,600	7,800	0.02%	(1,800)	-18.75%
2. Communications	8,400	7,300	0.02%	(1,100)	-13.10%
3. Congregational Excellence	11,400	11,000	0.03%	(400)	-3.51%
4. Ministries with Young People	11,800	12,500	0.04%	700	5.93%
5. Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence	10,500	5,000	0.02%	(5,500)	-52.38%
6. Justice and Missional Excellence	13,000	13,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
	64,700	56,600	0.17%	(8,100)	-12.52%

Supporting Schedule, Line 3 - Agency Administration

1. Church & Society	8,900	6,000	0.02%	(2,900)	-32.58%
2. Discipleship	15,100	8,600	0.03%	(6,500)	-43.05%
3. Missional Ministries	15,900	9,000	0.03%	(6,900)	-43.40%
4. Committee on Mission Personnel	35,000	26,500	0.08%	(8,500)	-24.29%
5. Communications	5,200	6,100	0.02%	900	17.31%
6. Higher Education	5,500	3,000	0.01%	(2,500)	-45.45%
7. Laity	10,200	8,000	0.03%	(2,200)	-21.57%
8. CEMCA	3,700	1,800	0.01%	(1,900)	-51.35%
9. COSROW	2,100	1,000	0.00%	(1,100)	-52.38%
10. Commission on Disabilities	2,500	1,400	0.00%	(1,100)	-44.00%
11. Church Development Team	2,800	1,800	0.01%	(1,000)	-35.71%
	106,900	73,200	0.24%	(33,700)	-31.52%

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Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2016	2017	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	381,800	421,800	1.33%	40,000	10.48%
2. Bishop's Assistant	77,000	77,000	0.24%	-	0.00%
3. Annual Conference Session	225,000	225,000	0.70%	-	0.00%
4. Mortgage Payments	305,000	305,000	0.95%	-	0.00%
5. Treasurer's Office	365,000	375,000	1.17%	10,000	2.74%
6. Computer Services	80,000	80,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
7. Wesley Foundation Property Maint	100,000	75,000	0.23%	(25,000)	-25.00%
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	2,500	0.01%	(1,000)	-28.57%
12. Historical Society	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
13. Board of Trustees	2,000	1,500	0.00%	(500)	-25.00%
14. Telephone Service	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
15. Insurance	25,000	15,000	0.05%	(10,000)	-40.00%
16. Postage & Printing	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
17. Building Operations & Services	23,000	25,000	0.08%	2,000	8.70%
18. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
19. Bishop's auto allowance\residence	9,000	3,000	0.01%	(6,000)	-66.67%
20. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
21. Legal	40,000	30,000	0.09%	(10,000)	-25.00%
22. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
23. General Conference	10,000	2,500	0.01%	(7,500)	-75.00%
24. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	210,200	201,200	0.63%	(9,000)	-4.28%
	1,992,000	1,975,000	6.18%	(17,000)	-0.85%

Board of Ordained Ministry

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	0.16%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
6. Personnel Costs	205,000	245,000	0.77%	40,000	19.51%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	75,000	75,000	0.23%	-	0.00%
	381,800	421,800	1.33%	40,000	10.48%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund

	2016	2017	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Salaries & Pension	1,670,000	1,670,000	5.21%	-	0.00%
2. Travel & Meetings	140,000	140,000	0.44%	-	0.00%
3. Other	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	220,000	220,000	0.69%	-	0.00%
	2,055,000	2,055,000	6.42%	-	0.00%

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Section II: Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches

A. TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPORTIONMENT LEVELS:

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

2017 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	3,250,000
402-Conference Services	1,975,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	2,055,000
404-Equitable Compensation	350,000
405-Church Extension & Development	675,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	900,000
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	900,000
411-World Service	2,985,000
412-General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund	482,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	1,025,000
414-Black College Fund	410,000
415-Africa University Fund	92,000
416-Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	81,000
	\$ 31,950,000

B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:

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

401-Conference Mission & Ministries

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

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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 \$900,000 for 2017. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2017:

Virginia Education Fund Allocation

❖ Ferrum College	19.5%	\$175,500
❖ Randolph-Macon College	18.5%	\$166,500
❖ Randolph College	16.0%	\$144,000
❖ Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0%	\$90,000
❖ Shenandoah University	18.0%	\$162,000
❖ Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0%	\$162,000
		<hr/>
		\$900,000

Report on 2015

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 2015.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	531,901
402 Conference Services	262,116
403 District Superintendents	269,547
404 Equitable Compensation	76,908
<hr/>	
	1,140,472

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. 2017 apportionments are calculated using 2015 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:

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

- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**

The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,000) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2016 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 (2015 for 2017 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 is 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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– Effective January 1, 2017, for a Renewal church location as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church will be treated in the same manner as a newly chartered church.

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 2017:

- **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.
- **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 2017:

- The District Superintendents' salaries will stay the same for 2017.

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	\$ 1,574,000
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>601,500</u>
	\$ 2,175,500

Additional Reserves:

A. Non-budgeted negative balance in Debt Service (mortgage)	<u>647,500</u>
	<u>\$ 2,823,000</u>

At December 31, 2015 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 *2016 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 no 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

SECTION VII – Intent to Study

The Council on Finance & Administration has convened a task force to study the effect of churches that pay less than 100% of Apportionments. This includes an analysis of the impact on the Annual Conference Budget and the ministries of churches that meet their full connectional support

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.

While the board has structured processes in place for much of its work, we are constantly trying to improve upon the ways we carry out these processes.

In addition, we have made strong progress on the three priorities established at the beginning of the quadrennium:

1. Creating a culture of excellence among clergy leaders
2. More candidates being recommended their first time applying for provisional
3. Stronger clarity about the diversity of gifts for ministry that are needed within the bounds of the conference

This year we have acted upon reaching “more people, more young people and more diverse people” by creating a new position in the Center for Clergy Excellence — the associate director of Call, Candidacy and Discernment. The Reverend Lindsey Baynham will be appointed to this position effective July 1 of this year. We believe she will usher in a new era for our conference’s capacity to more intentionally help persons discern a call to all forms of ministry and also to recruit effective clergy candidates for the future of our conference.

This past fall saw the second 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. We are grateful for the funding for this program, provided by the Center for Congregational Excellence, the Bishop’s Foundation, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation and the Council for Finance and Administration.

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 summer there will be eight Calling 21 interns serving: Leila Soulen at Worship and Praise (Rd), Alex Carney at Belmont (Rd), Sarah Patnaude at Fairlington (A), Amy Robertson at Braddock Street (W), Tim Hares at Culpeper (C), Zach Hubbard at Lane Memorial (L), Katie Bagley at St. Luke’s (YR), Mary Elder at Franktown (ES); and three Connection 21 interns at the conference center but also relating to: Minoka Gunsekera at Boulevard (Rd), JoAnn Batteiger at Welborne (Rd), Emily Clark at Reveille (Rd).

While this report is written prior to General Conference, the outcomes of that Conference may have an impact upon our theology of ordination, education of local pastors and clergy formation beyond ordination. Acting upon these proposals will be a large part of the board’s work in the new quadrennium.

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.

Before my term as chair of the board ends at this annual conference, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the support provided by the Center for Clergy Excellence and the members of the board who give tirelessly to the board's work.

Ed Walker, chair

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The conference Board of Trustees met for their regularly-scheduled meetings in September and March, with conference calls as necessary during the year.

The conference Board of Trustees approved amended bylaws at their March 2016 meeting in order to align themselves better with the *Book of Discipline* and make their operations more efficient.

In the Spring of 2015, the conference trustees began to work with the conference staff to repurpose the conference center building to reflect the current needs and methods of ministry. We are happy to report that this process has been completed. The original mailroom, which was needed for a time when postal mail was the primary method of communication, has been repurposed to make room for the Common Table ministries to be consolidated into one area. The Cabinet Room was relocated to a larger space for meetings and trainings, and a new meeting room was created and supplied with communication equipment to facilitate the use of remote meetings and webinars with the intention of reducing the cost of meetings and the time commitment of our faithful volunteers. The Foundation expanded their space to allow for growth in their staff and meeting space with the creation of the Virginia United Methodist Development Company LLC. The total cost of the renovation was \$210,000.00 and was funded through rents and the long-term maintenance fund. We believe these changes will serve the church well into the 21st century.

The Board of Trustees would like to extend its appreciation to Sallye E.H. Bowen for her exceptional and dedicated service as president of the Virginia Conference Board of Trustees from March 2007 through July 2015, bringing strong and effective leadership to the Board of Trustees during her tenure as president.

The board continues to be expertly supported by Benham Black, our attorney and counsel, on board and conference matters.

This past year, a major family emergency drew me away from some of the management work needed to lead the board. The board extends a special thank you to our vice president, Kathy Lutman, who stepped in so effectively to help me out during this time.

Carl L. Moravitz, President

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SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE 2016

By previous Annual Conference action, the following dates have been ap-proved for the site of Annual Conference:

Hampton	June 16-18, 2017
Hampton	June 15-17, 2018
Roanoke	June 21-23, 2019
Roanoke	June 19-21, 2020

The Site Selection Committee is charged with finding a location for Annual Conference which is set five (5) years in advance. The Committee recommends that Annual Conference be held at the:

Hampton Convention Center	June 18-20, 2021
Hampton Convention Center	June 17-19, 2022

We are often asked about holding Conference at other facilities. The Com-mittee, along with the Conference Planner and the Conference Chair of the Com-mon Table, continue to review other potential locations across the Commonwealth and have found they either do not meet the stated requirements or are not available during the month of June.

By way of reminder, we have the following requirements:

- Meeting space and restaurants for 4,000 people;
- Parking spaces for 2,000 to 3,000 cars;
- 1,500 hotel rooms;
- Meeting space for Clergy Executive Session for 1,500 people;
- Meeting space for Laity Session for 1,500 people;
- Two banquet areas each holding 500 people;
- Break-out areas and display area of 30,000 square feet;
- Ease of moving participants between the various areas.

Doug Geeting, President

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism and preaching. In 2011, by conference action, three predecessor organizations — the Goodson Foundation for Preaching, the Stockton Endowment for Evangelism, and the Pennel Wesleyan Heritage Foundation — merged and formed the assets of the Bishops' Foundation into a corporation. The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the Cabinet. Endowment funds are invested with the Virginia UM Foundation. In 2014, the foundation was dissolved as a corporation and is now a board reporting to the annual conference.

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We are an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring organization that supports the training of both laity and clergy. During 2013 - 2016, the foundation supported the following events: the Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 Five-Talent Academy, the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program, the 2015 Goodson Academy for Preaching and the Lay Servant Academy, 2016.

Preparations are underway for a second Goodson Academy for Preaching at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center on September 25 - 28, 2016. Dr. Lucy Lind Hogan, professor of homiletics at Wesley Theological Seminary, is the guest presenter.

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. Grant application forms can be found on the conference website under the tab for the Bishop. See "The Bishops' Foundation".

David A. Rash, Co-Chair

GOODSON PREACHING ACADEMY

In 2015 the Goodson Preaching Academy was restored as an opportunity for those preachers who desired to be more effective in the craft of vital preaching. For four days 29 participants and 8 small group leaders and staff met at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center and in a spirit of collegiality and challenge worked together to that end.

The guest presenter was Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, Ph.D., professor of preaching at Emmanuel College, Toronto. The theme was "Craft and Creativity: Preaching in the Context of a Rapidly Evolving World". Dr. Wilson gave five lectures and the sermon at the closing worship service. It was supported generously by the Bishops' Foundation.

Each participant preached twice to the assigned small group and received feedback designed to strengthen the sermon. This model comes from the now defunct College of Preachers which was the premier national preaching event at the Washington Cathedral for many years. The Virginia Conference first adopted this plan from 1999-2009 in the Goodson Academy for Preaching.

This event is open to all preachers who are willing to expose themselves to new insights and to renew their own spirit in completing this vital task. This event can open even the most experienced preacher to a new more powerful engagement with the scripture and the congregation. The desire is necessary.

The 2016 event plans, however, has been disrupted due to the closing of BCRC, and we are looking to 2017 for the next academy. In all likelihood, Dr. Lucy Lind Hogan, Elderdice Professor of Preaching and Worship at Wesley Seminary, will be the guest presenter.

There is a possibility of some one-day preparation for preaching events that will be tied to lectionary-liturgical seasons and these will be publicized through conference channels.

Co chairs: Charlene Beethoven, David A. Rash

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Ferrum College

All of us at Ferrum College are grateful for the ongoing support of The Virginia Annual Conference and continue to thank all of you for your financial, spiritual, and leadership support. While many small rural colleges in the country continue to face challenges related to enrollment and rising costs, Ferrum continues to hold true to its mission while expanding opportunity, excellence and success for “students of promise.” While we have a myriad of activities and new academic and athletic initiatives, this year’s report will highlight the reflections from Dean of the Chapel, Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle.

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” - Romans 8:28 NLT

We believe that God has placed a call upon Ferrum College to nurture the current generation of students, physically, mentally, and spiritually while preparing to receive future generations with the same ideals of our founding mission. Like the pruning of a fruitful tree, we acknowledge there will be ministries that are pruned in order that new ministries may emerge. Our vision for Spiritual Life in the 2015/16 academic year has been growing our roots deeper.

The Fall Semester 2015 saw an increase in new faces in Spiritual Life opportunities. During the Fall of 2014 we received a one year NetVue Professional Development Grant which allowed a small group of faculty and administration to study Ferrum College’s Methodist roots, and the connection between vocation and call. In direct response to this group’s work, a Net-Vue Program Grant was written and awarded allowing for an e-term to be offered 2016 Spring Semester. The e-term, titled The Spirit of Adventure, was a two-part course focused on vocation, calling, and practice in the Methodist tradition combined with opportunities for students to explore their vocation as related to their spiritual and physical wellness.

We were blessed and very excited to provide for and welcome US2 Global Mission Fellow, Christina Trager. Christina is from Delaware and is assigned for two years by The United Methodist General Board of Global Missions to Ferrum College and to the Henry Fork Center. Her mission is to increase awareness and deepen connections between Ferrum College, Henry Fork, and the needs of our surrounding community.

Intentional spiritual formation is at the heart of maturing in faith. Journey to the Table, a spiritual formation weekend experience, was held in January. Ferrum College was one of five colleges to pilot this program for the Upper Room Ministries located in Nashville, TN. The Journey to the Table team, included students, faculty, administration, and staff who grew deeper in their relationship with God through the experience.

Other spiritual formation opportunities offered during the 2015/16 academic year included: Winter Jam in which 30+ students traveled to hear various popular Christian artists perform and share their testimony, Thursday morning prayer and communion services, spiritual gift studies, mission/outreach opportunities such as Wood for Warmth, Operation Christmas Child, volunteer opportunities at local shelters and food banks, and a General Board of Church and Society Seminar through which a small group of students,

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who chose an alternative Spring Break to DC, learned and deepened their awareness surrounding education, poverty and human trafficking.

A capstone event for the year was the “Rev. Dr. Wasena F. Wright Jr ’60 and Mrs. Patricia G. Wright Endowed Lecture Series” which is a biennial event that honors former Ferrum College Board member, Rev. Buddy Wright. This year, Rev. Dr. J. Denise Honeycutt, Deputy General Secretary of UMCOR, spoke on Global Issues and Disaster Relief, and Mrs. Pat Wright served as the special guest.

We continue to embrace our community connections such as: Praise on the Patio (14 churches participate), Tuesday chapel services, small group studies, and fellowship opportunities.

As we reflect on how God is at work in the Spiritual Life at Ferrum College, we see and believe God is working all things for good. We thank you for your support as we continue to stay focused on Christ, seek discernment, and live into God’s purpose.

Jennifer L. Braaten, President, Ferrum College

Randolph College

During 2016, Randolph College will celebrate its rich history as Randolph-Macon Woman’s College while looking forward to the vibrant promises of tomorrow. In 1891, William Waugh Smith chose Lynchburg, Virginia as the home for his vision—“a college where our young women may obtain an education equal to that given in our best colleges for young men and under environments in harmony with the highest ideals of womanhood.”

Today, 125 years later, much has changed at the College. But the heart of the institution remains its close-knit community of faculty, staff, alumnae and alumni, and students, who are dedicated to pursuing a broader understanding of the world. More importantly, Randolph College is still committed to providing women—and now men—a strong, liberal arts education that prepares them to live the “life more abundant.”

2015 was a great year for the College. Our enrollment was approximately 700 students and giving by alumnae, alumni, and friends, such as the Conference, remained strong. We continue to make a number of improvements to our campus. As you might imagine, with a 125 year old institution comes challenges with an aging physical plant. A focus of my administration has been improving the campus infrastructure. Last summer, we began to replace our electrical system on campus and that project will conclude by the fall of 2016. We also have developed a plan to replace our central boiler with satellite boilers for each building over the next four years. So far, we have raised \$3.1 million from very generous donors for these efforts. Students are overwhelming enthusiastic about the recently opened Wright Hall, a residence hall that received a complete renovation, combining historic charm with modern amenities. The students love the old features such as vaulted ceilings and hard wood floors as well as the new elevator, laundry facilities, beautiful study lounges and kitchens, impressive bathrooms, and air conditioning.

While I believe that one should never put too much stock in College rankings, various publications continue to be kind to us. U.S. News and World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review, and The Washington Monthly, among others, continue to name Randolph a “best college.” We are particularly pleased that College Factual has ranked the College as #11 in the nation and #1 in Virginia for “Best Colleges for the Money.” These accolades are

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due, no doubt, to the outstanding faculty who engage our students in and out of the classroom and the generous institutional grants the College provides to students, totaling over \$13.5 million last year. Randolph remains steadfast in its desire to provide an outstanding, affordable education.

We at Randolph are thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the College and the Conference. We continue to strengthen the opportunities for spiritual development of our students and continue to expand the programs offered by our campus chaplain. We are particularly thankful for the leadership that Rev. John Peters provides as our connection to the Conference. I conclude by thanking the Conference for its ongoing support of our mission. Your contributions help us to prepare students to engage the world critically and creatively, live and work honorably, and experience life abundantly.

Bradley W. Bateman, President

Randolph-Macon Academy

In 2015 Randolph-Macon Academy was blessed with another stellar graduating class as our 61 graduates received 248 college acceptances to 140 different colleges. The class collectively was offered over \$6.6 million in college scholarships. As I joined the R-MA family in March of 2015, the Lord's presence on this campus, evident throughout the graduation events and accomplishments of our students, were quite the sight to behold through new eyes. The longer I am on this campus, the more thankful I am every day for the wonderful staff and faculty who work with our students, day in and day out, helping them to grow into young men and women of character. This year, we matriculated 339 students into our school, surpassing the budget number set as well as our own expectations. I am sure that your prayers for our school played no small part in this.

We hold a unique position in our industry, as we are a college-prep United Methodist school with an Air Force JROTC program. Our chaplain, Joshua Orndorff, has challenged our school to be a "city on a hill" in all that we do. The R-MA family rose to that challenge, as our students finished the 2014-15 school year with 14,419.25 hours of community service. Projects ranged from helping in school offices or completing recycling collections, to performing roadside clean-ups and holding a staff/faculty vs. students basketball game that benefited Imagine No Malaria.

Under Chaplain Orndorff's guidance, the spiritual life of our school has grown tremendously over the last 18 months. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible study takes place at the Middle School (grades 6-8), and the Upper School (grades 9-12) Bible study, called The Beacon, both meet once each week. There is frequently a student praise band in chapel services, allowing a more contemporary worship to take place, to which many of our students relate well. Our weekly chapel services are mandatory for all students, with separate services for the Middle School and Upper School, and getting students to actively participate or learn through music is very important.

Other activities this year have included an ice cream social for students to meet various religious leaders from the community, and Kelsey's Big Give, which was held in cooperation with Riverton United Methodist Church. The "Snowed-In" (a 24-hour lock-in) event complete with speakers and music groups took place on the R-MA campus in January 2016. This was a joint effort with youth groups in the local area, and we had more than 50

youths participate.

This past fall we had our five-year interim accreditation visit with the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) and I am pleased to report that we continue to be fully accredited. We are thankful to God for his provision and blessings, and you for your prayers and financial support. We continue to use your gifts to help fund our chapel programs as well as scholarships for United Methodist students, many of whom could not attend R-MA without the kindness you have shown. Every day your gifts make a difference to our students.

I invite you to visit our campus. I think you will fall in love with the natural beauty, the students, and the faculty and staff, just as I have. And you will walk away knowing that God is touching the lives of young people on this campus. Please keep us in your prayers, and may God bless you.

David C. Wesley, USAF, retired 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 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 a comprehensive, 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 providing a valuable liberal arts education, 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 tagline, *Building Extraordinary Futures*.

The Edge offers Boot Camp, a signature two-day, off-campus immersion program where students learn to identify their career passions, tell their story and hone their interview and communication skills to prepare for success after college. The weekend is devoted to helping students develop their own elevator speech and “brand,” learn how to communicate with confidence, and identify their strengths and capabilities—all with the help of top-notch speakers, interviewers and mentors, including R-MC alumni.

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.

The 2014-2015 academic year began with a total enrollment of 1,394 students. The college also welcomed the largest freshman class in its history. The Class of 2018 represents 16 states, the District of Columbia, and three foreign countries; 42% of the students are male and 58% are female. In addition, 22% of the 425 students are minorities, and 37% are

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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, support greater opportunities for faculty and students in and out of the classroom, scholarship assistance, and programs that support growth and 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. At the end of December 2015, the total raised for the campaign was an historic \$125 million. Alumni support for their alma mater is at an all-time high with 40% of alumni making a gift to the college. This ranks R-MC's alumni participation 16th in the nation of all private and public colleges, and first in Virginia for alumni participation.

In September 2014, Birdsong Hall, a residence for upperclassmen was dedicated and includes 30 apartments, 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.

The new science building 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. Additionally, a new observatory will be constructed to replace the existing Keeble observatory. This facility is scheduled to break ground in spring 2016.

The 2014-15 academic year marked the 50th anniversary of international education at R-MC, whose January Term (J-term) study-travel classes began in 1964 with one faculty member and nine students visiting Germany. In January 2015, R-MC sent 136 students to 14 countries across five continents. Randolph-Macon's semester-long study abroad programs began in the mid-1980s in four countries: the UK, France, Spain, and Germany. In the 2014-15 academic year, 23 students studied abroad in such diverse places as Chile, Costa Rica, Thailand, South Korea, Morocco, Poland, Russia, and the Czech Republic. In total, 720 students have studied in 36 different countries during January or during a regular semester in the last five years.

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 January 2015, 1,279 students participated in J-term. 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. Students gained experience interning at companies such as the Virginia Water Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, Inc., the Virginia Commonwealth University Pauley Heart Center, Pennsylvania Steel and the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, to name a few.

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. This campus-wide community-service initiative brings together the college's clubs, organizations and academic and administrative departments to volunteer their time and energy for environmental projects and other needs in the surrounding communities.

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

Alan B. Rashkind, chairman, Randolph-Macon College

Shenandoah University

What an exciting year for Shenandoah University! In December, the Office of Spiritual Life was notified it had received a \$600,000 Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant to create a youth theology institute at Shenandoah University. In partnership with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and Wesley Theological Seminary, the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUYTI) will open in July 2017. The search has begun for an SUYTI director, who will begin work in July 2016. I challenge you to identify rising high-school sophomores, juniors and seniors who will benefit from a two-week youth theology institute, learning from Shenandoah University and Wesley Theological Seminary faculty, participating in small groups and exploring faith and vocation in rural and urban environments. Please send the names of prospective students to spirituallife@su.edu, and we will work to help these students strengthen their knowledge, faith and leadership.

Calling21 interns from your local congregations were at Annual Conference this year. This is the tenth year Calling21 interns have explored their calling while working in our Virginia Conference churches. More than 80 college students have attended Annual Conference, explored God's call upon their lives, and discerned their life in ministry through Calling21. Many of those Calling21 interns are now certified candidates for ministry, attend seminary, serve local churches and are in the ordination process. Many more are lay

leaders in local congregations, teachers at our schools, and non-profit leaders. Calling21 is another great partnership between Shenandoah University, Wesley Theological Seminary, the Fund for Theological Education and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

In May 2016, Shenandoah University will take 12 students from its Faith Seeking Justice Christian Leadership Program to General Conference in Portland, Oregon, to observe and participate in the process that organizes our denomination. Additionally, Shenandoah's Harambee Gospel Choir auditioned and was accepted to sing at two events at General Conference. The student-led Harambee Gospel Choir is comprised of more than 20 students. In total, about 35 Shenandoah students will participate and lead our denomination at General Conference this May.

Shenandoah University hosted the RE-3 Intercollegiate Conference in September 2015 in partnership with the Wesley Foundations at Virginia Tech, William & Mary, and University of Virginia as well as the spiritual life programs at Ferrum and Randolph-Macon. RE-3 — rethink, reclaim, renew — was a two-day event with worship and informational sessions led by students from participating campus ministries. Sarah Bessey, author of *Jesus Feminist*, was the guest speaker. Funding for this event was a partnership between the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Winchester and Roanoke Districts and the campus ministries that came together for the opportunity.

Finally, I want to highlight our January 2016 trip to the Trinity Institute in New York City. This year's theme was "Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice." Shenandoah was represented at the Institute by eight students from diverse ethnic backgrounds as well as its Spiritual Life Coordinator and Vice President for Student Life Rhonda VanDyke Colby. The Trinity Institute was a unique and wonderful opportunity to talk about the racial climate in our country and on our college campuses. It opened lines of communication, inspired students to explore what they can do to work for racial justice and encouraged students to look at what the church can do to lead our country to social justice.

We have exceptional leaders at Shenandoah University who are moving us forward as an institution and as the church universal. The future of Shenandoah University and our United Methodist Church is bright because of these strong faculty, staff and student leaders. Thank you for working with us to educate and inspire our students to be leaders for tomorrow's church and world.

Tracy Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., President

Virginia Wesleyan College

Virginia Wesleyan College (www.vwc.edu) is Coastal Virginia's premier private, national liberal arts college. The College values its rich heritage and strong affiliation with the United Methodist Church, offering our 1,400 students experiential learning opportunities that empower them to grow as principled scholars and community leaders.

Virginia Wesleyan's 300-acre wooded campus provides an ideal setting for living and learning. This year we added a new synthetic turf field, Birdsong Field. The forthcoming Greer Environmental Sciences Center, scheduled for completion in summer 2017, will provide state-of-the-art instructional and laboratory facilities and a signature program in environmental science.

The Lighthouse Center for Exploration and Discovery is a one-stop shop for experiential learning, study away, internships and undergraduate research. The College's partnerships throughout the Hampton Roads region, such as The Chrysler Museum of Art and the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, extend our students' experiences. In addition, Virginia Wesleyan's robust collaboration with The YMCA will bring another new joint-use facility to our campus next year.

Students at Virginia Wesleyan choose from 33 majors, 30 minors, and seven pre-professional programs. More than 90 percent of them are employed or in graduate school within one year of graduation. The College's most popular majors are biology and business; our average class size is approximately 13 students. In addition, about 25 percent of our students compete in 19 NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports.

The Jane P. Batten Student Center is the hub of activity for 70 clubs and organizations and a thriving ministry and community service program. Nearly half of our students engage in service to others. Our winter homeless shelter, hosted on our campus each January, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016, to our knowledge, the only shelter on a college campus.

Marlin Ministries

The Rev. Greg West leads a vibrant campus ministry, offering 20 different opportunities every week for students to gather in worship, Bible study, fellowship, and prayer.

Eight students are enrolled in our 'Methodism' course this spring which Chaplain West is teaching with VWC's C. S. Lewis Endowed Chair of Communication and Christian Thought, Dr. Terry Lindvall. Professor of Religious Studies and the Joan P. and Macon F. Brock, Jr. Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Dr. Craig Wansink, and Chaplain West created a class called "Servant Leadership," a step toward re-establishing the pre-ministerial track.

In May Dr. Lindvall, Dr. Wansink and Chaplain West will lead a pilgrimage to England and Scotland to explore the methodology and theology of the early Methodist movement and the Scottish reformation.

We have sent numerous students to seminary over the last few years. We have renamed our annual clergy **Continuing Education Seminar the Robert F. Boyd Institute**, in honor of our only living founding Trustee. Our speaker for the spring of 2016 (scheduled for March 28-29) is Bishop Timothy Whitaker, speaking on "The Future Mission and Identity of the Church."

The Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan addresses complex social problems and through discussion, lectures, events, and training seeks to equip individuals to be agents of reconciliation in society.

The Center for Sacred Music (CSM) continues its mission to live the words of John Wesley by "training minds and warming hearts." The Center's **Church Music Certificate program** and **Sacred Music Summer Conference** shape students, pastors, and practicing musicians through dynamic teaching and engaged worship as preparation for service. During 2015-16, 34 adult students took part in online and classroom instruction for their Church Music Certificate.

As the nation prepares to commemorate the 400th anniversary of enslaved Africans in America in 2019, the College undertook an advance exploration of the legacies of slavery

through “**Entangled Identities: Legacies of 1619.**” The Center joined with the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and the College’s History Department to develop programming for this year-long series.

My first year as president of Virginia Wesleyan College has been one filled with discovery, innovation, and excitement, as well as a deep commitment to this impressive institution. I look forward to increasing our vital connectedness to our United Methodist roots.

Scott D. Miller, Ph.D., President, Virginia Wesleyan College

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.

In April, 2015 ARMS sponsored its first-ever series of regional meetings in partnership with the conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The main topic for these gatherings was the change in retiree health care plans subsequently passed by the Annual Conference in June. Feedback from these gatherings was overwhelmingly positive with many expressing their appreciation that they were able to attend without traveling great distances or staying overnight. The ARMS Board will consider sponsoring additional gatherings in the future.

The main ARMS event has traditionally been an annual fall retreat. The keynote speaker for our 2015 retreat was Joe Eldridge who spent more than 25 years working in the public policy arena as an advocate and analyst on international human rights and humanitarian issues. As usual, the retreat also featured great worship, inspiring music and wonderful fellowship.

Bishop Tim Whitaker will be our main speaker at this year’s retreat on Oct 12-13. Leigh Anne Taylor, minister of music at Blacksburg UMC, will lead a highly-participatory music program at the retreat. Retreat brochures will be available at the ARMS display table, the retiree banquet, and from VUMAC.

Retired clergy and spouses are encouraged to stay in touch through the ARMS newsletter *To Arms* and electronically through the conference Retiree Net.

Harry & Gale Kennon, co-presidents

PREACHERS’ RELIEF SOCIETY

The Preacher’s Relief Society during 2015 provided grants to five clergy families and/or widows of clergy to assist each of them in meeting financial emergencies. Expenses incurred because of health or medical issues were significant contributing factors to the needs experienced by each of the grant recipients. This year the recipients came from five different districts. As in every case, the requests and recommendations for aid were conveyed to the society by the superintendent of the district in which the recipient lives or is appointed. The society is grateful for the opportunity to provide aid. Its ability to do so is made possible primarily by income received from returns on investments. The society of course also very much welcomes gifts and bequests from persons interested in its mission.

Robert T. Casey, president

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

After 22 years, this is my final report to you. This organization was established by our conference in 1932 and for many years was known as the Home Corporation. Board members were the district superintendents plus an equal number of laypersons. As the years progressed, there were a number of changes that came about. A long-range planning committee was formed that visited each home trusted to our care. During that trip, a number of older homes that were built in the 1940s with only one bathroom and steep stairs leading to the second floor were slated to be sold. There were other concerns, such as faulty wiring and plumbing that did not meet the present codes but were considered safe under the “old grandfather clause”. This committee was asked to develop plans for providing homes that were up to modern standards and gave older persons freedoms that are conducive to retirement living. About three years ago a new long-range planning committee made the same trip, again determining homes we should sell when they became vacant, plus determining if we were adhering to the plans developed by the first committee.

Changes were in order also concerning the name and membership of the board. The name changed to The Retired Clergy Housing Corporation with only 24 board members, 18 of which shall be laypersons and 6 clergy — one to be appointed by the Bishop from the Cabinet. All changes had to be approved by the Virginia State Corporation and the IRS which is also annually approved through the board’s attorney and auditors. Today’s board is divided into three areas of concern: the Admissions committee, the Finance committee and the Sites and Construction committee.

I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest laypersons and clergy one can experience. The chairpersons, both lay and clergy, have been outstanding individuals. Those who have served as officers or committee chairpersons have faithfully provided the highest qualities of leadership. None are paid. Their love for those who have served our conference and retired is a determining factor.

I, however, have to share with you my partner all these years. She is Nancy, my wife, who provided the leadership for our financial obligations. For many years she has received all financial contributions and oversaw every disbursement. Without her, we would have suffered in many areas.

I am hopeful that more and more individuals will become “covenantors” which is one of the life lines of our corporation. By joining, you assure the on-going care for needy retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. This membership is open for clergy and Laity.

God’s best to the new leadership.

Thomas L. Coffman, President

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 and staff, 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 (GCFA) has the authority and responsibility to provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of professional standards, training and certification programs and to provide assistance to PAUMCS (2012 *Book of Discipline*, ¶807.19).

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 2015-2016 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 Linda Rhodes, director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, who led us in a session on church communications for today, "I Love to Tell the Story." Wayne Rhodes, director of communications for the General Board of Church and Society explained how the United Methodist Social Principles are an expression of our discipleship and calling to spread scriptural holiness through local churches.

Our spring training/spiritual growth retreat in May at Camp Overlook was led by Sandy Gramling, a tenured associate professor in Clinical Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Sandy shared with us ways for church administrators to reduce stresses not found in secular settings and how to maintain spiritual health, along with information about physical health and nutrition. 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!

Sandra S Fulcher, President

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

Our goal is to be a primary resource for encouraging sound stewardship principles and helping Virginia United Methodist churches, individuals and institutions. Our objective is to help our members "to earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can" as servants of Christ in the world.

We are a full-service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all-volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of laity and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa rewards credit cards, online services and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We offer SnapLoan, an educational line of credit for college and seminary students. We have partnered with several conference churches to establish Jubilee Assistance Funds, a program that assists churches with short-term loans to help their church members who may be experiencing a financial emergency. We recently partnered with a financial services firm that can assist our members with college planning/529s, annuities, long-term care and saving for retirement.

Our church loan program helps 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 rewards credit cards for church business.

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 64 years of service in 2016, our membership has grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies and institutions within the Virginia Annual Conference.

Alvin J. Horton, Chair

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in every situation.” – I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Have you ever skipped a stone across a lake to watch the impact it makes? And then marveled at the ripple effect? Every year, names come and go ... people emerge onto the scene. Their lives leave an imprint on others around them. The impact is often not planned or anticipated. But, like a smooth stone skipping across the lake, those people create ripples that intersect with others to leave a lasting legacy of connection. We all desire significance — to lead fulfilled lives and leave a lasting impact on those around us! Over the past year, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation was blessed by several people whose story may not make the front page of any newspaper, but the ripple effect for lasting impact will intersect many more people for years to come. Here are a few, and I am grateful for each one:

- A long-term seminary professor with a deep sense of heritage and appreciation for his home church created a beneficiary plan with his retirement assets to provide an endowment for his home church to expand and re-envision ministry for the future.
- A business couple who has worked with their church through a major building project made a significant gift of highly-appreciated stock to fulfill a pledge commitment for the capital campaign in their local church.
- A retiree invested personal funds with the Development Company to provide increased fixed income to meet their monthly expenses. They also named their church

as the beneficiary of those funds upon their decease as a lasting legacy.

- A church received a sizeable bequest. The Foundation staff assisted 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.
- A grant from the Foundation helped provide support for the Parkview Mission in Lynchburg as a community outreach center in providing services to needy and disadvantaged in their community.
- A couple who shares a missional alignment with a social service agency created a charitable gift annuity to benefit that UM charitable ministry in Virginia — while providing income for their lifetime.
- One district worked through the process of re-purposing and selling a church property to another congregation. Following the sale, they sought counsel from the Foundation staff on how to manage those funds to develop and fund new ministry initiatives in their district.
- A local church sold its parsonage and invested those funds with the Foundation. They now draw earnings from those funds to provide a housing allowance for their pastor.
- A legacy ministry program in a local church unearthed several members whose planning is in place to make an impact and ensure the church's ministry for generations to come.

Each of these leave testimonies of sacrifice and service with a goal to make an imprint on others through their planning and giving. Each of us should consider and plan ahead for what legacy we will create with the resources God has entrusted to our care. The Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to helping congregants understand that they may make the largest giving impact of their lives through effective planning that can provide the much needed boost to resource a vision for future outreach into their community. Foundation assets continue to grow as services and staff expand to meet the needs of donors and churches. Since 2011, we have increased the number of churches and ministries we serve from 148 to 217 — more than 50% growth! Assets managed have doubled over that time!

As Of: 12/31/2015

Account Type	Count	Value as of 12/31/2015
Church	217	\$ 35,584,663
Endowment	86	7,927,125
Agency	31	10,198,165
CGA	45	641,484

Total	380	\$ 55,236,952
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Our call is to continue “helping you create lasting ministries into the future” through

strategic planning, continuing education, capital campaigns and effective stewardship. 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. Our commitment is to live out our Core Values with a vision for relevant ministry that leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come. I am grateful for each fund — large and small — and each church relationship — urban or rural — where we serve as a fiduciary and assist in fulfilling their mission and vision.

Never underestimate the power of one person or one church — like a stone skipping across the lake — to create ripples that intersect and impact others. Each person, family or ministry can create a legacy imprint to accomplish the purpose for which God has called and equipped us. The Foundation remains available to assist individuals and churches throughout the conference to pursue God's unique calling to an enduring legacy of vital ministry that changes lives and touches souls.

Capture the potential for impact...catch the imprint of generosity! Give thanks with me for God's good provision and the open hearts of God's people to plant seeds for coming harvest.

Stephen B. Clark, President

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

Re-envisioning Ministry for the Future

Thanks to more than 80 churches, agencies and individuals who have become investors in the Development Company over the last year, we have been able to make a difference in 15 local churches by helping them with church extension loan financing! These churches have saved more than \$214,000 in debt service, increasing their operational cash flow and enabling them to expand their local ministry outreach!

Our impact can be seen with:

- A construction loan for a new ministry facility and sanctuary in the Winchester District.
- Re-financing for a parsonage loan in the Charlottesville District.
- Equipping a church in the Arlington District to re-launch a capital campaign to expand and improve their building space.
- Helping a church in Richmond with their ministry strategy as they purchase adjoining property to expand ministry options.
- Coupling a re-finance and remodeling project into one loan for a church in the Alexandria District.

These are just a few of the examples of how your investments touched the lives of more than 12,000 Methodists last year. There are many benefits to partnering with the Development Company. As a connectional ministry, we provide consulting service to the local church as they look at expansion or facility improvement. We understand the challenges involved with financing, as well as the requirements of the United Methodist Church. Our ministry goals include simplifying the process, offering lower costs, advantageous terms and extremely competitive interest rates while serving as your advisor

from start to finish. Each loan has a story which adds to the ripple effect of impacting lives and extending mission and ministry in their community as the hands and feet of Christ. The Development Company offers construction loans with terms normally less than one year. Permanent loans with terms of 5 years and amortization up to 30 years are also available. Our goal is to help local churches become effective stewards of the resources entrusted — both building and budget — and re-envision their impact in mission and ministry in their local community.

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. Our purpose 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 continuing prayer for the coming year is increased participation in the deposits to help meet the loan demand! Thereby, our motto: United Methodists Investing to Impact Virginia!

In 2015, the Development Company realized significant growth in investments and loans. As of December 31:

2015 Deposits	\$9,417,638
2015 Total Assets	\$10,908,920
2015 Outstanding Loans	\$6, 178,686
2015 Loan Commitments to Churches for future loans	\$5,016,876

The overarching goal for the Development Company remains: Strengthening the local church to expand ministry in its community through effective planning and ongoing consultation as we manage assets and provide support to fulfill its enduring local mission!

Stephen B. Clark, 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 234th 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>.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2

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.

And be it further resolved that the Board of Church and Society of the Virginia Conference will offer information and support to any local church that seeks assistance in developing a mentoring program in its community.

Submitted by Dave Stegmaier on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 3

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 Resolution* 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.kairospalestine.ps/content/kairos-document> Web. December 2009); and,

Whereas Palestinian Christian leaders have specifically requested the support of the United Methodist Church; (Letter to the United Methodist Church from Rifat Odeh Kassiss, 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 2017 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

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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 for the Board of Church and Society, 2016

A REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE 2016 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 17, 18, 19, 2016
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 2016 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 2016 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 neon yellow 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 330,000 United Methodists in almost 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

- 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: Katie Wax and Ethan Adamas are the 2015-2016 co-chairs. Sarah Williams and Hannah Hale are the 2016-2017 co-chairs. Adult Council Rep. Alison Malloy
- Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries: David Bailey and Beth Christian

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.

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

LAITY SESSION: In addition to the regular agenda, all lay members of Annual Conference shall gather at 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 17, in the Berglund Center for worship, prayer, testimony, and information related to General and Annual conference issues.

LAITY LUNCHEON: The Laity Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, at 12:00 p.m and is for all laity. Contact your district lay leader for ticket information. No tickets will be sold at Annual Conference.

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) 784-3631.

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Pub Theology Thurs., June 16, at 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Kendall Soulen of Wesley Theological Seminary and Rev. Jason Micheli of the Tamed Cynic blog, will lead a discussion and Q/A with fellow Elder, Rev. Morgan Guyton, on his new book *How Jesus Saves the World from Us: 12 Antidotes to Toxic Christianity*. No pre-registration required. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Contact: Ted Sutton, pubtheologyroanoke@gmail.com.

Center in the Square rooftop • One Market Square SE, Roanoke 24011 • 540-342-5711

Potato Drop – Society of St. Andrew..... Fri., June 19, at 7:00 a.m. at Southview UMC
Come join in this hands-on mission gleaning activity. It's still cool enough to join in your old clothes and still clean up, change into your conference clothes and make to the opening session!

Contact: Sarah Ramey, Society of St. Andrew, 800-333-4597 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 four different ministries. Bishop Cho stated

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

in his letter that went to all churches: “Part of author Frederick Buechner’s definition of compassion is, ‘the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.’ We as United Methodists in Virginia always respond to the needs of others in compassionate response to God’s call on our lives. Our offering this year reflects that compassion as we once again reach out to touch and be touched by God’s hand in global and local mission.”

Contributions are asked for the following ministries:

Cambodia – As we strengthen our commitment to the Methodist Mission in Cambodia in our fourth year of support as that church continues its rapid growth moving toward being an autonomous Methodist Church.

Brazil – In our long-term partnership with the Shade and Fresh Water ministry of the Methodist Church of Brazil, we support this compassionate ministry with at-risk children in cities and communities.

Mozambique – Our partnership with the Methodist Church in Mozambique focuses on education through providing laity resources that strengthen their discipleship and witness in a growing number of sites throughout the country.

Disaster Relief and Recovery - Finally, as a conference we will provide funds in partnership with UMCOR here in Virginia as we help in the long-term recovery and rebuilding of homes after the devastating tornadoes that touched down in three areas of our state.

For more information, go to www.vaumc.org/ac2016.

‘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.

Beyond the cans, staple goods, juices, box-mixes (think Hamburger Helper or cornbread), grits, cereal, mac-and-cheese, cooking oil, and all kinds of food-stuffs will be greatly appreciated!

Do NOT bring home-canned things, items with expired dates, glass jars or exotic food items. They cannot be passed along. Think first of the recipients! What would you need or want?

Cash or checks made out to “cash” will be used 100% in food purchases. ALL gifts benefit the local ministries’ services to those in need in the Berglund Center area.

4 boxes or even 400 cans will help! Our 2016 Annual Conference Goal is to surpass 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 at the collection point.)

UMCOR KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Various types of Relief Supply Kits will be collected at the 2016 Conference session. Kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. Especially in short supply are cleaning buckets following the many

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

storms and flooding in the U.S. in the past year.

Local churches are encouraged to collect items for any of the most requested UMCOR kits — Bedding, Birthing, Cleaning, Health, Layette, School and Sewing Kits— and bring them to Annual Conference. (Please bring the kits in boxes —not bags — labeled with a count of the items)

For kit instructions, go to <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>.

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 noon-5 p.m. Thursday, June 16; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, June 17; and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 18.

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, \$65 for each cleaning kit, \$12 for each health kit, \$45 for each layette kit, \$11 for each school kit and \$28 for each sewing kit. In addition, 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, and no later than Aug. 31.

More volunteers are needed for this year’s “Kits for Conference” collection at Annual Conference. You can help (1) write information on a clipboard, (2) sort kits, (3) seal boxes, or (4) load boxes onto the tractor-trailers. Kit collection will take place Thursday, June 16, from noon-5 p.m.; Friday, June 17, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, June 18, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. If you can volunteer to help, e-mail Virgil Decker at vdecker@cox.net or contact Jeff Wilson at Huntington Court UMC, (540) 366-3465, to indicate what time you are available. Also, you may register on-line at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0848ABAF2CA0FC1-2016.

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

Birthing 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.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- 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.
- *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

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Assembly Directions

Place kit in the plastic bag and seal.

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.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2016

- 17-19 Virginia Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke
- 22-23 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, St. Paul's UMC, Staunton
- 24-28 HARAMBEE Youth Conference, Holly Springs, Mississippi
- 26-July 1 All God's Children Camp, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
- 29 Pastors' Moving Day

JULY 2016

- 1 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 1 Application available for Provisional, Full and Associate Membership from Center for Clergy Excellence
- 4 UM Center closed, Independence Day observance
- 9-15 Camp Rainbow Connection, location TBD
- 19-20 Provisional Members Residency Event
- 29-31 Mission Encounter, location TBD
- 31-Aug.5 All God's Children Camp, Camp Occohannock on the Bay, Belle Haven

AUGUST 2016

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
- 1 Older Adult Council, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 6-12 Camp Rainbow Connection, location TBD
- 23-24 First-Year Provisional Members & Mentors Retreat

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 1 Provisional, Full, Associate and Certification Application deadline
- 2 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 4 Industrial & Commercial Ministries Labor Day Offering
- 5 UM Center closed, Labor Day observance
- 8 Board of Communications, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Va. UM Development Company Bd of Managers Mtg., UM Center, 8:00 a.m.
- 10 Board of Laity, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Missional Ministries Board, UM Center 10:00 a.m.
- 9-11 Conf. Council of Youth Ministries, location TBD
- 12 Conference Board of Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 UM Foundation Board of Directors Mtg., UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 16-17 UMW Young Women's Retreat
- 16-17 Board of Church and Society, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 24 UMVIM Team Leader Training, Warwick Memorial UMC, Newport News, 9:30 a.m.
- 24 UMVIM Team Leader Recertification, Warwick Memorial UMC, Newport News, 4:00 p.m.
- 30-Oct 1 UMMen Visioning and Goal Setting, Westview on the James

OCTOBER 2016

- 4 5 Talent Academy, featuring Andy Crouch
- 6 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- 6 Conference Historical Society, UM Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 6-8 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College
- 8 UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Older Adult Council, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 14 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees, 12 noon, R-MA Middle School
- 18 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Bishops' Foundation, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 21-22 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
- 22 Folklife Festival, Ferrum College
- 27 UMW Mission Team Meeting, location TBD
- 28 UMW Executive Meeting, location TBD
- 29-30 UMW 44th Annual Meeting, location TBD

NOVEMBER 2016

- 1 Va PAUMCS "Experience Your Connection" event, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 4 Ferrum Board of Trustees Meeting, Ferrum College
- 8 Preachers' Relief Society Annual Meeting, Elizabeth River District office,
10:00 a.m.
- 10 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13-15 UMMen SEJ Jurisdictional Conference, St. Simon's Island, GA
- 23 UM Center closes 1:00 p.m.
- 24-25 UM Center closed, Thanksgiving observance
- 30 Equitable Compensation Commission, UM Center 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 2016

- 8 UM Development Company Bd of Managers Mtg., UM Center, 8:00 a.m.
- 10 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, 8:30 a.m.
- 15 UM Foundation Board of Directors Mtg., UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 23-28 UM Center closed for Christmas observance

JANUARY 2017

- 2 UM Center closed for New Years
- 14 UMW Mission Team Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 UM Center closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 17 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 25 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 30 Deadline for conference Peace with Justice grants

FEBRUARY 2017

- 1 Deadline for Conference Benevolence Grants
- 2 UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond, 8:00 a.m.
- 2-3 Board of Church and Society, UM Center
- 2-4 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 4 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, 8:30 a.m.
- 6 Conference Board of Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- 16 CLDDT, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 23 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 10-11 Randolph-Macon College Trustees, Randolph-Macon College, 9:00 a.m.

MARCH 2017

- 2-5 Nat'l Association of UMMen Conference Presidents, Nashville
- 6 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees, R-MA Middle School, 12 noon
- 16 CLDDT, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 23 Common Table for Church Vitality Meeting, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 29 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.

APRIL 2017

- 6 UMW Mission Team Meeting, location TBD
- 7-8 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, location TBD
- 13 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 14 UM Center closed for Good Friday
- 21-24 UMW Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington, D.C.

MAY 2017

- 4-6 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College
- 5 Ferrum College Board of Trustees Mtg., Ferrum College
- 5-6 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
- 5-7 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, location TBD
- 6 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, 8:30 a.m.
- 6 Ferrum College Commencement
- 14 Randolph College Commencement
- 25-31 Licensing School, Virginia Wesleyan College
- 26 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 27 Randolph-Macon College Commencement, 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees, R-MA Middle School, 12 noon
- 27 Randolph-Macon Academy Commencement, 10:00 a.m.
- 29 UM Center closed, Memorial Day observance

JUNE 2017

- 3 UMW Day at Ferrum College
- 16-18 Annual Conference, Hampton
- 17 UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton, 6:30 a.m.

JULY 2017

- 3-4 UM Center closed, Independence Day observance
- 30-Aug 4 Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond

AUGUST 2017

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 1 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m.
- 4 UM Center closed, Labor Day observance
- 11 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 2017

- 5 CLDDT, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees, R-MA Middle School, 12 noon
- 27-28 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

- 10 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 UM Center closes 1 p.m.
- 23-24 UM Center closed, Thanksgiving observance

DECEMBER 2017

- 22 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m.
- 25-27 UM Center closed for Christmas observance

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

CLDDT	Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team
TBD	To Be Determined
UM Center	Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen
UMC	United Methodist Church
UMMen	United Methodist Men
UMVIM	United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
UMW	United Methodist Women

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ORDER FORM FOR JOURNAL AND DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY

Name _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[Clergy: Please enter your NEW address if you are moving this year.]

2016 DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY ORDERS

One free copy of the *2016 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 *2016 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 "*2016 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 *2016 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

Widow/Widower of Clergy: Check here to request a free printed copy of the *2016 Directory of the Ministry*: _____

2016 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The *2016 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.
- Provided as a CD upon request at a cost of \$10. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.

To order a *Journal*, 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. Make checks payable to: Virginia Conference United Methodist Church (earmark for "*2016 Journal*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like _____ regular-bound printed *2016 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

I would like _____ spiral-bound printed *2016 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

I would like _____ *2016 Journal(s)* on CD at \$10 each (includes shipping).

NOTES

NOTES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION HOURS

Friday, June 17: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Saturday, June 18: 8:30 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 129 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. For retired clergy, vouchers are included in the *Book of Reports* mailing (also available online at www.vaumc.org/AC2016) 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: Bonsack United Methodist Church (4493 Bonsack Rd) will be hosting paid childcare this year. Child care is available for ages 0-10 and will be offered Fri., June 17, 12:30-5:30pm; Sat. June 20, 8am-5:30pm and 7-9:30pm; and Sun., June 21, 8am-12:30pm. For questions, contact Susan Wagner at Susan@bonsackumc.org. Registration for childcare is online only, at <https://www.etchouches.com/16vacc>. Registration deadline is May 31st.

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