
The 235th session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Hampton, Virginia

June 16-18, 2017

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 2017 Annual Conference theme is
“A New Thing”
Logo designed by Cathryn Huff*

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP LEWIS



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I welcome you to the 2017 session of our Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. I am very excited about our annual gathering and look forward to seeing and meeting you soon.

It is a delight to be together at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia for the 235th Annual Conference Session, and we are grateful to the Annual Conference Planning Team, York River District Host Committee and the Hampton Roads Convention Center Staff for their excellent hospitality and preparation.

Our conference theme this year is “A New Thing,” guided by the scriptural passage of Isaiah 43:19. *“Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* As we journey together, as your new resident bishop, I anticipate and expect “new things” to occur in the Virginia Conference which includes highlighting glory sightings at our annual conference each year as well as my Chat and Chew events with each of the 16 districts.

I am pleased to announce those who have graciously accepted our invitation to participate in the annual conference session.

We invited Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, resident bishop of The North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church to teach two Bible study sessions. Our conference preachers will be Bishop James Swanson Sr., resident bishop of The Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church for the Mission and Service for the Ordering of Ministry. We will also hear from the Rev. Thomas Joyce, for the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion and the Rev. Janet C. Knott who will speak on behalf of the retiring class.

This year our conference offering will continue to support our partnerships with our United Methodist missions in Cambodia, Mozambique and Brazil. In the Virginia Conference, our special offering will provide funds to three areas: VAUMVIM will allocate funds for small churches who desire to engage in mission that may lack resources; development of ethnic minority missional ministries and to continue to assist with disaster recovery from the tornado and hurricanes that hit several areas in Virginia.

Please continue to keep the annual conference gathering in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to answer God’s call!

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sharma D. Lewis'.

Sharma D. Lewis

Resident Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference

SPEAKERS

STUDY LEADER



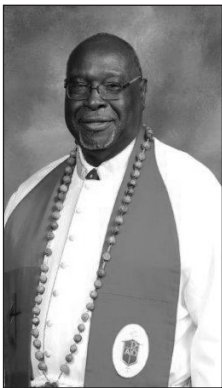
The Rev. Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church at the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

At the time of her election, she served as lead pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky – an appointment she served for eight years. During her tenure, St. Luke grew in membership, strengthened its infrastructure, built a \$4.5 million Ministry Life Center, and launched a multi-cultural worship service.

Her previous service to the church includes six years as District Superintendent of the Prestonburg District, with two years as Dean of the Cabinet of the Kentucky Conference, three years as pastor of Paris First UMC, and eleven years on staff at Lexington First UMC. Additionally, she has served in a variety of roles in the Kentucky Annual Conference as well as Jurisdictional and General Conference levels. These include Board of Ministries; District Committee on Ministries/ Local Pastors team chair; Methodist Home Board chair; Kentucky Conference Education chair; Kentucky Episcopacy Committee chair; Primary Task Team; Children and Poverty Board; SEJ Episcopacy Committee member; General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Board, 2004-20012; World Methodist Council; General Conference and SEJ delegate (2000, 2004, 2008.) Wallace-Padgett is a graduate of Berea College (B.A.), Scarritt College and Graduate School (M.A.), Lexington Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Asbury Theological Seminary (D.Min.)

She is married to the Rev. Lee Padgett, a deacon in the United Methodist Church who serves as Executive Director of Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center. They have two children, Leandra and Andrew. Wallace-Padgett is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Wallace. Teh Rev. Wallace is a United Methodist elder.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS



James Edward Swanson Sr. (*leading Saturday morning worship and A Service for the Ordering of Ministry*) is the resident bishop of the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church. His tenure began Sept. 1, 2012.

Swanson listened to the people of Mississippi and discovered values deep within their hearts—love, generosity, justice, and apprenticeship—thus becoming the Core Four Values of the Mississippi Conference. It is from this Core Four that the churches seek to center their unique ministries. However, none of these values are accomplished alone. Swanson travels the Mississippi Conference teaching, “We are One Church in 1,030 locations.”

Swanson was elected a bishop of The United Methodist

SPEAKERS

Church during the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference. He was assigned to the Holston Conference where the episcopal office is located in Knoxville, Tennessee. Swanson served the Holston Conference for eight years. Under his leadership, the Sudan Mission initiated. The number of United Methodist congregations in Sudan grew from three to 30 between 2006 and 2012. A residential home for Sudan's district superintendent was built and used as a training site for clergy and laity of South Sudan. Plans were laid for Holston to raise funds for the campaign "Imagine No Malaria" to prevent and treat the deadly malaria disease in Sub-Saharan Africa. The campaign resulted in \$1.2 million dollars.

Swanson serves as the president of the General Commission of United Methodist Men for 2017-2020. He was re-elected to the post following his service for 2012-2016. Swanson is a member of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU). He serves on the board of trustees for Emory University, Rust College and Millsaps College. He is also the chairman of the board of trustees at Gammon Theological Seminary.

Swanson is a sought-after preacher, workshop leader and lecturer. He has presented to people in Japan, Korea, Brazil, Russia, Estonia, Chile, Canada, the Holy Land, Egypt, Liberia, Sudan, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe and throughout the United States.

Swanson is married to Delphine Yvonne Ramsey Swanson. They have the joy of being parents to six adult children: Karen Latrese Swanson Jones married to Earl; James Edward Swanson Jr. married to Yaki Bryant; Shondell Swanson married to Angela Drain; Carlton Eugene Swanson married to Ivis Rosario; Janae Evonne Swanson Brown married to Vernon; and Joshua Emile' Swanson. The Swansons are blessed with 16 grandchildren.



The Rev. Thomas L. Joyce (*preaching for the Friday evening memorial service*) currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop. He also served as the Roanoke District Superintendent; pastor of First UMC, Roanoke District; Heritage UMC, Lynchburg District, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, formerly Ashland District; Warsaw UMC, formerly Rappahannock District and as associate pastor of Trinity UMC, Richmond District. He has served as a board member of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Conference Credit Union, Pell Foundation, Ferrum College, Emory & Henry College, Vice-Chair of the Conference Board of Pensions and President of the Virginia Council of Churches.

A native of Henry County, VA, Rev. Joyce received his undergraduate degree in Religion and Philosophy from Emory & Henry College and his M.Div from Duke Divinity School.

He was ordained an elder in 1973. He retired in 2013 after 44 years of active service in the conference. The last eight of those years, he served as Assistant to the Bishop full-time. This annual conference marks the completion of his fourth year in this position less than full-time.

The Rev. Joyce is married to Eleanor Barrow Joyce. He and Eleanor have three children and two grandchildren.

AGENDA

Virginia Annual Conference

June 16-18, 2017

Hampton Roads Convention Center

Hampton, Virginia

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis Presiding

"A New Thing"

"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?

I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19

Friday Afternoon, June 16

(Registration: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

1:00 p.m.	Laity Session	Halls B, C
1:00 p.m.	Clergy Session	Ballrooms D, E, F, G
3:00 p.m.	Call to Order.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Opening Prayer	Rev. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn & Ms. Ashton Huddleston
	Welcome and Organizing Motions.....	Rev. Seonyoung Kim (Host District Superintendent)
	Election of	Rev. Susan Reaves
	Assistant Secretaries	
	Editor of the <i>Journal</i>	
	Annual Conference Committees	
	Rules Committee.....	Rev. Joshua King
	Commission on Status and Role of Women.....	Rev. Mary Dadisman
	Episcopal Address.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Report of the Cabinet.....	Rev. Larry Thompson
	Minute Questions	
	Recognition of New Faith Communities.....	Rev. Larry Thompson
	Approval of Consent Agenda	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Report of Equitable Compensation Commission	Mr. Thomas Nealley
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Friday Evening, June 16

7:30 p.m.	A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion	Rev. Thomas Joyce
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Saturday Morning, June 17

(Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Room 106
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith.....	Rev. Robert McMichael, Mr. Jarvis Wilson

AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Laity Address	Mr. Warren Harper
	Board of Pensions Report	Mr. Ken Peterson
	Common Table Report.....	Common Table members
	Election of Boards and Agencies .	Mr. Warren Harper, Rev. Marc Brown
	Consecration of Conference Leadership	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Recognitions	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	United Methodist College Presidents	
	Wesley Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School videos	
	Africa University	Dr. James Salley
10:50 a.m.	Break with singing	Rev. Robert McMichael, Mr. Jarvis Wilson
11:00 a.m.	Worship	Bishop James Swanson Sr.
12:00 noon	Recess for Lunch	

Saturday Afternoon, June 17

1:45 p.m.	Singing Our Faith.....	Rev. Robert McMichael, Mr. Jarvis Wilson
2:00 p.m.	Recognition of Retirees	Rev. Janet C. Knott
3:00 p.m.	Report of Episcopal Residence Committee	Ms. Shirley Cauffman
	Voting on Constitutional Amendments	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Report on Commission on a Way Forward.....	Rev. Tom Berlin
	Discipleship Recognitions	Board of Discipleship
	Resolutions	Rev. Mochel Morris
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Saturday Evening, June 17

7:30 p.m.	A Service for the Ordering of Ministry.....	Bishop James Swanson Sr.
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Sunday Morning, June 18

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Room 106
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith.....	Rev. Robert McMichael, Mr. Jarvis Wilson
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett
9:00 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Report of Statistician	Mr. David Dommis
	Report of Treasurer.....	Mr. David Dommis
	Report of Council on Finance and	
	Administration (CFA)	Ms. Betty Forbes
10:00 a.m.	Unfinished Conference Business	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
10:45 a.m.	Break for Worship Preparation	
11:00 a.m.	Worship	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Distribution of the Appointments Edition of the <i>Advocate</i>	
	Fixing of the Appointments.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

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 two 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 Hampton Roads Convention Center 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 2016 Session

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

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

I. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

B. MEMBERSHIP

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

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- 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 servant 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 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. 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

STANDING RULES

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. Unless otherwise covered by a local charge, 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 Servant Ministries;
 - iii. the president of the conference young adult organization;
 - iv. a member of the conference youth organization;
 - v. the conference Treasurer;
 - vi. the conference Chancellor(s);
 - vii. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
 - viii. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
 - ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee
 - x. the conference scouting coordinator
- c. By annual conference boards or agencies:
 - i. the Conference Lay Leader
 - ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
 - iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;

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- 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
- 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

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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).

C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

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

STANDING RULES

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

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

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

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

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

STANDING RULES

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

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years or less shall be eligible for re-election to one full term of eight years. Program boards and agencies other than the Board of Ordained Ministry may co-opt specific persons for specific projects for short periods of time as consultants, without vote. Any combination of continuous service as either a regular or co-opted member shall count on the eight-year time limit for consecutive service. The term of office of members of conference boards and agencies shall begin with the adjournment of the Annual Conference at which said members are elected and shall extend until their successors are elected.

9. **Members of general boards or agencies shall be members ex-officio of the corresponding conference board or agency.**
10. **Nomination or Election to Only One Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee with Limited Exceptions.** No person is eligible for nomination, election, or interim appointment to more than one board, council, commission, or standing committee, except where permitted by the *Discipline* and/or conference structure.
11. **District Superintendent Not Eligible to be Chairperson or President of Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee.** No District Superintendent shall be eligible to serve as a chairperson or president of any board, council, commission, or committee of the annual conference. The Bishop may appoint a representative of the Cabinet to any board, council, commission, or committee which is not program-related of which a member of the Cabinet is not already an elected member. The appointment of District Superintendents to boards, councils, commissions, or committees which are program related shall be made annually.
12. **Officers of Quadrennially Elected Boards, Councils, Commissions or Committees.** Officers of boards, councils, commissions and committees whose members are required to be elected quadrennially shall be elected by the representative agency at the session of the annual conference at which new members are elected or within ninety days after adjournment. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor. The organizational or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the Bishop.
13. **Officers of Other Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees.** Officers of other boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be elected by the representative agency at the agency's last regular meeting prior to each annual conference. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor.
14. **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

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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 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 email groups and provided in writing to the members of the annual conference at the time of registration.

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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 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

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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.
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

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the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.

4. **Speeches/Printed Materials.** No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed at the site of the Annual Conference on behalf of any nominee.
5. **Nominee Participation.** Nothing herein shall prevent any nominee from
 - a. appearing at the podium or floor microphone for the purpose of conducting Conference business.
 - b. fully participating in activities of the Conference including the debate over budgets, 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 proposes to represent the Conference at such events. Nominees are reminded to respect the need of the Conference to conduct business and are asked to take such conversations off the floor of the Conference.

C. CLERGY NOMINATIONS

1. Eligibility

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

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must follow the process outlined below. No exceptions to the process, including deadline dates, will be granted except as mandated by changes in *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church and/or the Annual Conference in changing these rules.

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

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

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

- b. 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.
- c. Clergy Nomination Review Committee.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the bishop plus one clergy member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee. The Director of Clergy Excellence shall serve as an ex-officio member. The committee shall review and compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee. This clergy nomination booklet will be available on the conference web site. Printed copies will be available at cost from the office of the Director of Connectional Ministries. An alphabetical listing will be included in the clergy *Book of Reports* packet. This committee will also be responsible for reviewing and validating any nomination forms submitted at the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference.

D. LAY NOMINATIONS

- 1. Lay Nominations from Districts.** Nominations for lay delegates to General

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Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be made by the lay members of the district conference of each district from names submitted by the District Council on Ministries and/or from names of all persons given by any member of The United Methodist Churches of the district to the District Superintendent. These names shall be submitted by the superintendent to the District Conference. Additional nominations at the district conference may be made from the floor, provided that no nomination may be made without the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected. In the event of a tie for the final nominee(s), the nominee(s) shall be selected by lot. Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 members of The United Methodist Church or major fraction thereof in that district, based upon figures reported at the preceding annual conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.

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

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E. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

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

F. BALLOTING PROCEDURES

1. **Separate Voting Areas.** Following the convening of Annual Conference, clergy and laity will separate to elect General and Jurisdictional Delegates and alternates, allowing five (5) hours to complete the process.
2. **Ballots Shall be Counted Electronically.** The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.
3. **Valid Ballots.** To be valid, a ballot:
 - (a) must be cast on the ballot bearing the number designated by the presiding officer for that particular ballot; and
 - (b) must be voted for the number of delegates to be elected on that ballot, no more and no less.
4. **Voting Area.** The presiding officer shall designate the areas of the Lay and Clergy Sessions where members shall be seated during balloting. Ballots shall be cast from only those present and seated within the voting areas of the annual conference and displaying the proper credentials.
5. **Ballot Reporting.** After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the Bishop which shall contain (a) number of ballots cast; (b) number of ballots not valid; (c) number of ballots counted; (d) number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each, beginning with the largest number of votes.
6. **Majority Required for Election.** On every ballot, a majority of the valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of a delegate, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.

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7. **Reading or Distributing Names.** On the first ballot for General Conference, the presiding officer shall read or display all names receiving votes with the number of votes cast for each. After the first ballot, the 25 nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be read or displayed, according to the highest number of votes received. In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available position on the General or jurisdictional delegation, a run-off election will be ordered by the bishop to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those in the run-off are open for votes. The names will be read in order of their election. The person with the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate delegation. When all General Conference delegates have been elected, the same procedure shall be followed for jurisdictional conference delegates.
8. **Handling of Ballots after Counting and Recording.** Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballot results and deliver them to the annual conference secretary. The annual 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 Conference or jurisdictional conference delegate will be under the age of 18 at the time of General Conference and/or jurisdictional conference, the Virginia Conference Child Protection Policy will be observed for this person. The leader of the General Conference Delegation will be responsible for implementation of the Child Protection Policy.

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IV. NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTION

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

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

V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

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

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to the local church, the District Councils on Ministries, the annual conference and the Common Table for Church Vitality. Each board will make program recommendations to the Common Table for Church Vitality, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Common Table for Church Vitality, or by the *Book of Discipline*, and will be related to the objectives and scope of work set forth by its General Board. Each board is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

4. Responsibilities.

a. Church and Society. The Board of Church and Society, in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs on Christian social concern within the bounds of the annual conference. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into committees, which so far as practical shall be patterned after the divisions of the General Board of Church and Society. The total membership shall be 20 (10 lay and 10 clergy).

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

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

The Directing Board will consist of the following nine (9) 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 four (4) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional

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Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex-officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 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 six or four 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

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

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

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

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conference lay leader, three associate conference lay leaders, the Conference Director(s) of Lay Servant Ministries, the presidents of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women or their designees, Young People's Representative selected by the Youth or Young Adult Council, sixteen (16) district lay leaders, one District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, and the Bishop. Three clergy who model excellence in the lay-clergy partnership for ministry will be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as ex-officio members. To discharge its responsibilities, the Board of Laity shall divide its membership into three work area teams: (1) Engaging (Holistic Stewardship); (2) Equipping (Leadership Excellence); and (3) Empowering (Shared Ministry). The Board of Laity shall nominate to the annual conference for election a layperson to be the conference lay leader for the ensuing four years. Any person elected to the office of conference lay leader shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, or a total of eight (8) years.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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including at least one lay and one clergy from churches of fewer than 200 members who are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. In addition, one District Superintendent named by the Cabinet shall be a member. It shall perform the duties assigned to it by the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 625). It shall receive all requests from or on behalf of all pastoral charges for aid to be used solely for clergy support. It shall administer the Equitable Compensation Fund and may employ money from other agencies, including those which may be granted by the Board of Global Ministries, as appropriate in each case, to meet these requests.

9. **Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, Commission on.** There shall be a Virginia Conference Commission on Minority Concerns and Advocacy amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The commission will provide for the functions as outlined in the current *Book of Discipline* for the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and Commission on Religion and Race. The basic membership of the commission shall consist of 10 clergy, 10 laypersons, and five members at-large elected upon nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. A minimum of two members shall be youth and young adults between the ages of 12 - 35. The commission will be constituted so that two-thirds of the membership be representative of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be ex-officio members of the commission with both voice and vote. The presidents or chairs of conference caucuses, fellowships, or associations for racial and ethnic constituencies shall be ex-officio members of the commission with voice but not vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
10. **Finance and Administration, Conference Council on.** There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration elected and organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (See ¶¶ 611-619), provided that membership of the council shall be composed of five clergy, five lay women, and five lay men nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
11. **Foundation, United Methodist.** There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* ¶2513 and pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 2016; fourteen (14) of the twenty-three (23) 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).

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

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Discovery and Development Team or from the floor for a term of eight years. The terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be lay and four members shall be clergy. The chancellor(s) of the annual conference shall be *ex officio* members of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies between sessions of the annual conference, and make its recommendations to the annual conference. Proposed amendments to the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the annual conference shall be referred to the Rules Committee.

- 19. Site Selection, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one-half lay and one-half clergy, elected on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the terms of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other class to expire at the end of the next quadrennium. This committee shall make arrangements for the meeting of the annual conference and shall recommend a location for the meeting of the annual conference a minimum of five years in advance.
- 20. Status and Role of Women in the Church, Commission on the.** There shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference. In addition the conference United Methodist Women shall name one member. The Bishop may appoint to the commission a District Superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote. The majority of the commission, including both lay and clergy, shall be women. The chairperson shall be a woman.
- 21. Trustees, Board of.** There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 members, elected by the annual conference, organized and with responsibilities as set forth in the *2012 Book of Discipline* (§§ 2512-2516).

C. TASK FORCES

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

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

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

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

B. AGENDA

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

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

C. MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

E. RECORD OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE

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

VII. RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. RULES THAT APPLY WHEN THE CHAIRPERSON STANDS

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

B. VOTING AREA

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

C. SUFFICIENT SEATS SHALL BE PROVIDED

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

D. VOTERS TO DISPLAY PROPER CREDENTIALS

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

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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 two minutes, unless this two-minute period may be limited or extended by a two-thirds vote of the conference.

H. HIGH PRIVILEGE

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

I. CALL FOR DIVISION OF ANY QUESTION

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

J. MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITING

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

K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

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

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

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

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NAME BADGE COLORS

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

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

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

FE Elder in Full Connection (¶334.1)
FD Deacon in Full Connection (¶329.2)

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

RM & RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

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

AM Associate Members (¶35 and ¶602.1c)
PM Probationary Member under 1992 Discipline (¶413.2, 1992 Discipline)
PD Provisional Deacon (¶35, ¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)
PE Provisional Elder (¶35, ¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)
EP Full member other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Elder (¶35, ¶347.3b, ¶327.2)
DP Deacon recognized from other denomination serving as a UM Provisional Deacon (¶35, ¶347.3b and ¶327.2)

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

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

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

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

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

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

OF Full member of another denomination (§346.2)

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

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

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

WHITE (voice but no vote)

AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (§334.5)

RL Retired Local Pastor (§320.5)

OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

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

RED (no voice or vote)

SY Lay Supply

LM Certified Lay Minister

HL Honorable Location (§359)

RHL Retired – Honorable Location (§359.3)

MOD Minister of Another Denomination Serving an Ecumenical Parish in VA

G Official Guest

ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

BROWN (not official)

All others

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CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective January 1, 2006

I. PURPOSE

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

A. MISSION

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

B. VALUES

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

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

II. MEMBERSHIP

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

A. Voting Members

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader

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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*.

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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.

STANDING RULES

6. To serve on other Conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, and/or by the Common Table.

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

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

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

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

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

IX. FINANCES

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

STANDING RULES

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

Other Attendees

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

The Director of Connectional Ministries shall chair these meetings.

XI. AMENDMENTS

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

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

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

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

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

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Committee on Resolutions

Darlene Amon
James D. Hudson
Lynda Moore
Mochel Morris, *Chair*
Craig Newman

Committee on Memoirs

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

Tellers

Grace Han, *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

Amy Grant
Nadeem Khokhar
Isaac Collins
Tammy Franklin
Bertina Westley
Barbara St. Jean
Loretta Benninghove
Esther Agbosu
Valerie Ritter
James Carey
Sung Woon Yoo
Larry Cochran
Bobbie J. Henley
Sonja Oliver
Sherry Waddell
Kenneth Cleveland

Lay:

Marc Thompson
Mary Ellen VanNederynen
Tommy Clark
Marge Bumstead
Charles Hume
David Goodrich
Kyla Silver
Kevin Mooers
Joe Amend, III
Marie Hawks
Jan Klahn
Bill Chaffin
Ronda Rogers
Libby Keyser
Nathan Everett
Carlos Liceaga

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON RULES

This year, the work of the Rules Committee has been many small projects. The first of these projects was to consider a proposal in regards to the nomination form for delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences. The Rules Committee was in favor of and is requesting the following to be added to the reverse side of both Lay and Clergy nomination forms:

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 delegation; and*
- 4) Attend the General and Jurisdictional Conference as needed.*

Dependent upon choices in housing, food, and transportation, delegates may expect to spend an additional \$250- \$1,500 during the two-week General Conference-over and above the reimbursement.

Dependent upon choices in housing and meals, delegates may expect to spend an additional \$100-\$500 during the three days of the SEJ Conference-over and above the reimbursement.

(link will be provided here for more information on conference website)

Please contact the Heads of the previous delegation, lay and clergy, for additional information.

In addition to this project, there were some changes for conference relationships within the Virginia Conference this past year. First, it was recognized that though the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc. has been a major part of this conference's history, this entity no longer exists and thus needs to be taken out of the Standing Rules as an administrative agency of the Annual Conference. Also, the Common Table voted last spring to restructure the Board of Communications and our Rules Committee has worked with them to account for their new structure. Also, the Rules Committee is recommending, with the approval of Common Table, the addition of the "Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries" to the Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference.

And onto some general maintenance of our Standing Rules. In the 2015 *Book of Reports*, in the Committee on Rules Report, it was recommended and passed that we change the speaking allotment times in section II.B.3. for delegates to speak to two minutes. There were other places in our current Standing Rules that also needed to be changed to be uniform throughout the Standing Rules with this change. Therefore, the Rules Committee is seeking to make those necessary changes to concur with the action of the previous annual conference. In addition, the Rules Committee is recommending that all speakers, including the signer of the resolution, be given two minutes to address the resolution.

Also, because within The United Methodist Church districts have many differing names for differing boards and agencies, for ease of reading the Standing Rules, the Rules Committee has recommended the placing of asterisks in VI.C to mean "Designates

COMMITTEE ON RULES

or equivalent body.”

And finally, Members of the Rules Committee reviewed and updated the disciplinary references based on the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

– Rev. Joshua S. King, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rules Committee recommends the addition of language found in the above report to the Nominations form of both Lay and Clergy nominees. The recommended changes to the Standing Rules are:

Changes Recommended by Rules Committee

Paragraph I.B.3.u – strike, “Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.,”

Paragraph I.B.5.c.v – strike, “Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.,”

Paragraph II.B.3 – In the sentence that begins, “The member of annual conference who has signed the resolution shall have a maximum of three minutes to address the resolution.” Strike the word three and add two.

Paragraph V.B.2 – Strike this entire paragraph, and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

Paragraph V.B.4.b – In the opening sentence, strike 28 and insert 24, strike 16 and insert 14. In the next sentence, strike 16 and insert 14, strike 12 and insert 10. In the sentences that begins, “The ex-officio member shall be the Director...” capitalize each word of the following, “conference information systems director”.

Paragraph V.B.4.c – strike section c in whole and replace with the following:

- c. Organization There shall be the following committees:
 - i. Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the corporation, the conference director of Communications and three additional members of the board. The three non-officer members of the Executive Committee shall be elected quadrennially by the Board of Directors and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify. Vacancies may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. All non-officer members of the Executive Committee shall be chosen from among the directors. The Executive Committee shall include both laypersons and clergypersons. The president shall act as chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall also serve as the committee on Nominations, with the corporation vice president overseeing the business of nominations. The Executive Committee shall review board membership annually and recommend changes in membership to the board.
 - ii. Project Committees. As needs arise, project committees may be appointed by the president to function on behalf of specific projects or activities of the corporation. Any two (2) members of a project committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the committee’s business. The president shall be an ex-officio of all such project committees. It is strongly encouraged that all board members serve on a project.

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d. Finance

i. The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference shall be designated as the person who can authorize expenditures on behalf of the corporation under the direction of the Board of Directors.

ii. Budget. The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, working closely with the board president, committee chairs and communications staff will annually develop the various communication budgets and submit them to the board for approval and will regularly review expenditures to insure compliance with the adopted budgets. The Board of Directors, prior to the budget deadline of the annual conference Connectional Ministries office each year, shall recommend an income and expense budget covering all activities for the next fiscal year, including capital improvements or expenditures.

Paragraph V.B – Insert a new number 17 following the new numbering system from the deletion of V.B.2 and insert the following:

17. Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries. There shall be a Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries (VAPAUMCS), which is to provide church secretaries and other administrative professionals a supportive base for unity and fellowship so as to promote individual growth, professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and the Standing Committees Chairs. There shall be standing committees: Communications composed of five members; Finance composed of four members (the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer); and Nominating composed of six members in classes of two for three-year terms.

Paragraph VI.C. – In the second paragraph, place an asterisk following the words: “include”, “district youth council”, “United Methodist Young Adults”, “family ministries”, “five youth members”, “district youth council”, “five young adult members”, “District Council on Ministries”. In the opening sentence of the second paragraph, make a deletion of “or equivalent body”. Delete “(or equivalent body)” at the end of paragraph 2. Insert asterisk following the last word of paragraph 2 that states, “*Designates or equivalent body.”

Paragraph VII.G. – Under article 3, delete both mentions of “five” and replace with “two”.

Changes under Discipline Update

Update all references of “2012 *Book of Discipline*” to “2016 *Book of Discipline*”

Paragraph I.B.3.m – delete “17” and insert “18”, delete “35” and insert “30”, delete “¶ n. below:” insert “2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.4.”

Paragraph I.B.3.n – delete “17” and insert “18”, delete “35” and insert “30”.

Paragraph I.B.5.a.i – delete “17” and insert “18”

Paragraph I.B.5.a.ii. – delete “35” and insert “30”

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Paragraph I.B.6.d – delete “§ 1) and 2) and insert so d. is to be read, “Part-time and full-time local pastors who have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (2016 Book of Discipline §316.6).”

Paragraph I.B.6.d – insert “e.” before sentence that begins with, “Retired local pastors...” and delete “§316.6” and add “§320.5”

Paragraph III.C.1.a. – delete “§355.7” and insert “§354.8”

Paragraph III.C.1.b.i.d) - delete “§ 1) and 2) and insert so d. is to be read, “Part-time and full-time local pastors who have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (2016 *Book of Discipline* §316.6).”

Paragraph III.C.1.b.ii – delete “§316.6” and insert “§320.5”

Paragraph III.E.2 – delete “§III.D.3” and insert “§III.D.2”

Paragraph V.B.5 – delete “§I.E.1” and insert “§I.D.1”

Paragraph V.B.13 – delete “§2703” and insert “§2703.2”

Paragraph V.B.21 – delete “§§ 2512-2516” and insert “§§ 2512-2517”

Paragraph VI.A – delete “§ 657 and” and leave it to read “§658).”

Paragraph VI.B – delete “§659.2” and insert “§660.2”; delete “§668.1,2” and insert “§669.1,2”; delete “§2517” and insert “§2518.2”; delete “§665.1” and insert “§666.1”; delete “§2518” and insert “§2519”.

– Rev. Joshua S. King, Chair

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CABINET

The Virginia Conference Cabinet seeks to equip the clergy and laity to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The 16 district superintendents strive to live into the role of chief missional strategists. The cabinet is in constant prayer asking God to lead us in our conference to be more effective and fruitful in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The past year called each of us to a time of transition as we said “thank you and farewell” to Bishop Cho and “hello and welcome” to Bishop Lewis. It is an exciting time in the life of the conference and I invite you to celebrate with us the examples of vitality and fruitfulness that is happening in our districts:

Arlington District: Our vision is to come alongside churches in the District with contextual revitalization and excellent training of clergy and laity. Our new church planting continues with Vine Church launching a satellite congregation at Graham Rd UMC; and Floris UMC initiating an online satellite beginning July 1, 2017. Existing churches are also multiplying with Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington sending close to 100 of their members to join the Caucasian Chesterbrook UMC; and sending their lead pastor, Young Bong Kim to revitalize their Centreville campus, now an independent new church start with 200 in worship renamed KUMC of Koinonia. The Arlington District partnered with the Alexandria District to start Next Level Innovations, which invests in a disciplined two to three year process to help them move “to the next level” of vitality. Our first cohort began with 6 churches in the fall of 2016, and we have obtained funding for two more cohorts of 8-10 churches each. Central UMC received approval from Arlington County for their innovative plan to replace their existing church (right next to the Ballston Metro in a “walkable urban” community) with an 8 story building containing a new church, space for a preschool, and a mix of affordable and market-rate apartments.

The laity and clergy of the **Alexandria District** welcomed Bishop Sharma Lewis for a “Chat and Chew,” a great day of worship, conversation and fellowship on January 28, 2017, at Grace UMC in Manassas. Three churches (Fairlington, Old Bridge, and St. Matthew’s) participated with three churches from the Arlington District in a pilot program for church revitalization called “Next Level Innovations.” In the coming year, plans are to expand the number of churches in this in-depth process to build on our churches’ strengths. At this annual conference, we expect to launch at least two new faith communities as multi-sites of our fastest-growing congregations.

The **Charlottesville District** is continuing to raise funds for the C’ville Apt. Project which will be providing apartments for people with a developmental disability partnering with Heart Havens. We hosted a prayer event with Rev. Terry Teykl. The Lay Servant ministry work area held two training events. We supported Emmanuel Youth Mission in El Salvador.

The churches and people of the **Danville District** are learning how to identify and participate in contextualized ministries, for the transformation of lives and communities we serve. We are building flexible and responsive approaches to our shared efforts. Clergy/Lay teams are formed and sent throughout the District to provide resources for mission, ministry and vital discipleship.

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On the **Eastern Shore District**, events led by Rev. Laura Martin and Shane Claiborne spurred attention to the district theme of Ministry with the Poor. Una Familia, a tutoring program for Latino children, grew to 5 congregations, including two Episcopal churches. Camp Occohannock on the Bay is in the midst of a capital campaign to upgrade its facilities for 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 through our clergy meetings and district-wide training for laity and clergy. 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 an increase in giving to our apportionments (Conference 95% and District 97.7%) in 2016. As the chief missional strategist, I listen and pay attention to our leaders, give the work back to the leaders who draw on their own strength and communicate hope and encouragement to them. Vitality and fruitfulness are present in several more congregations according to the Equipping Vital Congregation goals of disciples in worship, disciples making new disciples, disciples growing in their faith, disciples engaged in mission and disciples sharing their resources for mission. We are living into our new vision “being passionate about leading, listening and loving all people to build up the Kingdom.”

The most recent development for the **Fredericksburg District** was an action taken at a March 4th Called District Conference in which we voted to change our district name to the Rappahannock River District (R.R.). We made this change for three reasons. We desired a name that reflected a better representation of the 13 geographic regions of our district; we wanted a name that would be a tribute to the American Indian persons who are natives to the land; and the Rappahannock River flows through the entirety of our geographic area. While our name has changed, we continue to engage in ministry through our four- part vision foci. Our district continues several vital ministries. We are in our fourth year of an International Mission Partnership with the El Salvador Evangelical Methodist Church. We are in the fourth year of mission and community ministries through The Heartwood Center. The children’s summer and holiday food ministry of the Heartwood Center began serving 97 children in two locations. This year we are facilitating an expended ministry that serves more than 400 children in locations all across the western and southern areas of our district. We have also taken the bold step of establishing a store front mission ministry called Crossroads Mission Center in the Central Garage area on our district. The Crossroads Mission Center provides Messy Church worship, outreach ministries, and special seasonal ministries. Last, but not least, we are also exploring locations where we can establish new faith communities.

The **Harrisonburg District** is hard at work building “Mission Central”. This will be a 5,000 square foot building that will house our clothing ministry. Last year we distributed clothing to more than 3,000 children and gave away many thousands of diapers. We hope this ministry will grow into a clothing closet for adults and a food pantry plus house a social worker who will work individually with folks in need. Aisle 7 started out of Verona UMC and is now worshipping every Sunday morning a different crowd of people who wouldn’t

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normally go to church. It is open seven days a weeks as a community center. Aisle 7 is a store front with a café, classrooms and meeting space for everyone. There are computers to use, a coffee shop and space to hang out. Many groups are using the space and the community is excited to have a center. We have UMVIM teams going everywhere. These teams are helping in Lumberton, N.C., Waverly and Forest, Va. and in several places in West Virginia as well as local projects. Our churches are involved in a backpacks ministry in almost every school in the district. Many of our churches have food pantries and many work with community food pantries.

The churches on the **James River District** continue to focus on God's vision of, "Disciples Making Disciples," as we strive for the revitalization of existing churches and the formation of new faith communities. The recovery work from last year's devastating tornado in Waverly has brought new life and revival to both church and community. Although UMCOR has completed their work, we are continuing to host mission teams in the newly remodeled Dendron Mission Center to continue helping low-income families. The churches on the district stepped up apportionment payments for 2016 and many of our small/mid-size churches saw increases in worship and small groups. A new task force has been created to study the possibility of a new faith community in Windsor and we hope to begin two new house churches. We are excited that the campus ministry at Virginia State Univ. is becoming a Wesley Foundation which will be the first at one of the state's historically black colleges.

The **Lynchburg District** is in the process of discerning how to best structure our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We envision equipping clergy, training laity, resourcing congregations, engaging in ministry with the poor, offering conflict transformation, and caring for the property entrusted to us. We are using our six geographical clusters to deepen relationships among clergy and create connections for congregations to partner in ministry. The district office is located in the Park View Community Center, home to nine ministries and agencies serving our neighbors in one of the poorest communities in Central Virginia.

Like the James River that moves through our midst, God's goodness continues to flow through the **Richmond District**! We continue to celebrate the work of Shalom Farms, as it moves to a larger farm to meet the growing need for fresh food and produce for those in need in our Richmond area. We are kicking off a new adventure at our Pace Center, on the campus of VCU in downtown Richmond. In conjunction with the Fredericksburg and Charlottesville districts, we celebrate Westview on the James with its increasing enrollment and many opportunities to offer Christ in a beautiful outdoor setting. And as always, our churches continue to seek our Lord, seek his ministry, and multiply his risen grace for God's kingdom. We look forward to another year of this abundant grace flowing through the Richmond District!

Equipping clergy and laity centered the **Roanoke District's** work this year. The Clergy Summit reflected on the recent General and Jurisdictional Conferences and welcomed Carol Draper from the Conference Treasurer's Office for a work session on statistics, "Stories by Number". Over 400 lay and clergy leaders have participated in a variety of programs sponsored by the The District Common Table including: a day with Jacob Armstrong, author of *The New Adapters: Shaping Ideas to Fit Your Congregation*; a second group cohort of *How to Reach New People*; Plowpoint's "Choosing the Faithful Path"; the annual District

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Leadership Event; and Staff-Pastor/Parish Training. For the first time, twenty “Social Media” communications grants were awarded to local congregations.

Reflecting a year of open-heartedness for Christ, **Staunton District** churches sent mission crews to redress tornado damage in Waverly and flood-caused devastation in neighboring Greenbrier Co. WV, and gathered thousands of pounds of supplies to further this work. In July, we were blessed to send a Youth mission team of more than 30 persons to Raleigh NC, comprised almost equally of African-American, Latino and Anglo youth from six local churches. In September, we were greatly honored to receive an early visit from our new Bishop, who preached the 150th anniversary of Augusta Street UMC (Staunton). That same month, a collaborative ministry hosted by Wayne Hills UMC (Waynesboro) was launched: *The Secret Boutique* (which has served more than 70 youth to date) provides a “clothes-shopping experience” for low-income teens, and aims to build relationships between clients and active UM Youth. As the Conference year drew to a close, many of our churches were already responding to a District-wide challenge to think “outside the box” in order to invest in their communities via life-transforming missions. To God be the glory.

The **Winchester District** participated in the 250th anniversary of the Old Stone Church in Leesburg. OSC is the first Methodist-owned property in America. The WD hosted the Rev. Jorge Acevedo in a two day event for laity and clergy designed to enable churches of all sizes to be vital and fruitful. A second cohort of churches participated in Jim Griffith’s, Reaching New People and the first cohort of laity and clergy were trained in Plowpoint’s “Choosing the Faithful Path. The WD continued its Haiti Initiative by sending three UMMVIM teams.

The **York River District** celebrated its 6th anniversary as a new district with multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural worship during the District Conference. By the leadership of the Superintendency Committee, District Youth Ministry Advisory Team was formed to develop and strengthen the ministry with youth. The District Board of Missions continued partnering with the churches and agencies to support their local, regional, national, and international missions. Various trainings and workshops were offered for clergy and laity to enhance their spiritual development and ministry excellence. Clergy peer learning groups continued to be formed to cultivate mutual support and accountability. Twenty churches have become Prayer Covenant Congregations. In 2016, the people of the York River District welcomed 496 new members, including 304 by profession of faith, and gave over 2.4 million dollars through apportionments and other benevolence.

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. We are also grateful to Rev. Tom Joyce, the bishop’s assistant, and Mrs. Terri Biggins, the bishop’s administrative assistant for their dedicated and constant support of us all.

Since Bishop Lewis has seen fit to make no cabinet changes this year, each of us commitment ourselves anew to the role of district superintendence and look forward to the journey with our new bishop all to the glory of God.

– Larry Thompson, Winchester DS, 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 \$170,048 was provided to 31 charges in 2016. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2016 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the Journal.

There were 10 charges receiving salary supplementation in 2015 that did not require salary support by the end of 2016. These are Bowling Green Charge (Fredericksburg), Brookneal (Lynchburg), Cumberland (Farmville), Galloway (Arlington), Montross (Fredericksburg), Nottoway-Lunenburg (Farmville), Olyer's Chapel-Rehoboth Cooperative Parrish (Danville), Southview (Charlottesville), St Paul (Roanoke), and Twin Lakes Charge (Lynchburg). 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 2018 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 2018 is \$63,199 which is an increase of 0.2 percent from 2017. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2018 and recommends the changes as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2018 be \$350,000.
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2018 proposed to be:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Current</u>
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$42,000	\$41,500
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$38,500	\$38,000
c. Local Pastors	\$36,000	\$35,500

3. The Floor Schedule for 2018 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 2014-2016 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided on the next page:

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EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year Ending 2014	Year Ending 2015	Year Ending 2016
Apportioned	500,000	500,000	500,000
Uncollected Apportionment	56,252	76,908	61,170
Apportionment Income	443,748	423,092	438,830
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>88.75%</i>	<i>84.62%</i>	<i>87.77%</i>
Grants	325,061	222,495	193,646
Meeting Expense & Other	1,727	1,030	1,033
Total Expenses	326,788	223,526	194,679
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	116,960	199,566	244,151

Tom Nealley, Chair

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

Section I: Reports

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

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

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference 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 Wespath, develops and administers the numerous employee pension and benefit plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference. Some plans are employer-paid, while others are voluntary and 100 percent participant-paid:

VUMPI Plans

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

Wespath 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: Funding Wespath Plans

As noted in Report 1 above, VUMPI administers several Wespath programs for the benefit of Virginia Conference clergy. The funding requirements associated with the various programs are determined by Wespath, and VUMPI assumes the responsibility for raising the funds necessary to meet those obligations.

Wespath has calculated the Virginia Conference’s 2018 required funding obligation associated with the Pre-82 pension program’s unfunded liability. That funding obligation is based on the Virginia Conference’s total projected liability and asset values as of January 1, 2016. Due to the combined impact of weaker than expected investment market performance in 2015 and the adoption of a new mortality table reflecting improved projected participant longevity, the required Pre-82 funding obligation in 2018 is approximately 3.5 times the 2017 Pre-82 funding obligation.

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The impact of weaker than expected investment market performance and the adoption of a new mortality table had a similar impact on all annual conferences with an unfunded Pre-82 pension liability. Recognizing the potential adverse impact of significantly higher Pre-82 funding obligations in 2018, Wespath has instituted a Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) premium redirection program in 2018 and 2019. Wespath's expectation is that annual conferences will continue to bill local churches and other salary paying units for CPP program participants in 2018, but will redirect the proceeds toward the Pre-82 pension liability.

VUMPI intends to proceed in accordance with Wespath's expectations, and recommends that the Virginia Conference approve the continuation of the current CPP billing methodology, as is detailed in Recommendation 4 below. One of VUMPI's strategic objectives is minimizing the volatility in clergy benefits apportionments, and the CPP premium redirection enables VUMPI to maintain a stable Pre-82 pension apportionment recommendation. In the absence of the CPP premium redirection, VUMPI would face a funding obligation that exceeds the recommended 2018 Pre-82 apportionment by over \$1 million, and would likely need to consider a significant increase in the Pre-82 apportionment amount.

Report 3: 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 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 4: Pension Plan Structure

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

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

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

Simultaneous to Wespath calculating each participant's defined benefit, it calculates

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each annual conference's cost to provide these defined benefits. Wespath 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 5: Welfare Plans Structure

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

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Retired Participant Death Benefits: to be eligible for death benefits in retirement, a clergy person 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

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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

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

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

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

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

- \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants
- 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 (or \$25,400 for those retiring January 1, 2013 or later) to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants

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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 10 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 6: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by Wespath, the DAC is projected to increase from 2017 to 2018 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2017	\$68,876
2018	\$70,202

Report 7: 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 plans 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 the unfunded liability associated with the Pre-82 pension apportionment. The strategy is specifically intended to reduce the volatility in the Pre-82 pension apportionment. Reserve funds that have been dedicated under this strategy for the 2018 through 2021 period amount to over \$6.6 million.

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Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

Recommendation 1: 2018 Pension and Health Plan Apportionment Recommendations

For 2018, 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 - 2018	
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.

VUMPI will continue to bill Conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministries) in 2018. The amount billed will be \$11,671 for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2018 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

The Pension Liability Assessment associated with the Pre-1982 pension program is calculated by Wespath, and is partially based on the projected funding liability that VUMPI is required to meet in 2018. 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 Wespath. 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 2018 is \$1 million. As is noted in Report 2 above, Wespath's CPP premium redirection program enables VUMPI to recommend a flat apportionment to fund the 2018 Pre-82 pension liability, in spite of an actual funding obligation in excess of \$2 million.

Recommendation 2: 2018 Participant Contribution Recommendations

A key component of VUMPI's strategy is the administration of clergy health plans which provide sufficient and affordable health care coverage. VUMPI works closely with consultants and advisors to construct plan designs which are designed for long term financial sustainability, while optimizing both coverage and costs for enrolled clergy and their families. VUMPI is recommending no increase in participant contributions, resulting in the following monthly participant contribution rates for 2018:

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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

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 (\$1,000 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

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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

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

Group Plan Option: The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2018 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 2018 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

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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 2017. 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 2018, 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 2017. 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 2018, VUMPI recommends that the Clergy Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee remain at \$20 per month for 2018.

Recommendation 3: 2018 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

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- 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 2018, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$564 to \$565.

Recommendation 4: 2018 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2018 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 2018 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible full time clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

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

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

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

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Recommendation 5: 2018 Comprehensive Funding Plan

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2018 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the VUMPI office.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

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

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

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP DB) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2016, is \$(1,422,046,473), while total plan assets are \$1,530,170,830, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 108%. The Virginia Conference portion of the liability is 4.0401% and the 2018 contribution is \$4,590,440. 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, 2018.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non matching contribution. Clergy can earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3% to CRSP DC. The 2018 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be \$1,614,963.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2016 is \$(3,422,875,264), while total plan assets are \$3,600,174,516, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 105%. There is no required contribution for 2018. The Virginia Conference's percentage of the total liability is 3.2819%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$3,787,199,647 and the Virginia Conference's portion of that balance is \$137,653,799 or 3.63% of the total.

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

PRE-1982 PLAN

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre 82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre 82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

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

The 2018 PSR recommended to the Virginia Conference will be \$565, representing a \$1 increase from the 2017 rate. The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 70% level.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Virginia Conference sponsors a self funded health benefit program for full time active clergy. The total cost of the program for 2018 is anticipated to be \$12,766,000, which will be funded primarily by apportionments and health plan participant contributions.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

The Virginia Conference currently sponsors a Group Medicare Advantage plan for Medicare-eligible retirees, with optional RRA funding for the purchase of individual supplemental plans through a retiree medical exchange. The projected annual plan benefit cost for 2018 (subsidies, RRAs, claims or premiums) is \$7,140,694.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy

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the eligibility requirements, including full time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

For 2018, the Virginia Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$0, due to Wespath's CPP premium redirection.

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

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

OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS: DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) TYPE

The Virginia currently offers a supplemental life insurance benefit that supplements the CPP life insurance benefit. The estimated contribution for 2018 is \$230,000.

CONCLUSION

The 2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and this summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the Virginia Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference.

Recommendation 6: 2018 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;

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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 Wespeth Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

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

– Ken Peterson, Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

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

Guided by this mission, The Common Table for Church Vitality coordinates and prioritizes the program ministries of the Virginia Conference. The conference program agencies that relate to Common Table are Board of Church and Society, Church Development Team, Board of Discipleship, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Board of Laity, and Missional Ministries. The conference administrative agencies that relate to Common Table are Board of Communications, Commission on Disabilities, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, and Commission on Status and Role of Women. Through the work of these agencies, the churches of the Virginia Conference are connected in ministries throughout the state and the world. As it coordinates and prioritizes the ministries of the Virginia Conference, Common Table continues to emphasize alignment toward leadership development of both laity and clergy. The desired result of this emphasis is the formation of new faith communities and the strengthening of existing congregations that has been the focus of the Virginia Annual Conference since the approval of *All Things New* in 2008.

Included among the significant ministries made possible through the connection of the Virginia Conference are:

- This alignment has resulted in the formation of 22 new Anglo and 20 new Ethnic faith communities since 2008 and the participation of over 500 Virginia Conference congregations in renewal ministry offerings.
- Disaster response through the construction of new homes and restoration of damaged homes that resulted from tornado and flooding. This work is in its second year of ministry and will continue into the upcoming year through the disaster response coordination of our conference and the ongoing generous mission response of many of our conference's churches through financial support and volunteer in mission teams.
- Launch of FOCUS 2020 pilot ministry for best practices and coaching for nine African American congregations in the conference.
- In excess of 70 persons from the Virginia Conference participating in Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches.
- Initiatives of Hope partnerships in Brazil, Cambodia, and Mozambique.
- Volunteer in Mission training and support of local church VIM teams.
- Virginia and International Advance Specials.
- Lay Servant Academy training and support of additional district level training

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- Oversight of the mission and ministry of the 13 campus ministries related to and supported by the Virginia Conference.
- Communications support for local church communicators.
- Technical support of annual conference sessions.
- Monitoring and training for inclusion by our conference commissions.
- Voices of Youth Mission Tour.
- United Methodist Day at General Assembly.
- Peacemaking in the Holy Land.
- Bishop's Convocation on Prayer.
- Co-sponsorship with the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College to equip local congregations in "Faithful Aging."
- Conference Youth Retreats.
- Sponsorship of Academy for Spiritual Formation for the first time in the Virginia Conference.

For a full listing of ministries made possible through the program agencies and commissions of the Virginia Conference, I invite you to review each report that is included as part of the complete report of Common Table. Common Table for Church Vitality expresses appreciation for the ministry of the Connectional Ministries staff who provide leadership and support for these ministries. There was one change in the Connectional Ministries staff this year with the approval of Madeline Pillow as the Director of Communications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The delegates and reserves elected as Virginia Conference delegates for the 2016 General Conference serve as Virginia Conference delegates and reserves for any called General Conference session held prior to 2020
2. Approve the formation of FLOW ministry at Virginia State University as a Wesley Foundation of the Virginia Conference effective July 1, 2017
3. Approve the following recommendations by the following boards:
 - a) 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
 - b) By Missional Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services of Virginia, and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.
 - c) By Missional Ministries that the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Missional Connections Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; and Wesley

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Housing Development Corporation, be continued

— Marc Brown, VAUMC Director of Connectional Ministries



The following reports, from page 71 to page 116, 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 congregations employ our Social Principles to connect our faith communities to the world around us. This work is both individual and societal. We are called to invite faithful disciples of Christ to lead the church prayerfully into the world. We have organized our board to follow the issues raised by our United Methodist 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 in 2015, 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/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries.

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 98 of our churches gave to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2017 total will show more churches taking the offering. One half of the offering stays in the annual conference.

We recently funded:

1. Scholarships for participants to join the Conference Board of Church and Society study trip to Israel and Palestine. We have now led two trips to Israel/Palestine to study peacemaking in the Holy Land.
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 each year is Jan. 30.

The Board's Caretakers of God's Creation work area 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 as required by the resolution voted on at 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. Caretakers also co-sponsored the National Caretakers of God's Creation Climate

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Justice Conference held at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington. Each year, Caretakers awards a conference church, the Green Church of the Year award. This year's award is going to Fairlington United Methodist Church in Alexandria for its work developing a program of Spirituality in Nature that has been holding monthly worship and nature explorations in natural areas near the church. Caretakers is also working on the issues related to fracking of shale deposits to release natural gas and is submitting a resolution proposing further work related to fracking at this annual conference meeting.

The Peace and Non-violence Work Area is giving continued leadership to persons interested in peace in the Middle East. Our resolution to General Conference to establish a denomination wide taskforce on the Middle East passed and we have been consulting with the General Board of Church and Society on how to proceed with the taskforce. The Peace and Non-violence Work Area is also working to fight gun violence and to promote care of veterans. The work area is proposing two resolutions to annual conference:

1. Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury and
2. A Resolution on Travel to the Holy Land.

The Eradicating Poverty Work Area is working on planning our program for mentoring youth based on the resolution passed at the 2016 annual conference. It also is exploring how to implement the Annual Conference resolution on implementing the banning the "box" which allows prospective employers to choose to not interview persons who have served their time for crimes and are now trying to become employed. We celebrate that the Virginia state government no longer discriminates in job applicants based on an employee's past criminal convictions, but many private employers still ask potential applicants to check the box saying whether they have any criminal convictions.

This year was the 25th anniversary of United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy to hold the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. We are pleased that in the first year of her tenure, Bishop Lewis has been a key participant in this event and her presence helped stop the weakening of Virginia's rules for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. We look forward to Bishop Lewis helping to lead the event in future years. Our annual conference luncheon speaker this year will be Kim Bobo, the executive director of the Interfaith Center for Public Policy. We hope that many members of the annual conference will join us for an excellent speech by Ms. Bobo of how we can truly make the "world, our parish" in Virginia.

– Jaydee Hanson, Lay Co-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.

The Board of Communications continues to seek ways to live out its mission by supporting our Conference and its local churches. One of the most direct ways we do this is through our Annual Conference training event. In June 2016 we hosted a brand new training about social media. We are excited to return to Annual Conference in 2017 with more training for our local churches. Members of the Board and the Communications staff are also available to hold special trainings at District Training Events or for individual churches. Please contact the Conference Communications office for more information.

In August 2016, after nine years of serving our Conference, Linda Rhodes, Director of Conference Communications, stepped into the wonderful world of retirement. We appreciate all the service and dedication that Linda gave our Conference and our Board over the years and we wish her much peace and joy (and beautiful flowers as she pursues Master Gardening) in retirement.

After a four month interim, our board was very excited to welcome Madeline Pillow, *Advocate* Editor, as the new Director of Communications in January of 2017. Serving both the role of director and editor is a very large task, and we plan to offer Madeline much support as she navigates this new combined role.

Having established a local church communicators group in 2016, we continue to find ways to support the ministry of communications within our local churches. Currently we host a local church communicator's Facebook group, and we hope to offer a large group event sometime over the coming year.

We have spent a lot of the last year studying our organization and how we can most effectively complete our work and continue to seek new ways to be in ministry. As we continue to live into our current reality, we look forward to new ways to serve.

Last but not least, our board also enjoys supporting the operations of Annual Conference. We help to provide camera operators with appropriate training, help on the tech desk, provide daily Conference news updates and photography and staff our VA Conference Communications display where conference attendees can access communication resources as well as order Conference DVDs and subscribe to the *Virginia Advocate*, our conference magazine.

Do you subscribe to the *Virginia Advocate*? If not, you should! Be sure to visit us at the display. If you tell us you read this in the *Book of Reports*, we may even have a special gift for you!

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 continues its work toward offering resources for the churches of the Annual Conference. Our Regional Directors will begin working closely with the Cabinet Clusters of District Superintendents and District Lay Leaders to determine the needs of the local churches throughout the Annual Conference. We have been working toward Best Practices information that can be available to any and all local churches about Discipleship, Fruitfulness, Growth, etc. We have been in contact with various groups to facilitate discussion about resources that can be used to promote and develop Discipleship and Growth particularly in small and mid-size churches especially in rural and urban ministries.

After a series of learning we will shortly have available a web site 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 this year has worked closely with Cokesbury and has awarded churches scholarships towards the use of the Covenant Bible Study. The Board has also awarded scholarships to the Academy for Spiritual Formation. There continues to be money available for two more persons accepted to that program. Each year the Board of Discipleship awards one youth, one laity and one Clergy the Denman Evangelism award. Beginning this year the Board will be awarding a local congregation the One Matters award for recognition of turn around success in growth, professions of faith and fruitfulness.

Each year we endorse candidates to be a General Evangelist in the United Methodist Church and this year with great acknowledgement of his work we endorse Greg West (Chaplain of Wesleyan College) as a General Evangelist. We also participate in the Christian Education Sunday and while an offering is no longer collected, use funds from prior offerings for scholarship and grant requests for Education in our local churches, districts and conference. We work closely with the Office of Bishop by facilitating conference wide activities like the Bishops Convocation of Prayer and have offered assistance for the Conference Day of Prayer and Week of Prayer for the Praying Forward Campaign. Members of the Board continually work with the Conference Staff and Cabinet in areas of Discipleship and have participated in the Mid-Size and Small Church Initiatives. The Board of Discipleship continues to work with Discipleship Circles and has trained facilitators to work with groups that desire to use this effective tool.

– Donald Jamison, Chair

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Older Adult Council

The Older Adult Council is responding to an increasing recognition of the needs of local congregations to respond in ministry to, for, by and with older adults. With the Baby Boom generation rapidly aging into older adulthood, it is essential we recognize the changing and increasing needs. Older adults in our churches are an enormous resource. Often that resource goes unappreciated for the value for the building of the kingdom. The Council's programs are designed to equip and engage. Presentations on Spiritual Legacy, Liturgical Dance, Olde Time Revival, and Experiencing God are available and have been offered around the Conference for District Training events and United Methodist Women District Leadership events. Council members are working in co-sponsorship with the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College to equip local congregations in "Faithful Aging."

– *Susanne Spencer, Chair*

Center for Next Generation Ministries (Formerly known as Ministries with Young People)

Over the years, as Conference level ministries have evolved, so have the ways in which we have referred to them. This has been no different in the case of the office I have the privilege of serving. Throughout the years, and based primarily on staff configuration, we have been called "Age Level Ministries," "Life Span Ministries," "Children, Youth, Young Adults and Singles Ministries" (we later dropped "Singles" and added "Higher Education"), and for the last few years we have been called "Ministries w/ Young People." We began using the latter after downsizing staff from three positions to one.

In March of 2016, we began an initiative which involved launching a team that would imagine what the big picture of Ministries w/ Young People could look like within our unique context. At the same time we hoped to align with the priority stated in the All Things document, to focus on leadership development. After a year of work, I'm pleased to report that we have developed a Ministry Action Plan that aligns us with conference ministries, while giving us clarity of purpose. Our stated mission is "to raise up next generation spiritual leaders to follow Jesus Christ into the world." We've identified three strategic steps to help us carry this mission out: Connect (opportunities that identify, gather, and discover leaders), Equip (opportunities that resource, train, coach, and develop leaders), and Send (opportunities whereby leaders are mobilized and commissioned to live out their call). Furthermore, we sought approval from the Common Table for Church Vitality to rename this area of ministry as a way to better describe our purpose. So "Ministries With Young People" is now called "Next Generation Ministries."

Lastly, we have realized that in order to carry out ministries with such a wide demographic, and in such a large conference, we would have to multiply our efforts by launching area-specific teams. To that end, in October of 2016 we launched a Campus Minister Operational Team in partnership with BHECM, and we are currently getting ready to launch a Children's Ministry Operational Team in the Fall. We're grateful for the ways God has blessed this work and allowed us to identify leaders to join us in the journey.

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For more information on Next Generation Ministries, or if you would like to find ways to get involved, contact us at 804-521-1139, or email us at nextgen@vaumc.org.

– Paulo Lopes, Director

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

The last year for Conference Council on Youth Ministries has been fruitful.

During our September council meeting, we enjoyed meeting with several campus ministers from across the Conference. We learned about opportunities on their campuses and ways we could get involved if we go to college. Our Saturday morning during the council meeting was spent working on a service project at Camp Overlook.

As a council, we supported the Office of Ministries with Young People to facilitate the VAUMC Fall Retreats. The theme was CALLED 2016: Just Move. It was our pleasure to learn more about the Just Water campaign; several local Just Water events organized by youth have been sparked from this initiative.

Throughout the year, young people across the Conference raised Youth Service Funds. This money was gathered in several ways: local church initiatives, district fundraisers, collections gathered at Conference Youth Retreats, and other opportunities. Any person, group or church can join CCYM in raising these funds. If interested, we would be glad to help!

Our March council meeting focused on discernment and Youth Service Fund Grant review. The Office of Clergy Excellence led us through discernment activities to help us discover our call and learn more about how we can breathe life into these calls. We had \$20,000 to distribute for Youth Service Fund grants and we received over 20 applications.

Youth Service Fund Grants are intended for ministries done BY youth and FOR youth. The hope is that organizations receiving funds will use the dollars as seed money and establish self-sufficient ministries. As self-sufficiency is the goal, repeat grant applications are not always approved.

In conclusion, we are thankful for the opportunity to help organizations engaging with young people to make disciples of Jesus Christ who WILL transform the world in the coming year and beyond.

Alison Malloy, Adult Chair

CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

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 - The Virginia Annual Conference has been actively engaged in Disaster Response and Recovery operations and ministry during 2016. On February 24th nine tornados crossed Virginia, three of which caused major damage and loss of life in three very different Virginia communities. Following our initial response and relief efforts, the VAUMC began Long Term Recovery in the James River District (Waverly), Farmville District (Appomattox) and Fredericksburg District (Tappahannock) . During this period, 893 volunteers formed 69 teams and worked 18,769 hours to help the

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survivors of these storms recover. That is valued at \$490,000 in volunteer service. In Waverly we have repaired 13 homes with one pending, in Appomattox we have repaired five homes are in progress of repairing five more but we also have finished one new construction and have two more in progress and three pending! In Tappahannock we had eight homes to work on, we have completed six and have one pending and one new construction in progress.. This has only been possible with your volunteer efforts and your financial gifts. Hurricane Matthew hit us on October 8th. On October 15th our Early Response Teams were requested by the City of Virginia Beach and deployed within 24 hours. Under the leadership of Michele Michaelian our VAUMC ERT Coordinator/Trainer, 265 ERT and other volunteers worked 1,930 hours during the relief phase, contacting over 150 survivors and providing direct service to over 80. There were over 5000 families affected by Hurricane Mathew, FEMA data shows us that there a minimum of 500 families with unmet needs and of those we can expect to have contact with as many as 200 of those survivors. Our Long Term Recovery ministry is fully engaged in the Elizabeth River District and we are currently doing recovery operations in 12 homes with another 23 already pending. Even as we have been working hard to provide support and recovery to the survivors of these events, we have continued with our training of ERT members as well as Spiritual and Emotional Care Team members which increases our capacity and capability to respond and recover from these terrible storms. We have been the lead voluntary agency in both of these long term recovery efforts. This would not be possible without the care and support of our congregations within the VAUMC. There are 1,176 churches in the VAUMC and 374 have made a financial donation to the Disaster Response Advance Special #5037. That's 31% of our congregations. If you have donated thank you so much, your gifts have allowed us to be the hands and feet of Christ to the survivors. If you have not yet donated, please consider a financial gift and/or signing up to volunteer to work for the many survivors that are waiting. Thank you all for what you have done, what you are doing and what you will do in the future to support this important and vital ministry and mission. The survivors are looking and waiting for us to help; and we will be there with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

– *Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator*

Initiatives of Hope (IOH) mission is 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 Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia. **Rev. David Vaughn** chairs the Brazilian Initiative. Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams to Brazil in 2017 include: 1. Shenandoah University Spring Break Medical Boat Trip in March, 2017; 2. VA Conference Youth/Young Adult team in July, 2017 coordinated by Paulo Lopes; 3. Senior Adult Learning/Serving team in Fall, 2017 led by Dot & Dan Ivey. Brazilian Bishop Adriel Maia will visit Mission Encounter 2017 in July. The Brazilian Methodist Church continues to grow and values their mutual relationship with Virginia United Methodists. **Juanita Csontos** chairs the Cambodian and led a team a very successful VA Conference VIM team there in January of 2017 which met in various district churches for teaching and learning seminars.

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Cambodia is appreciative of support provided to all their programs that help develop local church leaders and support sustainable agriculture/livelihood projects and rural health. Rev. Glenn Rowley traveled to Vietnam and IOH will be entertaining further development of relationship with the Vietnam Methodist Church. Our primary ministry in Mozambique is supporting lay and clergy leadership and training. Annandale UMC will send a VIM team there in May, 2017 to work in Cambine and Chicunque. Assistance has been sent to help with clean up from winter floods. Cyclones in February 2017 have inflicted serious damage and assistance will be provided and possibly a VIM team in the spring. IOH is continuing to learn and exploring new initiatives and relationships with Native Americans. Forrest White, UMVIM Coordinator and Long-Term recovery Manager keeps committee updated on team training and need for funding recovery projects on the Eastern Shore and Norfolk area.

– Judy Fender, Chair

Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) coordinated by **Forrest White**, offered eight team leader trainings with 107 trained; and 6 team leader recertification trainings with 29 trained during 2016. In November, we reduced the cost of team leader training from \$55 to \$35 per person and the cost of recertification training from \$25 to no cost. We had 59 UMVIM teams from Virginia Conference Churches and a team from Ferrum College (with a VIM trained team leader) serve in one of the three areas affected by the February 2016 tornado outbreak, where the Conference has established Long Term Recovery ministry. The Facebook page, (<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM>) continues to be a place for inspiration, information, and connection. Team leaders are invited to share the specifics about their trip: i.e. church or district sending the team, location and ministry project particulars by emailing the conference UMVIM Coordinator who will post to the Facebook page. Others are invited to pray for the team and those they'll be serving. Teams looking for additional information are invited to "recruit" via the Facebook page. Our prayer is that we truly embrace and live the UMVIM mission statement based on 1 John 3:18 -- "Christian Love In Action."

Voices of Youth (VOY), coordinated by **Ryan Brown**, has as its mission statement: "Fill your mind with truth, your heart with love, your life with service." We are a group of youth and adults who have a passion for music and mission and combine those two gifts into a unique service experience.

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, the Conference hosted one fellow in 2016, and anticipates more placements.

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 2017 will be

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offered July 28-29 at Bon Air UMC in Chesterfield. Topics for this year: Climate Justice, Living as a Covenant Community, The Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the US (Red Bird, Oklahoma & Alaska).

Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, (CCMP), 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 web site under Ministries - Center for Justice and Missional Excellence - Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) - Related Documentation. **All completed application materials should be sent to the Virginia Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, % The Virginia Conference Center for Justice and Missional Excellence, P. O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058, NOT to the General Board of Global Ministries.**

Health and Relief Initiative, led by **Katie St. Germain**, is responding to the focus on health and wellness ministries by developing a series of videos that churches can use as outreach to their local communities. At this time in which we are divided as a society, we are hoping to use health as a unifier; we hope to equip churches to be wellness resources for their communities. The videos are topic based presentations which have an individual, a congregational, and a Missional focus. Our first video in production is Disaster Response. We will be exploring other topics such as food security, exercise, and clean water. We anticipate having them available early next year.

– *Verónica Barrell, CMMB Chair*

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Heart Havens

Throughout 2016, Heart Havens continued its mission of empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. The people we support participated in all sorts of wonderful things during the year, including Special Olympics, community theater, Venture Scouts, and so much more. We are so thankful for the support we receive from our VAUMC friends; you make this empowerment possible!

We continued to operate group homes across the Conference in 2016. However, after much prayer and deliberation, we found it necessary to close the Morrison home in Newport News. The gentlemen who lived in that home had reached the point of needing more intensive medical supports than Heart Havens could provide, and needed to move to a higher level of care. Because of the changes to the Medicaid Waiver program, we were unable to fill the vacancies in the home as the other gentlemen moved out.

Heart Havens was born out of listening; it was listening to the needs and desires of people with a developmental disability and their families that led to each of our group homes. We've never stopped listening to our stakeholders, and what we're learning now is that families are looking for more individualized means of support. To this end, Heart Havens is in the process of establishing programs for in-home services and

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supported apartments. These programs are absolutely in keeping with our mission of empowerment; Heart Havens has always been about people, not houses.

We continued to strengthen our connections with congregations and small groups throughout the Conference. We were pleased to share our message of empowerment at over 50 different churches, small groups, and events. Additionally, we welcomed many volunteers from local churches. These volunteers blessed us by raking leaves, painting, or simply having fellowship with the people we support. The theme for Heart Havens Month 2016 was “A Place at the Table,” and was themed around Communion and celebrating the fact that all God’s children have a place at the Communion table. For the first time, we provided many worship resources, and these were well received.

We were proud to honor Jim Green from the Winchester District as our 2016 Brian Manweller “In HIS Grip” Award winner. Jim was unable to join us at Annual Conference, so we took the award to him and held a reception at our Saratoga home in Winchester in Jim’s honor. Jim was a tireless advocate for Heart Havens from the very beginning, and was very active with the Winchester District UMM in planning fundraisers for Heart Havens.

With your continued support, Heart Havens can continue to empower people with a developmental disability to live vibrant, happy lives with as much independence as possible. We invite you as the church to continue to advocate for Heart Havens and for people with a developmental disability. After all, we’re all part of the body of Christ!

– Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer

United Methodist Family Services of Virginia (UMFS)

For well over a century, United Methodist Family Services has had a legacy of empowering children and families. From the Virginia Conference Orphanage of 1900, to the Virginia Methodist Children’s Home of the 1950’s, to the present day state-wide agency bringing hope and healing to the whole family, UMFS has partnered with churches and church members to live out their mission. Today we are unwavering champions for high-risk children and families across Virginia, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential by providing foster care and adoption services, residential treatment services, and school-based services for kids with special needs.

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, empowering all children to contribute to society as engaged citizens. Through our five core values, we believe relationships are our building blocks, passion unleashes greatness, collaboration multiplies impact, and we always start with strengths and relentlessly pursue solutions. We are truly transforming the lives of children and families across the Commonwealth.

Since 1900, the churches of the Virginia Conference have partnered with us to be an advocate for high-risk children and families. Our most recent initiative in collaboration with local churches has been in the Richmond area through partnership with The

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Open Table. The Open Table is a national movement to transform poverty through community by bringing together local church groups of volunteers that make a year-long commitment to act—through relationship—as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates. Over the course of a year, the Table works together with an individual or family in poverty to set goals, foster accountability, and implement a plan to create change. Plans are underway to extend this partnership with The Open Table movement beyond Richmond in the coming year.

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 donating countless gifts-in-kind. Our church partners, our Child Champion Councils and the UMFS Auxiliary are a critical resource to the children and families we serve. The members of these partnering groups are tireless advocates for our ministry in their districts and local churches throughout the Conference. Our relationship with the United Methodist Church is vital for us to achieve our mission.

We are grateful for the support of the Virginia Conference and for your partnership with us as an unwavering champion for high-risk children and families. It is because of your support that we are able to help children and families reach their full potential! We value our Virginia Annual Conference connection and feel privileged to be a part of the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Together we can continue to empower children and families to reach their full potential.

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

Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.

Much has changed in the fields of aging and senior living since Bishop William Walter Peele led the Virginia Conference in responding to repeated requests to establish a “Home for the Aged” in 1944. Today’s options for community living could never have been imagined when The Hermitage in Richmond opened its doors in 1949. For almost 70 years, Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) has been a leader and innovator in developing and providing communities, services and programs to meet the needs of older persons. With the support, hard work and dedication of our board, volunteers and team members, VUMH has grown from that first “Home for the Aged” to providing quality services to enhance the lives of nearly 1,300 people in our seven communities.

Our efforts to improve quality and engage residents continued during this past conference year. A few of our significant accomplishments reflecting our culture change efforts include:

- New construction of our first health services households at WindsorMeade of Williamsburg;
- Planning and initial work on a dining services expansion at Cedarfield;
- Construction of a new country kitchen in our health care neighborhood at the Hermitage in Roanoke; and,
- Our Richmond, Alexandria, Onancock and Norfolk communities all working

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diligently to move from our traditional health care model to person centered neighborhoods.

Much work has been undertaken to reflect upon the statement of our mission, vision, core values and goals. This work will create a strategic framework which reflects our commitment to safeguard a resident-driven culture; continuously update and maintain safe, secure and appealing communities; create forward thinking programs; and strengthen our engagement with local churches and community partners. One particular example of a strengthened partnership during this year has been our collaboration with the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College to sponsor the first statewide *Faithful Aging Conference*. Several local churches, districts and the Conference Older Adult Ministries Council were also involved in planning and hosting this event.

Since 1948, the Samaritan Program, the heart of the mission at VUMH, has provided benevolent assistance to residents who outlive their finances. Traditionally, VUMH has recognized the ten local congregations across the Virginia Annual Conference with the highest level of giving each year to the Samaritan Program. During 2016, we were privileged to recognize the following congregations as *Samaritan Award Churches*:

- Westover Hills (Richmond District)
- Reveille (Richmond District)
- Fairmount (Richmond District)
- Fairfax (Alexandria District)
- Sydenstricker (Alexandria District)
- Trinity (Richmond District)
- Williamsburg (York River District)
- Greene Memorial (Roanoke District)
- Main Street - Emporia (James River District)
- Lawrence Memorial (Roanoke District)

The Innkeeper Award honors and offers appreciation to congregations of the Annual Conference for exemplary support of the mission of VUMH with older adults. Local Community Guilds select the churches based upon both the financial stewardship and volunteer service of members of the congregation. In 2016, *Innkeeper Awards* were presented to:

- Mount Pleasant (Roanoke District)
- Forest Grove (Richmond District)

Recognizing that the senior housing market and needs of future residents will continue to change drastically, more than two years ago we began to explore our current and future residents' perceptions of our communities. We learned that many adult children searching for a new home for their parents, as well as many potential residents in the earliest stage of planning for their future moves, found words in our current name that were unappealing. People do not want to move to "The Home" or to have the wonderful residence they live in referred to as part of "the Homes." Many current and

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future customers assumed you had to be a United Methodist to live at our communities. Some called and learn that our doors and hearts are open to all, but many others moved on to other options because they believed our name excluded them. With the blessings and encouragements of residents, team and board members, we began to search for a new aspirational way to describe our mission that will serve us for a new generation. We will have more to share about this during the session and at our display at the Annual Conference.

VUMH is committed to honoring our heritage and building upon our strong foundation as we grow into something even greater. Thank you for your continued generosity in support of the Samaritan Program, for the countless hours of volunteer service for the benefit of our residents, and for the ongoing advocacy you provide for those who are aging in your congregations and in the greater community.

2017 RECOMMENDATIONS From Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.

1. The Relationship Agreement between the Virginia Conference and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. be continued.
2. The period between Mother's Day and Father's Day be designated in support of the Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. Samaritan Program, and each church promote an offering during this time dedicated to this purpose.

*– Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO and
Martha Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations*

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, for over four decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 21 properties (more than 2,100 residents) in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Fairfax County, and the District. We also manage four Community Resource Centers (CRCs) and five special needs Resident Services Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease as well as those with disabilities to regain their dignity and renew their lives.

Real Estate Development Projects

- Union on Queen, formerly Pierce Queen Apartments (Arlington): The recently completed Arlington County project marks the preservation and renovation of two garden apartment buildings and construction of a 12-story residential tower, resulting in a total of 193 total units with 78 affordable apartments. Project construction was completed in November 2016 and the property began to accept residents in December. All 78 affordable apartments have been leased. A grand opening celebration is being planned for April 2017.

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- The Fallstead at Lewinsville Center, formerly Lewinsville Senior Residences (McLean): Wesley Housing is renovating and expanding 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 who is partnering with Hamel Builders on the project. A groundbreaking ceremony took place in September 2016 and construction is now well underway.
- Renovations-Wexford Manor Apartments (Falls Church/Fairfax County): Critically needed renovations are being made in two phases to this 74-unit community. All interior renovations are complete for Phase I and residents moved back into their apartments in January. Exterior renovations for Phase I are still underway, and the expansion of the Community Resource Center and Phase II will commence in the coming weeks.
- Culpepper Garden (Arlington): Wesley Housing was selected to lead the preservation of this landmark seniors' community. The existing 204 affordable units will undergo improvements. The project includes upgrades to the community space, the apartments, and the extensive grounds. The closing and start of the construction are scheduled for Summer 2017.
- Brookland Place (Washington, DC): In November 2016, Wesley acquired its first property in the District of Columbia, Brookland Place. The property, comprised of 80 rental units and located near Catholic University and two Metro stations, was acquired in partnership with the tenant association through the District's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). In addition to overall property management by Wesley Property Management Company, Wesley is actively engaging residents in its Housing Stability Initiative.

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

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Advance Specials 2016 -2017

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique: Chicuke Rural Hospital, Advance #09734A
Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning, Advance #08597A
Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Advance #15080N
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
Eurasia: Eurasia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova, Advance #14053A
Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program, Advance #14377A
Sudan: Sudan Development, Advance #184385
Global: Anti-Human Trafficking, Advance #333615
Global: Sustainable Agriculture, Advance #982188
Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat, Advance #07629A
Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry, Advance #181000
Vietnam Mission Initiative, Advance #14932A

NATIONAL

Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission, Advance #761544
District of Columbia: Christ House, Advance #381215
Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Advance #773726
Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Advance #773365
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

Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc, #5020
Caretakers of God's Creation, #5016
Crossroads Mission Center – New for 2017, #5208
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia, #5029
ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support, #5036
GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church, #5035
Heart Havens, #6442
Henry Fork Service Center, #5008
Highland Support Project – New for 2017, #5007
Journey Community Center – New for 2017, #5009
Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002
Park View Community Mission, #5019

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Pathways Virginia Advance #5045
Proclaiming Grace Outreach – New for 2017, #5011
Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, #5043
Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS), #5010
Tuesday’s Table, #5024
Una Familia – New for 2017, #5027
United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke, #5004
Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery, #5037
Wesley Community Center, #5025

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Partnering for Success:

Approaching Campus Ministry as an Emerging Mission Frontier

Campus ministries are one of the most important *strategic* mission fields in the world today. The idea that campus ministries are just a faith based student organization or a carryover from high school youth fellowship is an understanding best suited for the past. We have the largest college-going generation of all time, international student enrollment is at an all-time high and we are entering a post-Christian culture. While Higher Education students make up 16.1% of our national population, they grow up to be leaders in every sphere and their impact on the world far exceeds their numbers. To meet this challenge, our campus ministries must prepare for the new generation of students by undergoing an intentional process of deep change, shifting from a traditional approach to a missional approach. The traditional ministry focuses on building large groups, while a missional approach *adds the perspective* of reaching and transforming large campuses. We need to invest our time, energy and resources in comprehensive campus-saturating strategies — why? There are huge segments of the campus population we will never see at our weekly large group meetings

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries oversees the mission and ministry of the 13 campus ministries related to and supported by the Virginia Conference. As such, the board's role is to *partner* with local boards and campus ministers to assist in this transformation and *to ensure their success*. To meet this challenge the following changes have been made this academic year (2016-2017):

- The BHECM has been restructured to include committees/teams that can directly partner with local boards and campus ministers. We added a local board assessment committee, a technology committee, and ministry resource team. These complement the existing property managers and finance committees.
- Campus Ministry Funding has been changed to a grants based system to provide consistency and equity, to empower local boards, and to establish a system of accountability that can be linked to campus ministry effectiveness
- All Campus Ministry Reports now relate to overall effectiveness. Criteria have been established to clarify what exceeds, meets and does not meet expectations.
- The Campus Ministry System (metrics) has been revised to produce data that will assist local boards, campus ministers and student leadership teams evaluate progress and trends, examine where additional resources are needed, and provide a tool for dialogue (what works, what doesn't and why).
- To support local boards, a revised handbook has been published and a local board resources/training web site was established.
- To support our newly appointed campus ministers, the Director of Ministries with Young People, Paulo Lopes, established a leadership incubator where participants are supported and encouraged to develop their competencies and leave with a new plan to reach students and to transform campuses. Our newly appointed campus

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ministers are Drew Enszt (ARISE at George Mason University), Forrest Teague (United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University) and Katie Gooch (Pace Center at Virginia Commonwealth University).

As stated in individual campus ministry reports, we strive 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 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. We invite you to read the stories shared by each of our campus ministries in this Book of Reports. Further, we invite you to pray for the continued fruitfulness of Higher Education ministries.

– Rob Lough, President

The Wesley Foundation at Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College

The Wesley Foundation is a full-time campus ministry program, active in many ministry settings. Our weekly Tuesday Night Dinner and Worship is a very popular ministry and has grown considerably this year. Students are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by local churches and may stay for the Worship that follows. The worship time is designed to be contemporary and interactive. There is time in our Tuesday night schedule for small group discussion and prayer. Here are some of the feelings of students that attend the Wesley Campus Ministry. Andrew Landis, senior at Longwood University “Wesley is a fun place to be on Tuesday nights where you feel welcomed and at home. Where you get fed both physically and spiritually”. We also have weekly student-led Bible studies and men’s and women’s small groups that meet on campus. On Hampden-Sydney’s campus we have a late-night men’s bible study led by the campus minister. Praise and worship are important parts of our community and come in a variety of forms and settings. There are many opportunities for service and mission work (Habitat for Humanity, annual mission trips, Faces Food bank, and other local outreach). Our Student Center is a comfortable, air-condition setting where one may pray & study, laugh & love, play & grow. The Wesley Foundation is a place for “good clean fun,” individual pastoral care, conversation, and spiritual direction. Our students often provide “people resources” for local churches with their service, musical talents, and even their fellowship. They also assist with local District and Conference youth events as well as participate in worship in area churches when invited. All this is made possible by generous District support, a strong Local Board of Directors, a core of Student leaders and a vital partnership with the Campus Ministry Team at Farmville UMC.

The Wesley Foundation Student Center is a busy place! Along with regular Wesley events, various campus, church, and community groups use our facilities for their meeting needs. For the last several years the Wesley Foundation student center has been the location of the AA/NA Christmas and New Year Marathon. Members of the AA/NA community gather over a 24-hour period on Christmas and New Year for mutual support

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and encouragement. We house the District Office, a Prayer Chapel, a game room, a great living room with big screen TV/DVD, and a large kitchen with plenty of coffee and other light refreshments. This year we have taken advantage of the several resources of Longwood University. The Longwood Design Lab has worked on the design of a new logo for our campus ministry. We have also been working with the Longwood Small Business Center to use our logo in the “Branding” of our ministry to provide a consistent image across the board. Within the office, we have hired a part-time office assistant to help with financial accounts, data entry, social media and connections with students, and coordination of events. We also have a new venture with an internship through the Business Department. The internship will be focused mainly on property management. It will involve after-hours availability for residents, developing work orders for apartment maintenance, overview and work on the current leases, maintenance of a building use calendar, maintenance schedule for the facilities, and over-all knowledge of the property and its function. It is a great opportunity to build another bridge between Wesley and the local college campus. All of these things exemplify the reasons students come each week excited about sharing the love of God and learning together. They are not only welcomed into our building, which certainly is “a place to belong,” but they are ready and capable of going out and spreading God’s love to those on campus and in the community around them.

Over Spring Break a team of six students and four adults traveled to Groveland, FL to work on a gleaned mission with the Society of St. Andrews “Harvest of Hope”. We worked with two other college groups from UVA and NC State in gleaning of oranges and cabbages that will be distributed to local food banks in the central Florida area. A total of 1,800 pounds of oranges and 36,000 pounds of cabbages were gleaned during three days. We also learned about how hunger has impacted our nation on many levels. The team also worked at a local food bank in Orlando called Second Harvest. We learned about the work of the food bank in the area as well as helped to repack donated food items into boxes for distribution.

The spring break mission ties in well with an upcoming project with “Rise Against Hunger” in which we will package over 30,000 meals to distribute to impoverished areas around the world. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to do this.

— Rich Meiser, Director

The Wesley Foundation at UVA

If I had to capture the expression of this year’s ministry in three words, it would be these: Love your neighbor. We began the fall semester with an overnight retreat called “24 Hours of Community,” focused on loving our neighbor, but we had no idea then how often we would come back to this mandate as we struggled to live out our faith together.

The morning after our national presidential election, a scared and angry student texted me to say, “I’m having an extremely hard time loving my neighbors this morning because now I’m afraid I’m the one who’s blinded by fear and hate. In need of guidance.” After a cup of coffee and some prayer, I sent out word inviting students to gather that evening for Pizza and Prayer, to talk and pray together, regardless of how they had voted or how they were feeling about the election. The invitation was to bring their whole selves to the gathering and included this sentence: “No matter who you are,

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we will call you neighbor and extend the hand of love.”

Incidents of hate speech, especially towards those in our community who are Jewish, Muslim, Black, or LGBTQ, have been on the rise this year, even here at UVA. Among the blessings of our UMC campus ministry are the relationships we have developed over time with our neighbors in the university community, including hosting the LGBTQ student group in our building and traveling on interfaith spring break service trips with our Jewish friends from Hillel. One of our challenges this year has been to raise our voices and to reach out even more broadly in solidarity and support with these neighbors, including publishing multiple public statements condemning hate speech and supporting our neighbors under attack, and publicizing and pushing ourselves to attend events sponsored by other student groups, like The Black Monologues, to listen and learn from the stories of students who have very different experiences of the UVA community than many of us do. As campus minister, I have worked with the interfaith United Ministries clergy group to develop relationships and better support for all students in our community, and I was one of the leaders in an interfaith worship service commemorating Charlottesville’s first “Liberation & Freedom Day,” celebrating the day in 1865 when 52% of the local population began to be freed from slavery at last.

With our neighbors at Wesley Memorial UMC, we helped host the PACEM homeless shelter for men. Along with our Presbyterian campus ministry friends, we traveled to the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, to lead worship for our neighbors there. We volunteered doing maintenance on the Appalachian Trail and with the Virginia Institute of Autism during their 5k race, cheering on our neighbors with special needs.

In March we hosted Virginia Conference pastor and writer Jason Micheli (Cancer is Funny) as part of the Virginia Festival of the Book, in partnership with the School of Nursing and the Compassionate Care Center at UVA. We also helped bring author Sue Klebold (mother of one of the shooters at Columbine) to the Festival, in partnership with several other university and community neighbors focused on mental health.

As you know, we have also been engaged in our Building a Foundation for the Future capital campaign, which has raised \$805,000 in gifts and pledges so far! We completed “phase one” last summer and will begin “phase two” this summer, as we continue to work towards our total fundraising goal and the end of the campaign. It’s not too late to make or increase a contribution to support this effort – or to view our video: wesleyatuva.org/ccvideo.

As we gather weekly for meals and conversation, for worship and Communion, and in times of prayer and small group sharing, we ask God to nourish our spirits and our strength for the hard and holy work of loving our neighbors – especially when they seem difficult to love or understand. And we ask God to guide us and transform us to be the neighbors we are created and called to be. Thank you for sending us to be in ministry and mission – to be loving neighbors – in this place and at this important time, both in the life of these students and in the life of the world.

– Rev. Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director

The Pace Center for Campus and Community Ministries (The Wesley Foundation at VCU)

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:11 “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us.” (CEB) The Pace Center has been made rich in so many ways! We are located at the heart of VCU’s campus – surrounded by dorms and Monroe Park. Our building has large windows that let God’s sunlight stream in and constantly remind us of the mission field outside our walls. Our beautiful sanctuary, large kitchen, and fellowship hall have a rich history of hospitality and openness. We have support and dedication from local churches throughout the Richmond District. And we have a Gospel that proclaims God’s love and grace. It is hard to not walk into Pace and feel overwhelmed by God’s blessing. The question is – how can Pace share its gifts generously, so to produce thanksgiving to God?

Since 2015, The Pace Center has been going through a transition which included a decision by its Board and the Board of Higher Education to put the ministry on pause. This pause has allowed Pace to step back and appreciate the many blessings and opportunities God has laid upon its doors. It has allowed leadership to make significant repairs to the building and to take steps to make Pace more financially stable. Now Pace’s leadership is tasked with discerning the difficult but exciting question – What is God calling Pace to do with its many gifts? How are we called to reach out to the students, faculty, and staff of VCU’s community in a way which will produce thanksgiving to God?

The more we ask this question, the more we find that God’s blessings upon Pace never cease. Potential opportunities have already begun to emerge including partnering with VCU’s student food pantry, housing an ongoing faculty Bible Study, and connecting with student groups focused on social enterprise and ministry with Indigenous communities (Highland Support Project). God is surely at work in this place! We are aiming to open our doors once again in the fall of 2017. As we continue to discern how to build a community of faith that embodies God’s Kingdom, we invite you to pray with us, send us names of VCU students, faculty, and staff, and share with us the gifts God has given you!

– Katie B. Gooch, Director and Campus Minister

Wesley at Virginia Tech

Campus Ministry is constantly changing; new students each year, the landscape of the campus, student leadership, and much more. This constant change is what makes campus ministry so exciting, yet also so challenging. If you remain static and unbending, then you will find that students and the environment in which you do ministry will pass you by and you are left wondering where to go. Therefore, it is vital that in campus ministry you keep re-focusing and remaining flexible while also keeping centered in the Triune God and what makes your campus ministry unique. In one word, campus ministry is all about visioning. At Wesley at Virginia Tech, we love to sing the song “Be Thou My Vision.” We believe that if we keep our vision on God our Creator, in Christ Jesus our Redeemer, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, then we will continue to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

We are in a season at Virginia Tech where we are trying to discern what is next for our ministry. In order to stay in front of the change, we are in the midst of a strategic plan/vision for the next 5 to 10 years. We know that part of what makes Wesley at Virginia Tech so special is our sense of community and that is where we are to start, but we also know that what makes Wesley such a vibrant community is needed by more students. Over the past two years we have deeply considered what makes Wesley unique and what Wesley needs to be for the students at Virginia Tech in the coming years. This process is tedious, but we feel well worth it. We hope that our vision will be about growing in our love of God and neighbor, while extending that love to more people.

One of our students recently wrote, *“Normally we focus on numbers. How many people are we reaching? How can we get more people in the door? How can we get more involved? But numbers aren’t everything. We are re-centering and refocusing. Focusing on relationships, embodying our motto, “Love Out Loud”, and discerning what our path should be in the future. It doesn’t really matter if we get 300 people to come to our Welcome Week events if we can’t capture them with meaningful relationships, and provide them with a place to be loved while they figure out the craziness of their future. This year many of our students have been more intentional in what they do, what they say, and how they connect with people in order to show God’s love and be in ministry with those around them in ways that uplift God and their peers.”* – Kelsey R.

Even though our process of discerning our vision is not complete, we do know that we want to continue to be a vital and vibrant community that will “Love Out Loud” in everything we do. This past year we have seen an increase in our Discipleship ministry area; Communities of Grace (small groups) are creating a deeper spirituality in our students to do exactly what Kelsey spoke about above, Bible Study continues to develop students love for God, and prayer is at the center of everything we do. Our Worship ministry remains a foundational part of our ministry; our worship service, which is now 4 years old, continues to grow in all areas, Wesley Singers, led by Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, is a mainstay for our students, and we lead retreats for the Roanoke District at Wesley and the Fusion Retreat at Eagle Eyrie for youth in our conference. The Mission ministry is always a passion for our community as we still have the food pantry for college students (209 Manna Ministries), weekend build days, collecting cake mixes for the Montgomery County Christmas store, Operation Christmas Child, Matthew 25: 35 Concert, Relay 4 Life, Big Event, and, of course, our Spring Break Mission trip which is always incredible! The Fellowship ministry is probably the easiest to do at Wesley because community and relationship building is ingrained in Wesley’s DNA, but we always strive to create an environment where students can grow in their love for one another. Finally, our Outreach ministry continues to be at the forefront of our ministry as we seek to invite students to be a part of the wonderful ministry we have.

These fundamental aspects of our ministry are developing leaders that will carry the vision of the Church into the world. We look forward to the ways God is calling Wesley to continue to adapt and change our vision to enable us to grow in all these aspects of our ministry. We desire to be ahead of the change so that we can be the best possible witness to God’s love on our campus, in our community, and in the world. We, however, want stories like this to remain the norm:

“Going to a large university fresh out of high school felt daunting. Fortunately, I was welcomed with open arms by the Wesley community at Virginia Tech. Upon move in, I already had people from Wesley knocking on my door to check on me and give me a goody bag. The hospitality I felt when I first arrived continued the entire four years that I spent there. Wesley provided me with a place to call home away from home. I had doors that were always open to me, arms ready to embrace me, and opportunities to help me grow. The amazing thing is Wesley has been that home for students for generations and will continue be for generations to come. I can tell you without a doubt in my mind that being a part of Wesley has changed my life and shaped me in my call to ministry.”

– Emily T.

So, what’s next? We are open to the Spirit’s leading, but one thing is for sure – we will keep God as our vision so that others will *see* in us the love of God in all that we do.

– Bret Gresham, 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 Jen Peek, President; Leah Griffith, Devotions; Erin Kitchens, Discipleship; Kate Sandberg, Communications; and Sarah Grace Frary, Kathryn Weilacher, and Matt Brown, 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 fall focus on Faith and Social Justice for our theme of Hope and.... Thus, each Sunday night Large Group focuses on a different ways that hope can impact our faith and our lives. Our Bible Study, as well as our Faith and Fellowship events, has the same themes.

Students are coordinating our partnerships with local churches in mission and ministry, as our connections with Williamsburg and Wellspring 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, as well as their new community kitchen.

Wesley has also begun two new initiatives this year. First, is an outreach to international students and scholars on campus. We are focusing our outreach on building relationships and meeting the needs of these students, especially during the breaks, when they are the most isolated, providing meals and times to come together. As the relationships grow, the ministry will grow as well. Second, Wesley is partnering with the

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Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail to provide activities for the persons incarcerated there. We look forward to all the opportunities for embodying the love and grace of God than we can even imagine now.

Our partnerships with other campus ministries and student groups in events, service, mission, and ministry continue to grow. 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 service projects. Furthermore, Wesley continues to meet the very real needs of students in crisis on campus. Finally, Wesley continues each semester to coordinate a service day at Shalom Farms and an interfaith worship service for the entire campus community.

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 and embody God's radical hospitality for persons on campus, locally, regionally, and beyond.

– Max Blalock, Director

RISE

The RISE Community has experienced a tremendous amount of transition throughout the past year. We sold and moved out of our previous property on South Mason Street, and we worshipped in seven different locations as we waited for construction on our new space to begin. We have learned a tremendous amount about ourselves and about God, and we are extremely excited to see what the future holds as we move into a renovated space that will offer much needed stability and room to dream and seek to mend God's Creation together. Now, we'd like to introduce you to our two (new-ish) College Ministry Leaders, Nathan and Sarandon.

My Name is Nathan Scarborough, and I am the Campus Ministries Inreach Leader at RISE. RISE has been enormously important to me over the past year and I expect it will continue to be for a long time to come. I started coming to RISE at a point in my life when I was going through a great deal of change theologically, and I needed a safe space to wrestle with questions without being given quick, cookie cutter answers that were becoming increasingly problematic and unsatisfying. After spending quite some time hearing about RISE from a friend, I finally decided to check them out at their Ash Wednesday service, and I left feeling like I had finally found a church that my wife and I could call home.

I have found that RISE is special for so many reasons. One of the things that sticks out most to me is the vulnerability, humility, and deep honesty of the Pastor, Amanda Garber. She and other leaders are willing to ask really difficult questions, both of the theological nature, and otherwise. I truly cannot express how greatly I value this in RISE. RISE is also very involved in the community with ministries such as Love packs, which feeds children over the weekend who rely on school meals for food during the week, and RISE and Shine, which provides hygiene items for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them. Our Stop Hunger Now event in January drew hundreds of students and was a beautiful sight. We also provide a meal and social gathering space for college students every week called Breakfast for Dinner Club. I've spent time with numerous college students this year, and I'm excited to say that a number of them are connecting with the larger RISE community. I am also incredibly excited for the future

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of RISE.

Construction has begun on our new space, and the future is full of hope. So, all of this to say that RISE is a vital part of my own life, and a vital part of the community. For some in the Harrisonburg area it is the only church they feel safe attending, and we all need and deserve a place where we can seek the God who loves us as we journey, struggle and are transformed in community.

My name is Sarandon Smith and I'm a junior at Bridgewater College studying Fine Arts. I came to RISE after moving to Harrisonburg and beginning my search for a welcoming, diverse faith community. I have been regularly attending RISE since September of 2016, and two weeks ago I began serving as the College Outreach Team Leader. What drew me to RISE was the unconditional acceptance, and knowing that I have space to explore and develop my beliefs and relationship with God, without having to fit my faith into a box. I come from a diverse faith background, and it was important for me to be in a community that allowed me to live through my own faith journey. What really kept me coming back though was the unique vulnerability that is fostered in the RISE community. I have never been part of a faith community where I felt I didn't need to "save face" or pretend that things were OK. Being able to step into worship, truly as I am, knowing that I am loved as I come has been more of a blessing than I could have imagined.

Because of this experience I have gladly stepped into the role of College Outreach Team Leader, because I know there are many more young people who are thirsting for a community like RISE where they are welcomed as they are and supported as they grow. RISE has several outreach systems established, including muffin mania, meet and feed, and Breakfast for Dinner Club which is new but growing faster than we can keep up with. We are also working on developing new programs for the next academic year that will reach further out into the surrounding college community. I couldn't be more excited about the work that RISE is doing in the college community, and I am so grateful and incredibly blessed to be part of it and watch it grow!

— *Nathan Scarborough, Campus Ministries Inreach Leader at RISE*

IGNITE

IGNITE had quite a year in 2016.

We were certain of our vision: IGNITE people's hearts to change the city. But more importantly, we became certain of how we would achieve that vision: we would be a church that initially connected with people not through worship, but through missions.

James Monroe Elementary School was one of the first and most important places that we began to serve. We adopted a third grade class and committed to volunteer twice each month. We created events that allow us to build relationships with the children, while also adding to their education. Our experience was so positive that we decided to move up with the kids we had served in the previous school year. Thus, we moved from adopting one class in the third grade to all three classes of the fourth grade. And instead of volunteering twice a month, we chose to volunteer each week. This proved to be incredibly successful. We now had more opportunities to build relationships with the children, and more opportunities for volunteers to serve. By the end of the year, we had as many as 12 volunteers per class on a given Friday.

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Small Groups were another area where we saw growth in 2016. At the beginning of the year, we had one small group: a weekly Monday Night Dinner Group. However, in the fall, we were able to expand to three groups. We continued the Monday Night Diner Group and added the James Monroe volunteer group, and a Young Women's Group.

This was a critical step for us in the process of discipling the students and young people who connected with IGNITE. While we knew that people could experience God in our volunteer opportunities, we also knew that there needed to be a place for them to deepen their faith. Small groups would be one opportunity for this. Worship would be another.

After over a year of waiting, God finally made it clear that summer 2016 was the appropriate time for us to begin worship services. However, because of the energy and resources required for each worship service, we sensed God telling us to start worshipping only once a month, rather than weekly. This way, we would not be pulled away from our primary focus of serving.

Worship proved quite successful. Each month, we were filling the room and beginning to have conversations about where we might go if we outgrew the space. Our highlight, however, was in September, when we baptized 3 people and had several commitments to Christ.

In fact, over the past year, we have seen many people make decisions for Christ. So far, 14 people have either begun or renewed their relationship with Jesus. This is in addition to the four people we have baptized, and the two student leaders who have gone into full-time ministry.

Much of this excitement occurred in the fall, as we began a new school year. We watched our numbers increase dramatically. In fact, we grew so much in the fall that we were reaching more students in a week than we had over the course of 3 months the previous year.

A large part of our growth came once we opened our food pantry. In August, we started IGNITE Pantry in partnership with ODU. It is a food pantry made available to the students, faculty, and staff of ODU. Quickly, the pantry grew beyond our expectations. Within a few months, we were averaging around 15-25 families each week, and 15 volunteers. Many of these volunteers also become involved in other ministries at IGNITE. In fact, we gained so many new volunteers through IGNITE Pantry that in just the first two months of the semester, we have had more volunteers than the previous six months combined.

IGNITE is poised to end the year on a strong note, and begin 2017 even stronger. God is continuing to surprise us by opening doors that allow us to impact lives in ways we never imagined. And we can't wait to see what's next.

— Brandon Robbins, Director

Arise Campus Ministry at George Mason University

This year has been a very exciting, and transformative year at George Mason University (GMU). Last spring (2016), it was determined that Arise Campus Ministry ought to go through a full academic year of discernment in order to minister more effectively to the students at GMU. In this year of prayerful discernment the Holy Spirit has been moving amongst the leaders, board members and the students at Arise. Our

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staff and volunteers are finding ways of engaging in discussions with students, faculty members and other groups on campus to discover areas in which Arise can truly be an inclusive and unique voice at George Mason. Our wonderful board members have been meeting, and continue to meet, with local church leaders from the various denominations supporting Arise. These meetings have created additional avenues that we can be in mission together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and God's love for all persons. We have formed a launch team of nine, and been meeting regularly to seek God's vision for the ministry in the fall. We continue to be open to God's guidance, and ask for your prayers as we continue to seek what God's vision is for the ministry.

While this academic year has been focused on the fall 2017 launch, there is still amazing ministry happening at GMU. Arise has launched two different small groups and have seen both groups bring in new members. These groups pray for one another, have lively discussions about faith, and are developing future leaders. We are seeing students developing a deeper understanding of the ways God is moving in their lives and it has been exciting seeing them respond to God's grace. The students are excited about small groups, inviting their friends to be a part of the ministry, and getting involved in worship in local faith congregations.

Serving others has also been an important part of our year. In the fall, we hosted a Stop Hunger Now event and saw over 15,000 meals go to the people of Haiti. We have also collaborated with others to help those in our local community. Our students hosted an evening Hypothermia Shelter in March, partnered with local congregations to feed the hungry and have served those who have housing needs in April.

We are so excited at what God is doing currently at GMU, and what God is inviting us to do in the future. We also want to officially thank all of the churches who support Arise, the volunteers who pour their time and resources into our students, the board members who selflessly serve and the students who continue to invest in our ministry. Please keep up to date with everything happening at Arise Campus Ministry through our website and various social media accounts. I thank you for your continued support and for your prayers for all of the Virginia UMC campus ministries throughout the state. I humbly submit this report and am always

– Drew Ensz, Director

The Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington

The Campus Christian Community (CCC) is an ecumenical campus ministry that ministers to the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. We have had an exciting year this year and it has been a joy to watch our students grow and the leaders develop into a team. One of the highlights of the year has been a new partnership that was created by students at the CCC with the Boys and Girls Club here; each week a group of students goes to spend time with the youth tutoring and playing games. Each week our students share where they have seen God that week and it almost always highlights the time spent with these youth. Talking about "God moments" has been something that we are trying this year and it has been fruitful in having conversations about faith amongst the students in the CCC in order to prepare them to talk about their faith with others outside of our group. Another new thing that we have been doing this year is finding new and creative ways to reach out to students with whom we may not

normally interact. One of the most popular ways that we have done this is through our Paint Night events. Once a semester, we host a night where we have a preset design and students can come and paint them with assistance from our artists. These have been very popular and have been a great access point for new people who may have been uncomfortable coming to something else first. We have also moved some of our events to campus, providing a familiar location for doing something new for students. We have re-envisioned some of our standard programs after some dreaming and investment on the part of our student leaders. We have been working to make sure that everything we do falls in line with our mission statement and has intentionality behind it, as opposed to in the past when the focus was filling in all of the holes in the calendar.

We are excited about returning the New Jersey this year for our mission trip in May. We will again be working on Hurricane Sandy recovery work. Even though it has been several years since the storm, there is still a lot of work in the area. The CCC students have developed a relationship with the community and have enjoyed working alongside people there to be a positive change there.

After a several year hiatus, we have started back up with a monthly newsletter, the CCC Correspondence, in order to share with our supporters and alumni about what is happening around the CCC. You can check it out on our website at www.campuschristiancommunity.com.

— Shannon Waite, Campus Ministry Director

Community College Ministries

Community College Ministries is your campus ministry with community colleges in southwestern and central Virginia where over 54,000 students deal with faith, family, classes, careers, and a wide range of challenges every single day! Colleges 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, Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Wytheville Community College in Wytheville, Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, and Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap. The Presbyterian Church USA is our partner with 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 in 1986 with support from the EMLC, the United Methodist Self-Development Fund, the Presbyterian Self-Determination Fund, and the Episcopal Presiding Bishop's Fund. Alliance for Excellence provides vital ministries through fellowships, seminars, choirs, and mission, and outreach. For the eighth year now, Community College Ministries sponsors the "Rally in the Valley" bringing community college students of faith together from across the entire Commonwealth! The gathering is organized in cooperation with the Blue Ridge Christian Fellowship and over 100 students assemble each year for this program. New this year is an outreach program to support foster youth who are aging out of homes or institutions and entering our community college system. In cooperation

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with the Great Expectations program at our community colleges, local churches can provide emergency assistance, resources, and mentoring for a population that struggles with academic and personal success. Your campus minister is the Reverend Stephen Darr (stevedarr@vaumc.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. Others who share this ministry are Jean Wilson in Martinsville and Jamesia Harrison in Lynchburg. We welcome your participation in this exciting ministry with students at our community colleges!

– *Stephen Darr, Campus Minister*

FLOW (United Campus Ministries at Virginia State University)

The year 2016 was indeed a blessed one for UCM FLOW! In our first full year of a partnership with Ettrick United Methodist Church, we continued to witness the move of God through our Lord Jesus Christ in a mighty way!! The church continues to host weekly worship services at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. We are thankful for a host of blessings resulting from this historic ministry partnership and are excited about the following highlights from the year!

- As Virginia State University welcomed Dr. Makola Abdullah, 14th President of the university on February 1, 2016, United Campus Ministries “drafted” the president to play with campus minister, Rev. Delano Douglas and eight students on the first UCM FLOW intramural basketball team, *Witness!* After a slow start to the season, *Witness* went on the advance to the league’s final four, falling three points short of playing for the championship! For the season, Dr. Abdullah and Rev. Douglas were the only faculty and staff members to play in the league with and against the students! In the fall of 2016, Dr. Abdullah also played with the first ever *Witness* flag football team.
- In May of 2016, the Ettrick United Methodist Church was featured as the location of the chapel in the filming of the motion picture *Burning Sands*. Virginia State University was the primary site for this production which was released on March 10, 2017 though Netflix. The church was blessed with an honorarium from the project for use of the facility for filming and as a location for holding and feeding the cast.
- The second annual Village of Ettrick Fair was held on October 1, 2016 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. More than 200 members of the community was on hand to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks as they connected with support agencies in the area. We were blessed to celebrate the restoration of the historic Summerseat building in our town and to have local talent on hand to provide entertainment for the community! The Thomas Dale High School Football Cheerleading Squad performed stunts and cheers for the community and the Ettrick Elementary School Music Department, under the leadership of Music Teacher Mrs. Sara Davis performed the soundtrack of their summer rendition of the *Wizard of Oz!*
- In October 2016, The Rev. Delano Douglas and The Rev. Dorothy McNeer O’Quinn, pastor of Highland United Methodist Church and chairperson of UCM FLOW’s Board of Directors

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- VSU students continued to grow in their support of the Ettrick United Methodist Church through volunteerism and offerings through the 2:00 pm services. On several occasions in July, September, and October, students assisted with cleaning and demolition projects in the basement as part of ongoing efforts to renovate the fellowship hall working with church members to haul the refuse to the GCA dumpsters at Virginia State University. Offering totals for the calendar year amounted to \$4,600.00. We praise God for the increase!

Some of our ministries that we have engaged in over the years have transformed to accommodate the evolving needs of our campus community! Our Wednesday night Bible Studies previously held in the cafeteria at 6 p.m. shifted to a new location with a new schedule! *Soul Food Bible Study* is now *FLOW Bible Study* and is held on Wednesdays at two different times for multiple audiences at 12 noon and 5 p.m. Our praise team, *Avodah* rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. with our performing arts ministry *Chara* following at 9 p.m. Our Praise and Worship team coordinator, Ms. Constance McLaughlin hosts a devotional period in between the two sessions at 8:30 p.m. Our Lilly Endowment Grant supported Oikonomia student leadership ministry experienced another great year with its second class concluding in the spring and its third class beginning in the fall!

Special thanks to the Virginia Conference, the James River District, Ettrick United Methodist Church and Highland United Methodist Church in Colonial Heights for supporting us in our ministry! May God continue to bless every church, campus ministry, and extension ministry in our connection!!

– Delano Douglas, Director &
Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn, Board Chairperson

United Campus Ministries (UCM) @ CNU

This year has been a year of Change for UCM. We had an interim campus minister for the fall semester and I just came on in the spring semester. I am a recent graduate from Virginia Wesleyan College and have lived in the Hampton Roads area my entire life. I got the call to ministry from the Lord my junior year of college and the Lord has put me in positions to serve him since. He has given me the chance to serve as a local pastor and now reach students at Christopher Newport. I am excited to come in with a new vision and see how God continues to impact the campus and how UCM can be a part of it. I am still very new so my main focus is on building relationships with students, faculty, staff, and local churches. Here is my vision for UCM and what has been happening lately.

- We continue to meet Thursday nights at 7pm and are currently going through 1 Peter with our students that average about 3 per meeting. We also partner with the Lutheran ministry so John Ericson and I switch off on who leads each week.
- Many connections with students are being made, I am on campus every day that I can. The reputation and face of UCM is changing in a good way. It used to be an unknown among other ministries as to what they were and believed. I have been able to reach out to other ministries and show who I am and explain what UCM and where we are missionally.

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- My vision for UCM is one that is much more mission oriented and personal. To long we have thought students will just come to us. We need to go to them wherever they are. No matter who they are, what they look like, background, we must go to them all. Starting with a few solid students and pouring into them and growing them so that they impact everyone they meet on campus, that is the goal.
- As a way to help do outreach but also to help grow us closer together we have started game nights. These are either held on Friday or Saturday night, we play board games, eat home cooked meals, and usually end up in great conversation. What is even better is that it is held off campus at either my house or a board members house.

We are hoping that with the progress and stability now in place at UCM we can take off hard into the Fall '17 semester. Growth has been slow but growth is still growth and we know that even Jesus's ministry started with only a few and those few changed the world. I am looking forward to a full year at CNU and what the Lord is going to continue doing. There is seriously something amazing happening on this campus. So we are very thankful for the continued support of the conference, especially through prayer. We seek to have more unity and support through all ministries of the Lord.

– *Forrest Teague, Director*

Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation (WWF) at Norfolk State University is the 2015-2016 NSU Program of the Year. College officials presented this award during an awards ceremony. Our ministry received college-wide recognition and a plaque for our outstanding service to the college and the community. WWF Campus Ministry is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches seeking to impact the College, the Community, and the Current Culture with Christian Principles, Open Hearts and Open Minds. It is our mission to provide a safe place to explore and to experience one's faith, while offering a respectful and non-threatening environment of love, service to others and learning. Our goal is to

Friendship, fellowship and faith are enhanced at The Foundation House, where we offer a place of refuge. In essence, we are family and support our student's matriculation, boasting 100 percent graduation of all students who participate in our ministry. Students enjoy a space to grow and to develop their faith. Bible Study, Prayer, Small Groups and weekly meals are offered. We worship and work together. On Mondays we share in Monday Night Fire Worship. Wednesday evenings include Bible Study and group fellowship. Our Signature Bible Study, Thirsty Thursday is held weekly and is a time when we study together and provide a meal to all present. In our growing together several of us attended the District Christian Education Training Day as well as attending worship together. Our choir is often asked to sing and was featured at the Martin Luther King Celebration Service at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church. As a family, we support one another and seek to strengthen our Christian walk.

Yearly, we engage in a Spiritual Growth Retreat known as our Faith Enhancement Retreat where we spend a weekend together engaged in formational therapy with a trained therapist. It is our goal to grow together and to strengthen those with whom we

come in contact. We collaborate with other campus ministries and hope to involve them in our future retreats. Periodically, we continue to host No Strings Attached Bible Study and fellowships for students to interact socially. Following these studies we often create avenues to provide tokens of appreciation to faculty, staff and sometimes students as well. As a group we adopted a foreign student and collected toiletries and other needed items to support this student.

Once again, Family Weekend was a huge success. This year we had more than 40 students and their parents present. We provided the music, led worship and offered the sermon for this Inspirational Service for the college. The WWF Choir sang for the first Faith Partners Network Fundraising Basket Ball Game. As the Campus Ministry Director I was asked to participate in this game along with other area pastors. My team won. The Faith Partners Network raised more than \$17,000 for the athletics department of Norfolk State University. Additionally, as a member of the Faith Partners Network, I was asked to chair the Speaker's Bureau Committee and provide leadership in this area.

Campus Ministry Week is a blessing and always reaches many students on campus. This week of worship includes, panel discussions, concerts, worship through the arts and outreach. We concluded this week with our Annual Benefit Banquet, which was held on campus this year in our University Ballroom. We continue to participate as a ministry team in Homecoming Activities, Spring Fest, Faith Fairs, all Organization Fairs and other events hosted by the college.

– Joy Carrington, Director

BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity continues in 2017 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. email 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.

A team of the board for Empowering advocates 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.

In September 2016, Jodi Cataldo, Director of Laity in Leadership, Discipleship Ministries led an all day Lay Leader training for all District Lay Leaders and District Directors of Lay Servant Ministry at the Conference Center.

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 reflective of The Discipline 2012 and 2016 requirements. In an effort to spread our teaching abilities, "On Demand Learning for Laity" has been a great success. We met the goals set by a team of dedicated individuals to feed those Lay Servants needing Advanced Courses by the end of 2016 for Lay Speaking certification. 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 4H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake with approximately 150 attending including teaching staff the first week in April.

We have celebrated the leadership of three District Lay Leaders whose terms have ended on the board. Gene Mims, Kathy Lutman and Iris Smith have greatly enhanced their respective district ministries. We thank them all. With sadness we also say good bye to Beth Christian and thank her for tireless hours as Co - Director of Lay Servant Ministries. Additionally we thank Joyce Winston, UMW President and Jeff Hall, UMM President for jobs well done. In addition we have celebrated new faces joining the board. We welcome Wilma Jennings, Winchester District Lay Leader, Jennifer W. Hume, Eastern Shore District Lay Leader, Keith Jordan, James River District Co - Lay Leader, Mary Jane Rawley, UMW Conference President, and Andrew Kissell, President of the Conference UMM.

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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 Sharma D. Lewis challenged us last September 2016 to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we welcomed her into our Virginia Annual Conference as our new Episcopal Leader. Since last November I and my wife Sandy have accompanied her to her famous Chat and Chews in all 16 districts. Our new bishop is not new to Virginia any longer but one of us. I cherish her partnership with the laity.

– Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Virginia UM Men's key initiatives in 2016 were to recruit UM Men District Leadership; find a new site for our annual spiritual weekend (Randolph-Macon College); and establish a new vision statement, values, and goals. The UMM are excited about our future under the leadership and support of our new Bishop.

The UMM conducted a spirit-driven retreat in late September 2016 facilitated by Jim Boesch, GCUMM, and established the following:

Vision: *Men Building God's Kingdom led by the Holy Spirit through Christian Fellowship*

Values: Service, Excitement (passion), Teamwork

2017-2020 Goals

- In support of our District Superintendents, re-establish District Level UMM organizations in six Districts and strengthen them in the other ten using partnerships and by nurturing our “mustard seeds” (strong, faith-filled fellowships and clusters)
- Prepare men for service:
 - Train new officers using electronic resources.
 - Mentor replacements by going out two by two.
 - Encourage Men's Bible studies and daily prayer at all fellowships
 - Conduct project oriented events to attract Late Boomers, Gen Xers and Millennials
 - Integrate all men into servant leadership and fellowship in God's Kingdom (increase proportion of men under 50 in leadership to 25%).
 - Increase enrollment in Men's Ministry training by 25%.
- Reach new men and their families:
 - Establish fifteen new scout troops conference-wide
 - Introduce ourselves to one new person every week while being prepared to share our witness
- Connect with other Conference agencies and boards:
 - Preventing Domestic Violence initiative jointly w/ UMW.

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- Increase Chartering and Every Man Shares membership by ten percent.
- Revitalize service to Heart Havens, Prison/Jail Ministry, Hunger Relief, Camp Rainbow, Wesleyan Building Brothers, All God's Children, Scouting, Prayer Advocacy, etc., increasing UMM participation by 20%.
- Holy Spirit led Christian Fellowship:
 - Revitalize our annual spiritual weekend and our annual leadership meeting focusing on attracting new men (20% increase over 2 years).
 - Assign sixteen men to be prayer advocates for their Districts.

Ongoing ministries

Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB): WBB has been endorsed by the GCUM Men as an independent ministry of discipleship providing leadership training for spiritual fatherhood. Four hundred thirty-two men have completed the training in Virginia. We are expanding into the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences, and into Cuba, during 2017.

Men's Ministry: Three certified Men's Ministry Specialists are engaged in training and support activities offering Understanding Men's Ministry and other courses around the Conference.

Scouting: We serve over 16,000 youth with over 9,000 adult volunteer leaders. Scouting is a key element to our strategy to reach new people since half of scouting families do not have church homes. Since over half (634 out of 1,167) of our churches are small congregations with fewer than fifty members, our focus is on helping churches grow through scouting. About 340 churches currently support scouting.

Prayer Advocacy: Our vision is to: Pray Daily to God on behalf of the World Wide Church. Our goal is to advocate prayer as Holy Dialog with God that needs to occur daily in each man's life leading to pursuit, engagement, and faith in action.

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

Camp Rainbow Connection: This is a week-long respite camp held once in July and once in August for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Prison Ministries: UMM provides volunteer support to: Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry (DBOM) which provides the thirty-two week Disciple Series to prisoners; Good News Jail Ministry serving inmates in Virginia's County and City Jails; Kairos which provides an Emmaus Walk experience for inmates of Virginia's Correctional Institutions; and GraceInside, a ministry supporting Prison Chaplains.

Hunger Relief: The Society of St. Andrew with the help of our UMM volunteers have provided an estimated 1.2 million servings of food through July of 2017.

All God's Children: In 2017 Virginia will have three different summer camps with thirty kids each week. This ministry serves the children of incarcerated adults.

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Young Men's Ministry: In coordination with the SEJ Conference we have established this ministry to explore ways to integrate and grow participation by late Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials.

Our values of teamwork, passion, and service mirror Bishop Sharma Lewis' exhortation from 2 Tim 1:6-7 and the UMM motto from James 1:22. Our goals clearly identify the challenges that lie ahead as we work to fulfill our vision of building God's Kingdom. You may visit our website VACUMM.ORG for updates and postings.

– Andrew Kissell, *President*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

From the beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children and youth. Our entire program and organization focuses on mission. Our five Mission Initiatives are providing opportunities to grow spiritually, equipping women and girls to be leaders, providing transformative educational experience, organizing for growth and flexibility, and working for justice through service and advocacy.

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

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.

United Methodist Women offers several opportunities to grow spiritually to women by attending retreats. Each spring a UMW Spiritual Life Retreat is held that brings together 150-175 women from all over the conference. On April 28-30th, the retreat theme was the "Spirituality of Relationships" with the Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt as the retreat leader.

The second opportunity for spiritual growth is for the young women of our conference. Held in September each year is our Young Women's Retreat and is always a great opportunity for young women between the ages of 18-40 to come together for worship, music, sharing, and crafts around a theme. We had 33 in attendance last year. The event's date is September 15-16, 2017 at the Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook in the beautiful mountains of Keezletown, VA. The retreat leader will be Rev. Devon Earle speaking on the theme "Encountering God in Everyday Life: Nurturing Your Relationship with God through Spiritual Practices".

One of our Church's best kept secrets is its Mission Encounter Event held each summer. This is an event shared by Virginia United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women and is for everyone, clergy, laity, youth and children. The dates for the event for 2017 are July 28-29 at Bon Air UMC in Richmond. Our website vaumw.com

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has registration forms.

UMW Annual Meeting in October is always a time for celebration. In October 2016 we honored our outgoing President, Joyce Winston, who holds such a special place in all our hearts for her four years of service as our President.

United Methodist Women around the Virginia Conference are putting their faith, hope, and love in action. We would love to have more women join us in our mission!

– Mary Jane Rawley, President

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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

The Five Talent Academy continues to offer training opportunities related to worship, financial stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry with the poor. We also continue to offer these events via web-based simulcast to regional locations throughout Virginia.

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.

All Things New Capital Campaign

In June of 2008, The Virginia Annual Conference adopted a core strategy to renew our existing churches and to create new faith communities that is called All Things New. One central component of this strategy was to have a capital campaign that would raise funds to help “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

The giving for All Things New Capital Campaign was started in December of 2009 and the last donation was received in January of 2017. Between 2009 to 2017, the Virginia Conference received \$2,016,255 for this effort to renew our existing churches and to create new faith communities.

Over the last eight years the Church Development Team has granted this money to a variety of ministries focusing on leadership development at the local church, district and annual conference levels. At the local church level funds were primarily used to strengthen ethnic minority ministries. Money was granted to Latino ministries, second generation Korean and African immigrant ministries for additional staffing. In some cases, funds were used to secure gifted clergy leadership for African-American congregations. Through a grant to districts, churches have been trained in Phil Maynard’s Shift ministry and a new strategic church consultation, Next Level Invocations has been developed. At the conference level, funds have supported a pilot program in partnership with West Ohio Conference, Missional Church Consultation Initiative. The funds have been used to offer Virginia Focus 2020 and Fresh Expressions training, as well as subsidizing travel on the Korea immersion for conference church planters. In addition, funds have been used to help create a culture of invitation in the Virginia Conference through a district coordinated workshop called, “How to Reach New People” where over 300 churches were trained between 2011-2016.

In conversations with church leaders and district superintendents, the CDT regularly receives feedback about how All Things New funds have contributed to new ministries and greater church vitality. Though money raised through this campaign has now been completely disbursed, the ministry of All Things New continues through the fruit of the investment in ministries described above and through the Church Extension apportionment.

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

– Melissa Dunlap, CDT Chair

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Commission on Disabilities (COD) continues to meet 3 times annually. We continue to improve ways we can be advocates for the disabled in the Virginia Conference.

In 2016 we approved six grants totaling \$4,000 for churches and organizations to improve accessibility. This is an increase over previous years as we have promoted this opportunity more.

At the 2016 annual conference, we surveyed the attendees to know the need for accessible rooms at annual conference so to better provide information to the conference attendees about their availability.

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In 2015 we created three committees to better focus on the needs of the conference. In Feb 2017, we consolidated to two committees:

- **Education, Programs, Accessibility, and Advocacy**
- **Grants, Finance, Monitoring, and Nominations**

Our primary focus is on Education and we continue to search for new ways to enlighten the members of the conference about accessibility and how to interact with disabled persons and incorporate them into the church community as equal partners. An effort is underway now to improve our literature and disseminate the same to all churches.

We look forward to sharing a program for ramp building to empower churches to build their own ramps, where they have capable people.

– *Shaun Smith, Chairperson*

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

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 encourage all members of the Virginia Annual Conference to remain prayful and continue the great work God has allowed us to be a part of. With God's help and the great work of our former Bishop Young Jin Cho and our New Bishop Sharma Lewis we are hopeful that Virginia will be a lead conference in inclusiveness and racial justice.

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.**
- **VA FOCUS 2020**
- **MARCHA**
- **Ghanaian Church**

for the work these groups are doing within our conference. We would like to highlight the Asian-American Ministries for their annual gathering that has become a model for ethnic groups within our conference. We give thanks for Bishop Lewis leading the largest delegation from Virginia to the Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches. This year CEMCA seeks to partner with other focus groups within our conference to

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increase our minoring of boards and organizations to help highlight the inclusive efforts that are being witnessed in our conference.

With your help, 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, Lori Segovia, Co-Chairs

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of women in the full life of the United Methodist church. To further this mission, COSROW collects data on the participation of women, minorities, youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. Data collection continues at Annual Conference 2017.

Data collection at Annual Conference 2016 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. Women's level of active participation continues to be lower than men's level of active participation. Likewise, the same pattern emerges for racial and ethnic minority participation compared to that of those of Caucasian descent, and youth 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 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 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 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 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.

In 2016-2017, two members attended national training with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in Nashville, Tennessee. Our event, "For Such a Time as This," a listening post to share women's experiences was held at Chamberlayne Heights UMC on February 11, 2017. Like us on Facebook for news, events, and updates at "Commission on the Status and Role of Women – VA United Methodist Conference."

– Mary Dadisman, Clergy Chair



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

GRACEINSIDE (FORMERLY CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA)

This word of thanks to a chaplain was made possible by YOUR generous support of GraceInside. Listen in:

“I have great admiration for and gratitude to you for being a loving and caring shepherd who has guided me continuously through my ‘wilderness’ experience. I have been in a time of great testing since September. Being able to meet with you, as well as share fellowship with the Worship Leadership Team, has kept my faith intact. Although I know God will not test me beyond what I can bear, I am finding this period to be the most difficult I have ever experienced... I thank God for you.”

Because of your support, GraceInside provides 31 chaplains to 35 institutions housing 30,000 incarcerated men and women. Because of you, these children of God have the opportunity to experience spiritual support through worship, Bible studies, support groups and individual pastoral care. Because of you, stories like the above are not uncommon. Prison can be a time of great testing – and great growth. With the proper care and guidance, women and men can not only change their lives, but have their lives saved as well.

Addiction related offenses remain the number one reason for incarceration. Men and women arrive in prison broken, angry, often having been abused, and struggling with how and where God might be in their lives. Because of you, GraceInside’s chaplains are present to provide that loving Christian guidance so many need.

Yet, the biggest challenge GraceInside’s chaplains face is the need for more time to minister among their congregations. One institution with a 30-hour-a-week chaplain has over 1,350 men - with waiting lists to attend worship! Ninety percent of men and ninety-eight percent of women will return to the community at some point. GraceInside’s chaplains are desperate to ensure that when they do get out, they take the love of Jesus Christ with them. In so doing, they not only transform their own lives, but the lives of their children, families and communities.

With your help, we can increase the hours GraceInside chaplains serve the incarcerated. More time equals more ministry: more love of Jesus, more healing, more grace and more hope. On behalf of those GraceInside serves, thank you for doing your part to honor Jesus command to “visit those in prison.” For when grace is on the inside, everyone wins.

– J. Randy Myers, President

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES

Searching for a way to make a difference in the lives of others? Want to serve in the mission field right within your own community? You might want to explore the possibility of becoming an ICM Chaplain.

Since 1972 ICM-Industrial & Commercial Ministries has been training and placing men and women, clergy and laity, to be “a caring presence” as ICM Chaplains at different workplace settings. These men and women, all volunteers, give up to four hours a week at their assigned facility, right within their own community, reaching working men and women, available to provide counseling, guidance, assistance and referral service to the employees for personal needs, upon request.

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ICM Chaplains are Christian men and women, active members of their church, believing that there is a mission field outside the walls of a church within their own communities. Many of our ICM Chaplains are United Methodist and several serve as members of our National ICM Board and Chapter Leaders within local ICM chapters.

Our financial support come from individuals, churches and some of the facilities that have allowed the placement of ICM Chaplains. Biggest fundraiser is ICM Labor Day Offering held on Sunday before Labor Day.

Many of the founders of ICM were Methodist and their prayers asked God that ICM would make a difference in the lives of those in the workplace. The workplace has changed, but the needs of people have not. Our prayers today are that ICM might remain “a caring presence” sharing God’s love for all.

— Wayne Wright, ICM Executive Director

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Over the last 38 years, the Virginia Conference has been a critical partner in the work of the Society of St. Andrew. In that time, you’ve helped SoSA grow from a home-based intentional Christian community to a nation-wide gleaning and food recovery network that has engaged more than a half million volunteers in simple hands-on service to feed hungry neighbors. Thank you for being part of this ministry from its inception, for sharing with us a vision for a world without hunger, in which faith and stewardship meet God’s abundance—and good food is shared with people in greatest need every day.

In 2016, 289 congregations of the Virginia Conference provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. Forty-eight congregations and more than 1,000 Virginia United Methodists took part in “crop drops” or field gleaning. A potato drop, partially funded by a grant from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, engaged Annual Conference attendees from every district in service to feed hungry people in the Roanoke Valley.

Through the Virginia Gleaning Network, the Potato & Produce Project, and SoSA’s Harvest of Hope mission work-camp program in 2016, 209 feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, emergency food assistance programs, food pantries, and large food banks) across the state received more than 3,875,000 pounds of nourishing food to share with their clients—providing more than 11.6 million servings of health and hope to our hungry brothers and sisters. This is work made possible because you care.

Nationwide, 27.6 million pounds of food (82.8 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2016 through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 1,000 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 32,700+ individuals. The Board of Directors has instituted an ambitious strategic plan, that calls for nearly doubling that quantity of food shared over the next three years. We are actively working to build the capacity in both funding and partnerships with farmers and feeding agencies, to expand into new areas over the next few years. United Methodist congregations, across the United States, will be integral to SoSA’s growth, and the Virginia Conference has paved the way for relationships that now extend across the continent.

At the end of 2016, the Society of St. Andrew’s second Executive Director, Steven M. (Mike) Waldmann, retired after 22 years of service to the organization. The Board of

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Directors selected Lynette Johnson, of Buena Vista, as SoSA's new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2017. Johnson had previously served as a Regional Director for Tennessee and Alabama and as Church Relations Director for SoSA.

The Society of St. Andrew's mission fields are just that, fields and orchards. The need for volunteers throughout the year is great, and the opportunities are plentiful. Congregations that partner with SoSA have found the partnerships transformative, spurring deeper faith, greater support for local missions, and an abiding concern for those our Savior called "the least of these."

— Lynette Johnson, 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. The year 2016 was dominated by a very rancorous political campaign and election. With the nation evenly split and passion running high it has created a very tumultuous season that continues even now after the inauguration of a new president. We continue to face difficult economic times as we adjust to the significant drop in funding of recent years. Your council remains strong, albeit on very fragile financial footing, and is seeking ways to respond during these exciting yet chaotic times.

At our Annual Meeting in 2016 our council president, the **Rev. Dr. John Myers**, of the Eastern Association, Southern Conference, UCC called for a strategic planning retreat in May of this year to articulate the mission and vision of the Council in this new century and to prepare for a transition of leadership in 2018. At our executives retreat in December the Council was asked to prepare a statement for release on the use of the Death Penalty in Virginia. The statement was drafted and released ahead of the execution of Ricky Gray and was signed by twelve of our judicatory executives.

The Council continues to work closely with our **Armenian Orthodox** brothers and sister assisting in the introduction of their new priest Rev. Fr. Tatev Terteryan. Over the course of the year we have worked with the **Virginia Synod ELCA** and **Bishop Mauney** in efforts to reduce childhood hunger within the Commonwealth. The Council continues to support **LARCUM**, the **National Workshop on Christian Unity**, and **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, as well as 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 Lewis**, 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 we are now in our 18th year of this effort. Our partnership with the **VICPP** and the **Virginia Catholic Conference**

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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

The Rev. Lauren Ramseur – Vice President

Ms. Cathy Griffin – Treasurer

Mr. Edward Rossmore – 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 is pleased to partner with the United Methodist Church in Virginia. We partner with UMC congregations and other people of faith to bring a faithful witness to the General Assembly and advocate economic and racial justice throughout the Commonwealth. Below is a description of the key work done on issues in 2016 (and a few of the results from the General Assembly in January-February, 2017).

ISSUES

Criminal Justice Reform/Driver’s Licenses: One out of six Virginia drivers have had their licenses suspended for not paying court fines and fees. Many have called this practice Virginia’s “debtor’s prison.” Essentially, poor people lose their licenses because they are poor and can’t pay the debts. In most communities in Virginia, it is hard to get or keep a job without a license, and so poor people get trapped into poverty.

VICPP educated people of faith and elected leaders about how important this issue was to poor people and that Virginia needed to change its policies. VICPP encouraged the lead House sponsor to introduce a bill and then VICPP engaged its members in advocating with the Courts of Justice Committees that heard the bills. Several good bills passed the General Assembly and will reduce the number of people who lose their licenses for unpaid court fines and fees.

Fair Wages/Wage Theft: VICPP made some great strides in positioning itself as a leader on wage theft in 2016. VICPP convened a Wage Theft Taskforce, composed of some of the top experts in the state. The Taskforce met to outline general plans and then met with the Secretary of Labor and Industries (DOLI) and staff from the Department of Commerce.

In 2014, the Governor created a Misclassification Taskforce with great fanfare. Misclassification is when an employer calls a worker an independent contractor when

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the person is really an employee. This is one of the most common forms of wage theft. It not only hurts workers, denying them overtime, unemployment, workers compensation, employer-side of payroll taxes and other labor protections, but it robs the government of needed revenue. A JLARC committee said Virginia loses more than \$26 million in revenue by not cracking down on misclassification. This taskforce met three times in 2015 and did not meet once in 2016. VICPP advocated with the Commerce Department and the Governor to get this Taskforce moving again. The Taskforce is scheduled to meet in March, 2017 and has begun doing some joint taskforce investigations.

During the General Assembly, VICPP volunteers met with Delegates and Senators about the issue of wage theft. In 2017, VICPP will be working to improve both the Minimum Wage and the Payment of Wages bill and will seek sponsors for bills for the 2018 General Assembly. These state laws are very poor. The laws have no overtime provision, no “right of private action” (ability to take a case to court), no protection against retaliation, and exclude every category of work that was historically held by African Americans (farm work, domestic work, ticket takers, shoe shine boys, and so forth).

The Richmond VICPP chapter is partnering the Mayor’s Office of Community Wealth Building to develop a Living Wage Certification program. As this program develops, other chapters may build programs as well. The program identifies, honors and promotes business that pay living wages.

Healthcare: VICPP was the leading grassroots advocacy organization in 2016 supporting expanding health care for low-income families. As David Beckman, President of Bread for the World said, “Health and hunger are inextricably linked.” VICPP produced a Congregational Toolkit, organized a press conference in the Capitol, organized dozens of meetings with Delegates and Senators, organized people to work on city/town/country resolutions calling on the General Assembly to expand healthcare and provided a faith voice on the issue. In this year’s General Assembly VICPP supported efforts to expand healthcare for mental health and substance abuse services in Virginia. Several strong bills were approved this year:-

Protecting Immigrants and Muslims: Given the uptick in hate crimes against immigrants, Muslims and Jews, VICPP stepped up its work to create circles of protection. VICPP began supporting the creation of Rapid Response Networks and providing congregations information about being a sanctuary. VICPP helped sponsor many unity events that have drawn significant crowds. VICPP was a lead witness opposing the anti-immigrant and anti-refugee bills introduced into the 2017 General Assembly.

Stopping TANF cuts: In the 2017 General Assembly, proposals were made to reduce the length of time people could get TANF (public assistance) from 24 months to 12 months and the lifetime limits from 60 months to 24 months. United Methodist Day at the General Assembly happened right before this bill came to the floor. United Methodist talked with most legislators about this issue and helped defeat it on the floor.

ORGANIZING

Faith Advocacy Partners: VICPP developed a new Faith Advocacy Partners program as a means of strengthening its ties with congregations. For more information,

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visit www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

Witness at the Capitol: VICPP recruited a team of volunteers to serve as Witnesses at the Capitol. These volunteers met with legislators, spoke in committee hearings and offered a presence to the faith Community. Two Methodists, Rev. Pat Shipley and Mr. Warren Hottle, participated in the program.

Campus Outreach: VICPP reached out to many faculty and student groups at faith-based colleges. VICPP began building ties with the five Methodist colleges in the state.

Day for All People: VICPP's annual advocacy days in both 2016 and 2017 were well attended and positive events. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Chapters: VICPP reconnected with all its chapter leaders, held an annual chapter leader retreat and organized monthly chapter calls to engage and deepen ties between the Center and its volunteers around the state.

If you would like to get involved personally, as a congregation or in your community with VICPP and its issues, please sign up on the VICPP website at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org. If you have specific questions and requests, email Kim@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

— Kim Bobo, Executive Director



CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Chairpersons:

Marc Brown, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Warren Harper, *Conference Lay Leader*

Monitors:

R. Shaun Smith, *Commission on Disabilities*

Mary Dadisman, *COSROW*

Gary Miller, *CEMCA*

District Representatives:

Alexandria – Burton Robinson

Arlington – Karen McElfish

Charlottesville – Charles Winner

Danville – *vacant*

Eastern Shore – Tampa Miller

Elizabeth River – Christa Springstead

Farmville – Mike Davis

Fredericksburg – Carolyn Nelson

Harrisonburg – *vacant*

James River – Jim O'Quinn

Lynchburg – Jennifer Moore

Richmond – Lisa Sykes

Roanoke – N.L. Bishop

Staunton – Won Un

Winchester – Jeff Butcher

York River District – Angie Hoen

NOMINATIONS

Director of Connectional Ministries

Marc Brown

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Common Table for Church Vitality

CLDDT Nominee:

Carlos Liceaga

Bishop's Nominee:

Harold White Sr.

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:

Eduardo Carrillo

John Copenhaver

David Magruder

Lay:

Suzanne Shrader

Kenn Speicher

Monica Sprague

Tootie Urrutia

Church Development Team

David Bonney

Greg Duncan

Rachel Gilmore

Han Sung Kim

Board of Discipleship

Robin BeMiller

Erin Geoffrion

Kathy Gochenour

Timothy Hazlett

Young Adult Council

Jacob Montague

Older Adult Council

Tom Lee

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Emilie Berger

Barbara Cousar

Robert Gates

Joshua McCauley

Ann On-Lin Tang

Missional Ministries Board

Clergy:

Esther Agbosu

Veronica Barrell

Lay:

Betsey Davis

Judy Moughon

Darlene Runalduie

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Commission on Archives and History

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>James C. Sprouse, Jr.</i>	Audrey Lewis
Paul A. Beighley, Jr.	James M. Tongue	Myra P. Lindsey
Michael H. Browder	Margaret A. Turbyfill	Stephen S. Mansfield
Carlton D. Casey	Roy P. White	Marianne R. Martin
Robert T. Casey	<i>Walter A. Whitehurst</i>	Harold “Rockie” McKee
<i>Thomas L. Coffman</i>	J. Brooke Willson	Sam McKelvey
William R. Freeman	Elizabeth A. S. Wright	David Meyer
<i>R. Douglas Geeting</i>	Gary A. Ziegler	Margaret Mock
Myrtle F. Hatcher		Catherine Morgan
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.	<i>Lay:</i>	Brenda NeSmith
James M. John,	Thelma Crowder	William A. Olson
Alexander B. Joyner	Betty Duley	Laurie Preston
<i>Hyo Joong Lee</i>	Jesse Fanshaw,	Leona Salter
<i>Barbara D. Lewis</i>	<i>Nina Frederick</i>	William Stead
John T. Martin, Jr.	Queen Green	Craig Swain
Reginald H. Potts, III	<i>Ann Keeling</i>	<i>Betty Whitehurst</i>
Lee B. Shaeffer	Mark Leep	<i>Kathi Hughes Wise</i>

[*Italics – new to position*]

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Lay:</i>
Jacob Sahms	Joel Joyner
	Phyllis Shepherd

Commission on Disabilities

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Lay:</i>
Timothy Barth	Sharon Angle
Claire Miller	James Mitchel
Donna Mott	Susan Rigg
Barry Throckmorton	

Equitable Compensation Commission

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Lay:</i>
Joe Carson III	Edward Federico
Brad Phillips	Roy Staton

Committee on Episcopacy

<i>Clergy:</i>	<i>Lay:</i>
Rachel May	Shirley Cauffman
John B. Peters	John P. Clarke
Elizabeth von Trapp Walker	Melissa Holmes (<i>Bishop</i>)
Sung Il Yoo (<i>Bishop</i>)	Clark Williams

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Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy:

Faith Evans
Seungsoo Jun
Yun Chol Kim
Robert Schoeman
Seung Hae Yoo-Hess

Lay:

Minoka Gueneskera
Mary Jeffries
Becky Parsons
At Large:
David Brown

Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:

Doug Gestwick

Lay:

Betty Forbes
Betty Rough
Bill Talley IV

United Methodist Foundation

B. Leigh Drewry, Jr.
Brandon Gilmore
Mark Manasco
Will Robinson
Jim Smith
W. Richard Smith

Board of Ordained Ministry

Bobbie Hanby (Lay)

Preachers' Relief Society

James S. Matthews

Committee on Rules

Lay:

Tom Hassler

Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Lay:

Marie Hasselbach

Conference Trustees

Clergy:

Michael Copeland

Lay:

B. Leigh Drewry
Karen Elmore
Kathleen Lutman

Society of St. Andrew

Drew Colby
Bill Moore
Jim Tongue

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Randolph College

Jane J. Hampson
Page Crider LeMay
F. Anderson Morse
Edna Aguirre Rehbein
Marc A. Schewel

Randolph-Macon Academy

Pamela McInnis
Major General David Puster

Randolph-Macon College

Gilbert T. Bland
Roland B. Boney
Thornton C. Melton, III
R. Geoffrey Neville, Jr.
John B. Peters

Virginia Wesleyan College

Mary C. Haddad
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Lee T. Stevenson

Howard P. Kern
Mavis N. McKenley
Michael J. White

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Book of Discipline*. The committee welcomed Bishop Sharma Lewis following her election and assignment at the Southeast Jurisdictional Conference. In meetings this year we oriented new members to the responsibilities and processes of the committee. We have met with Bishop Lewis and heard her plans to meet members of the Virginia Annual Conference and engage them in dialogue. Bishop Lewis is taking intentional steps to discern both a vision and priorities for the years ahead with laity and clergy. In her first year she has held meetings on every district as well as with clergy from small, medium and large churches and many other organizations in the Annual Conference. We are grateful for her prayerful leadership and her desire to hear from the members of the Annual Conference as she leads us.

— Rev. Tom Berlin, Chair

Episcopal Residence Committee

The Book of Discipline (§638, 4.) states: It shall be the responsibility of the Episcopal Residence Committee: a) To make recommendations to the annual conference(s) regarding the purchase or sale of an episcopal residence.

When the current Episcopal residence was built in Hanover County, it was predicated on future development of the area but that has not happened. It was believed that

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improvements would be made to roads and lighting and building of some shopping areas. In fact, because of zoning restrictions Hanover County has not fostered development of the area. There have been no new houses built in the development where the Episcopal residence is located, nor are any contemplated any time soon.

We looked at the distinctive needs of the Episcopal office in the practice of ministry and felt that the current residence will not meet these needs in such a way as to fully realize the vitality of any bishop among us and within our larger Connection.

It is the intention of this recommendation that this purchase and sale be as cost-neutral as reasonably possible. The current residence has been appraised for \$475,000. It has been determined that an appropriate replacement for the current residence could be readily obtained with little or no net cost to the Annual Conference, after the sale of the current residence.

Therefore, we submit the following recommendation:

That the Episcopal Residence Committee find an appropriate residence in a different location to be purchased as an Episcopal Residence and that the Trustees be authorized to sell the current residence and purchase one identified by the Episcopal Residence Committee. To fund this new purchase, CFA is authorized to spend no more than \$500,000 on the new residence out of Reserves and is additionally requested to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$50,000 out of Reserves to be used, if needed, in the acquisition of and transition to a new residence. The Reserve will be replenished by the sale of the current residence, with all profits from the sale of the current residence additionally placed in reserves.

– Shirley Cauffman, Chair; Rev. Steven Summers, CFA and Kathy Lutman, Trustees

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

	Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
ALEXANDRIA	36,621	563	55	152	226	160	266	36,739	118	0.32%	10,477	359
ARLINGTON	28,350	450	(167)	85	69	82	149	28,418	68	0.24%	9,295	324
CHARLOTTESVILLE	13,082	151	(144)	27	16	27	184	12,889	(193)	-1.48%	7,886	120
DANVILLE	11,138	81	(97)	(14)	8	23	180	10,897	(241)	-2.16%	3,548	62
EASTERN SHORE	6,850	57	5	-	-	54	99	6,759	(91)	-1.33%	2,260	56
ELIZABETH RIVER	30,704	380	19	77	111	116	320	30,633	(71)	-0.23%	8,527	228
FARMVILLE	12,342	124	19	25	-	19	207	12,284	(58)	-0.47%	3,934	102
FREDERICKSBURG	17,994	303	99	48	51	52	202	18,139	145	0.81%	5,599	199
HARRISONBURG	17,375	154	9	33	2	8	233	17,328	(47)	-0.27%	5,450	120
JAMES RIVER	17,831	161	(74)	43	26	12	214	17,709	(122)	-0.68%	4,965	135
LYNCHBURG	16,130	143	1	33	44	24	200	16,039	(91)	-0.56%	4,651	105
RICHMOND	39,993	425	77	33	89	180	343	39,916	(77)	-0.19%	10,427	342
ROANOKE	20,046	206	49	42	68	22	206	20,047	1	0.00%	5,691	123
STAUNTON	12,781	96	20	27	-	39	191	12,694	(87)	-0.68%	3,949	52
WINCHESTER	17,601	229	42	49	-	9	188	17,724	123	0.70%	5,143	165
YORK RIVER	26,964	317	46	99	75	136	331	26,884	(80)	-0.30%	7,136	216
2016 Total	325,802	3,840	(41)	759	785	963	3,513	325,099	(703)	-0.22%	98,938	2,708

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Section I

Conference Treasurer's Report Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2016

Apportioned Funds	Receipts 12/31/2016	Receipts 12/31/2015	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Pd 2016	Pct. Pd 2015
Conference Apportionments					
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	2,866,287	2,748,099	118,188	86.26%	83.78%
402 Conference Services	1,759,897	1,627,884	132,013	88.35%	86.13%
403 District Superintendents	1,859,587	1,785,453	74,134	90.49%	86.88%
404 Equitable Compensation	438,830	423,092	15,738	87.77%	84.62%
405 Church Extension & Development	554,763	542,320	12,443	82.19%	80.34%
406 Virginia Education Fund	803,769	796,546	7,223	80.38%	79.65%
Subtotal	8,283,133	7,923,394	359,739	86.78%	84.29%
Clergy Benefit Apportionments					
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,659,914	8,574,641	85,273	89.19%	88.31%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,367,830	5,319,003	48,827	88.58%	87.77%
409 Pension Liability Assessment-Pre 82	883,456	1,340,816	(457,360)	88.35%	86.50%
Subtotal	14,911,200	15,234,460	(323,260)	88.92%	87.96%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments					
410 Episcopal	815,005	764,681	50,324	85.34%	84.96%
411 World Service	2,434,207	2,498,537	(64,330)	82.38%	83.28%
412 General Connectional	404,919	389,143	15,776	81.15%	79.91%
413 Ministerial Education	813,838	813,543	295	80.18%	78.98%
414 Black College	328,981	327,158	1,823	81.23%	79.79%
415 Africa University	74,405	74,072	333	81.76%	80.51%
416 Interdenominational Coop.	64,012	65,533	(1,521)	80.02%	80.90%
Subtotal	4,935,367	4,932,667	2,700	82.26%	82.21%
Total Apportioned Funds	28,129,700	28,090,521	39,179	87.05%	85.85%

Non-Apportionment Receipts

Advance Specials

GBGM	747,020	729,912	17,108
Va. Conference Advance Specials	394,874	76,809	318,065

Special Days

Human Relations	10,675	12,124	(1,449)
UMCOR Sunday	85,676	97,968	(12,292)
Native American Ministries	15,424	17,199	(1,775)
Peace with Justice	9,474	10,049	(575)
World Communion	23,792	26,464	(2,672)
UM Student	8,419	10,554	(2,135)

Other Funds

Christian Education Fund	-	1,624	(1,624)
Youth Service	1,427	3,027	(1,600)
Samaritan Fund - VA Homes	22,024	30,638	(8,614)
UMFS	42,570	54,473	(11,903)
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	25,610	21,401	4,209
Annual Conference Offering	166,723	174,018	(7,295)
Imagine No Malaria	-	526,018	(526,018)
Other	75,737	52,891	22,846

Total Non-Apportioned Funds	1,629,445	1,845,169	(215,724)
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Total Church Receipts	29,759,145	29,935,690	(176,545)
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Year	Year End
2016	87.05%
2015	85.85%
2014	87.70%
2013	88.57%
2012	87.26%
2011	86.83%
2010	84.40%
2009	85.92%
2008	90.08%
2007	92.03%
2006	93.16%
2005	93.87%
2004	94.79%
2003	95.58%
2002	97.08%
2001	96.33%
2000	96.43%
1999	94.92%
1998	93.51%
1997	90.64%
1996	89.20%
1995	89.31%
1994	89.83%
1993	88.89%

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Balance Sheets

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets:</i>		
Cash	1,819,691	3,054,129
Investments	5,586,582	4,703,900
Receivables	2,917,167	2,638,179
Prepaid expenses	66,624	88,171
Total Current Assets	<u>10,390,064</u>	<u>10,484,379</u>
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>		
Land	780,000	780,000
Buildings	4,987,658	4,981,660
Furniture & fixtures	236,187	236,187
Equipment and vehicles	733,002	700,629
Software	11,985	11,985
Accumulated depreciation	(2,332,912)	(2,115,945)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>4,415,920</u>	<u>4,594,516</u>
<i>Other Assets:</i>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	803,542	797,445
Loans receivable	407,720	272,982
Total Other Assets	<u>1,211,262</u>	<u>1,070,427</u>
	<u>16,017,246</u>	<u>16,149,322</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	3,985,095	4,220,745
Accrued expenses	28,116	6,484
Unearned revenue	39,513	41,986
Total Liabilities	<u>4,052,724</u>	<u>4,269,215</u>
<i>Net Assets:</i>		
Unrestricted conference reserves	2,822,901	2,163,399
Emerging funds	-	70,226
Board designated reserves	992,319	987,104
Property and Equipment fund	3,765,226	3,642,734
Church Extension Fund	1,915,776	2,355,998
Donor restricted and miscellaneous	2,468,300	2,660,646
Total Net Assets	<u>11,964,522</u>	<u>11,880,107</u>
	<u>16,017,246</u>	<u>16,149,322</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, 2016

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	104,346
Dividends and interest	52,585
Miscellaneous income	982
Total Income	157,913

Expenses directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Bank service charges	5,648
Total Expenses	5,648

Income Over/(Under) Expenses	152,265
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Apportionment Closeouts:

401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	164,002
402 - Conference Services	101,769
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	(2,932)
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	244,398

Total Apportionment Closeouts	507,237
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Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves	659,502
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Beginning balance	2,163,399
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Ending Balance	2,822,901
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401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2016

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	191,467.96	5,000.00	-	196,467.96	196,467.96	-	-	-	-
3510	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	64,778.07	(49,762.60)	-	15,015.47	-	15,015.47	(15,015.47)	-	-
5000	Emerging Funds	88,281.63	(33,339.05)	126,058.80	181,001.38	201,525.28	(20,523.90)	(49,702.27)	70,226.17	-
3600	Campus Ministry	810,872.53	-	-	810,872.53	807,607.98	3,264.55	(3,264.55)	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,710,886.54	(191,457.21)	6,681.02	1,526,110.35	1,430,090.45	96,019.90	(96,019.90)	-	-
		2,866,286.73	(269,558.86)	132,739.82	2,729,467.69	2,635,691.67	93,776.02	(164,002.19)	70,226.17	-
Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative										
3100	Common Table	4,872.68	-	-	4,872.68	2,247.09	2,625.59	(2,625.59)	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	63,631.59	1,200.00	-	64,831.59	59,055.94	5,775.65	(5,775.65)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	105,192.75	(7,000.00)	801.22	98,993.97	62,066.43	36,927.54	(36,927.54)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,289,542.29	14,982.89	-	1,304,525.18	1,260,451.80	44,073.38	(44,073.38)	-	-
3210	CT Information Technologies	28,949.49	(28,949.49)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3240	Outsourced Graphic Design Serv	32,389.05	-	-	32,389.05	33,995.55	(1,606.50)	1,606.50	-	-
3200	Video Production	4,872.68	-	5,879.80	10,752.48	10,640.16	112.32	(112.32)	-	-
3220	Common Table Rent	161,945.21	(161,945.21)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3230	CT Postage, Printing & Phone	9,745.40	(9,745.40)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	9,745.40	-	-	9,745.40	1,633.48	8,111.92	(8,111.92)	-	-
		1,710,886.54	(191,457.21)	6,681.02	1,526,110.35	1,430,090.45	96,019.90	(96,019.90)	-	-
Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration										
3010	Connectional Ministries Office	9,458.76	600.00	-	10,058.76	8,147.14	1,911.62	(1,911.62)	-	-
3020	Communications Office	8,312.23	-	-	8,312.23	10,748.43	(2,436.20)	2,436.20	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	11,178.53	600.00	-	11,778.53	8,831.82	2,946.71	(2,946.71)	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & YYA Office	11,465.16	-	-	11,465.16	14,999.34	(3,534.18)	3,534.18	-	-
3050	Inclusivity and Lay Ldrshp Exc	10,318.64	-	-	10,318.64	2,955.82	7,362.82	(7,362.82)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	12,898.27	-	-	12,898.27	13,373.39	(475.12)	475.12	-	-
		63,631.59	1,200.00	-	64,831.59	59,055.94	5,775.65	(5,775.65)	-	-
Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration										
3105	Board of Church & Society	8,598.85	-	-	8,598.85	6,953.63	1,645.22	(1,645.22)	-	-
3110	Missional Ministries Board	15,477.95	(4,000.00)	801.22	12,279.17	2,605.27	9,673.90	(9,673.90)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	5,159.30	-	-	5,159.30	5,755.15	(595.85)	595.85	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	5,445.96	-	-	5,445.96	2,998.63	2,447.33	(2,447.33)	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	14,904.70	(3,000.00)	-	11,904.70	3,960.32	7,944.38	(7,944.38)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	2,866.28	-	-	2,866.28	1,334.69	1,531.59	(1,531.59)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	10,032.00	-	-	10,032.00	7,187.37	2,844.63	(2,844.63)	-	-
3140	CEMCA	3,726.18	-	-	3,726.18	3,513.32	212.86	(212.86)	-	-
3145	COSROW	2,006.43	-	-	2,006.43	942.27	1,064.16	(1,064.16)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	2,579.67	-	-	2,579.67	992.86	1,586.81	(1,586.81)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	34,395.43	-	-	34,395.43	25,822.92	8,572.51	(8,572.51)	-	-
		105,192.75	(7,000.00)	801.22	98,993.97	62,066.43	36,927.54	(36,927.54)	-	-

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2016

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	360,602.86	600.00	52,800.00	414,002.86	438,143.72	(24,140.86)	24,140.86	-	-
2110	Computer Services	79,019.38	28,949.49	33.38	108,002.25	107,696.35	305.90	(305.90)	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	222,274.97	-	5,059.33	227,334.30	190,501.24	36,833.06	(36,833.06)	-	-
2130	Conference Publications Cmte	7,391.57	-	1,433.13	8,824.70	12,628.20	(3,803.50)	3,803.50	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	3,519.77	-	-	3,519.77	2,553.53	966.24	(966.24)	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	1,935.89	-	-	1,935.89	1,618.28	317.61	(317.61)	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,935.89	-	-	1,935.89	6,973.71	(5,037.82)	5,037.82	-	-
2170	Historical Society	7,919.53	-	-	7,919.53	2,759.98	5,159.55	(5,159.55)	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	76,027.55	-	-	76,027.55	85,824.94	(9,797.39)	9,797.39	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	14,033.92	-	-	14,033.92	5,566.57	8,467.35	(8,467.35)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	16,719.04	-	-	16,719.04	6,186.15	10,532.89	(10,532.89)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	36,657.66	(26,657.66)	26,657.66	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	26,222.46	-	-	26,222.46	26,499.96	(277.50)	277.50	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	24,638.55	-	-	24,638.55	13,794.00	10,844.55	(10,844.55)	-	-
2270	General Conference Delegation	9,855.42	-	2,733.19	12,588.61	16,970.67	(4,382.06)	4,382.06	-	-
2290	Contingencies	10,604.63	(2,400.00)	40,365.16	48,569.79	6,789.65	41,780.14	(41,780.14)	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	202,564.12	-	-	202,564.12	184,773.51	17,790.61	(17,790.61)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	14,783.12	600.00	-	15,383.12	12,156.44	3,226.68	(3,226.68)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Ministry	74,091.65	-	-	74,091.65	59,965.75	14,125.90	(14,125.90)	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	36,429.86	-	3,480.00	39,909.86	26,413.11	13,496.75	(13,496.75)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	39,421.67	9,745.40	11,739.72	60,906.79	48,888.37	12,018.42	(12,018.42)	-	-
2450	Mortgage Debt Service	301,294.34	(301,294.34)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1,531,286.19	(263,799.45)	127,643.91	1,395,130.65	1,293,361.79	101,768.86	(101,768.86)	-	-
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances:										
4000	United Methodist Center	22,702.69	111,945.21	133,625.00	268,272.90	228,819.72	39,453.18	-	13,418.87	52,872.05
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	100,000.00
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	98,730.21	161,000.00	-	259,730.21	229,430.60	30,299.61	-	38,406.49	68,706.10
4030	Legal Expenses	39,421.69	-	-	39,421.69	42,332.79	(2,911.10)	-	129,505.36	126,594.26
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,975.51	-	-	8,975.51	780.50	8,195.01	-	26,008.03	34,203.04
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	284.68	(284.68)	-	6,557.18	6,272.50
4070	Archives	9,327.47	-	16,000.00	25,327.47	16,953.10	8,374.37	-	(5,807.26)	2,567.11
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	5,512.68	(5,512.68)	-	19,000.00	13,487.32
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	(207.07)	(207.07)	178,595.77	(178,802.84)	-	4,594,722.74	4,415,919.90
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	301,294.34	-	301,294.34	-	301,294.34	-	(951,988.61)	(650,694.27)
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	49,453.11	-	-	49,453.11	40,635.78	8,817.33	-	96,822.74	105,640.07
		228,610.68	624,239.55	149,417.93	1,002,268.16	743,345.62	258,922.54	-	4,016,645.54	4,275,568.08

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2016

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	22,703	111,945	133,625	268,273	228,820	39,453	-	13,419	52,872
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	100,000
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	98,730	161,000	-	259,730	229,431	30,299	-	38,406	68,705
4030	Legal Expenses	39,422	-	-	39,422	42,333	(2,911)	-	129,505	126,594
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	8,976	-	-	8,976	781	8,195	-	26,008	34,203
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	285	(285)	-	6,557	6,272
4070	Archives	9,327	-	16,000	25,327	16,953	8,374	-	(5,807)	2,567
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	5,513	(5,513)	-	19,000	13,487
		179,158	322,945	149,625	651,728	524,116	127,612	-	277,088	404,700
Common Table										
6050	Common Table Grants	-	49,763	30,158	79,921	109,750	(29,829)	-	29,830	1
6100	Advocate Publication	-	(1,223)	58,052	56,829	90,068	(33,239)	-	226,870	193,631
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	27,796	27,796	27,796	37,118	(9,322)	-	10,736	1,414
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	-	6,994	6,994	6,855	139	-	5,836	5,975
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	1,764	1,764	2,600	(836)	-	950	114
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	-	85,830	85,830	111,503	(25,673)	-	63,676	38,003
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	-	5,114	5,114	4,000	1,114	-	11,372	12,486
6310	UMVIM	-	-	6,794	6,794	5,815	979	-	13,071	14,050
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	-	-	3,150	(3,150)	-	6,913	3,763
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233	1,233
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	55,833	55,833	65,620	(9,787)	-	74,180	64,393
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,052	2,052
6440	Church Staff Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,613	6,613
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	(707)	22,880	22,173	20,810	1,363	-	8,927	10,290
6510	Five Talent Academy Membership	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6560	CDT Training Events	-	-	27,262	27,262	27,262	-	-	-	-
6565	Small Church Pastors	-	(799)	4,584	3,785	5,820	(2,035)	-	8,443	6,408
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	(799)	1,629	830	2,740	(1,910)	-	5,971	4,061
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	(539)	1,397	858	5,029	(4,171)	-	5,168	997
		-	45,696	336,087	381,783	498,140	(116,357)	-	481,841	365,484
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Dinner at A.C.	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,981	(981)	-	5,418	4,437
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	1,980	1,980	1,439	541	-	1,629	2,170
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	189	189	230	(41)	-	1,123	1,082
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,277	9,277
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	2,293	2,293	2,517	(224)	-	1,504	1,280
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	27,328	27,328	16,999	10,329	-	921	11,250
4690	BOM Training Events	-	-	2,647	2,647	4,049	(1,402)	-	1,726	324
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	60,000	60,000	54,000	6,000	-	-	6,000
4710	Calling 21	-	15,000	15,373	30,373	41,878	(11,505)	-	29,758	18,253
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	374	374	400	(26)	-	2,778	2,752
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	945	53,032	53,977	72,204	(18,227)	-	73,193	54,966
4760	Exploration	-	590	210	800	1,406	(606)	-	605	(1)
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	141	(141)	-	2,809	2,668
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	49,453	-	-	49,453	40,636	8,817	-	96,823	105,640
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	6,691	3,595	10,286	8,860	1,426	-	612	2,038
4820	Licensing School	-	17,460	10,962	28,422	28,422	-	-	-	-
		49,453	41,686	177,983	269,122	275,162	(6,040)	-	228,176	222,136
Total		228,611	410,327	663,695	1,302,633	1,297,418	5,215	-	987,105	992,320

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2016

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Property & Equipment										
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	(207)	(207)	178,596	(178,803)	-	4,594,723	4,415,920
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	301,294	-	301,294	-	301,294	-	(951,989)	(650,695)
		-	301,294	(207)	301,087	178,596	122,491	-	3,642,734	3,765,225
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	554,763	(12,638)	5,376	547,501	987,722	(440,221)	-	2,355,998	1,915,777
		554,763	(12,638)	5,376	547,501	987,722	(440,221)	-	2,355,998	1,915,777
Donor restricted										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	203,460	-	1,681	205,141	177,198	27,943	-	533,058	561,001
8000	All Things New	-	-	17,035	17,035	496,703	(479,668)	-	694,454	214,786
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	-	-	-	1,636	(1,636)	-	23,251	21,615
8050	Francis Asbury Education Fund	-	-	6,132	6,132	25	6,107	-	800,692	806,799
8100	Initiatives of Hope	-	-	10,980	10,980	6,097	4,883	-	12,973	17,856
8110	IOH - Mozambique	-	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	37,314	32,314
8111	IOH - Brazil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,545	23,545
8113	Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,106	4,106
8114	IOH - Cambodia	-	1,223	14,161	15,384	27,887	(12,503)	-	23,980	11,477
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,644	9,644
8150	Imagine No Malaria	-	-	179	179	-	179	-	-	179
8200	Bishops' Fund	-	(7,500)	19,888	12,388	11,075	1,313	-	5,603	6,916
8300	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	(161,000)	-	(161,000)	-	(161,000)	-	361,040	200,040
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	(225,927)	465,236	239,309	43,134	196,175	-	2,206	198,381
8306	UMCOR#1 - Farmville Relief	-	4,156	10,000	14,156	14,156	-	-	-	-
8307	UMCOR#2 - James River Relief	-	3,001	10,000	13,001	13,001	-	-	-	-
8308	UMCOR#3 - Tornado Recovery	-	208,769	161,000	369,769	344,343	25,426	-	-	25,426
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	(125)	18,493	18,368	12,352	6,016	-	16,173	22,189
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	9,839	9,839	(1,687)	11,526	-	2,998	14,524
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,557	13,557
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	20,842	19,842
8330	Merit Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
8410	Matthew Emergency Relief Grant	-	10,000	10,000	20,000	13,711	6,289	-	-	6,289
8411	Matthew Recovery Grant	-	-	165,000	165,000	12,030	152,970	-	-	152,970
8506	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8507	Open project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		203,460	(167,403)	919,624	955,681	1,177,661	(221,980)	-	2,588,261	2,366,281
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8500	VUMAC Mgmt Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8506	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
8510	Heritage	-	-	1,589	1,589	1,335	254	-	5,808	6,062
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,907	8,907
8530	Voices of Youth	-	2,233	37,085	39,318	44,650	(5,332)	-	7,333	2,001
8540	ARMS	-	-	6,395	6,395	4,982	1,413	-	17,323	18,736
8550	AEI	-	-	41,387	41,387	41,387	-	-	-	-
8555	Acad. for Spiritual Formation	-	5,000	27,668	32,668	40,177	(7,509)	-	23,849	16,340
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	500	500	-	500	-	4,058	4,558
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	-	2,560	2,560	4,775	(2,215)	-	4,152	1,937
8570	Conference Data Initiative	-	10,000	-	10,000	2,361	7,639	-	-	7,639
8571	Ted Smith Fund	-	-	7,710	7,710	7,710	-	-	-	-
8575	Social Committee	-	-	467	467	1,031	(564)	-	532	(32)
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	-	660	660	1,201	(541)	-	423	(118)
8585	Holy Land Trip - VIM	-	-	68,650	68,650	33,660	34,990	-	-	34,990
		-	17,233	195,671	212,904	183,269	29,635	-	72,385	102,020
Total Donor Restricted and Miscellaneous		203,460	(150,170)	1,115,295	1,168,585	1,360,930	(192,345)	-	2,660,646	2,468,301

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COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Summary of Preliminary Conference Budget for 2018

	Sch.	2017	2018	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,250,000	3,230,000	10.14%	(20,000)	-0.62%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,993,000	1,646,000	5.19%	(347,000)	-17.41%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,055,000	2,025,000	6.37%	(30,000)	-1.46%
404 - Equitable Compensation		350,000	350,000	1.10%	-	0.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		675,000	1,000,000	3.14%	325,000	48.15%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		900,000	800,000	2.52%	(100,000)	-11.11%
Total Conference Apportionments		9,223,000	9,051,000	28.46%	(172,000)	-1.86%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	9,710,000	30.54%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,060,000	19.06%	-	0.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		1,000,000	1,000,000	3.14%	-	0.00%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		16,770,000	16,770,000	52.74%	-	0.00%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		900,000	900,000	2.83%	-	0.00%
411 - World Service		3,035,000	3,040,000	9.56%	5,000	0.16%
412 - General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund		482,000	426,000	1.34%	(56,000)	-11.62%
413 - Ministerial Education		1,025,000	1,030,000	3.24%	5,000	0.49%
414 - Black College Fund		410,000	410,000	1.29%	-	0.00%
415 - Africa University Fund		92,000	92,000	0.29%	-	0.00%
416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		81,000	81,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		6,025,000	5,979,000	18.80%	(46,000)	-0.76%
Total Apportionments		32,018,000	31,800,000	100.00%	(218,000)	-0.68%

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2017	2018	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. GraceInside (Chaplain Service of Va.)	125,000	134,500	0.42%	9,500	7.60%
2. Virginia Council of Churches	54,000	50,000	0.16%	(4,000)	-7.41%
3. Industrial & Commercial Ministries	1,000	-	0.00%	(1,000)	-100.00%
4. Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries	1,000	-	0.00%	(1,000)	-100.00%
5. Virginia Interfaith Center	4,000	7,500	0.02%	3,500	87.50%
6. Society of St. Andrew	5,000	8,000	0.03%	3,000	60.00%
	190,000	200,000	0.63%	10,000	5.26%
Special & Sustaining Grants	66,000	66,000	0.21%	-	0.00%
Conference Programs	79,000	90,000	0.28%	11,000	13.92%
Campus Ministries	826,100	850,000	2.67%	23,900	2.89%
Program & Board Administrative Expenses					
1. Common Table	3,500	3,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration (See below)	56,600	56,600	0.17%	-	0.00%
3. Agency Administration (See below)	73,200	73,400	0.24%	200	0.27%
4. Personnel Costs	1,313,900	1,325,000	4.16%	11,100	0.84%
5. Information Technologies	29,500	30,000	0.09%	500	1.69%
6. Outsourced Graphic Design Services	33,000	38,000	0.12%	5,000	15.15%
7. Video Production & Documentation	5,000	10,000	0.03%	5,000	100.00%
8. Building Operations & Services	165,000	165,000	0.52%	-	0.00%
9. Connections 21 Internships	-	10,000	0.03%	10,000	
10. Postage, Printing & Telephone	10,000	-	0.00%	(10,000)	-100.00%
11. Contingency	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
	1,699,700	1,721,500	5.40%	21,800	1.28%
Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	389,200	302,500	0.95%	(86,700)	-22.28%
	3,250,000	3,230,000	10.14%	(20,000)	-0.62%

Supporting Schedule, Line 2 - Departmental Administration

1. Connectional Ministries	7,800	7,800	0.02%	-	0.00%
2. Communications	7,300	7,300	0.02%	-	0.00%
3. Congregational Excellence	11,000	11,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
4. Ministries with Young People	12,500	12,500	0.04%	-	0.00%
5. Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
6. Justice and Missional Excellence	13,000	13,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
	56,600	56,600	0.17%	-	0.00%

Supporting Schedule, Line 3 - Agency Administration

1. Church & Society	6,000	6,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
2. Discipleship	8,600	8,600	0.03%	-	0.00%
3. Missional Ministries	9,000	9,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
4. Committee on Mission Personnel	26,500	26,500	0.08%	-	0.00%
5. Communications	6,100	6,300	0.02%	200	3.28%
6. Higher Education	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
7. Laity	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. CEMCA	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
9. COSROW	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-	0.00%
10. Commission on Disabilities	1,400	1,400	0.00%	-	0.00%
11. Church Development Team	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
	73,200	73,400	0.24%	200	0.27%

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Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2017	2018	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	421,800	428,500	1.37%	6,700	1.59%
2. Bishop's Assistant	77,000	85,000	0.27%	8,000	10.39%
3. Annual Conference Session	243,000	243,000	0.76%	-	0.00%
4. Mortgage Payments	305,000	-	0.00%	(305,000)	-100.00%
5. Treasurer's Office	375,000	385,000	1.20%	10,000	2.67%
6. Computer Services	80,000	80,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
7. Wesley Foundation Property Maint	75,000	60,000	0.19%	(15,000)	-20.00%
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	2,500	2,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
12. Historical Society	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
13. Board of Trustees	1,500	1,500	0.00%	-	0.00%
14. Telephone Service	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
15. Insurance	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
16. Postage & Printing	25,000	33,000	0.10%	8,000	32.00%
17. Building Operations & Services	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
18. Conference Publications	7,500	12,000	0.04%	4,500	60.00%
19. Bishop's auto allowance\residence	3,000	-	0.00%	(3,000)	-100.00%
20. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
21. Legal	30,000	30,000	0.09%	-	0.00%
22. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
23. General Conference	2,500	2,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
24. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	201,200	140,000	0.44%	(61,200)	-30.42%
	1,993,000	1,646,000	5.19%	(347,000)	-17.41%

Board of Ordained Ministry

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	20,000	21,000	0.07%	1,000	5.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	1,800	2,000	0.01%	200	11.11%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	15,000	15,500	0.05%	500	3.33%
6. Personnel Costs	245,000	250,000	0.79%	5,000	2.04%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	75,000	75,000	0.24%	-	0.00%
	421,800	428,500	1.37%	6,700	1.59%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund

	2017	2018	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Salaries & Pension	1,670,000	1,670,000	5.25%	-	0.00%
2. Travel & Meetings	140,000	140,000	0.44%	-	0.00%
3. Continuing Education & Other	25,000	50,000	0.16%	25,000	100.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	220,000	165,000	0.52%	(55,000)	-25.00%
	2,055,000	2,025,000	6.37%	(30,000)	-1.46%

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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:

2018 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	3,230,000
402-Conference Services	1,646,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	2,025,000
404-Equitable Compensation	350,000
405-Church Extension & Development	1,000,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	800,000
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	3,040,000
412-General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund	426,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	1,030,000
414-Black College Fund	410,000
415-Africa University Fund	92,000
416-Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	81,000
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\$ 31,800,000	

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 \$800,000 for 2018. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2018:

Virginia Education Fund Allocation

❖ Ferrum College	19.5%	\$156,000
❖ Randolph-Macon College	18.5%	\$148,000
❖ Randolph College	16.0%	\$128,000
❖ Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0%	\$80,000
❖ Shenandoah University	18.0%	\$144,000
❖ Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0%	\$144,000
		<hr/>
		\$800,000

Report on 2016

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 2016.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	456,713
402 Conference Services	232,103
403 District Superintendents	195,413
404 Equitable Compensation	61,170
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	945,399

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. 2018 apportionments are calculated using 2016 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, 2017 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 (2016 for 2018 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 second sites of chartered churches.

- Effective January 1, 2016, the policy will be to phase in the apportionments for new chartered churches over a five year period with the first year beginning at 20% and increasing 20% for each subsequent year until the church is at 100%.

- Effective January 1, 2016, for a legacy church as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the district superintendent may present a projected budget of expenses to be used in the legacy church's apportionment calculation for the first 18 months of its classification as a legacy church.

- Effective January 1, 2016 second 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 2016 *Discipline*.

C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:

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

SECTION IV — Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2018:

- **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 2018:

- The District Superintendents' salaries will stay the same for 2018.

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

D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

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

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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	\$ 1,530,000
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>838,000</u>
	\$ 2,368,500

Additional Reserves:

A. Non-budgeted negative balance in Debt Service (mortgage)	<u>346,000</u>
	<u>\$ 2,714,000</u>

At December 31, 2016, the Annual Conference had reserves greater than the target amount.

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

E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND:

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by 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.
 - Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a

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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 *2017 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 Treasurer; (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 *2016 Book of Discipline* 617.2 and 617.3 to submit audited financial statements to the Conference Treasurer no later than six months after the end of the organization's fiscal year.

J. IRS REGULATIONS:

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

K. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING:

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

SECTION VI — A Church in Mission

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

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

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

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

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

— Betty Forbes, President

SECTION VII — CFA Recommendation

The Council on Finance and Administration moves that the Annual Conference authorize the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference to sell the Conference-owned land adjacent to the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, Virginia, at an appropriate time as determined by the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The impact of General Conference in May 2016 brings fresh and revised opportunities of purpose, and function to the Virginia Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM). With an already strong organizational structure in place, the BOM continues to enable disciples of Jesus Christ to become effective clergy and certified lay professionals as it assists these persons in the areas of call, development, and collegial support. Since the publication of *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church 2016, the BOM has begun to implement these new directives into its established structured processes. One specific matter that the BOM and the Cabinet will address in the near future is the new in-depth assessment process that will occur every eight years for clergy. The plan is to be developed and initiated no later than January 1, 2020.

A few members of the BOM leadership attended the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's "Board of Ordained Ministry Quadrennial Training Event" in Chicago in early October 2016.

From this training, the BOM inaugurated three new "core values" to guide the Board in its ministry for 2017-2020.

Whole Person – In working with candidates and clergy, the whole person is considered, including their theological knowledge, emotional intelligence, practical skill and cultural competency.

A Changing World – Effective ministry leadership is needed in the pulpit and far beyond it: Christ is present—and our witness is needed—in and for a rapidly changing world.

Spiritual Discernment – The Holy Spirit is at work in the BOM's practice of discernment; being prepared, being prayerful, and being healthy all help the Spirit to move among us.

The work of the board includes sponsoring the annual Licensing School for all first-time appointees, support for the Orders of Deacon and Elders, and the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Other endeavors involve examining persons seeking credentialing as ministers, interviewing United Methodists and those of other denominations who wish to transfer to the Virginia Conference, offering two Candidacy Summits for those who desire to learn more about pursuing ministry leadership in the Virginia Conference through the candidacy process, interviewing clergy seeking retirement status, reviewing requests for appointments beyond the church (extension), traveling to eight seminaries to visit Virginia students and others who have an interest in possibly serving in Virginia, awarding service loans and scholarships to seminary students, training District Committees on Ordained Ministry, providing continuing education assistance to clergy, guiding and directing provisional members on their journey to ordination, promoting and encouraging lay professional certification, developing essential ethics training for clergy, giving assistance to clergy on medical leave, and concentrating on conference relationship matters that come before the board.

Other supportive efforts include the board's promotion of the Calling 21 Intern Program, now in its 11th year to connect college students and local church ministries and foster vocational discernment. This summer there will be six Calling 21 interns serving in various church settings around the Conference. They are: David Anderson (Braddock

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St UMC, W), Liam Fairfax (Belmont UMC, Rd), Sarah Hutchinson (St. Luke's UMC, YR), Julianna Smith (Warwick Memorial UMC, YR), Emily Stallings (Culpeper UMC, C), Katie Wax (Franktown UMC, ES)

The Clergy Effectiveness Team is in the planning stage for a Cohort III (2017-2018) of the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program. This program helps clergy to be radically and profoundly open to the transformational power of God in their lives and their practice of ministry. Applications are available now.

Shenandoah University and Randolph-Macon College will offer this summer a Youth Theology Institute which encourages young people to examine theological traditions, to probe contemporary issues, and how their faith journey calls them to lives of service to others.

In some measure the work of the BOM begins in the local church. It is often through the local church where an individual receives an awareness from God to begin the journey of discernment for clergy ministry. And at some point the journey may travel through the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Virginia Conference. Thank you, Virginia Conference for your encouragement to those whom God may use in clergy servant leadership in the days and years ahead.

Finally, the BOM wishes to thank the Center for Clergy Excellence (Meredith McNabb, Director, Lindsey Baynham, Associate Director for Call, Candidacy and Discernment, and Kristen Seibert, Executive Assistant) for their committed support to the Board of Ordained Ministry throughout the year.

John Hall, Chair

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly scheduled meetings in September and March. In addition, we held a special meeting in December via conference call.

In addition to our normal work dealing with the real property of closed and abandoned churches, the Board continued its involvement with the VUMAC property by having three members of the Trustees on the VUMAC Board. That process has involved extended meetings and conference calls to assist in handling and resolution of VUMAC issues. It is our sincere hope that, as of Annual Conference, the sale of the Blackstone property will be complete.

The Board has also been involved with issues pertaining to the Episcopal Residence. We anticipate that quite a bit of time will be expended in the coming year contingent upon Annual Conference action.

Over the past many years, the Board has been expertly supported by Benham Black, our attorney and counsel, on both Board of Trustees and Annual Conference matters. With his retirement, the Board appointed a search committee, which was tasked with finding a replacement for our long time legal counsel Benham Black. We are happy to report that the law firm of LeClair Ryan has been retained to represent the Board of Trustees going forward. The Board feels that LeClair Ryan, with its numerous offices throughout the state of Virginia, will be able to provide the services needed by the Board in the future. We welcome Andrew White and Katja Hill and look forward to working with them in the future. We would again like to thank Benham for his long-time service

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to this work and wish him the best in the future.

During the past year and a half, a major family emergency continued to draw 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 has stepped in so effectively to help me and the Board out during this time.

– *Carl Moravitz, President*

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee is charged with identifying the location for the Virginia Annual Conference to meet and shall recommend a location five (5) years in advance. By previous Annual Conference action, the following locations have been approved for the site of the Annual Conference:

Hampton	June 15-17, 2018
Roanoke	June 20-22, 2019
Roanoke	June 18-20, 2020
Hampton	June 17-19, 2021
Hampton	June 16-18, 2022

Beginning in 2019 and beyond, the above dates represent Annual Conference convening on a Thursday and concluding on Saturday as set by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis.

The Committee, along with the Chair of the Common Table and with the assistance of the Conference Planner, continues to review potential locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. We have the following requirements:

- Meeting space for 4,000 people
- Parking space for 2,000 to 3,000 cars
- 1,500 hotel rooms
- Meeting space for the Clergy Session for 1,500 people
- Meeting space for the Laity Session for 1,500 people
- Two (2) banquet areas to be able to accommodate 500 people
- Break-out area and display space of 30,000 square feet
- Restaurants to accommodate 4,000 patrons within 1½ - 2 hour timeframe
- Ease of participants moving between the various areas

– *Neal E. Wise, Chairperson*

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism, spiritual formation, preaching, and congregational leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit. In 2011, by conference action, three predecessor

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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.

As an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring organization that supports the training of both laity and clergy, the foundation supported the following 2017 events: Spiritual Formation Academy and the 5 Talent Academy on Evangelism. The foundation produced and distributed *The Bishops of the Bishops' Foundation* commemorative document written by the Rev. Alex Joyner to recognize and inform the conference of the Bishops' Foundations.

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".

– Kevin W. Bruny, Co-Chair

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Ferrum College

The 2016-2017 academic year at Ferrum College has been a time of change, transition, and transformation as I became the 11th President of Ferrum beginning in August 2016. I am delighted that my journey through life has provided me with this incredible opportunity to lead a liberal arts college nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. My wife, Nicole Gelfert, and I are in awe of the magnificent mountains and lakes surrounding Ferrum, and we have been blessed to meet a multitude of the Ferrum Family as we traveled throughout the state of Virginia and further beyond. We have been personally touched by the remarkable stories of alumni whose lives have been changed forever due to the care and concern they were given by the faculty and staff at this amazing institution. Ferrum has become our treasured home, and we are now strongly connected to the place, the people, and the unique culture of the campus community.

I have truly enjoyed my first year at Ferrum, and I look forward to continuing to work together with our Ferrum Friends to preserve our mission of providing an outstanding education for deserving students and to enhance the growth and prosperity we envision for Ferrum's future. We are thankful for the assistance of so many friends in The United Methodist Church and for the tremendous help of The United Methodist Women who have been a significant part of Ferrum's history since the early days of the Ferrum Training School.

As we look back in Ferrum's history and remember the special people who have worked together to make Ferrum the great institution it is today, it is important to note the passing of a greatly revered and beloved Ferrum leader, former Ferrum College president Dr. Joseph Hart. I was honored to attend the Celebration of Life service in early January and hear about the many contributions he made to the Ferrum campus

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community through his life of service to higher education.

Jan Nicholson Angle, our Dean of the Chapel, has begun her fourth year of service to the campus. The Chapel continues to be the hub for regular weekly worship services with music by our student-based Praise Team under the direction of Eugene Hacker, Applications Systems Specialist for the College. Vaughn Chapel is also used as space for classes, special activities, campus-wide gatherings, and annual services such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January and The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women's Day at Ferrum in June.

Rev. Dr. Nicholson Angle directs the Office of Spiritual Life which offers various opportunities for spiritual formation and growth for students and staff. Our annual Praise on the Patio attracted nearly 200 students with our Ferrum College Praise Band debut and over 20 local churches who welcomed and connected with our campus community. Fall Semester saw over 100 students gathering for our first Ferrum College FCA Field of Faith event with featured speaker Dave Gittings, FCA VA Tech Football Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry. In addition to our regular small group Bible and Topic studies, 13 students embraced putting their faith in action by participating in Alternative Fall/Spring Break Work Teams. Ferrum College students, faculty, and staff work teams were the first Virginia Based United Methodist affiliated college teams to volunteer with The Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Disaster Recovery efforts in Waverly and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Living out "Not Self, But Others," these teams assisted three families affected by the EF-1 tornado that ripped through Waverly, Virginia, in February 2016 and Hurricane Matthew that devastated the Virginia coast in October 2016.

Please feel free to contact my office if you would be interested in having me speak during your Sunday morning worship service or at a special meeting at your church. We appreciate your continued prayers for our faculty, staff, students and Board members. We will work together to make this journey for our students an exciting and rewarding adventure, and we will continue to strengthen our college and our mission so that Ferrum will thrive today, tomorrow, and always.

– Jody Spooner, President

Randolph College

During 2016, Randolph College celebrated 125 years of rich history as Randolph-Macon Woman's College and the now coeducational Randolph College. While much has changed over those years, our commitment to the liberal arts has remained steadfast. Today, Randolph stands as an institution that teaches our students to be their best original self. Through strong programs in the creative arts, the sciences, and sustainability, among others, Randolph students leave our community ready to make a difference in the world.

This has been another strong year for the College. Enrollment remained approximately 700 students and giving by alumnae, alumni, and friends, such as the Conference, reached its highest total in our history, buoyed by a \$7.82 million bequest from Laura Maud Battle Winstead '50 and her husband Emerson Clarence Winstead.

We continue to make improvements to our campus. Our focus in recent years has

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been renovating our campus infrastructure. We now have an updated electrical grid and have completed year one of a three year project to add two satellite boilers to each building in order to eventually close our central boiler. So far, generous donors have contributed nearly \$6 million to this effort. These projects have helped in our sustainability efforts, which were also strengthened by the certification of the recently renovated Wright Hall as a LEED silver building. We were also pleased to complete the third and final phase of our dining hall renovations, which included renovations in portions of the kitchen area. We also made it easier for guests to locate the facility by creating a new entrance that features a beautiful water fountain. Work has also begun on converting a historic home just outside the main campus into our new admission welcome center, which is slated to open in the summer of 2017.

U.S. News and World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review, and The Washington Monthly, among other ranking guides, continue to name Randolph a “best college.” These accolades are a testament to our outstanding faculty. We are delighted to provide this quality education at an affordable cost, many times lower than the cost of a public university. This is made possible through the generous institutional grants the College provides to students, totaling over \$14.3 million last year. Randolph remains steadfast in its desire to provide an outstanding, affordable education.

We are grateful for the work our college chaplain, Rev. Jennifer Moore, is doing to strengthen the opportunities for spiritual development of our students, which are only made possible through your support. In February, we opened a campus labyrinth, and the Rev. Moore has used this as an opportunity to provide ways for students to engage spiritually. We remain thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the College and the Conference. We were delighted to host the district and our new superintendent on campus in December. We also remain thankful for the leadership the Rev. John Peters provides as our connection to the Conference. Most of all, we thank the members of the Conference for their ongoing support of Randolph College. Your contributions help us to fulfill our mission of preparing students to engage the world critically and creatively, live and work honorably, and experience life abundantly.

– Bradley W. Bateman, President

Randolph-Macon Academy

At Randolph-Macon Academy, we are particularly mindful of both our blessings and our roots in the United Methodist Church as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding in 1892. The excellent work by our chaplain, Joshua Orndorff, has resulted in the growth and revitalization of our chapel programs that outpaces anything in the last few decades.

Under Chaplain Orndorff’s direction, we have weekly Bible studies for both the Middle School students and the Upper School students enrolled at Randolph-Macon Academy. In the spring of 2016, 15 students received Confirmation; it was the first such ceremony held on campus in at least a dozen years. As part of their faith walk, these students, along with others on campus, teamed up with Teens Opposing Poverty and took a trip into DC to feed the homeless. They also attended a two-day retreat at Camp Overlook, an event that was supported by several R-MA staff members. During this

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school year, Chaplain Orndorff has worked with the local Catholic Church to arrange Confirmation classes for six of our Catholic students, and coordinated with Front Royal United Methodist Church to begin a second Confirmation class for another fourteen students. This group will receive their Confirmation during a chapel service scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2017, as part of our 125th Anniversary Founder's Weekend.

Our commitment to community service remains strong. Chaplain Orndorff arranged for students to participate in Kelsey's Big Give this past fall, a program in which the students and local church members planted gardens and assisted with various home clean-up projects and renovations around Warren County. Our Middle School Interact Club has worked hard to assist community and international organizations, help provide food for the needy, and clean up the roads outside of our campus. We also have several groups on campus that regularly hold bake sales and "poetry slam" events to raise funds for international causes.

We have been blessed with a talented faculty who are eager to share their gifts with our students, resulting in many accomplishments. Our band took first place in the "Military School Band" category at both the Firefighters' Parade and the Grand Feature Parade at the Apple Blossom Festival last May. Our 2016 graduating class earned over \$5.1 million in college scholarship offers, with three of our students being offered the opportunity to enter the Echols Scholar program at the University of Virginia. Perhaps most notably, however, was that a special chorus made up of members of our praise team, chorus, and drama department was selected to perform at the United Methodist General Conference held in Oregon last May. It was indeed a high honor to be selected, and we are thankful that God provided the right talent at the right time, and also provided some generous hearts to help fund the trip.

We invite everyone to come celebrate our 125th Anniversary with us during 2017. We will have events throughout the year that will be open to the general public. In celebrating our history and heritage, however, we are mindful that we need to continue to move forward and grow. To that end, we are examining ourselves with the assistance of outside consultants, and we welcome your prayers that throughout this year, God would reveal the path He would have us follow.

Thank you for your continued prayers and your financial support, which allow us to help students soar.

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

Randolph-Macon College

Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon College is a selective, co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia, just minutes north of Richmond and 90 miles south of Washington, D.C. The College achieves its mission of "developing the minds and character of each student" by balancing rigorous academics in 54 areas of study with individualized attention between our exceptional faculty and students. The student-faculty ratio is 12:1 and the average class size is 16 students. The College has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

Now in our 187th year, the college is larger and more diverse than at any time in

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history, having experienced a significant 26% growth in our student body in recent years. The 2016-17 academic year opened with 1,446 students from 25 states, the District of Columbia, and 24 countries. Of these students, 46% are male and 53% are female. In addition, 19% are minorities, and 40% are Presidential Scholars, R-MC's signature scholarship that recognizes students who demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement and leadership.

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

The Edge Career Center is focused on preparing our students for careers and post graduate success. Faculty serve as mentors and offer important advising, linking valuable liberal arts education with important career and post-graduate success strategies and life skills. The Edge focuses on providing students with tools that build a "competitive advantage" in career and post-graduate environments. The success of this program is reflected in the college's tagline, *Building Extraordinary Futures*.

The Edge also 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 world-class speakers, interviewers and mentors, including R-MC alumni.

R-MC's January Term (J-Term) is a four-week session in which students can study abroad and immerse themselves in other cultures, conduct a regional, national or international internship, or take an on-campus course in a specific area of interest. In January 2017, 1,316 students participated in J-Term.

January Term internships provide unique opportunities, and this year, over 125 students interned across the country and around the world. Our students experienced internships at organizations as exciting and diverse as Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, a church in Okinawa, Japan, a title company in Houston, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, and the United States Congress.

In addition, 115 students participated in study/travel courses during J-Term 2017, traveling to Wroxton, England; Dublin, Ireland; Paris, France; Australia and New Zealand; Japan; and Cambodia, a new destination for R-MC.

One of the flagship programs at Randolph-Macon is the Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF), an endowment to support scholarly undergraduate research by students in all disciplines. SURF allows students the opportunity to conduct original research, under the guidance of a faculty member, and to be paid a stipend. Many students present their findings at academic and professional conferences both nationally and internationally. Now in its 21st year, SURF has funded research opportunities for over 600 students.

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

degree.

This year, Randolph-Macon is commemorating its 50th anniversary of desegregation by highlighting the events that led to this historical moment and honoring the pioneers who led efforts to achieve equality at the College. The College continues to integrate the value of diversity into the fabric of campus life. Through a wide range of student organizations and multicultural programs, Randolph-Macon seeks to build a community that upholds the inherent worth of individuals in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and civility.

In 2015, R-MC completed its enormously successful *Building Extraordinary* campaign with over \$125 million raised from 12,129 alumni and friends. For two years in a row, 40% of our alumni have given back to the College, making us 14th in the country in alumni loyalty. And, the College has experienced a campus renaissance in recent years, with over \$80 million spent on eight new and renovated facilities in the past six years.

With an anticipated completion this summer, the new science building will connect to the Copley Science Center. This three-story, 30,000-square-foot facility, with state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, plus classrooms and faculty offices, will also house the biology, environmental science/geology, and chemistry departments. Additionally, a new observatory will be constructed to replace the existing Keeble observatory.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program was established in 2004 to support students who express an interest in ordained ministry in the Christian tradition. 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. Additionally the program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. We have recently received a grant to create a Leadership in Ministry experience much like our existing Career Boot Camp Program. Pre-ministerial students will have four experiences off campus (including visits to Candler School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, and Wesley Theological Seminary) to help in their professional development as they prepare for ministry.

Summer 2017 marks the beginning of two new summer programs for high school students offered at Randolph-Macon. *Pathways to Science* invites rising sophomore Hispanic girls to campus July 23-28 to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities. *Convergence* is an 11-day event, June 22-July 2, inviting high school students to explore the many ways that faith and science come together. The event will include faculty lectures, hands-on experiences on the James River and at Shalom Farms, and an opportunity to create resources to help other high school students explore the topics that the group engages this summer.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of a Randolph-Macon College education. In 2015-16, Randolph-Macon students logged more than 27,400 volunteer hours and donated \$49,897.71 to various causes through their student organizations. 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

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and contexts of social needs through connections with the greater community. Students are actively engaged with groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. There are two signature events each year, The Big Event in the fall and Macon a Difference Day in April. These campus-wide community-service initiatives bring 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*

Shenandoah University

Our vision statement says, “Shenandoah University will be highly valued for a campus culture of compassion, responsibility, advocacy and justice which graduates are inspired to replicate in communities beyond Shenandoah.” While our students are present on campus for 16 weeks twice annually, we are also excited to welcome other groups to experience Shenandoah's culture. Each year we are thrilled to welcome high school students participating in the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute, college students participating in Calling21, and so many other groups. Our United Methodist affiliation and partnership is a vital part of creating communities and our campus culture.

As I write this report, we are accepting nominations, recommendations, and applications for the 2017 Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUYTI). Without you, this would not be possible. Shenandoah partnered with Wesley Theological Seminary, the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Lilly Endowment to create the SUYTI. We believe in this valuable opportunity to develop young leaders for our Church and world! I challenge you to identify rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who will benefit from a two-week youth theology institute in which they learn from faculty of Shenandoah University and Wesley Theological Seminary, participate in small groups, and explore 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. In July we were also excited to welcome the Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger to Shenandoah University as the director of the SUYTI. As an ordained United Methodist elder from the Upper New York Annual Conference, Colleen came to us from Syracuse University. Now she is with the real SU!

Students engage weekly with worship arts leadership and planning through the Office of Spiritual Life at Shenandoah University. They plan, implement and assess elements of worship services in dance and movement, liturgical writing and reading, and musical and theatrical embodiments of the Gospel through a theologically informed lens at our chapel services. As an additional result, many students bring these processes and products to their home churches. At the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference, Joy Chappell, dance major and religion minor in the class of 2016, used liturgical dance to lead our conference in worship. Additionally, current students Amy Robertson, Andrew Dietz, Zach Hubbard, Max Stribula, Daniel Kelly and others led music for the Virginia

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Annual Conference in 2016. Alumni who participated in Spiritual Life's worship arts serve among the clergy of Virginia and Greater New Jersey Annual Conferences and as worship leaders in many states including Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New York, and Virginia.

Nearly 90 college students have attended Annual Conference, explored God's call upon their lives, and discerned their life in ministry through Calling21! Nineteen of those students have been from Shenandoah University, with the rest joining us from many other institutions as far away as Iowa and as close as Virginia. Calling21 is another partnership with the Virginia Annual Conference and another way to educate and inspire a new generation of leaders for the Church and the world. Interns who have completed the program move forward to replicate compassionate communities far beyond Shenandoah.

In May 2016, Shenandoah University took 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. In total, 32 Shenandoah students learned about, led, and invested in our denomination at General Conference!

This year, the Faith Seeking Justice program actively studied justice while advocating for it as well. In October, they traveled once again to Taizé, France to experience a community that exemplifies a culture of compassion, responsibility, advocacy, and peace with justice. This January they took to the road once again. This time they traveled to Richmond to participate in the Day for All People, a gathering of faith communities from around the state at the Virginia General Assembly to advocate for justice and organize for a bigger impact.

How else can we partner with the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church to create communities of compassion, responsibility, advocacy and justice? Whatever the future holds, we are excited to walk together with you as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

— Tracy Fitzsimmons, *President*

Virginia Wesleyan College

Virginia Wesleyan College hosted the visiting committee of the University Senate of the United Methodist Church in November 2016 and reviewed all the ways in which we define ourselves as a United Methodist-related institution. We were proud to receive official notification in February of our 10-year reaffirmation of affiliation with The United Methodist Church. Virginia Wesleyan College is a community of faith, learning and service, and we are very grateful for this notification of reaffirmation of affiliation. Underlying all that we do is a deep commitment to the United Methodist tradition of education. Our mission takes inspiration from that heritage, preparing students for global citizenry, service to their communities, personal and professional leadership, and lives of continual learning and meaning.

Building on our excellent academic and co-curricular reputation, we also earned an unqualified report of reaffirmation of accreditation—no reports, no follow-up required—

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for the next 10 years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). That's an exceptional, rare "report card" coveted by any college or university.

SACSCOC also approved Virginia Wesleyan as a Level III institution in December 2016, enabling the College to offer the master's degree as the highest degree. The College will soon expand its academic program to include a traditionally delivered Master of Arts in Education (summer 2017), an online Master of Business Administration (fall 2017), and online degree-completion programs at the undergraduate level (fall 2017). The addition of these programs marks a pivotal moment in Virginia Wesleyan's history and underscores our reputation and competitiveness as a leader in American higher education.

Last fall, Virginia Wesleyan announced the development of the Batten Honors College, which will provide a transformative experience for high-achieving students and offer full-tuition scholarships to an eventual cohort of 80 Batten Fellows. It will equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of an ethical, thoughtful, and influential global citizen who understands the complexity of contemporary society, our interdependence with the natural world, and the interrelatedness of society, culture, economics, and the environment. The first cohort of the Batten Honors College will begin in fall 2017.

Construction is 80 percent complete on the 40,000-square-foot Greer Environmental Sciences Center, scheduled for completion in summer 2017. It will provide unprecedented opportunities for students in state-of-the-art instructional and laboratory facilities and foster regional collaboration with organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center, the Virginia Aquarium and the Virginia Institute for Marine Science (VIMS). The Greer Environmental Sciences Center will feature sophisticated indoor and outdoor learning spaces that embody "science on display" and promote hands-on experiences, interactive learning and interdisciplinary research.

We also broke ground in December 2016 for a joint partnership facility with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads. As a college growing and reaching out to the community for new collaborative opportunities, we are especially honored to join the YMCA. The "Frank Blocker Youth Center" will serve the Y's well-respected programs and Virginia Wesleyan's expanding academic and conference needs.

Another important facility that will benefit the entire institution and the community is the new Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center. Virginia Wesleyan's rich program of cultural events, performances, lectures, presentations, exhibits, and concerts will benefit from a new, fully equipped home where the arts will continue to flourish on our campus. The arts are essential to the liberal education experience, and our programs in art, music, and theatre enrich not only our campus community but the wider service area of the institution.

As our College continues to grow and mature, we'll seek to further strengthen and expand our connection to the United Methodist Church and ministry in higher education. I am confident that this institution will embrace new opportunities and make exceptional contributions to all who look to us for leadership. From its first days into the present and beyond, Virginia Wesleyan has been in partnership with the Church—our United

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Methodist heritage is strong, influential, and growing.

— *Scott D. Miller, President*

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND SPOUSES (ARMS)

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

The main ARMS event has traditionally been an annual fall retreat. The keynote speaker for our 2016 retreat was Bishop Tim Whitaker, who gave us a look at the Early Church Fathers. As usual, the retreat also featured great worship, inspiring music, and wonderful fellowship. Leigh Anne Taylor, Minister of Music at Blacksburg UMC, led a highly participatory music program at the retreat. Our next retreat is scheduled for October 11 and 12th at Eagle Eyrie. Retreat brochures are available at the ARMS Display Table, the Retiree Banquet, and from VUMAC. Rev. Larry Jent will be our keynote speaker.

We also look forward to our Annual ARMS Retirees Banquet where we have the opportunity to present and congratulate our new clergy and their spouses who retired that year at Annual Conference.

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

— *Paul & Martha Phillips, Co-presidents*

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

Since it was first chartered in 1870 by the state of North Carolina when the Virginia Conference extended into that state (It was chartered in Virginia in 1884), the Preachers' Relief Society has been providing grants to clergy families facing financial emergencies. During 2016 the Society assisted three families. It was glad to assist these, but it is also glad that only three needed to apply for help, the lowest number in recent memory.

At the annual meeting of the Society in November, K. Dane Mills retired as treasurer of the Society and indicated that he would retire as a director at the 2017 annual conference. Unexpectedly Dane died in February. Dane was dedicated to the work of the Society. He not only served as treasurer and as a member of the executive committee but provided legal counsel when needed. All of us who worked with him not only appreciated his dedication and the thoughtful input he brought to issues, but are thankful for the privilege of having known and served with him.

Larry Field who served for many years as financial advisor to the Society retired at the end of 2015. Much of the financial growth and stability of the Society can be attributed to Larry's good advice. We are indebted to him. Donald R. Watson has taken his place. Those wishing to contribute to the work of the Society may contact him at dwatson@bbtscottstringfellow.com or may contact our treasurer, the Rev. Robert F. Cofield, Jr. at bcofield2@hotmail.com. Those needing assistance should apply through their district superintendent.

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

– Robert T. Casey, President

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

The Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) was founded in 1932 and for many years was known as the Home Corporation. The purpose of the Retired Clergy Housing Corporation is to provide housing for needy retired clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, for their widows, widowers and dependent children.

RCHC owns 21 single family homes throughout the Commonwealth that are made available to eligible retired clergy persons at an affordable monthly fee. The RCHC is an independent not-for profit corporation with a board of directors made up of clergy and lay persons. In July of 2016, RCHC contracted with Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. to provide day to day management services to RCHC. For the past year the board of directors has been actively involved in updating by-laws, policies and procedures to ensure the future of the organization.

–Rev. Charles Wickham, Chairperson

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation (“VUMHDC”) is a covenant partner with the Virginia Annual Conference with the mission to offer affordable housing to the disabled, moderate income, and senior population. The goal of VUMHDC is to build or purchase at least one new facility a year. We are pledged to maintain alignment of our program with the Virginia Conference as we continue this mission.

The Housing Corporation is the full owner of 18 projects and a partial owner in another 20 affordable housing efforts. In total, VUMHDC has over 2000 apartment units across the conference with an approximate value of \$50,000,000. We reached this achievement without receiving financial support from the Annual Conference for construction, maintenance, or ongoing development. VUMHDC is funded entirely through project proceeds, HUD grants, tax credits, community partnerships, and revitalization money. Annual financial records are filed with the Conference Treasurer’s office.

We wish to honor our founding president, the Reverend Robert Regan, who served as president of the board of directors from 1975-2010. And we honor our recent past president, Dr. Julius (“Mal”) Malinowski. Mal joined the Board of Directors in 2008 and upon the retirement of Rev. Regan was elected president of the corporation. Mal was instrumental in the life and work of the Corporation until his retiring in November 2016. The board wishes to express our thanks to Mal Malinowski for his leadership and direction.

The board recently elected our third president in our 42-year history, Lawrence B.

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(“Larry”) Dickenson, a member and lay leader of Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. Larry has taken leadership with gusto. He will lead VUMHDC with deliberate direction and transparency as it enters into the next phase of service.

In this conference year, we expect to begin a comprehensive renovation of a facility in Staunton, provide targeted upgrades for two other projects, begin a partnership with the James River District to develop an affordable housing project which will hold a new church start in Windsor, and shepherd our existing properties keeping to the mission of VUMHDC.

– James G. O’Quinn, D.Min., Vice President VUMHDC

THE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist movement and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 a group of Virginia clergy established our credit union to pool their financial resources to help each other. As we celebrate 65 years of service in 2017, our name has changed to The United Methodist Credit Union and we are now serving other United Methodist Conferences including: North Carolina, Virginia, Western North Carolina, West Virginia and Baltimore-Washington (churches and organizations).

We are a full service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of lay and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa rewards credit cards, online services and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We offer SnapLoan, an educational line of credit for college and seminary students. We partner with 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 are 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.

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

– Alvin J. Horton, Chair of the Board

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 (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶807.18).

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS sponsors two meetings during the year: a one-day fall training event and an all-day spring retreat event. 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 2016-2017 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 November. This gathering featured Cheryl Edley-Worford, Director of the Virginia Conference UMC Center for Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. “Person-to-Person” was the title for our session. Led by Cheryl, we explored tools for living the abundant life we were designed for through developing healthy, loving relationships with God, self, and others.

Our spring training/retreat event was held at Fredericksburg UMC in late May, “Get Away From It All” was led by the Rev. Larry Davies and Fredericksburg District Superintendent Ted Smith. “Pastoral Transitions” included information to help us as Administrative Church Professionals to make healthy transitions as we find ourselves filled with both anticipation and sorrow for the preparation involved with ending relationships and new beginnings. Attendees also valued the networking and spiritual component of this time together.

VAPAUMCS is excited that the Committee on Rules is recommending to the 2017 Annual Conference that our organization now be recognized in the Virginia Conference Standing Rules as an Administrative Agency of the conference.

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 CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Highlights of the VCHS during 2016 include:

- Two outstanding issues of *Heritage*, focusing on Old Stone Church, the oldest Methodist-owned property in America (spring) and the history of Blackstone College from its closing to the final days of the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (fall). Subscription: Print, \$10; Online, \$7; both \$12. Two issues yearly. Subscriptions can be purchased at the VCHS table or online at www.vaumc.org/subscribeheritage.
- Clearing the debt on the Old Randolph-Macon College/Boydton Institute property in Boydton through generous Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation member contributions and developing plans for preserving and interpreting this heritage site through the efforts of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

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- 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Old Stone Church site in Leesburg
- Dedication of heritage signage at the William Watters site in McLean and addition of screen plantings
- DVD presentation to the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference, highlighting the work of the VCHS, and the increased visitation to the display table, where historical interpreter the Rev. Gary Ziegler portrayed an 18th century circuit rider preacher. This interpretive DVD is available on YouTube to assist districts and churches in promoting the preservation and interpretation of their own significance within the Wesleyan heritage of the Virginia Conference.
- The closing of Blackstone Assembly Center and historical materials coming to the Conference Archives at the UMBR
- Strengthening of the VCHS web presence
- Growth of the Patti Russell Endowment to over \$272,000.00, providing a portion of the salary support for our Conference part time Archivist, Stephanie Davis.

Coming Events:

- Fall meeting of the VCHS, 10 a.m., UMBR, October 7, 2017, Keynote Speaker: Laurie Preston, Librarian/Archivist, Randolph-Macon College, and Trustee of the VCHS.
- VCHS hosting of the SEJ Historical Society, July 17-20, 2018, Williamsburg, VA. Theme: *Religious Liberty in the Historical Spread of Virginia Methodism*

The following persons are presented to the Annual Conference for election as clergy and lay trustees of the Conference Historical Society to 2017-2018: CLERGY: Paul A. Beighley, Jr., Michael H. Browder, Carlton D. Casey, Robert T. Casey, *Thomas L. Coffman*, William R. Freeman, *R. Douglas Geeting*, Myrtle F. Hatcher, H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., James M. John, Alexander B. Joyner, *Hyo Joong Lee*, *Barbara D. Lewis*, John T. Martin, Jr., Reginald H. Potts, III, Lee B. Shaeffer, *James C. Sprouse, Jr.*, James M. Tongue, Margaret A. Turbyfill, Roy P. White, *Walter A. Whitehurst*, J. Brooke Willson, Elizabeth A. S. Wright, Gary A. Ziegler; LAITY: Thelma Crowder, Betty Duley, Jesse Fanshaw, *Nina Frederick*, Queen Green, *Ann Keeling*, Mark Leep, Audrey Lewis, Myra P. Lindsey, Stephen S. Mansfield, Marianne R. Martin, Harold "Rockie" McKee, Sam McKelvey, David Meyer, Margaret Mock, Catherine Morgan, Brenda NeSmith, William A. Olson, Laurie Preston, Leona Salter, William Stead, Craig Swain, *Betty Whitehurst*, *Kathi Hughes Wise* [*Italics – new to position*]

Ex Officio: Foundation Presidents: Williams Watters Foundation - Jean Balcom; Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation - Jim Mott; Old Stone Church Foundation - Charles Williams

— *John T. Martin, Jr., President*

The Old Stone Church Foundation

The Old Stone Church Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1974 to be responsible for the care and preservation of Methodism's Old Stone Church site in Leesburg, the first Methodist owned property in America.

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Members of the foundation help support this mission and we are grateful for those who maintain their membership in the foundation year after year. Our Brick Prayer Garden continues to grow.

The annual meeting was held at Leesburg UMC on September 10, 2016. Board members elected were: Charles Williams, Lou Legard, Shirlita West, Dennis Hanrahan, John Creamer, Ralph Carver, Michael Browder and James Roberts. It was an afternoon of celebration and contemplation at the historic Old Stone Church Site following our annual meeting. One hundred and thirty-two United Methodists from around the Virginia Conference — including our new bishop — Rev Sharma D Lewis — proudly marked the event of 250 years.

— Charles Williams, President

William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1996 to protect and preserve the small Adams-Wren-Watters cemetery in McLean, Virginia. 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, VA. It has been registered as the United Methodist Historical Site #7 since 1970.

David Todd, a member of Trinity UMC McLean, working on his Eagle Scout Project refurbished the wrought iron fence surrounding the obelisk.

William Watters now has a website thanks to Myra Lindsey. The address is: WattersFoundation@vaumc.org. The home page is: www.vaumc.org/williamwattersfoundation.

For additional information write to:

The William Watters Foundation, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean, VA 22101

— E. Jean Balcom, President

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“Serving God does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have.

For we brought nothing into this world, so we can take nothing out ...

Command those who are rich with things of this world not to be proud, but to hope in God, not in their uncertain riches. God richly gives us everything to enjoy.

Tell them to do good, to be rich in doing good deeds, to be generous and ready to share.

By doing that, they will be saving a treasure for themselves as a strong foundation for the future.” — 1 Timothy 6:6-7, 17-19

Your perspective is the way you see something. If you think that toys corrupt children's minds, then from your perspective a toy shop is an evil place.

Perspective has a Latin root meaning “look through” or “perceive”, and all the meanings of perspective have something to do with looking. If you observe the world from a dog's perspective, you see through the dog's eyes. In art, perspective gives your drawing the appearance of depth or distance. If we say someone “has perspective,” we

mean she has a sensible outlook on life.

Our approach to finances and stewardship is also a matter of perspective. Living. Giving. Sharing. Saving. Our perspective is impacted by how we were raised, or how we view needs vs. wants, or how we choose to live and give, or how we perceive threats in society. Our perspective is never neutral, and is often shaped by events around us.

The Apostle Paul sought to give counsel to his ‘son in the Lord’, Timothy, about the importance of a proper perspective toward life and wealth, giving and saving. The thread of his advice was that “life is short”, “wealth is temporary and uncertain”, and “sharing creates a timeless impact.”

At the core of building endowments is the weaving of those thoughts together into a strong cord. An endowment is focused on the long haul – not the immediate need. An investment is planning for the future and setting aside to meet its uncertainties with wise planning. Its perspective is to create a resource that can feed the hungry for now and later or to minister hope and healing to coming generations – to leave a lasting legacy that continues its impact!

Over the past year, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation served churches and donors across the Conference in creating ministries for the future. Our perspective is governed by our mission statement: **Stewarding Potential to build His kingdom!** Our service to local churches is helping them think and discern about ministry into the future. Our service to individuals is focused how they can plan and prepare for future impact through their giving and saving. For each, it is quantifying their POTENTIAL and maximizing their STEWARDSHIP with a view toward God’s ultimate purpose! It may be ...

- A church who received a sizeable bequest and invited our staff to assist in discerning and strategizing what God was calling the church to do in mission – and how these new resources could be effective in opening doors and extending ministry.
- An investor who served their church through a major building project and made a significant gift of highly appreciated stock to fulfill a pledge commitment to support ministry in the coming year.
- A district that worked through the process of re-purposing and selling a church property. Then, following the sale, they sought counsel on how to steward those funds to develop new ministry initiatives in their district.
- A church who sold their parsonage and invested those funds with the Foundation, so that they could provide a housing allowance for their pastor.
- A couple who saved and invested carefully for years have now caught the vision of missional investing with the Development Company. Their investment helped reduce their church’s mortgage interest rate while they received increased fixed income to meet their monthly expenses.
- A grant through the Foundation that helps provide support for a skate park ministry outreach in one community and ‘on the job’ training program in another community – both with a focus on being the hands of Christ in providing services to needy and disadvantaged in their community.
- A couple who share a missional alignment with a UM agency created a personal

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endowment to benefit that ministry. Their heart perspective is to ‘do their giving while their living, so they’re knowing where it’s going.’

Each of these witness a perspective built on sacrifice and service with a goal toward Kingdom impact. Their potential is long-term and their strategy is stewarding to meet immediate needs and make an imprint on others through their planning and giving. The Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to serve congregations and congregants in perceiving their potential impact – current and future – by leveraging their current resources.

Foundation assets continue to grow as services and staff expand to meet the needs of donors and churches. Since 2011, both the number of churches served and the assets managed have more than doubled!

Account Type	Count	Value as of 12/31/2016
Local church-related accounts	227	\$37,365,197
Endowment	89	7,234,295
District and Agency funds	31	10,842,712
Foundation-controlled funds	3	592,551
Charitable Gift Annuities	45	532,777
Total	395	\$56,034,755

Our vision is to sharpen our perspective while we strengthen our service in helping create lasting ministries 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.

Capture the potential for impact! Catch the wave of generosity! Create a fresh perspective for eternity!

– Stephen B. Clark, President

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

Stewarding Potential to Build His Kingdom

In a past political campaign, one candidate's appeal was: "It's all about the economy, stupid!" People caught the rationale related to their feelings or perspective on forces and finances that appeared beyond their grasp.

A telescope helps to bring far away objects into perspective and become near, while a microscope makes the tiny become perceptible. Helping church leadership discern how to manage short-term assets and prepare for long-term loans requires different lens. At the core of managing time-based deposits is the need for liquidity and often an aversion to risk and volatility. By contrast, a church loan for a major capital expansion is often a long-term commitment based on envisioning its mission and ministry 10-20 years into the future. Both require clear vision on potential and purpose for both investment and expansion. It's all about balancing perspective!

Over the past year, the Virginia United Methodist Development Company, LLC, has expanded its reach with loans to more than 20 churches across the Conference and impacted more than 16,000 Methodists. Thanks to 316 churches, agencies and individuals who have become investors in the Development Company, we have been able to make a difference by helping them with church extension loan financing. These churches are now saving more than \$620,000 in debt service and, thereby, increasing their operational cash flow to enable them to expand their local ministry outreach!

Our impact can be seen with:

- Helping a church in the Farmville District with a short-term remodeling loan and a capital campaign to engage donors in their support.
- A re-finance loan for a church whose loan interest rate was the highest in the conference and was impeding their ability to maintain their budget or pay apportionments.
- Equipping a church in the Alexandria District to launch a comprehensive strategy for donor engagement to cover expanded ministry and reduce debt on their new building.
- A combo loan for a church in the Elizabeth River District who sought to re-finance a previous loan while planning for facility expansion with a multi-purpose community center.
- Initiating a capital campaign for a church in the Richmond District as they plan for a major facility expansion to reach their growing community

These are just a few of the examples of how your investments enable the Development Company to fulfill its mission: **Stewarding Potential to build His kingdom!** As a connectional ministry, 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. Each loan has a unique story of connecting with their community and impacting lives as the hands and feet of Christ.

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, healthy collateral coverage on its loans and strong oversight by its board and competent staff. The Development Company offers construction loans with terms up to one year.

REPORTS

Permanent loans with terms of five years and amortization up to 30 years are also available. Our purpose is to enable United Methodist investors to fund church capital improvement loans. Deposits continue to grow 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 2016, the Development Company realized significant growth in investments and loans. As of December 31:

Deposits	\$19,337,566
Total Assets	\$20,076,267
Total Outstanding Loans	\$17,307,945
Loan Commitments for future	\$5,375,000
Loan to Collateral Value	38.42%

Our focused perspective remains: Strengthening the local church to expand ministry in its community through effective planning and ongoing consultation as we manage assets and provide support to fulfill its enduring local mission!

– *Stephen B. Clark, President/CEO*

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women's and girl's equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶¶ 6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 **Book of Discipline**, Division One, ¶4, Article IV, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After "all persons" delete "without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition". After "because of race, color, national origin," delete "status," and add "ability". At the end of the paragraph, add "nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition."

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:

The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND RATIONALE

organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III, (2016 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III) amend by addition as follows:

After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND RATIONALE

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, Article I, amend by addition, as follows:

To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI, amend by addition, as follows:

After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.⁹⁴

The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND RATIONALE

bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference.

These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The United Methodist Church Voted General Conference May 2016

- I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.
- II. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution affirms and protects The United Methodist Church’s commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide connection. “Gender” is the disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g., ¶16). The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.
- III. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13. *Article I. 2*, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences,” is unduly vague. The addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of *The Book of Discipline* helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly elected has been a practice in some central conferences.
- IV. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the central conferences should be held in the regular sessions of those conferences, except when unexpected vacancies occur because of the death or early retirement of one or more bishops.
- V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.

RESOLUTIONS

*Resolutions and Petitions are ordered alphabetically by title.
This does not indicate the order in which they will be considered.*

RESOLUTION 1

An Appropriate Restraint on Leadership

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: An Appropriate Restraint on Leadership

Discipline Paragraphs: *Discipline* ¶ 244.3, *Discipline* ¶ 246 Preamble

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

WHEREAS, the book of *Social Principles* over the years has been changing the emphasis from describing basic principles to describing solutions – for example, P160.B has changed from being a fairly general statement on the principle of Energy Resources Utilization to one specifying the individual lifestyle that should be adopted to support it;

WHEREAS, there is always more than one solution that can be implemented to support a principle;

WHEREAS, depending on a person's worldview the ranking of solutions will be different. Specifying one solution as "the" solution to be pursued instead of another becomes divisive;

WHEREAS, depending on viewpoints different solutions can be in conflict and cannot be supported by individuals even though the underlying principle is the common point of connection;

WHEREAS, the *Merriam-Webster* definition of loyal for students is "Loyal: having or showing complete and constant support for someone or something";

WHEREAS, the current requirement in the Discipline of being loyal to the ethical standards can be in conflict with the exercise of conscience of an individual which then would preclude them from being able to hold a leadership position on the church council or be a member of the church charge conference;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference recommend to General Conference a change to the Discipline in P244.3 from "are loyal to the ethical standards" to "strive to follow the principles". Thus the paragraph would change from:

P244.3 Members of the church council or alternative structure shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, are loyal to the ethical standards of The United Methodist Church set forth in the Social Principles, and are competent to administer its affairs. It shall include youth and young adult members chosen according to the same standards as adults. All persons with vote shall be members of the local church, except where central conference legislation provides otherwise. The pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted by the Discipline.

RESOLUTIONS

To:

P244.3 Members of the church council or alternative structure shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, strive to follow the principles of The United Methodist Church set forth in the Social Principles, and are competent to administer its affairs. It shall include youth and young adult members chosen according to the same standards as adults. All persons with vote shall be members of the local church, except where central conference legislation provides otherwise. The pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted by the Discipline.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference recommend to General Conference a change to the Discipline in the preamble to P246 from “are loyal to the ethical standards” to “strive to follow the principles”. Thus the preamble would change from:

Members of the charge conference shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, are loyal to the ethical standards of The United Methodist Church set forth in the Social Principles, and are competent to administer its affairs. It shall include youth and young adult members chosen according to the same standards as adults. All persons with vote shall be members of the local church, except where central conference legislation provides otherwise. The pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted by the Discipline.

To:

Members of the charge conference shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, strive to follow the principles of The United Methodist Church set forth in the Social Principles, and are competent to administer its affairs. It shall include youth and young adult members chosen according to the same standards as adults. All persons with vote shall be members of the local church, except where central conference legislation provides otherwise. The pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted by the Discipline.

– Submitted by Roger Rippens

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2

Annual Conference Resolution Process

WHEREAS, the Virginia Annual Conference uses the Resolution process to change conference policy, to propose policy changes to the General Conference, and to take a stand on public issues;

WHEREAS, clergy and laity use the Resolution Process to voice concerns, make proposals, and offer ideas to our Bishop and the Virginia Annual Conference;

WHEREAS, the publication of Resolutions in the *Book of Reports* and their disposition at annual conference have served these purposes for many years;

WHEREAS, Resolutions in written form are sent to all delegates about one month prior to conference and authors or representatives are given five minutes to speak to the conference, no equivalent written and verbal opportunity is given to delegates with an opposing view;

WHEREAS, there is little evidence that the current Resolution process contributes to making disciples of Jesus Christ or transforming the world;

WHEREAS, the existing Resolution process could be improved in the short run with technical solutions, solutions for the long run must have the flexibility to respond quickly to changing conditions and requirements;

WHEREAS, long-range, adaptive change is hard, the Resolution Process as it exists today does not provide useful tools, such as holy conferencing, finding common ground, and reaching consensus, that have the ability to lead us to common cause and united effort;

WHEREAS, the Resolution Process transforms our conference into a committee of more than 2000 voters that meets annually to conduct the conference's business, an annual meeting is ill equipped to take action on time-sensitive, urgent matters arising throughout the year;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference asks our Bishop to form a team with the mission of: 1) Developing a plan for resolving the concerns and proposals of the clergy and laity in this annual conference; 2) Ensuring the plan provides an opportunity to reach common ground and consensus through holy conferencing; 3) Providing for an optional extension of time beyond one year; 4) Providing for timely response to urgent matters; and 5) Promoting unity. This team is to present its findings and recommendations to the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference.

— Submitted by Thomas A. Hassler

RESOLUTION 3

Compassionate support for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families suffering from post-traumatic stress and moral injury

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church acknowledges; “When persons choose to serve in the armed forces, we support their right to adequate care for injuries suffered, and advocate for sufficient resources to meet their physical and mental health needs,

RESOLUTIONS

both during and after their service. We are aware that we can become guilty both by military action and by conscientious objection, and that we all are dependent on God's forgiveness." (§ 164 I) and

WHEREAS, the *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* profess the struggles for human dignity and social reform are in response to "God's demand for love, mercy, and justice in the light of the Kingdom." (§ 102), as well as, the Nurture and Mission of the Church, emphasizes "the nurturing and serving function of Christian fellowship in the Church" through a personal experience of conviction, nourished by a community faith. (§ 102) and

WHEREAS, we believe that suicide is not the way a human life should end and that a Christian perspective on suicide begins with an affirmation of faith that nothing, including suicide, separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). Therefore, we deplore the condemnation of people who complete suicide, and we consider unjust the stigma that so often falls on surviving family and friends. (§ 161 N) and

WHEREAS, data released by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, in January of 2014, estimates that, during the course of their study, 22 US veterans per day were taking their own lives. The Department concluded that the rate of veteran's suicide "are astronomically high and climbing" according to Jan Kemp, Veterans Affairs' National Mental Health Director for Suicide Prevention, and

WHEREAS, in recent years there has been a spike among service members and veterans in the occurrence of Post-Traumatic Stress, in the past referred to as shell shock, battle fatigue or combat stress, stemming from experiences of severe trauma or life-threatening events. With this profound stress it is normal for the mind and body to react after such events, but this normal response becomes harmful when individuals feel trapped in a cycle anxiety, anger, and shame, disconnecting from relationships of family and community. and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all who seek the Kingdom of God and Kinship of Christ to preserve the dignity of all persons without regard to religion, race, nationality, or gender, and seek to enhance the quality of life in the entire community of humankind thus fulfilling an obligation to God (Matthew 25:31-40).

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, encourages, endorses and strives to equip congregations in providing open safe spaces for active duty service members, veterans and their families to share their stories and find sanctuary within the faith community, without condemnation, judgement or the obligation of contribution or confession of faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Virginia Conference will appoint a task force to discern the requirements for implementing training courses to teach qualified individuals in techniques of engaging service members, veterans and their families in an atmosphere of compassionate and productive dialogue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Church commits itself to extending its pastoral ministry to members of the armed forces, veterans and their families by providing trained clergy and qualified lay leadership in cultivating and inaugurating care groups focused on spiritual formation and healing for those suffering with post-traumatic stress and moral injury, through God's forgiving grace.

— Submitted by Rev. Darin M. Busé, Pastor, Fulks Run Charge, Harrisonburg District
on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

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RESOLUTION 4

Resolution on Holy Land Travel

WHEREAS, indigenous Palestinian Christians, descendants of the original followers of Jesus, have asked their fellow Christians around the world to meet with them when visiting the Holy Land stating, “We intend to fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike.”¹

WHEREAS, General Conference resolution outlining a Pathway for Peace in Israel and Palestine affirms “strategies including favorable trade and shipping arrangements, student and work-related visa policies, and diplomatic initiatives that will engage both Israelis and Palestinian in an effort to understand the fears, hopes, and aspirations of each other. Such strategies should actively seek...an end to the current occupation and violence and the creation of a viable Palestinians state living side by side in peace with Israel,”²

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church opposes Israeli settlements on Palestinian land and urges “all United Methodists to read about the suffering of Israelis and Palestinians and non-violent ways of ending the Israeli/Palestinian conflict from the perspective of all faith communities including the Kairos Palestine document; and encourage members of each congregation to study the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from all perspectives,”³

WHEREAS, “all United Methodist missionaries serving in the Holy Land over the last twenty-five years support concrete actions by our denomination to show our support of Palestinians rights”⁴

WHEREAS, all United Methodist mission personnel past and present have for many years invited United Methodists to “come and see” what they have seen during their time in Israel and Palestine, to participate in responsible tourism by consulting with the United Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christians congregations and to visit United Methodist supported mission sites, and urge “that travelers use, as advance study materials, positions adopted by General Conference and by general church agencies relating to the Middle East as well as resources such as ‘Working for a Just and Lasting Peace in Israel and Palestine’ (an advocacy packet prepared by the boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries)”⁵

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church “expresses deep concern that many tours sponsored or arranged by United Methodist bishops, pastors, and laity do not schedule

¹ The Kairos Document (2009) is an ecumenical document written and promoted by Christian leaders in Palestine and supported by the “Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.” The fifteen authors took a year and half to formulate the document. The patriarchs and heads of churches write “We support [the authors] in their faith, their hope, and their vision for the future. . . . We also support the call . . . to accelerate the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation in this Holy Land.” <https://kairopalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/Kairos-palestine-document>

² 2016, United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6114 “Pathway for Peace in Palestine and Israel”

³ 2012, United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111 “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land”

⁴ 2016, United Methodist Book of Resolutions #8008 “Task Force on Israel and Palestine”

⁵ https://umc-gbcs.org/content/general/Working_for_a_Just_and_Lasting_Peace.pdf

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program time for participates to enter into relationship with the indigenous Christians so that they may ‘Walk with the Living Stones’ in their strides toward Palestinian self-determination, their rich spiritual heritage, and their faithful contemporary witness” and “urges all United Methodists planning, organizing, and/or participating in a trip to the Holy Land to apply to their Holy Land trip planning the guidelines outlined in the General Conference Resolution #6030,”⁶

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 Virginia Annual Conference urges the bishop, clergy, and laity of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church who are planning individual or group tours to Israel and Palestine consult with the Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Jerusalem (admin@methodist-jer.org and/or encounter@methodist-jer.org) to seek opportunities to meet with United Methodist missionaries living and working in the region, to visit United Methodist supported mission sites, to worship with a Palestinian Christian congregation, and to include in their tours at least one overnight stay in Bethlehem in accordance with 2016 General Conference Resolution #6031; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2017 Virginia Annual Conference urges anyone from the Virginia Annual Conference intending to visit the Holy Land to read before they travel the “Kairos Palestine Document: A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love” and study the United Methodist resolutions regarding Israel and Palestine.

– Submitted by John Copenhaver on behalf of the Board of Church and Society

RESOLUTION 5

Hydraulic Fracturing Oil and Gas

(resubmission of 2014 res.)

WHEREAS new methods of extracting oil and gas from rock formations using hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas containing shale formations are being proposed for use in Virginia, including the George Washington National Forest¹ and areas around the Rappahannock River and on the Northern Neck²;

WHEREAS, oil and gas hydro-“fracking” brings with it a complexity of impacts: economic, environmental, property values, health, traffic, road conditions, and relationships among members of the community;

WHEREAS, natural gas companies use proprietary blends of chemicals to force the gas out of the shale rock, and are exempt from reporting the chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, it is known that chemicals coming out of wells include mercury, arsenic, bromide and chloride salts, radionuclides including strontium and barium, and volatile organic compounds including cancer causing benzene, toluene and ethylbenzene^{3,4};

WHEREAS, United Methodists lift up the Bible, which states “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1-2);

WHEREAS, the *United Methodist Social Principles* call us to care for God’s Creation through our stewardship of water, air, soil, minerals, plants (§160.A), use of energy

⁶ 2016, United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6031 “Holy Land Tours”

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resources (§160.B), care for animal life (§160.C) and global climate stewardship (§160.D), and contains statements on rural life (§162.P), sustainable agriculture (§162.Q) and the many facets of the economic community (§163), including property (§163.A), consumption (§163.D), family farms (§163.H) and corporate responsibility (§163.I);

WHEREAS, water utilities such as those in Fairfax County and Washington, D.C., question whether even such large water utilities can adequately filter out from their water chemicals used in fracking, and

WHEREAS, people on the Northern Neck are concerned about the damage to roads and the environment from fracking equipment and the effects of the chemicals used to extract oil and gas from the shale formations,

WHEREAS

1. Virginia Conference United Methodists become familiar with the contents of the Social Principles outlined above.
2. Virginia Conference United Methodists be intentional in engaging their faith principles, respectfully and constructively, in conversations and decisions about methods used by fossil fuel extracting industries, including hydro-fracturing.
3. We urge a moratorium on hydro-fracturing for gas and oil in Virginia until the environmental issues, damage to our water supplies, and local economic impacts can be further explored.
4. We further suggest that the churches in the Virginia Conference refrain from leasing their property for oil and gas fracking until safer methods of fracking gas and oil can be found.
5. We encourage dialogue within the church so that we can to educate ourselves about how oil and gas extraction from the earth by hydrofracturing affects God's creation in communities where fracking could occur and in communities downstream from fracking sites.
6. We direct the conference Board of Church and Society to convene meetings on the issues raised by hydrofracturing in areas near the George Washington National Forest, areas between Richmond and Charlottesville, and the Northern Neck where hydrofracturing is proposed.

*– Submitted by Frances Wilkins and Suzanne Shrader, Warsaw UMC,
on behalf of the Board of Church and Society.*

¹ Robert McCarthy, "Fracking in George Washington National Forest could threaten DC area drinking water" Washington Post, Feb. 1, 2014. http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/fracking-in-george-washington-national-forest-could-threaten-dc-area-drinking-water/2014/02/01/834cb8d2-8ad5-11e3-916e-e01534b1e132_story.html

² Renss Greene, "Former Del. Pollard suggests [Northern Neck] localities take a 'conservative' approach to hydrofracturing" Rappahannock Record, Feb. 20, 2014, <http://www.rrecord.com/-news/2014/2-20-14/news1a.asp>

³ Comments from the Delaware River Keepers to the US EPA on the effects of fracking on the Delaware River. Aug. 26, 2015 <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/resources/Comments/Cmnt%20to%20EPA%20HF%208.26.15.pdf>

⁴ "The Fracturing of Pennsylvania," The New York Times Magazine, Nov. 20, 2011, available at: www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/magazine/fracking-amwell-township.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

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

June 16, 17 & 18, 2016
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, presiding
Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.
— *Ministry of the Laity*

The Purpose of Annual Conference

The *2016 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶601, Section IX, THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The *2016 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶131, Section II, THE UNITY OF MINISTRY IN CHRIST. There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God's grace in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.

Dear Lay Member of the Virginia Annual Conference:

Welcome to the 2017 Virginia Annual Conference. In The United Methodist Church we often speak of the church's “connectional system.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your church/district/agency to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your church/district/agency.

AS A LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE YOU SHALL:

Attend 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 *2016 Book of Discipline*

“Connect” with your local church when you return: “...The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.” ¶251.2 *2016 Book of Discipline*

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 2017 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. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point. Stand and raise the assigned color sheet from your *Book of Reports* so that the bishop can recognize you. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Lewis, I am ___ your name ___, a lay member from (*name of your local church and district.*)

State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point! If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. When action is complete, write the motion 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 1,170 churches which are divided into 16 districts across the conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
- 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: Mary Jane Rowley
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Andrew Kissel
- Student Chairperson of Conference Youth Council: Hannah Hale and Blake Mitchell are the 2017-2018 co-chairs. Adult Council Rep. Alison Malloy
- Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries: David Bailey

SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER while at Annual Conference. A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” and “flavors.” We suggest that you:

- Select significant happenings and impressions, and then make notes.
- Observe the diversity and unity of our conference and identify some of the challenges this creates and some of the benefits this brings.
- Consider the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

HOW, WHEN, WHAT will you share of the Annual Conference session?

HOW:

- A panel with members presenting different aspects of conference.
- A dialogue between clergy and lay members.
- Be interviewed by someone in the congregation.
- Write an article(s) for your church newsletter.
- Display pictures, resource material, etc.

WHEN:

- Sunday morning during worship.
- Administrative Board/Church Council meeting.
- United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings.
- Adult church school.
- Conversation with others.
- Special all-church dinner, picnic, etc.

WHAT:

- Write notes in the margins of your *Book of Reports*
- Materials received in your packet, as well as handouts.
- Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials).
- Information obtained from display areas. Be certain to visit the displays and the Cokesbury book store during free time.

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 16, in the Berglund Center for worship, prayer, testimony, and information related to General and Annual conference issues requiring vote.

LAITY LUNCHEON: The Laity Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 17, at 12:00 p.m and is for all laity. Contact your district lay leader for up to date ticket information. ALL luncheon ticket registration will be on line at **www.vaumc.org**. 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, email **wrscharper@gmail.com** or **warrenharper@vaumc.org**; or call (757)784-3631.

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Pub Theology and Live Podcast..... Thurs., June 15, at 7:00 p.m.

For the second straight year, the team from the Crackers and Grape Juice Podcast team will host a pub theology gathering during annual conference. Last year's gathering had over 130 folks. This year's theme will be 'Faith and Political Engagement' with special guest, the profane and profound Dr. Jeffrey Pugh, author of the new book *The Home-Brewed Christianity Guide to the End Times: Theology After You've Been Left Behind*. Live music will be provided by the Clay Mottley Band. Food available on site. If 50 or more people RSVP they'll close the place down for us so sign up now and invite your friends.

When: Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 PM

Where: Bull Island Brewing Company 758 Settlers Landing Rd, Hampton, VA 23669 <http://www.bullislandbrewing.com>

RSVP: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ruc4utcab&oeidk=a07eduuo2nhddcfbe1a>

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Each year local churches are encouraged by the bishop to participate in the Annual Conference Mission Offering. This offering is designated for missional ministries and projects both internationally and locally. The pastor or lay representative of each faith community will bring that offering to Annual Conference where it will be collected during the special mission focused worship service.

Checks may be payable to "Virginia Conference of the UMC" with "Conference Mission Offering" in the memo line.

The recipients of the offering this year are a mixture of long term mission

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

commitments and partnerships with new and emerging opportunities for engaging in God's mission locally.

This year the offering goal set by Bishop Lewis is \$200,000. She has designated the offering to focus on the following missional priority projects:

\$50,000 Cambodia - For continued support for our partnership with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia as they move toward being an autonomous Methodist Church.

\$25,000 Brazil – For our continued long term support of the Shade and Fresh Water ministry with at risk children across several conferences in the Methodist Church of Brazil.

\$25,000 Mozambique – Our partnership with the United Methodist Church of Mozambique focuses on education by providing lay training resources that strengthens their discipleship and witness across both conferences in Mozambique.

\$50,000 Virginia Long Term Disaster Recovery – We are committed to a long term response to those whose lives were changed by tornadoes and hurricane Matthew in 2016. The funding of the recovery will allow further teams to answer the call to make a compassionate response.

\$25,000 Ethnic Minority Missional Ministries – Funds for grants to go toward developing ministry outreach in the conference to immigrants and other marginalized groups.

\$25,000 Virginia Volunteers in Mission – To provide funds available to small membership faith communities who wish to engage in mission that may lack resources

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 Hampton 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 Hampton Roads Convention 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 Hampton Roads Convention Center. (And yes, there will be plenty of opportunities to serve at the collection point.)

For any questions, concerns or issues, contact Jim Earley at revsrus@cox.net

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

UMCOR KITS FOR CONFERENCE

As your church begins preparation for collecting items for kits, there is currently an appeal from UMCOR for Health and Bedding kits. While these are currently in high demand, there are other kits that are being collected including, Birthing, Cleaning, Layette, School, and Sewing. The complete list of items and instructions on packing each kit are included.

The times for collection of the kits are Thursday, June 15, from 5pm-9pm; Friday, June 16, from 8am-5pm.; and Saturday, June 17, from 7:30am-4pm. If anyone has questions about the kits, you can contact the Kit Collection Coordinator, the Rev. David Magruder at Zion UMC in Seaford (York River District) at 757-898-7417.

Bedding Kit

Value: \$50.00

Bedding Kit Materials

2 flat sheets (double-sized, flat only, no fitted)

2 pillows

2 pillowcases

Important 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. Due to the fact that 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 does not require that the source of manufacturing be removed from kit contents. If an item in kit has a stamp that says, "Made in USA" or "Made in China" that stamp does not need to be removed.

Packing & Shipping Instructions

- **Box Weight:** Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.
- **Name of Kit and Number of Kits on each box:** Write on the outside of the box the type of kits and number of kits in the box.
- **Processing & Shipping Costs:** Please send at least \$1 for each kit you prepare to the Virginia Conference Treasurer in Richmond. **DO NOT BRING THE MONEY TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Birthing Kit

Value: \$8.00 per kit

Birthing Kit Materials

- **1 small bar of soap**
 - 1-2 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 mil 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 please
- **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 inches to 32 x 32 inches
 - No thermal or fleece blankets please
- **1 plastic bag**
 - One gallon-size sealable bag 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 as possible and then seal it.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will then be considered used.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KITS CONTAIN ONLY THE REQUESTED ITEMS, nothing more.
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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Cleaning Bucket

Value: \$65.00

Cleaning Bucket Materials

- **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**
 - One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) 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**
- **Clothesline**
 - One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines
 - Cotton or plastic
- **24-roll heavy-duty trash bags**
 - 33 to 45-gallon sizes
 - Remove from the box
- **5 dust masks**
- **2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves**
 - Should be durable enough for multiple uses
 - Remove from packaging
- **1 pair work gloves**
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Important 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 that some items have been omitted.
- UMCOR does not require that the source of manufacturing be removed from contents. If an item in a kit has a stamp that says, “Made in USA” or “Made in China,” that stamp does not need to be removed.

Packing & Shipping Instructions

- **Box Weight:** Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.
- **Name of Kit and Number of Kits on each box:** Write on the outside of the box the type of kits and number of kits in the box.
- **Processing & Shipping Costs:** Please send at least \$1.50 for each kit you prepare to the Virginia Conference Treasurer in Richmond. DO NOT BRING THE MONEY TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
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Health Kit

Value: \$12.00

Health Kit Materials

- **1 hand towel**

15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches

Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable

- **1 washcloth**

- **1 comb**

Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long

No pocket combs or picks please

Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth

- **1 metal nail file or nail clippers**

- No emery boards, please

- **1 bath-size soap**

- 3 oz. and larger sizes only

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- No Ivory or Jergens 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 inch to 1 inch-size
 - Common household Band-Aids
- **1 plastic bag**
 - One-gallon size sealable bag only
 - \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

Assembly Directions

Set the \$1.00 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. 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.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that 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 all money for toothpaste and shipping, then** place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.
- UMCOR does not require that the source of manufacturing be removed from kit contents. If an item in a kit has stamp that says, “Made in USA” or “Made in China,” that stamp does not need to be removed.
-

Packing & Shipping Instructions

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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Processing & Shipping Costs:** Please send at least \$1 for each kit you prepare to the Virginia Conference Treasurer in Richmond. **DO NOT BRING THE MONEY TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

Layette Kit

Value: \$45.00

Layette Kit Materials

- **6 cloth diapers**
 - Prefolded or plain diapers only
 - No disposable diapers
- **2 shirts**
 - Undershirts or onesies
- **2 washcloths**
 - Infant size only
 - No adult washcloths
- **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 28x28 inches to 32x32 inches
 - No crib blankets please

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

Important Notes

- All items must be new
- Do not wash any of the items as they will then be considered used
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that 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 does not require that the source of manufacturing be removed from kit contents. If an item in a kit has a stamp that says, “Made in USA” or “Made in China,” that stamp does not need to be removed.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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Sewing Kit

Value: \$28.00

Sewing Kit Materials

- **3 continuous yards of fabric**
 - Cotton or cotton blend only
 - No heavy duty, corduroy, knit, etc. please
 - No patriotic, religious, holiday, camouflage, or military patterned fabric please
- **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, please
- **5-8 buttons**
 - 5/8-inch size or larger
 - No loose buttons
 - Leave buttons in original packaging or fasten all together
- **1 plastic bag**
 - One-gallon size sealable bags only.

Assembly Directions

Place Sewing Kit in the plastic bag and seal.

Important 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. Due to the fact that 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.
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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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School Kit

Value: \$11.00

School Kit Materials

- **1 pair blunt scissors**
 - Rounded tip only
 - No plastic scissors, please
- **3 pads of paper**
 - Spiral- or top-bound pads
 - 150 sheets or less of loose-leaf paper can be substituted for 1 pad
 - Combination of spiral, top-bound, side-bound, or loose-leaf paper is acceptable
 - No composition books
- **1 hand-held pencil sharpener**
 - Must be at least 1 inch long
 - Remove from packaging
- **1 30-centimeter ruler**
 - Hard or flexible
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable
 - No advertisements please
- **6 unsharpened pencils**
 - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable
- **1 2-inch or larger-size eraser**
 - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable
- **1 24-count box of crayons**
 - Only 24-count boxes, please
- **1 14x16 inch cloth bag**
 - Homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable
 - Heavy-duty fabric only, such as denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc.
 - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please
 - 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.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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POTATO DROP

Society of St. Andrew & Young People’s Ministries - Friday, June 16 at 7 a.m., in the parking lot next to the Embassy Suites, off Coliseum Drive. **This will be our LAST year hosting the Potato Drop at annual conference, so we want it to be a special year!** Come join our youth delegation and many others in this hands-on mission gleaning experience. You’ll have plenty of time to come, participate, and prepare for annual conference opening session! Bring your youth group as well if your church is close enough! We’ll enjoy working together and meeting new friends.

Contact: Sarah Ramey, Society of St. Andrew, 800-333-4597, vaglean@endhunger.org
Becky Tate, Conference Office, 804-521-1139, beckytate@vaumc.org

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2017

- 16-18 Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton
- 17-23 Camp Rainbow Connection, Richard Bland College, Petersburg
- 18 Council on Finance & Administration, 6:30 a.m., Hampton
- 18-23 All God's Children Camp, Camp Chanco on the James, Richmond
- 26-27 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, Peach UMC, Fredericksburg
- 25-30 All God's Children Came, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
- 26 Randolph-Macon Academy Board of Trustees, R-MA Middle School, noon
- 28 Pastors' Moving Day

JULY 2017

- 1 Application available for Provisional, Full and Associate Membership and Professional Certification from Center for Clergy Excellence
- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application Deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 3-4 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- 7-8 Candidacy Summit, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 12-13 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, St. Paul's UMC, Staunton
- 22-28 Camp Rainbow Connection, Richard Bland College, Petersburg
- 25 Clergy Women's Collective, 11 a.m., UM Center
- 27-28 Helping Hands Mission Experience, Woodlake UMC, Midlothian
- 28-29 Mission Encounter, Bon Air UMC, Richmond
- 30-Aug 4 Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 30-Aug 4 All God's Children Camp, Cmp Occohannock onthe Bay, Belle Haven

AUGUST 2017

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
- 18-19 Lay Supply Minister Orientation, Roslyn Retreat Center
- 26 CEMCA, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 1 Provisional, Full, Associate and Certification Application deadline
- 1 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.
- 4 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 7 Board of Communications, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Board of Laity, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Conference Board of Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Randolph-Macon Academy Board of Trustees, Teleconference, noon
- 15-16 UMW Young Women's Retreat, Keezletown
- 15-16 Board of Church and Society, UM Center
- 16 Commission on Disabilities, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 2017

- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application deadline
- 3 Goodson Academy for Preaching, Aldersgate UMC, Charlottesville
- 5 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 5-7 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

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- 6 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees, R-MA Middle School, noon
 - 7 UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
 - 10 Ethics 101: Sexual Ethics Training (for newly appointed clergy & interested church professionals). UM Center, Glen Allen
 - 11 VAPAUMCS “Explore Your Connection” event, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
 - 12 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
 - 17 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
 - 17 Clergy Women’s Collective, UM Center, 11:00 a.m.
 - 18 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
 - 19 5 Talent Academy event, Woodlake UMC and other sites TBA
 - 21 Ethics 101: Sexual Ethics Training (for newly appointed clergy & interested church professionals), UM Center, Glen Allen
 - 27-28 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon College, 9:00 a.m.
 - 28 Folklife Festival, Ferrum College
 - 27 UMW Mission Team Meeting, Trinity UMC, Richmond
 - 27 UMW Executive Meeting, Trinity UMC, Richmond
 - 28 UMW 45th Annual Meeting, Trinity UMC, Richmond
 - 30-Nov 1 Clergy Leadership Institute, UM Center, 9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

- 3 Ferrum Board of Trustees Meeting, Ferrum College
- 4 UMMen Visioning Retreat, UM Center, Glen Allen, 8:30 a.m.
- 10 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 VUMPI, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Equitable Compensation Commission, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 11-13 UMMen SEJ Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 22 UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
- 23-24 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2017

- 1 Full and Associate Membership Paper deadline
- 10 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, Glen Allen, 9:30 a.m.
- 22 UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas observance
- 25-27 UM Center Closed for Christmas observance

JANUARY 2018

- 1 UM Center closed for New Years
- 5-7 UMW Leadership Development Days, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 12 Provisional Membership and Certification Paper deadline
- 12-13 Candidacy Summit, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 13 UMW Mission Team Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 UM Center closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Clergy Women’s Collective, UM Center, Glen Allen, 11:00 a.m.
- 18 CEMCA, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 23 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 24 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 28-31 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2018

- 1 Deadline for Conference Benevolence Grants
- 1 Calling 21 Intern Application Deadline
- 1 UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond, 7:00 a.m.
- 1-2 Board of Church and Society, UM Center
- 1-3 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 15 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Clergy Retirement Request deadline
- 15 Transfer and Minister of Another Denomination Application deadline
- 16-17 Randolph-Macon College Trustees, Randolph-Macon College, 9 a.m.
- 20 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 25-28 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond

MARCH 2018

- 1-4 Nat'l Association of UMMen Conference Presidents, Men's Ministry Specialists and Prayer Advocates Nashville
- 5 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 10 Board of Laity, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 CEMCA, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Common Table for Church Vitality Meeting, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 VUMPI, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 UMW Mission Team Meeting, location TBD
- 23-24 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, location TBD
- 29 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m.
- 30 UM Center closed, Good Friday Observance

APRIL 2018

- 1 Clergy Development Application deadline
- 4 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC, Richmond
- 17 Clergy Women's Collective, UM Center, Glen Allen, 11:00 a.m.

MAY 2018

- 3-5 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College
- 4 Ferrum College Board of Trustees Mtg., Ferrum College
- 5 Ferrum College Commencement
- 4-5 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, Glen Allen, 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Randolph College Commencement
- 18-20 UMW Assembly, Columbus, OH
- 24-June 1 Licensing School, Virginia Wesleyan College
- 25 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m. for Memorial Day Observance
- 28 UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance

JUNE 2018

- 2 Randolph-Macon College commencement, 10:00 a.m.
- 8-10 UMMen Spiritual Weekend, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

date TBD	UMW Day at Ferrum College
16	UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton
16	UMMen Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton
15-17	Annual Conference, Hampton
17	UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton, 6:30 a.m.

JULY 2018

3	UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m. for Independence Day observance
4	UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
28-29	Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, location TBD

AUGUST 2018

1	Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
17-20	SEJ Historical Society Meeting, location TBD
31	UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m., Labor Day Observance

SEPTEMBER 2018

3	UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
13	CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
14-15	UMW Young Women's Retreat, Keezletown
20	Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
25	Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 2018

4-6	Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
6	UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
18	Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
19-20	Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
26	UMW Mission Team & Executive Committees, location TBD
27	UMW 46 th Annual Meeting, location TBD

NOVEMBER 2018

5-16	BCS Sponsored UMVIM Trip to the Holy Land
8	Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
21	UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
22-23	UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2018

21	UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Observance
24-26	UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

BCS	Board of Church and Society
CEMCA	Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
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
VUMPI	Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.

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

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One free copy of the *2017 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 *2017 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 "*2017 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 *2017 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

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The *2017 Journal* will be made available in the following ways:

- Posted on the Virginia Conference website, www.vaumc.org, in pdf format.
- Provided as a printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25. Requests for printed copies must be made by Aug. 1. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.
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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 "*2017 Journal*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

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NOTES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION HOURS

Friday, June 16: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Saturday, June 17: 8:00 a.m. to noon, Laity and Clergy Registration

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 136 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 \$170 per night (\$340 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/AC2017) 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*. Updates to the list will be available on the conference website at www.vaumc.org/AC2017. Other information may be obtained from the banquet host or from the information desk at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

FOOD SERVICE: The Convention Center Food and Beverage Services will provide several concession stands with menu options that will include items healthy items for snack and meal options as well as a variety of beverages.

CHILDCARE: Wesley United Methodist Church (2510 N Armistead Ave) will be hosting paid child care this year. Child care is available for ages 0-11 and will be offered Fri., June 16, 11-5:30pm; Sat. June 17, 8am-5:30pm or optional 9:30pm; and Sun., June 18, 8am-12:30pm. For questions, contact Pastor Gretchen Nelson at GretchenNelson@vaumc.org Registration for childcare is online only, at www.vaumc.org/AC2017. Registration deadline is May 31st.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING SECTIONS: Each section of seating within and outside the bar of the conference will have wheelchair/scooter-accessible spaces with accessible viewing angles. These spaces will not be marked; however, they will be clearly visible at the ends of rows throughout the Convention Center floor space.