

BOOK OF REPORTS

239th Session of the
Virginia Annual Conference



2021 VAUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE | John 17:20-23

UNITED
as ONE

June 18-19, 2021
Richmond, Virginia

IMPORTANT ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Please Read Carefully

As in 2020, our 239th Virginia Annual Conference will once again be held virtually in 2021. While this is necessary to ensure the safety of our member participants and guests in the midst of a global pandemic, your Annual Conference Planning Teams have been working faithfully over many months to offer a meaningful and worshipful time together. It is our sincere prayer that each participant will be touched by the presence of God as we gather as the Body of Christ for the work of Christ's Church.

When to prepare for the Annual Conference session:

Now is the time to begin your preparations for the Annual Conference session. Whether you have attended multiple Conference sessions as a United Methodist or this is your first experience, each Annual Conference is unique. With a virtual Annual Conference, the technology requirements create additional needs, so please prepare early to address any unforeseen circumstances.

How to prepare for the Annual Conference session:

1. Check with your district office to see if/when a District Annual Conference Orientation is being held, and plan to attend.
2. In advance of the online event, be sure you have an individual email address and the appropriate technology and internet access to participate. It is important that each Annual Conference member have his/her own email address, as logging in with this address will be your registration. If you are a lay member, reach out to your pastor if you need assistance. Your district office can also be a resource for clergy and lay members.
3. Check the official Annual Conference 2021 conference webpage often for updated information at: <https://vaumc.org/ac2021/>.
4. Take part in sessions to test your equipment to access the online event and to get familiar with the online platform. "Test Your Tech" web links will be made available on Monday-Wednesday, June 14-16. At your convenience, you can access the site any time between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on these days. A looping tutorial video will also be playing during these three days to help orient you on the platform.

A live practice session, with an opportunity to do test voting, speaking and submitting of motions, will be on Tuesday, June 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The 239th session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Richmond, Virginia

June 18 & 19, 2021

BOOK OF REPORTS

The Rev. Dr. Steven J. Summers, Director of Connectional Ministries

Edited by

*The Office of Connectional Ministries and
Virginia United Methodist Communications*

*On the cover: The 2021 Annual Conference theme is
"United as One".
Logo designed by Cathryn Huff*

Responsibility of the Clergy Members of the Annual Conference

Each clergy member has the responsibility to:

1. Ensure that lay members from your congregation are fully prepared to participate in the annual conference, including having access to the necessary equipment and internet service.
2. Attend the annual conference orientation session whether held in-person or virtually.
3. Attend all the sessions (in-person or virtual) of the annual conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of your district superintendent. Attendance is not optional. “Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.8.)
4. Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure and the conference standing rules as provided in the 2021 *Book of Reports* and discuss with the lay member(s) from your charge.
5. Read pre-conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Prior to annual conference, consult with your lay member(s) so that they might understand the various reports and their implication for the life of the Church. Keep in mind that the lay member(s) as well is/are obligated to express views and vote as each feels is best.
6. Participate fully at the annual conference and help in policy-making decisions.
7. Form your own opinions on issues and vote your convictions.
8. Serve as interpreter of the annual conference actions to your charge along with the lay member. (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 251.2).

Responsibility of the Lay Members of the Annual Conference

It is an honor to be elected as a lay member to the Virginia Conference, one that comes with much responsibility. By virtue of this office, you are also a member of your church’s council (¶ 252.5.g), finance committee (¶ 258.4), and the pastor-parish relations committee (¶ 258.2.a) (2016 *Book of Discipline*).

Each member has the responsibility to:

1. Attend the annual conference orientation session whether held in-person or virtually.
2. Attend all the sessions (in-person or virtual) of the annual conference.
3. Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2021 *Book of Reports*.
4. Read pre-conference reports in the *Book of Reports* available to download and print from the conference website and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Consult with the pastor and church lay leader. Dialogue with others ahead of time if there are issues for which you need additional information or insight.
5. Participate fully in the work of the annual conference policy-making decisions.
6. Form your own opinions on issues and vote your convictions.
7. Report back to your charge. This report may be presented through virtual opportunities available at each local church, newsletters, or other means. This report should be done “not later than three months after the close of the conference” (¶ 251.2, 2016 *Book of Discipline*). Consult with your pastor before conference about scheduling and expectations for reporting. *The Book of Reports*, the Virginia Conference web page (www.vaumc.org) and personal notes on the sessions can be used as a basis for the report. Be certain to mention major issues raised and any action that might affect the local church.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Virginia Annual Conference,

Given the continued challenges of meeting in-person and keeping both our clergy and lay members safe in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Conference planning team and I decided to host our 239th Annual Conference Session virtually from Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA.

To our, clergy and lay members, I want to thank you for your patience in attending this virtual session. I want to acknowledge DS Seonyoung Kim and the York River District Host Committee that would be hosting us if the annual conference were in person.

Our conference theme this year is “United as One,” guided by the biblical passage of John 17:20-23. *“I’m not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.”* (NRSV)

We have a wonderful opportunity to live out our vision, *to be disciples who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve*, in faithful and active service to our communities by participating in conference-wide mission event on Saturday afternoon, June 19, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. I am encouraging each clergy and lay member to participate in their district. We will be practicing social distancing and mask-wearing to be compliant to the Virginia Annual Conference Technical Assistance Manuel (TAM).

I am pleased to announce those who have graciously accepted our invitation to participate in the annual conference session. Our conference preachers will be Bishop David Graves, Resident Bishop of The Alabama West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) for the Service of the Ordering of Ministry. We will also hear from the Rev. Lydia Rodriguez, pastor of Wesley UMC, for the Memorial Service and the Rev. June Carpenter, pastor of Fieldale-Mount Bethel UMC Cooperative Parish, will speak on behalf of the retiring class. In addition, Rev. Dr. John Kinney, former Dean of The Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and Senior Vice-President of Virginia Union University, will teach two Bible study sessions. Our worship leader this year will be Mr. Gerald Ricks who will work alongside the conference Worship Planning Committee.

This year our conference offering will continue to support Partnerships of Hope and the Virginia Area Food Pantries within the Virginia Annual Conference.

Please continue to keep the annual conference gathering in your prayers. My prayer is that June 2022 we will be back in Hampton, Va., at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to answer God’s call!

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharma D. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Resident Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference



Bishop David Graves (*preaching for the Friday evening Service of Ordering of Ministry*)

Bishop David Graves's passion is sharing Jesus, seeing the overlooked, joining God in transforming lives, and changing the world one person at a time. His study of leadership permeates all his work as a pastor, district superintendent and bishop. As a pastor, Bishop Graves led a small-membership church to become a medium-sized congregation and later a medium-sized church to become a large-membership congregation. He has a heart and hands for missions and has led several short-term (local, national, and international) mission teams. The Acts 1:8 model for missions came alive in the churches he has served. These churches raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for mission work, plus trained laity in hands-on ministry.

As a district superintendent, Bishop Graves implemented a district strategy that empowered both clergy and laity with leadership tools for effective and vital ministry. This strategy revitalized several churches that experienced growth in worship attendance and membership; Sunday School and small group discipleship; missional giving and professions of faith. On Christmas Eve 2014, through a district offering, the Kingsport District generously gave more \$230,000 for the District Partnership with Giru, South Sudan.

Bishop Graves previously served as the Senior Pastor of Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to Church Street, he served six years as the district superintendent for the Kingsport District of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 2011 and 2012, he served as Dean of the Cabinet. He has been an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church for over 27 years and previously served as Senior Pastor of Ooltewah United Methodist Church, a large-membership church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for 11 years. Prior, he served as pastor of two Kingsport area churches, St.

Matthew and Mountain View United Methodist. He was on staff and was given his first appointment at Hixson United Methodist Church in the Chattanooga area where he served for 11 years.

Bishop Graves is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, with a Master of Divinity.

He has shared 40 years of marriage with his wife, Nancy, and they have two children, Casey and Gregg. Casey is married to her husband Bryan, and they reside in Kingsport with their son Brooks and daughter Lucy. Gregg is married to his wife Tracy, and the proud stepfather to Tracy's daughter Hannah.



The Rev. Lydia E. Rodríguez (*preaching for the Service of Remembrance*) is more than blessed to be the Senior Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia since 2014, "A church who honors God with worship and service in the community and beyond". Lydia was born in New York and was raised in the beautiful Island of Puerto Rico. Lydia received her call to pastoral ministry in 1987-1988 while serving as a full time missionary in Central and South America. She received her Master in Divinity, (Magna Cum Laude), from the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico. During her almost 27 years of ministry, Lydia has been blessed to serve as a Pastor in 4 local churches. Lydia served also as the Director of Theological Studies for Laity in Puerto Rico, as a Regional Superintendent of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and as the Assistant to Bishop Juan A. Vera Méndez of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. In the year 2019, Lydia received "The God and Service

Award" by the Boy Scouts of America, for her outstanding service to youth and to the community. Lydia is happily married to Angel Martinez-Ortiz, a Licensed Local Pastor of the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference.



Dr. John Kinney (*Bible Study leader on Friday and Saturday mornings*)

Dr. John Kinney has devoted himself to the pursuit of excellence in theological training and ministerial preparation which includes 27 years of service to Virginia Union University as Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and Senior Vice President of the university.

He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marshall University (Huntington, West Virginia) and Virginia Union University (Richmond, Virginia) respectively and was awarded the Ph.D. from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary (New York).

Dr. Kinney has lectured extensively across the breadth of this nation and in Africa. He has been a featured lecturer at numerous universities and colleges, including Yale University, Duke University, Michigan State University, Howard University, Southern Methodist University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Richmond. He has also presented at numerous theological schools, including Iliff School of Theology and Union Theological Seminary among many others. He is recognized for his theological constructions addressing the designed harmony in creation and the subsequent fragmentation and separation with particular attention to racism, sexism, and materialism. His thoughts are included in several publications and crystallized in an article entitled *The Theology of Fallenness: The Roots of Racism*.

His service to academia is complimented by his service to the parish. Dr. Kinney has served as the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam, Virginia, for more than 40 years.

Dr. Kinney and his wife, Dr. Quentina, are the proud parents of seven children (Earl, Erika, Erron, Nathan, Press, Dani and Ricky), in addition to twenty grandchildren and several godchildren.



The Rev. June Carpenter (*preaching for the Retirement Worship Service*) is a life-long Methodist who grew up in Altavista, VA. She received the call to ministry in 2002 after a long career as a Registered Pharmacist. She graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2011. She was ordained an Elder in 2016 and has served multiple small churches. She serves as Chair of the Virginia Conference Small Church Leadership Team, Recording Secretary for the Council of Finance and Administration, and is a member of the District Alignment Team.

AGENDA

239th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference

June 18-19, 2021

Hosted Virtually from Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA

and Digitally Streamed Globally

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, Presiding

“United as One”

“I’m not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.” – JOHN 17:20-23 NRSV

Clergy Session, Thursday, June 10th, Call to Order at 10:00 a.m.

Retirement Worship Service, Premiere Stream at 6:30 p.m. Thursday June 17

Laity Celebration Worship, Premiere Stream at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 20

Service of Remembrance, Premiere Stream at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 20

Service of Licensing and Deaconess Commissioning, Premiere Stream at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 21

Friday Morning, June 18

8:00 a.m.	Singing Our Faith	Mr. Gerald Ricks
8:15 a.m.	<i>United in Learning</i> — Bible Study.....	Rev. Dr. John Kinney
9:00 a.m.	Opening Music.....	Mr. Gerald Ricks
	Instructional Pre-recorded Video	Rev. Brian Siegle
9:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Centering Moment	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Hymn: <i>“And Are We Yet Alive”</i>	
	Opening Prayer	The Rev. Raymond Wrenn, Ms. Rachel Zahradka
	Welcome and Organizing Motions	Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee, Richmond District Superintendent
	Special Music	Mr. Gerald Ricks
	Election of The Annual Conference Secretary	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Election of	Rev. Joshua King
	Assistant Secretaries	
	Editor of the Journal	
	Director of Connectional Ministries	
	Approval of the Consent Agenda.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

AGENDA

(Agenda continued from previous page.)

- 10:00 a.m. Rules Committee Mr. Scott Diamond
Revision of Common Table Charter Rev. Dr. Steven Summers
Site Selection Report Mr. Neal Wise
COSROW Monitor. Rev. Mary Dadisman
Minutes Report Rev. Alan Layman
- 10:30 a.m. Report of the Cabinet & Minute Questions Rev. Jeff Mickle
Recognition of New Faith Communities..... Mr. Dwayne Stinson

Glory Sighting

- 11:00 a.m. Conference Lay Leader Remarks Ms. Martha Stokes
Equitable Compensation Commission..... Rev. Joe Carson III
Common Table for Church Vitality Rev. Dr. Steven Summers
Election of Boards and Agencies..... Rev. Dr. Steven Summers
2021 Leaders' Consecration..... Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Report of the Statistician Mr. David Dommissie

- 12:15 p.m. Special Music Mr. Gerald Ricks
United in Influencing — Awards and Recognitions

Glory Sighting

- Special Music Mr. Gerald Ricks

RECESS FOR LUNCH

*Virtual Displays open during lunch break**

Friday Afternoon, June 18

- 1:30 p.m. Pensions/ VUMPI Ms. Stacey Anthony
Report of the Treasurer Mr. David Dommissie
District Alignment Team/iDAT Report. iDAT Team
Report of Council on Finance and Administration (CFA)..... Mr. William H. Talley IV
Special Music Mr. Gerald Ricks
Motions. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
- 3:00 p.m. Prayer of Praise..... Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

*Virtual Displays open during break**

AGENDA

Friday Evening, June 18

- 6:45 p.m. Welcome and Centering.....Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
7:00 p.m. Service of Ordering of Ministry Bishop David Graves

Saturday Morning, June 19

- 8:45 a.m. Singing Our Faith Mr. Gerald Ricks
9:00 a.m. *United in Serving* – Bible Study Rev. Dr. John Kinney
Minutes Committee Report..... Rev. Alan Layman
Monitoring ReportRev. Mary Dadisman
10:00 a.m. Worship.....Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
11:00 a.m. United in Mission and Ministry
Conference Offering. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Designated for Partnerships of Hope and Virginia Area Food Pantries
Fixing of AppointmentsBishop Sharma D. Lewis
Digital Distribution of the Appointments
12:00 p. m. Adjournment and Benediction.....Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

*Virtual Displays open from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

Saturday Afternoon, June 19

- 2:00-4:00 p.m. *United in Learning, Influencing, and Serving* — The Ministry of Christ Conference-wide

** Please take advantage of this year’s virtual displays. Boards, agencies, and ministry organizations will provide opportunities for members of the annual conference to learn more about their ministries. Individual displays may provide video, links to resources, and opportunities to chat live with representatives of the ministries, much like an in-person annual conference. The virtual display hall will be open during lunch and dinner breaks, and is accessible through the annual conference meeting’s digital platform.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

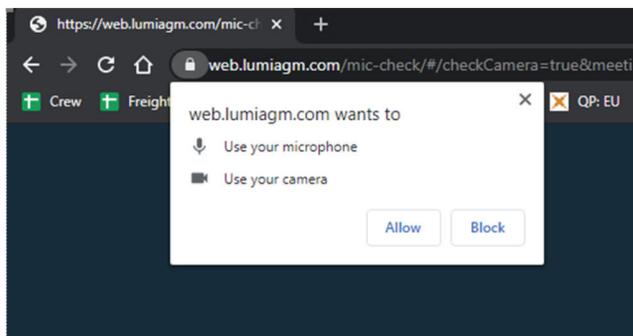
This cheat sheet is provided to assist voting members with navigating the virtual platform. Information such as understanding how to log into the platform, how to join the speaking queue and what to do if you are having technical problems is included. We advise reading this cheat sheet prior to attendance at the virtual meeting. Keep it available during the virtual meeting for reference as well.

Virtual Meeting Requirements

- ❖ You must join the virtual meeting on a **laptop** or **desktop** computer. Mobile devices and tablets are not supported at this time.
- ❖ It is recommended to use **Chrome**. New Edge (Chromium) and Firefox are also supported browsers. **Do not use** ‘Legacy’ Edge, Internet Explorer or Safari.

Virtual Meeting Link & Permissions

- ❖ Click on this link to access the virtual meeting: <https://web.lumiagm.com/mic-check/#!/meetingId=252262643>
- ❖ After clicking on the link, you will be taken to a plain black screen with a pop-up window asking if you would like to allow Lumi to access your microphone. Click **ALLOW**. This will allow you to turn on your microphone to speak during the virtual meeting.
- ❖ If you are using Chrome or Edge, your browser will remember this setting.
- ❖ If you are using Firefox, please also click “Remember” button for future use.
- ❖ After clicking “Allow”, you will then be directed to the Lumi log in screen automatically.

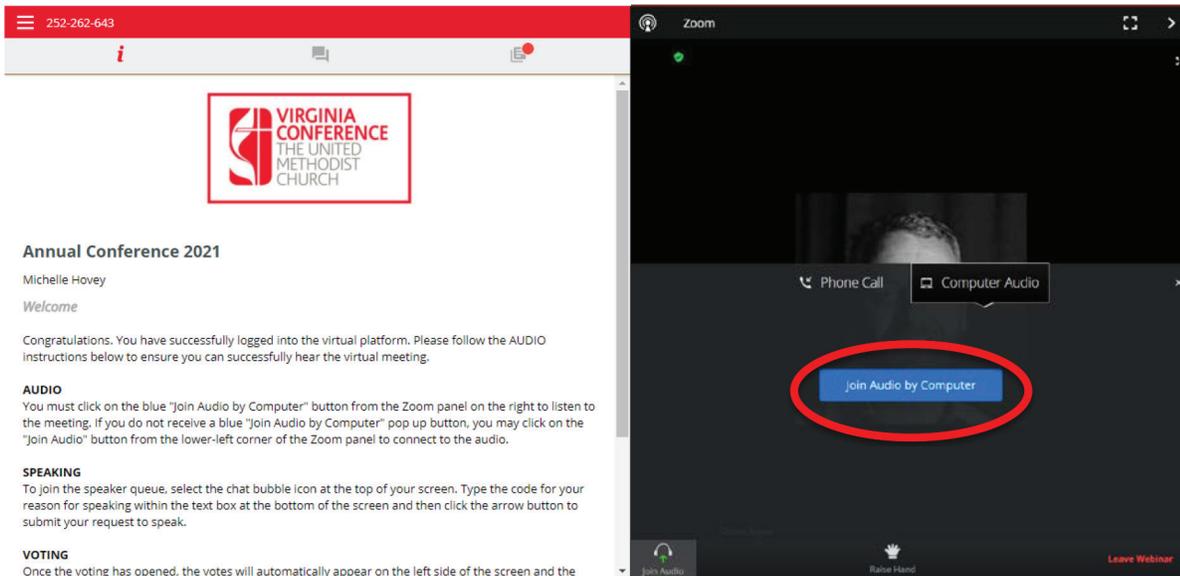


How To Login to the Virtual Meeting

- ❖ Voting members will click on the “I am a voting member” button and log in with:
 - Username = unique 6-digit ID provided to you via email
 - Password = **2021**

After Logging in

- ❖ After logging into the virtual platform, you must connect your **Computer Audio** to the Zoom Webinar that is inside the Lumi Platform. To do this:
 - Click on the blue “Join Audio by Computer” button that pops up on the right Zoom panel of the virtual platform
 - You can now hear the meeting proceedings.
 - If your internet connection is not stable, or your computer does not have speakers, you can click on the “Phone Call” option instead of clicking on the “Join audio by computer” button to see a list of phone numbers. You may dial into the Zoom meeting and listen to the meeting on your telephone instead of the computer, if needed.

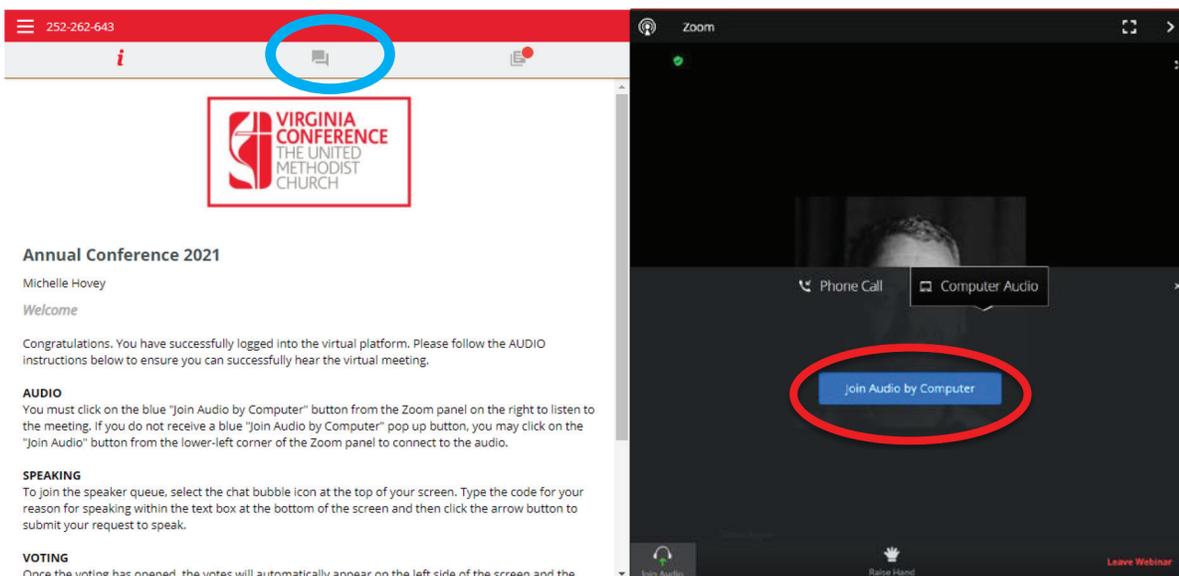


- ❖ Once you have logged in and connected your audio, you will see the Info Page on the left side of your screen and the Zoom panel on the right side of your screen. This is what you will use each side for:

Info Page / Speaker Queue (left)	Zoom Panel (right)
Use for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing information • Accessing documents • Entering the speaking queue • Voting on business and elections 	Use for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing/listening to meeting proceedings • Raising your hand to speak after being called on by the bishop • Enabling audio to participate in the discussion after being called on by the bishop

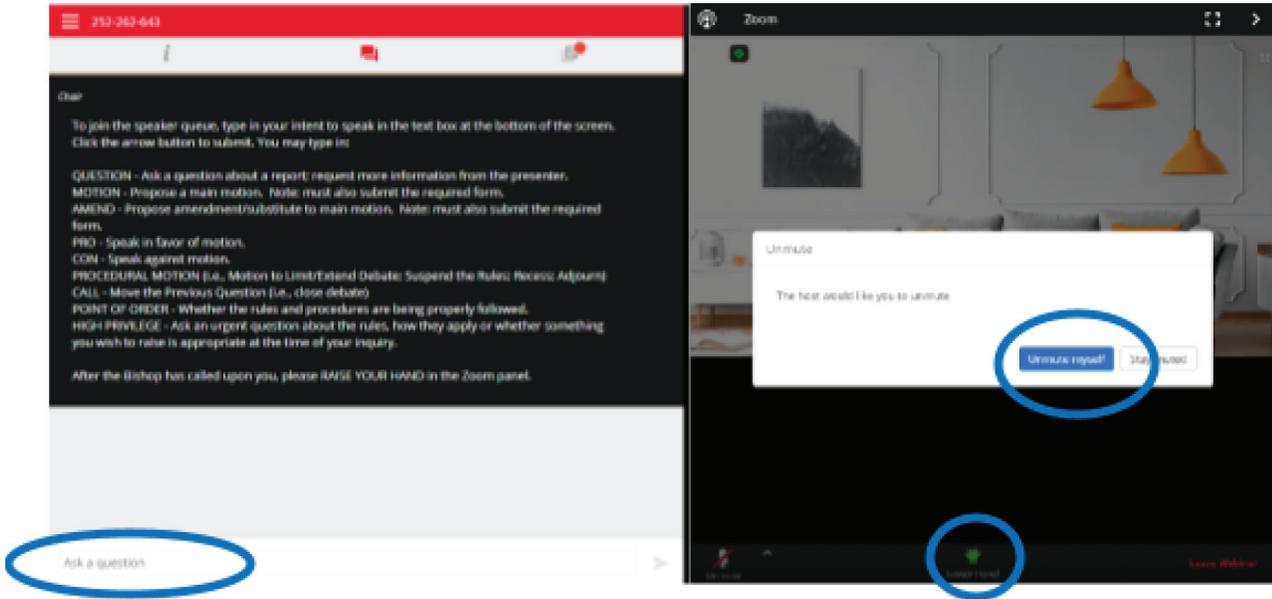
Speaking during the virtual meeting

- ❖ Speaking from the floor is a 3-step process. Click on the double speech bubble icon from the top menu bar to go to the Speaker Queue Page.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING MEMBERS

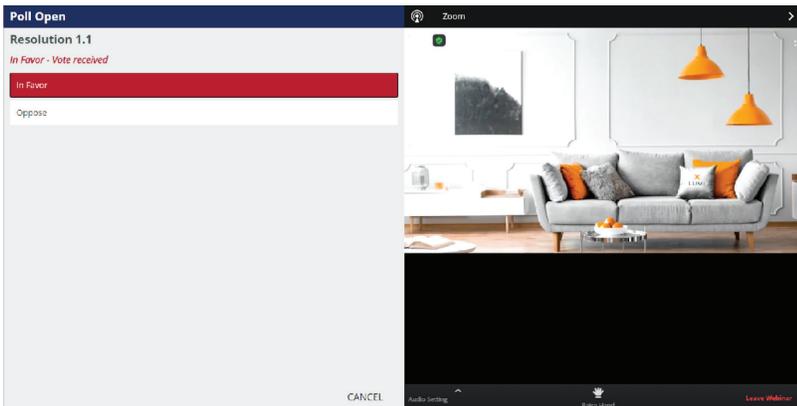
- ❖ Step 1: Type your intention to speak into the text box at the bottom of the page. (View the quick term guides in the center of the screen for what text you should type in.) You have now joined the speaker queue. Please wait to be called upon. **You may receive a phone call from The Rules Committee to determine how to proceed.*
- ❖ Step 2: When called upon to speak, Raise your Hand in Zoom by clicking on the Raise Hand button from the bottom of the Zoom panel.
- ❖ Step 3: When you receive the pop up window, click the blue “Unmute myself” button from the Zoom panel. You may now state your name, district and church and begin speaking.



When finished, the production team will mute your microphone and lower your hand.

Voting during the virtual meeting

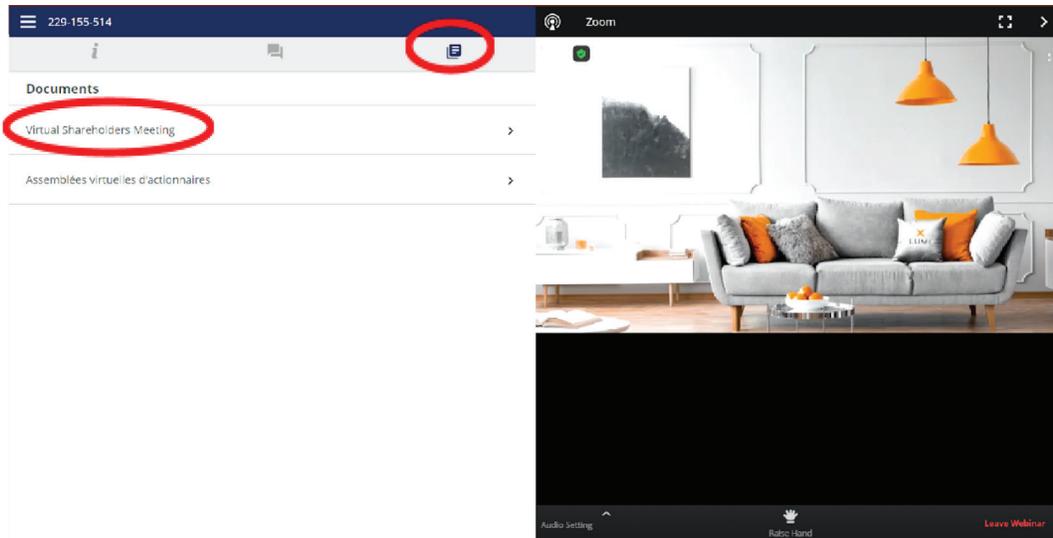
- ❖ When a motion / resolution is put before the meeting, the voting will automatically pop up within the virtual platform on the left. Simply click on your selection to cast your vote.
- ❖ To change your vote, simply click on another selection. You may change your vote at any time while the voting period is open.



- ❖ Once the voting period has closed, your last vote will be submitted.

Accessing documents during the virtual meeting

- ❖ Click on the documents icon in the upper menu bar.
- ❖ Click on the title of the document that you would like to view to open the document.



Best Practice Tips

The following are tips to prepare for the best virtual meeting experience:

- ❖ You must join the meeting on a desktop or laptop computer, do not join on a mobile device.
- ❖ We do recommend to use Chrome web browser for the best experience. Microsoft Edge is also a supported browser. Do not use Internet Explorer or Safari.
- ❖ If possible, connect to the Internet via an Ethernet cable. If using WiFi, ensure that you are close to your wireless router and that your connection is stable.
- ❖ Headsets are helpful for hearing audio more clearly.

Getting Connected

The following are tips for getting connected to the virtual meeting:

- ❖ Check your internet connectivity
- ❖ Check your headset for speaker and microphone
- ❖ Log into the Lumi platform 15 minutes before the meeting start time
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with Zoom:
 - Join Audio: if you do not receive a blue pop up message that says “Join Computer Audio” you can click on the “Join Audio” button in the lower left hand corner of the Zoom window to connect to Computer Audio. (You must connect your computer audio to hear the meeting proceedings.)
 - Raise your hand button is located in the bottom center of the Zoom panel

Test Your Tech Practice Sessions

- ❖ There will be a designated time for all Annual Conference members to practice logging into the virtual platform before the virtual meeting. We encourage all members to try logging into the virtual platform at some point during the below times to ensure that you are prepared for the virtual meeting.
- ❖ Log into the platform during one of the Test Your Tech times to test your log in credentials and speakers:

- Monday, June 14 between 8:00am – 8:00pm ET
 - Tuesday, June 15 between 8:00am – 8:00pm ET
 - Wednesday, June 16 between 8:00am – 8:00pm ET
- ❖ Log into the platform during the LIVE Test Your Tech time for hands-on practice of the voting module and speaking from the floor:
- Tuesday, June 15 between 6:00pm – 7:00pm ET

Troubleshooting

- ❖ Should you hit the Zoom ‘Full Screen’ button and the Zoom window has taken up your full screen, be sure to hit ‘Escape’ on your keyboard to take you back to the side by side view to access voting and the speaking queue.
- ❖ Members with technical issues may contact helpac2021@vaumc.org for assistance. Please note that unless there is a widespread outage in one area, proceedings will continue.

Multiple individuals attending virtual meeting together:

If there are multiple individuals who will be watching the meeting together, it is recommended that one person log into the Lumi platform via a laptop. This person will connect the Computer Audio to the Zoom meeting for both parties to hear and see the meeting on the laptop. This person will cast their votes on the laptop. Other attendees would simply log into the Lumi platform on a mobile device or tablet for voting only.

FAQs

- ❖ **What is my username / password to log into the Lumi platform?**
Your username will be the unique 6 digit User ID emailed to you. Your password will be **2021** for all voting members. Contact helpac2021@vaumc.org for assistance with obtaining your username.
- ❖ **Does the platform allow for voting members to group chat with each other and other voting members during the virtual meeting?**
Voting members are responsible for determining a preferred method of communications outside of the provided Lumi platform. Some options include use of free group chat platforms like Slack, group text or email chains, conference lines, or apps like GroupMe.
- ❖ **How do I vote?**
When a motion / resolution is put before the meeting, the voting will automatically pop up within the virtual platform on the left side. Simply click on your selection to cast your vote. To change your vote, simply click on another selection. You may change your vote at any time while the voting period is open. Once the voting period has closed, your last vote will be submitted.
- ❖ **How do I speak?**
First, click on the chat bubble icon from the top menu bar on the left. Then, type in the text box at the bottom of the screen what you would like to speak on and click the arrow button to send your intent. Wait for the Bishop to call your name, then Raise your Hand in Zoom. Then unmute yourself when prompted by the host.
- ❖ **Which browsers are supported?**
It is recommended to use the latest versions of Chrome or Edge. Do not use Internet Explorer or Safari.
- ❖ **Can I use a mobile device or tablet?**
No, you cannot use a mobile device or tablet to listen to the audio of the Zoom panel. Please join the virtual meeting on a laptop or desktop computer to listen and watch the virtual meeting.
Yes, you can use a mobile device or tablet for voting purposes only. You will not be able to listen to the meeting on a mobile device or tablet, but you will be able to vote on a mobile device if you are watching the Zoom meeting on someone else’s laptop.

STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at its 2020 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.

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

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. 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 in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the Conference.

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. (¶ 32, 2016 *Book of Discipline*)
 - 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;

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- f. the conference lay leader;
- g. district lay leaders;
- h. the president of the conference young adult organization;
- i. a member of the conference youth organization;
- j. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
- k. the conference secretary of global ministries;
- l. the conference director of lay servant ministries;
- m. one young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected as set forth in *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶602.4.
- n. one additional young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one additional young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries or equivalent body;
- 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;

And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the annual conference (¶ 32, *2016 Book of Discipline*) the following, if lay persons:

- 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; Missional Ministries Board; 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.; and Virginia Conference Board of Communications and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.
- v. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding annual conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the Bishop by September 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.
- w. Conference scouting coordinator;
- x. All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the *2016 Book of Discipline* in ¶602.4.

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- 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 18;
 - ii. two young persons between the ages of 18 and 30;
 - 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 conference scouting coordinator
 - c. By annual conference boards or agencies:
 - i. the Conference Lay Leader
 - ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
 - iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;
 - iv. the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
 - v. the president or chairperson, of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship, Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; United Methodist Foundation; Missional Ministries Board; 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.; and Virginia Conference Board of Communications.
- 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 have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶316.6).
 - e. Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote for the election of delegates (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶320.5).
7. **Roll of Conference.** The roll of the conference shall be the official registration signed by the members of the conference.
8. **Privilege of Floor Without Vote.** The following shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: official representatives from other denominations, especially from member churches of Churches Uniting In Christ, invited by the annual conference; missionaries regularly assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries and serving within the bounds of the annual conference; lay missionaries regularly appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries in nations other than the United States and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States serving within the bounds of the annual conference (quoting *2016 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.

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

- 1. The Conference Nominations Team:** There shall be a Conference Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations 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 Nominations Team.
- 3. Information to Be Furnished to Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** Each board, council, commission and committee of the annual conference shall furnish to the co-chairs of the Conference Nominations Team on a timely basis for the use of the District Nominations Facilitation Committees:
 - a. A summary of its responsibilities and the specific division/committee for which a vacancy exists;
 - b. A list of the gifts and talents desired;
 - c. Length of service expected;
 - d. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g., number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.); and
 - e. Schedule of times and locations of its meetings during the year.

It may also suggest names and profiles to the Conference Nominations Team through its co-chairs.

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

ineligible to serve again for a quadrennium. It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of two persons, one clergy and one lay, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in the annual conference session, the chief teller shall have the tellers ready to count the vote, having previously trained them to accurately and efficiently perform their duties.

II. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, PROPOSALS AND CONSENT AGENDA

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 Connec-tional Ministries shall make available the *Book of Reports* to each clergy and lay member of annual conference at least 30 days before the opening session of annual conference.
2. **Reporting At Annual Conference.** For reports printed in the *Book of Reports*, verbal introductions shall not exceed five minutes, 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. The presiding Bishop shall amend the Annual Conference schedule as needed.
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. PRESENTATIONS

Requests for inclusion of presentations for the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connec-tional 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 proposal.

C. PETITIONS

An area designated by the annual conference planning committee shall be determined for receiving signatures for petitions.

D. PROPOSALS

1. **Proposals Requiring Publication of Materials.** Proposed annual conference action that includes publication or dissemination of information shall be referred to the Print Media Committee of Virginia Conference Board of Communications 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 Virginia Conference Director of Communications, or other representatives to make its report and recommendation.
2. **Proposals Requiring Funding.** 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), must be submitted by the conclusion of the afternoon session preceding the concluding day of annual conference. Such proposals of amendments which may require expenditure of funds shall be referred to CFA for its consideration and recommendation prior to final annual conference action.
3. **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.

4. **Proposals from the Floor.** A motion is a formal proposal. Anytime the Annual Conference is in session and there is no business on the floor of the Annual Conference, a proposal from the floor may be made. This proposal will need to be placed in writing and in conjunction with the rules as stated in VII.J.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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 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 or proposals pending before the Conference. This shall include the right to bring petitions or amendments 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 and those who are recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry to full membership in the connection are eligible to be nominated (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶35), except as provided in 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶354.8.

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 have completed the educational requirements and have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years (2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶316.6)
- ii. Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶320.5).

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 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 from the floor of the Annual Conference, address, phone number, e-mail 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 Nominations from the Floor.** After the convening of the Annual Conference session, prior to entering block voting, the presiding Bishop will ask for any nominations from the floor. Any nominations made from the floor must be made by eligible clergy (III.C.1.b.i) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.
- 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 nominations made from the floor of the Annual Conference.

D. LAY NOMINATIONS

- 1. Lay Nominations from Districts.** Nominations for lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be made by the lay members of the district conference of each district from names submitted by the District Council on Ministries and/or from names of all persons given by any member of The United Methodist Churches of the district to the District Superintendent. These names shall be submitted by the superintendent to the District Conference. Additional nominations at the district conference 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; Missional Ministries Board; 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 Conference Board of Communications; 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 from, the floor of the Annual Conference), address, phone number, e-mail 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 Nominations from the Floor.** After the convening of the Annual Conference session, prior to entering block

voting, the presiding Bishop will ask for any nominations from the floor. Any nominations made from the floor must be made by lay members of the Annual Conference (I.B.3) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.

6. Conference committee on lay delegate nominations.

- a. **Membership.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the Bishop plus one member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee.
- b. **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.2. 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 made from the floor of the Annual Conference.
- c. **List of Nominees.** The lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms and nominated from the floor.

E. 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 and/or alternates 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 invalid ballots; (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. **Conditions for a Revote.** After the ballots have been counted and reported, if the number of collective invalid ballots exceeds 15%, the Bishop shall declare the prior ballot invalid and shall order a revote.
7. **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.
8. **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.

- 9. 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.

F. TELLERS

- 1. Appointment of Chief Tellers, Assistant Chief Tellers and Tellers.** The Conference Nominations 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 Nominations 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.

G. 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.

H. 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.

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 Missional Ministries Board, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, and the Board of Laity. Each board and agency shall meet at least annually.

STANDING RULES

1. **Membership.** All program board and agency members shall be elected for a four-year term by the annual conference. So far as possible, board membership shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and laity. No elected member may serve more than eight consecutive years except as authorized by the *Discipline* or in ¶ I.E.8 of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies. The bishop shall annually appoint for one year terms at least one District Superintendent to each board, agency or commission. Except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, the presiding bishop and the Director of Connectional Ministries are members of all boards, agencies and commissions with vote unless otherwise provided for by the *Book of Discipline*.
2. **Organization.** The boards shall organize in the several divisions or equivalent structure listed below to carry out their respective functions. Each member of a board shall serve on one division or equivalent structure. There shall be an executive committee of each board whose duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the board. A board may develop such additional structure, including the election of division members-at-large, as it deems necessary to discharge its assigned responsibilities, provided, however, that where additional funding is required for such structure, prior approval of the Common Table for Church Vitality shall be obtained by the board. Division members-at-large are not members of the board.
3. **Function.** The conference boards will provide consultative services and resources to the local church, the District Councils on Ministries, the annual conference and the Common Table for Church Vitality. Each board will make program recommendations to the Common Table for Church Vitality, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Common Table for Church Vitality, or by the *Book of Discipline*, and will be related to the objectives and scope of work set forth by its General Board. Each board is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.
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 Nominations 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 eight (8) members: three officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) to be elected by the Annual Conference, the chair of the Disciple Resource Team, 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 Network Teams. The Regional Net-

work Leads will be ex-officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote.

The Disciple Resource Team will consist of eight (8) members, Four classes of two, one laity and one clergy per class. Members of the Disciple Resource Team will be nominated from the Conference Nominations Team and elected by the Annual Conference.

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 2016 *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 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

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

- e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries.** The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶ 1405 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set forth in ¶ 634 of the 2016 *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.E.8 of the Conference Rules and Policies. Nominations and election of the chairperson shall follow section I.E.11 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 fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and carry out the vision of the Annual Conference. Membership of the Board of Laity shall be composed of the conference lay leader, four 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, district lay leaders, one Connectional Ministries staff representative, one District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, and the Bishop. No more than three clergy who model excellence in the lay-clergy partnership for ministry will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Conference Director of Scouting Ministries is to be appointed by the President and approved by the Board with voice representation. The Board of Laity shall nominate to the annual conference for election a layperson to be the conference lay leader for the ensuing four (4) 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.** 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 2016 *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. **Bishops' Foundation.** There shall be a Bishops' Foundation whose purpose is to provide funding 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.
3. **Communications, Conference Board of** There shall be a Conference Board of Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the annual conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated.
 - a. **Function** The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications is to assist faith communities in communi-

cations and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- b. Membership** Virginia Conference Board of Communications shall consist of 24 persons, 14 of whom (half lay and half clergy) shall be elected by the annual conference. The 14 members thus elected and ex-officio members shall elect 10 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 Communications for the Virginia Conference, the Conference Manager of Technology, and any member of United Methodist Communications, the United Methodist Publishing House, 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 board, the conference Director of Communications and one additional member of the board. The non-officer member of the Executive Committee shall be elected quadrennially by the Board of Directors and shall hold office until the successor is elected and qualified. 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 board 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 board. 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..
 - iii. *Finance.* 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.
 - iv. *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.
4. **Conference Nominations Team (CLDDT).** (See ¶ I.D.1. for composition and function of the Conference Nominations Team.)
 5. **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.
 6. **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 *2016 Book of Discipline*.
 7. **Equitable Compensation, Commission on.** The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergy persons including at least one lay and one clergy from churches of fewer than 200 members who are nominated by the Conference Nominations 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 *2016 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 Missional Ministries Board, as

appropriate in each case, to meet these requests.

8. **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 Nominations 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.
9. **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 2016 *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 Nominations Team.
10. **Foundation, United Methodist.** There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶2513 and pursuant to the Foundation charter the directors elected by Annual Conference shall be no less than fourteen (14) or no less than 60% of the total Foundation Directors. As the total number of Foundation directors can fluctuate from year to year, the Foundation will confirm annually with the Director of Connectional ministries on the number necessary to meet the Annual Conference 60% requirement.
11. **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 2016 *Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 652).
12. **Investigation, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 2703.2).
13. **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*.
14. **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 (2016 *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.
15. **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 serving eight-year terms, and arranged into classes at the agency's discretion. 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 Wespath shall also be a member of the agency (2016 *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 2016 *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

- 16. 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.
- 17. Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional System.** There shall be a Chapter of the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional System (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.
- 18. Rules Committee.** There shall be a Rules Committee consisting of nine members elected by the annual conference on nomination of the Conference Nominations 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. All members of the Rules Committee are encouraged to take a basic parliamentary procedure course within 6 months of their election. However, those who wish to be parliamentarians of the Annual Conference must take a more advanced course at the approval of the Rules Committee Chair. The cost of these courses will be reimbursed upon the passing of the class.
- 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 Nominations 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 three 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 2016 *Book of Discipline* (¶¶ 2512-2517).

C. TASK FORCES

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

D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

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

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶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 (¶660.2) 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 (¶669.1,2), the district trustees (¶2518.2) and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The district committee on ordained ministry (¶666.1) and the district board of church location and building (¶2519) 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*, 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*, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, a representative of the district youth council*, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults*, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, and family ministries, other district coordinators and directors, five youth members elected

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

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 2016 *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.

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

STANDING RULES

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. If an approved motion is requested to be sent to entities, the maker of the motion shall provide names and addresses to the Secretary of the Virginia Annual Conference.

K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

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

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

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

NAME BADGE COLORS

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)

STANDING RULES

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

OF Full member of another denomination (§346.2)

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

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

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

WHITE (voice but no vote)

AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (§334.5)

RL Retired Local Pastor (§320.5)

OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

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

RED (no voice or vote)

SY Lay Supply

LM Certified Lay Minister

HL Honorable Location (§359)

RHL Retired – Honorable Location (§359.3)

MOD Minister of Another Denomination Serving an Ecumenical Parish in VA

G Official Guest

ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

BROWN (not official)

All others

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective January 1, 2006

I. PURPOSE

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

A. MISSION

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

B. VALUES

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

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

II. MEMBERSHIP

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

A. VOTING MEMBERS

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader
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
2. 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 Nominations 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*.

VI. OFFICERS

The Bishop, Conference Lay Leader and Director of Connectional Ministries will lead the Common Table in interpreting the Conference vision. The Director of Connectional Ministries is the Chairperson. The Conference Lay Leader is the Vice Chairperson. The Secretary of the Annual Conference is the Secretary of the Common Table, without vote.

VII. COMMITTEES

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

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

C. OTHER COMMITTEES

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

VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF

- A. The Annual Conference shall elect annually upon nomination of the Bishop, and in consultation with the Common Table's Personnel Committee and the Cabinet, an executive officer to be known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. The responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries shall be but are not limited to the following:
1. To serve as the Chairperson of the Common Table and Co-chairperson, with the Conference Lay Leader, of the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team.
 2. To be a communication link between the Conference program agencies and Jurisdictional and General Conference program agencies.
 3. To facilitate communication among the Conference program agencies and the local churches.
 4. To serve as a resource person for district programs and the Common Table in the program planning, implementation and evaluation process.
 5. To supervise the Conference program staff persons.
 6. To serve on other Conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, and/or by the Common Table.
- B. Each clergy staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of the Common Table with the request that the Bishop would appoint him or her. Each lay staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of Common Table and employed by the Common Table. Nominations for staff members shall be presented to the Common Table after consultation with the appropriate boards and agencies.
- C. The Director of United Methodist Communications shall carry out the policies and program of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and shall cooperate with all agencies of the Conference in the use of the media to disseminate news that promotes the diverse work of the Church's life.
- D. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table and all of the boards and agencies in direct support of their work and shall oversee the financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- E. All Conference program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the administration and direction of the program staff.
- F. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.

IX. FINANCES

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

X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

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

- ❖ Board of Church and Society

- ❖ Board of Communications
- ❖ Board of Discipleship
- ❖ Board of Global Ministries
- ❖ Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
- ❖ 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.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference met twice since the last Annual Conference. We welcomed four new members and addressed many questions presented to us from other boards and committees. In addition to the typical review of proposed amendments and updates, the Rules Committee also coordinated with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality on revisions to its charter. We have reviewed the Virginia Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, and this year's proposed amendments and the rationale for each amendment follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of Order and Procedure as recommended by the Rules Committee:

Rule 1.A.: Delete the sentences, "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 in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the Conference."

Rationale: This was an amendment approved by the Annual Conference just last year with input from the prior Director of Connectional Ministries. Upon further reflection and review, the Rules Committee believes the insertion of the purpose of the Common Table into the text defining the purpose of the annual conference was incorrect. They are two different bodies. As such, the Rules Committee proposes deleting this text at Rule I.A, and inserting it under Rule V, as discussed further below.

Rule I.D.9.: Insert the subheading "Ex-Officio Members." at the beginning of this rule.

Rationale: This rule was missing a descriptive introductory heading.

Rule I.D.14.: Insert the clause ", as necessary," in the first sentence so it will read as "... the Conference Nominations Team shall, as necessary, appoint a chief teller ..." Insert the clause ", as necessary, "in the second sentence so it will read as "It shall, as necessary, additionally appoint a team of tellers ..."

Rationale: While the need for tellers remains, with a move toward more electronic voting, the Rules Committee believes there is a need for some flexibility in the language of this rule. We propose only to insert the phrase "as necessary" into the text to modify the strict "shall" directive.

Rule II.A.2.: Insert "agenda or" into the second sentence so it will read as "... amend the Annual Conference agenda or schedule as needed."

Rationale: This proposed amendment simply acknowledges that the terms "agenda" and "schedule" are often used interchangeably when discussing the timeline for our annual conference. For clarity, we propose that the term "agenda" be added to this rule.

Rule II.A. 4.: Insert "or before" between "at" and "the" in the first clause of the sentence. Add at the end of the rule, ", or at such time as directed by the resident Bishop or presiding officer for consideration." As amended, this rule would read as:

"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, or at such time as directed by the resident Bishop or presiding officer for consideration."

Rationale: This proposed amendment offers more flexibility as to when a report could be considered by the annual

conference. Adding this clause at the end of this rule allows for some discretion for considering an important report or allowing flexibility when the length of an annual conference may be impacted.

Rule II.D.2.: Insert at the end of the first sentence, “, or at such time as directed by the resident Bishop, presiding officer, or the CFA.” As amended, this sentence would read as “Proposals or amendments which may require expenditure of funds, which have not been considered by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), must be submitted by the conclusion of the afternoon session preceding the concluding day of annual conference, or at such time as directed by the resident Bishop, presiding officer, or the CFA.”

Rationale: This proposed amendment also seeks to offer flexibility as to when a proposal requiring funding could be submitted to the CFA for consideration.

Rule III.B.5.a.: Strike the words “at the podium or floor microphone” and in its place insert the words “and speaking, once recognized”, so this rule would read as “a. appearing and speaking, once recognized, for the purpose of conducting Conference business.”

Rationale: This proposed amendment seeks to modernize and simplify this rule by realizing that there may not always be a podium or floor microphone from which to speak. It also acknowledges that under Robert’s Rules of Order, and with limited exceptions, any speaker must first be recognized.

Rule III.E.4. – strike from the first sentence, “... of the Lay and Clergy Sessions where members shall be seated during balloting.” and in its place insert the following “for Lay and Clergy voting.” As amended, this sentence would read, “The presiding officer shall designate the areas for Lay and Clergy voting.”

Rationale: This proposed amendment also seeks to modernize and simplify this rule by essentially striking where members “shall be seated” while continuing to designate the areas for voting.

Rule V.: Amend the heading of this rule to incorporate a reference to the Common Table and insert a description of the Common Table at Rule V.A. As amended, this rule would read as

V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS – COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY, BOARDS, AND AGENCIES

A. The Common Table for Church Vitality. The Common Table for Church Vitality (“Common Table”) exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements of Paragraph 208 in the Book of Discipline. The mission, values, membership, officers, committees, meetings, finances, as well as the responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries are set forth in the Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality. This Charter is an Appendix to these Standing Rules of Order and Procedure for ease of reference but is not incorporated into these Standing Rules.

All other existing sections of Rule V. would then follow this insertion. Thus, current Rule V.A. “Annual Conference Program Boards and Agencies”, becomes Rule V.B, etc.

Rationale: This proposed amendment flows from the first proposed amendment, above. In recognizing that the annual conference is its own body and that the Common Table is an administrative body of the annual conference operating under a charter, the Rules Committee agreed that Rule V needs to be amended to insert the Common Table, generally describe its purpose, reference the charter and offer clarity that the Common Table charter is a separate document from the Standing Rules of Order and Procedure.

Rule V.A.4.d.: In the first sentence, insert “invite” between the words “and” and “Districts”, and at the end of the sentence add “, and beyond.” In the second sentence, strike “Conference Director of Justice and Mission-

al Excellence” and insert “Associate Director of Serving Ministries (ADSM)”. In the third sentence, strike reference to “two (2)” mission teams and insert “three (3)” and add a third mission team – “and (3) Partnerships in Hope.” As amended, this Rule would read as:

***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 and invite districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extensions within the annual conference, and beyond. The Conference Associate Director of Serving Ministries (ADSM) shall serve as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM), fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶ 633.3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into three (3) mission teams: (1) Missional Discipleship and Engagement and (2) Missional Connection and (3) Partnerships in Hope. 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 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be 20, with 6 or 4 persons (one-half lay and one-half clergy) elected each year to replace outgoing classes.*

Rationale: This proposed amendment was brought to the Rules Committee by the Missional Ministries Board after unanimous approval by the Common Table. The Board seeks this amendment to adapt the rules to its current operations and the addition of a new mission team. The Rules Committee reviewed the proposed amendments and finds them not to be in conflict with the *Book of Discipline* nor the annual conference’s Standing Rules of Order and Procedure and unanimously approves them for annual conference consideration.

Rule V.E.: Insert the following new rule

***E. Meetings of the Common Table, Boards, Councils, Commissions, Foundations and Committees.** For the Common Table for Church Vitality, and all District, Board, Council, Commission, Foundation, and Committee sessions or meetings, the terms “meet” and “meeting” shall include meetings where members are physically present in one room or area (“in-person” meetings), and when deemed necessary by the presiding Chairperson, may also include meetings held through electronic means such as the Internet or by telephone.*

Rationale: This proposed amendment would add a new section under Rule V and apply to the annual conference programs, including the Common Table and the various boards, agencies, councils, commissions, foundations, and committees. It addresses a reality that existed prior to the pandemic in that these bodies of the annual conference do, on occasion, need to timely meet and conduct business by electronic means. This mode of meeting became critical over the past year, and the 2021 revision to *Robert’s Rules of Order* include, for the first time, reference to electronic meetings via the Internet or telephone. This proposed amendment clearly sets forth that the term “meeting” as used throughout the rules covers and validates such electronic meetings.

Rule VI.A.: Insert between “conference” and “at least” the phrase, “in the manner designated by the District Superintendent”. As amended this rule would read as “Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference in the manner designated by the District Superintendent at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶658).”

Rationale: This proposed amendment seeks to provide sufficient flexibility to each District Superintendent as to the manner in which a district conference may be held, including when necessary, the authority to call an electronic/virtual district conference.

Rule VII.L.: Strike the words “The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Polices and these Rules of Order and Procedures” and insert “The Virginia Annual Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, including these Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure,”. Between the words “referred to” and “, which committee”, strike the words “this Committee” and insert “the Rules Committee”. At the end of the sentence, strike the words “thereon not later than the following day” and insert “as soon as practicable taking

into account all of the facts and circumstances of the proposed rule change.” As amended, this Rule would read as “The Virginia Annual Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, including these Rules of Order and Parliamentary 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 the Rules Committee, which committee shall report as soon as practicable taking into account all of the facts and circumstances of the proposed rule change.”

Rationale: This proposed amendment does not change the process for changing or amending a Standing Rule. It only offers clarification by inserting the full formal names of the Standing Rules and the full reference to the title of Rule VII, and that the term “this committee” refers to the Rules Committee.

REPORT ON AMENDMENTS TO COMMON TABLE CHARTER

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the Charter of the Common Table:

RATIONALE: As the most recent version of the Charter of the Common Table for Church Vitality was created over fifteen years ago, in 2020 the Virginia Conference Common Table for Church Vitality completed an in-depth review of the January 1, 2006 Charter, and additional revisions in 2013 and 2015, for the purposes of updating and modernizing the Charter. While the changes are not significant in nature, the proposed amended Charter addresses issues raised by members of the Annual Conference and provides additional clarity in several areas. This revised Charter was introduced at the 2020 Annual Conference and is now before the 2021 Virginia Annual Conference for approval. Please note that The Common Table Charter is not a part of the Conference’s Standing Rules, but it is presented as an appendix to the Rules for ease of reference. The proposed amendments require a simple majority vote of the Annual Conference. A copy of the Charter as it would be with these amendments follows these recommendations.

1. Section I, PURPOSE - in the first sentence, strike “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.” and insert “exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements of the *Book of Discipline*.”

Rationale for Purpose Amendment: *This amendment provides a greater clarity of purpose for the existence of the Common Table as a resource for the fulfillment of the Conference mission and vision. Additionally, it highlights its intentionally diverse nature, its responsibility for personnel oversight, and its support of the Director of Connectional Ministries in compliance with The Book of Discipline.*

2. Section I.A. – strike “by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

Rationale for Mission Amendment: *This language is deleted because it relates more to purpose and method, not mission. Additionally, it is redundant as methodology is addressed in the language of “Section I, PURPOSE.”)*

3. Section I – Add new section B. titled VISION. Insert the following text: The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

Rationale for Vision Statement: *While many references are made to the “vision,” the vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is never explicitly stated for clarity and alignment in relation to the rest of the 2006 Common Table Charter with the 2013 and 2015 revisions. Visions are living words, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and are subject to change to remain contextually relevant while biblically grounded. But any vision needs articulation to appropriately connect to values and expressions of implementation.*

4. Section I – Add new section “C.” to encompass revised “Values” which were previously contained in Section B. The amended text strikes “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.”

The revised Values would be as follows:

- Integrity in the work.
- Good communication
- Diversity of voices at the table
- Creative thinking to benefit the whole
- Advocate for justice and non-discrimination for all”

Rationale for Values Amendments: *After extensive prayer, discernment, and conversation, The Common Table has determined that these values reflect our current context, and we have covenanted to uphold these values.*

5. Section II, MEMBERSHIP – Move the last sentence in Section 2 that reads “It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference” So that it becomes the second sentence in the first paragraph, after “...carry out the Purpose of this Charter.” In the next sentence, change “14” to “12” and “2” to “3” with regards to voting and non-voting positions
6. Section II.A.7 – change “Eight” to “Six” for the composition of the at-large members.
7. Section II.B – add “2.” Before “The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference....” Strike “without vote” at the end of that sentence.
8. Section II 2.B – add “3. Representative from contributors such as the United Methodist Women to Grants Committee only” as a category of non-voting members.

Rationale for Membership Amendments: *Through this minor change, The Common Table feels this rebalancing of membership will assist in its decision-making effectiveness. The other changes provide clarity, conciseness, and greater representation on the Grants Committee.*

9. Section III, SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS – strike “1. Four” and add “All members”, replace “2 with “3” clergy and replace “2” with “3” laity; strike “Leadership Discovery and Development

Team” and add “Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop” so that the sentence reads “All Members of the Common Table at-large (3 clergy and 3 laity) are nominated by the Conference Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop and elected by the annual conference.”

10. Section III – strike “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.”
11. Section IV, TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS – in first sentence, after “At-large members serve...” add “up to two”. In the third sentence, replace “Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team” with “Conference Nominations Team” and strike “or the Bishop, according to method of nomination” and add “in consultation with the Bishop”.

Rationale for At-Large Members Amendments: *The Charter changes the language “Leadership Discovery and Development Team” to “Nominations Team” in alignment with the action of the 2020 Annual Conference. In addition, the Charter changes the Bishop’s role in selecting membership to Common Table to be consultative. The proposed revision provides for a member to serve two four-year terms.*

12. Section V, MEETINGS – strike the first and second sentences and replace with “The Common Table will prioritize the work that needs to be accomplished in a timely manner, and will meet as often as necessary to complete this work, meeting at least quarterly. Quarterly meetings would include a time for team building and operational issues.” The sentence, “Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provision of the *Book of Discipline*” shall remain. Add the following two sentences: “In the event it is determined that the Common Table will meet electronically, the Director of Connectional Ministries shall use all reasonable means to ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested individuals. Non-members of the Common Table may attend without voice and vote unless granted voice by the meeting presider.” Then, at the end of the paragraph, add “The Common Table will move to closed executive meetings to discuss confidential information when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Common Table. Approved Common Table minutes will be on the conference website for public viewing.”

Rationale for Meetings Amendments: *The revisions provide for the needed frequency and structure of Common Table meetings to fulfill its responsibilities. In addition, it makes allowances for electronically held meetings that are open to all and a process whereby closed executive sessions can be held for confidential matters.*

13. Section VI, OFFICERS – after the third sentence, add a new sentence, “Meetings may be led by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or a designated meeting presider.”

Rationale for Officer Amendment: *This Charter revision allows for flexibility in leadership for meetings.*

14. Section VII, COMMITTEES – under A, Personnel Committee, add “from within its members.” to the end of the second sentence so that this sentence reads, “The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee from within its members.”
15. Section VII, COMMITTEES - under B, Grants Committee, add, “3. Ministry programs that advance the conference vision, funded through Conference apportionment.”

Rationale for Committee Amendments: *Proposed Amendment VII.A. provides clarity of language. Proposed Amendment VII.B. provides for the Grants category of “Ministry Programs.”*

16. Section VIII, SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF – Section A. in the first sentence, strike “Table’s Personnel Committee and the Cabinet,” And in its place insert “Table” and continue the remainder of the original sentence. Add a new second sentence, “The Director shall serve a maximum tenure of eight years in keeping with the Appointive Cabinet practice.”
17. Section VIII.A.3 – after “...program agencies”, insert “laity, clergy” and continue original sentence.
18. Section VIII.A.4 – strike all existing text and replace with “To serve as a resource person for Virginia Appointive Cabinet, Districts, clergy, laity, local churches and Conference ministries to include program planning, ministry evaluation and Conference vision implementation.”

19. Section VIII.A.5 – Strike all of this existing section - “To supervise the Conference program staff persons.”
20. Section VIII.A.5 – Old Section 6 becomes new Section 5 and to the following sentence, add “Bishop” after “ the Annual Conference,” and continue original sentence.
21. Section VIII.B – strike the entire section and replace with “B. Each staff person shall be nominated annually by Common Table in consultation with the Bishop and appropriate resourced Boards and Agencies.”
22. Section VIII.C. – strike all of the existing text of this section
23. Section VIII.D, becomes the new Section C – in first sentence, strike “and all of the boards and agencies; then later in this sentence replace “oversee the” with “have oversight of”.
24. Section VIII.E, becomes the new Section D – in the first sentence, strike “Conference”; and, in the second sentence, replace “administration and direction” with “oversight and supervision”.
25. Section VIII.F becomes the new Section E – in the first sentence, strike “in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.” In its place, insert “The Director of Connectional Ministries will give oversight to and supervise the Administrative/Technical/Professional staff in accordance with the personnel policies and the staff manual.”

Rationale for Selection of DCM and Staff Amendments: *The proposed Amendments to Section VIII provide for:*

- a. The annual election of the Director of Connectional Ministries by the Annual Conference
 - b. A maximum term limit of eight years for the Director of Connectional Ministries to align with the maximum single term limit of District Superintendents per *The Book of Discipline*
 - c. Clarity, definition, and processes in areas of personnel matters
26. Section X, MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS – under “Other Attendees” at section C add “the” before “Common Table”.

Rationale for Meetings and Commission Chairs Amendments: *Grammatical correction*

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective Jan. 1, 2006
Amended April 8, 2021

I. PURPOSE

The Common Table for Church Vitality exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements of the *Book of Discipline*.

A. MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

B. VISION

The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

C. VALUES

- ❖ Integrity in the work.
- ❖ Good communication.
- ❖ Diversity of voices at the table.
- ❖ Creative thinking to benefit the whole.
- ❖ Advocate for justice and non-discrimination for all.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Common Table provides spiritual leadership for the Conference to carry out the Purpose of this Charter. It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference. The Common Table includes the following 12 voting positions and 3 non-voting positions:

A. VOTING MEMBERS

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader
3. Director of Connectional Ministries
4. Cabinet representative assigned by the bishop
5. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy representative (in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*)
6. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*)
7. Six 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
2. The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table.
3. Representative from contributors such as the United Methodist Women to Grants committee only.

III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

All Members of the Common Table at-large (3 clergy and 3 laity) are nominated by the Conference Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop and elected by the annual conference. Two of these at-large members must be young adult/youth representatives.

IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS

At-large members serve up to two 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 Nominations 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

Common Table will prioritize the work that needs to be accomplished in a timely manner. We plan to meet as often as we need to complete this work, meeting at least quarterly. Quarterly meetings would include a time for team building and operational issues. Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*. In the event it is determined that the Common Table will meet electronically, the Director of Connectional Ministries shall use all reasonable means to ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested individuals. Non-members of the Common Table may attend without voice and vote unless granted voice by the meeting president.

The Common Table will move to closed executive meetings to discuss confidential information when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Common Table. Approved Common Table minutes will be on the conference website for public viewing.

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. Meetings may be led by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or a designated meeting president. 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 from within its members. 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.
3. Ministry programs that advance the conference vision, funded through Conference apportionment.

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 an executive officer to be known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Director shall serve a maximum tenure of eight years in keeping with the Appointive Cabinet practice. 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 Nominations 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, laity, clergy and the local churches.
 4. To serve as a resource person Virginia Conference Appointive Cabinet, Districts, clergy, laity, local churches and Conference ministries to include program planning, ministry evaluation and Conference vision implementation.
 5. To serve on other Conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, Bishop and/or by the Common Table.
- B. Each staff person shall be nominated annually by Common Table in consultation with the Bishop and appropriate resourced Boards and Agencies.
- C. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table in direct support of their work and shall have oversight of financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- D. All Connectional Ministries program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the oversight and supervision of the program staff.
- E. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Director of Connectional Ministries will give oversight to and supervise the Administrative/Technical/Professional staff in accordance with the personnel policies and the staff manual.

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 *Book of Discipline*.

X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

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

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

I. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality shall become effective June 18, 2021 [subject to Annual Conference 2021 approval].

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee is responsible for making the arrangements for the meeting of the Virginia Annual Conference and to identify and recommend the location for the Annual Conference three (3) years in advance. The Annual Conference sessions will convene on Thursday and conclude on Saturday as set by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis.

By previous Annual Conference action, the following locations have been approved for the site of the Annual Conference:

Hampton

June 16-18, 2022

Roanoke

June 15-17, 2023

The Site Selection Committee recommends the 2024 Virginia Annual Conference be held in:

Hampton

June 20-22, 2024

The Committee, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries and with the assistance of the Conference meeting planner, continues to review other locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. For your reference, we have the following requirements in evaluating potential Annual Conference sites:

- ❖ Venue to accommodate 3,500 people
- ❖ 1,500 hotel rooms in the area
- ❖ Parking for 2,500 cars
- ❖ Meeting space for the Clergy Session of 1,500 people
- ❖ Meeting space for the Laity Session of 1,500 people
- ❖ Additional meeting spaces adjacent to the Conference floor
- ❖ Two (2) banquet areas to accommodate 500 people each
- ❖ Additional banquet locations accessible to Conference
- ❖ Restaurants to accommodate 3,500 patrons within 1½ - 2 hour timeframe
- ❖ 10,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space

–Neal E. Wise, Site Selection Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

The Site Selection Committee recommends that the 2024 Virginia Annual Conference be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia.

CABINET REPORT 2020

The **Alexandria District** has benefitted from amazing resilience and resourcefulness, rooted in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. With a team effort among laity and clergy, across generations, we have found new ways to be the Church amid the ongoing challenges and opportunities of the pandemic. New people have been reached through house churches, online engagement, and people helping people to find the strong anchor of Christ’s love in the swirling storms of disease, race, polarization, and fatigue. Support for Rising Hope Mission Church has been generous as we prepare for the retirement of its founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Keary Kincannon, and we look forward to working with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert.

The **Arlington District** has been working very hard to help all the churches of the District navigate the changes necessary for a world-wide pandemic, increased awareness of racial injustices, and a divisive election that often resulted in church conflict. Our focus has been to stay calm, stay connected, and stay on course. With the gift of an amazing District team, we have done extensive training, one-on-one instruction and coaching for technical, communications, racial reconciliation work and conflictual situations. We have moved to more frequent conferencing with weekly DS notes and chats with clergy, adding more laity calls and meetings of HCT teams. Overall, Arlington District has been amazing during these trying times, with excellent clergy and laity leadership as the key to leading in love despite the many challenges arising.

The **Charlottesville District** continues to be a Beacon of Light and Hope through such ministries as Rachel’s Haven, a ministry for those with developmental disabilities; the Central Virginia Mission HUB ministry, collecting items for Mission Central; and Emanuel Youth Mission in El Salvador which supports youth and their families. This is just a partial listing of our District Ministries. Our District Superintendency Committee has been working diligently on preparing to receive our next Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee. We welcome Hyo and Kay to the Charlottesville District.

The **Danville District** continues its commitment to vital mission that sees the needs of our communities and responds with the Love of Christ, expressed in real and tangible ways, even in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The Henry Fork Service Center staff continues its work to provide excellent care in a Christian setting, in ways that safeguard the health of the children, staff and community. Churches in the Danville District have mobilized the Healthy Church Teams to innovate new ministry and adapt much loved ministries to provide both spiritual and physical nourishment for their communities, while clergy have poured themselves into providing safe and quality worship and creative connection, partnering with laity to sustain the church family with Christ’s love. While COVID and its impacts have been challenging, God is at work through the faithful laity and clergy of the Danville District.

The **Eastern Shore District** saw churches innovating to meet the challenges of the pandemic. Even in areas underserved by technology, churches developed online and telephonic options for worship, study, and community. A course on race relations titled “Can We Talk?” brought together 25 lay and clergy persons from across the district for lay servant and continuing education credit. Other online sessions focused on coping with stress and anxiety, alternatives to singing, and doing ministry online.

The **Elizabeth River District** has been supporting our local churches and clergy during this pandemic. We have provided grants to food pantries and drive-thru hot meals, helped congregations find meaningful ways to worship either virtually, in-person, drive-in, by telephone and outdoors. Our clergy and laity have done an amazing job of caring for congregants who cannot get out of their houses and found creative ways to provide sacraments.

The **Farmville District** is blessed to be the hands and feet of Christ over the 5500 square miles that make up the Farmville District. COVID has presented challenges to every church in the connection, but the innovative and faithful church families of the Farmville District have found creative ways to continue to deepen their relationship with God, each other, and their communities. Drive in, outside and inside worship opportunities abound, alongside online worship, which has extended the reach of even small rural churches, while also keeping the church family connected and spiritually fed. Clergy and laity are partnering to adapt, innovate and create in ways that touch all the ministries of the local church.

The **Harrisonburg District** has responded well to the challenges we have faced due to COVID19. We realized that

church is not a building, but what we do from Monday through Saturday, and then we come on Sunday to celebrate what God has done with us and through us. Mission Central continues to provide clothes and medical equipment to those in need. Clergy and laity continue to share God's love by broadcasting online worship, drive-in worship, outdoor worship, and in-person worship. God is being glorified in amazing ways!

2020-2021 has been a challenging year across our connection, but churches throughout the **James River District** have realized that challenges, while painful, are also opportunities to learn, grow, try new things, and reach new people in ways that we might not have previously considered (online and drive-in worship, small groups via phone, porch chats, vespers on Facebook, etc.). As a district, we have worked to offer support through these "unprecedented" times by ensuring that every church and pastor has had the resources they needed to be able to connect to their congregations in ways appropriate to the technology available in each community and church. While much of our energy has been focused on helping churches make the immediate pivots necessary to be in ministry in the world of COVID, we have also introduced and coached churches in the implementation of Simplified, Accountable Structure (SAS) which has the power to help re-center churches on their mission, simplify the administrative and decision-making structure, and create lines of accountability. Finally, we have prioritized clergy care by gathering regularly via Zoom to care for each other's souls and encourage one another in ministry, offering virtual trainings and support, and creating systems to keep clergy connected to others in their branches (sub-districts).

The churches of the **Lynchburg District** shared stories of resilience in the midst of pandemic generated challenges during our 62 charge conference sessions. Our clergy have largely practiced adaptive leadership by expanding worship options including phone, online, drive-in, and outdoor worship; and finding new ways to engage their communities. We are grateful for the creative, faithful, energizing work of Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, our Revitalization Coordinator. The Park View Community Mission continues to grow exponentially, offering help, healing, and hope by feeding the body, educating the mind, and transforming the soul in partnership with thousands of neighbors in the City of Lynchburg and beyond.

The **Rappahannock River District** sees to make disciples through four entry points: Unity, Spiritual Formation, Empowering Our Laity, and through Mission ministry in our neighborhoods, throughout our Conference, and around the world. Our missional objective is achieved by the shared and valued commitment of lay and clergy as equal and effective partners in ministry. The partnership includes investment in a national program (The Open Table) that trains volunteers to work together with people experiencing economic and relationship poverty. The partnership also involves a union with Transitions4you, a motel ministry, and other local and global missions focus, including Youth Mission Camp for Middle School and High School students that provide opportunities for leadership development, and a focus of El Salvador UMC – all to the honor and glory of God.

In 2020-21, despite the coronavirus and the nation's social and political challenges, the **Richmond District's** laity and clergy have been faithful in following and offering Christ to the world. To help our churches fulfill this mission, we provided diverse training resources through Next Level Innovations (NLI) and the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS), as well as district-wide training on vital congregations with the Rev. Jorge Acevedo. We also created the Richmond District COVID Mission Task Force and identified food insecurities as the on-going greatest need in our district. God being with us (Ephesians 3:20-21), the Richmond District will continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify the Lord and transform people's lives in the world.

On the **Roanoke District**, the extravagant generosity of our clergy and laity bore much fruit in 2020 apportionment collections exceeding those of 2019. Our Spiritual Leadership Institute (SLI) cohort of clergy leaders continues to deepen their resources in "loving, learning, and leading" their congregations into new avenues of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our clergy and laity have shown a remarkable ability to truly be "life-long learners" through educating themselves in multimedia and social media to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to their communities and beyond.

The **Staunton District** has been able to maintain worship, ministry, and mission outreach in many ways throughout the past Conference year in spite of the pandemic. Even though the pandemic caused most churches to remain closed initially, most were able to develop HCT plans for holding in-person worship while at the same time developing multi-

ple ways of regularly reaching out to, and checking on, church family and community members. Food pantry ministries have been started or expanded in almost every corner of the District. EMBRACE - Waynesboro a Fresh Expressions worship-community has been able to continue many outreach programs and is developing new ways of ministry for the post-COVID pandemic. To God be the glory!

The **Winchester District** has gone strong in a time of COVID-19 and transition. Churches around the District continue to worship God in so many ways. Several churches supported a homeless ministry, and even hosted it in the winter months. What a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Since November 2020, the District has continued to do ministry under the leadership of DS Gómez, DS Calvert, and DS Bates, and especially under the faithful leadership of its clergy and laity as together we are making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The **York River District** has embraced God's call to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10) in the face of the multi-layers of disturbances and challenges presented before us. Faithful engagements of clergy and laity in ministry together by their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness have resulted in new and creative ways to stay connected as the body of Christ and to offer Christ to the hurting world. The District Board of Missions offered over \$80,000 of grants to support various programs and services of local churches and agencies. As continued efforts to revitalize churches, the District has sponsored Next Level Innovations, Shift leadership trainings, and Simplified Accountable Structure workshops. Great is God's faithfulness!

– *Jeffrey Mickle, Dean*

REPORT OF THE 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 \$163,652 was provided to 32 charges in 2020. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2020 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the Journal.

There were 12 charges receiving salary support in 2019 that did not require salary support in 2020. These are Aldersgate (Elizabeth River), Basic (Staunton), Fairmount (Richmond), Grace Middletown (Winchester), Miles Memorial (Elizabeth River), Painters-Garrisons (Eastern Shore), Southview (Roanoke), St John’s (Elizabeth River), St Paul (Elizabeth River), St Paul/West End (Roanoke), Surry (James River), and Waverly (James River). 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 2022 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 2022 is \$66,039, which is an increase of 1.7% percent from 2021. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2022 and recommends the schedules remain the same as 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Minimum Compensation Schedule:	2022 Proposed	2021 Approved
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$42,000	\$42,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$38,500	\$38,500
c. Local Pastors	\$36,000	\$36,000
2. The Floor Schedule:		
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 Equitable Compensation Financial Report for 2018-2020 is provided below:

	Year Ending 2018	Year Ending 2019	Year Ending 2020
Apportioned	350,000	300,000	250,000
Uncollected Apportionment	(41,327)	(52,561)	(29,920)
Apportionment Income	308,673	308,673	220,080
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>88.19%</i>	<i>82.48%</i>	<i>88.03%</i>
Grants	225,094	222,190	163,652
Meeting Expense & Other	63	75	0
Total Expenses	225,157	222,265	163,652
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	83,516	25,173	56,429

– Joseph T. Carson, III, Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

The past conference year has been a challenging, active, and fruitful season for the Common Table for Church Vitality. The Common Table charter revision before the Annual Conference for approval this year states that the Common Table *“exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements of Paragraph 208 in the Book of Discipline.”*

To effectively work to fulfill this bold, Godly purpose, the Common Table spent a significant amount of time in the last conference year working on:

1. Clarifying, defining, and naming our core relational and operational values.
2. Building relational trust and accountability within our own leadership body in alignment with those values. We see this work as mission critical for not only us, but we also seek to model this process for other leadership bodies during a season of denominational, social, and political tensions. We are thankful to Bishop Sharma D. Lewis for her presence with, and episcopal guidance to, the Common Table.
3. Redefining, clarifying, and communicating the means through which the Common Table provides Connectional Ministry staffing resources to Boards, Agencies, and the larger body of the Virginia Annual Conference.
4. Facilitating the mandates of the Common Table within a season of radical ministry and required financial pivots in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. We continually seek ways to more effectively facilitate our work such as the recent combining of all grant applications into one universal application.

The “redefining” in number three above has largely been, and is still being, formed through the alignment of our three new Associate Directors of *Learning, Influencing, and Serving* with the vision of the Annual Conference that we are all called *“to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”* All of our Connectional Ministries staff (program, technical, and administrative), are proactively working to resource the mission and vision of the Annual Conference in collaboration with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality.

We offer our thanks for the sacrificial leadership that we see accomplished through the Boards, Agencies, and all the ministries of the Virginia Annual Conference. Most of these ministries are offered in “quiet” ways but offer a profound transformational presence in the cause of Christ.

As the Common Table, we joyfully share that our work has been filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit, a renewed sense of vitality, and a deep sense of Hope for all that is to come for the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church – all to the glory of God!

RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Missional Ministries Board:

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.; UMFS; Pinnacle Living; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

On behalf of the Board of Discipleship:

That Gregory B. West be recommended and endorsed as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by

The following reports, from page 56 to page 87, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (1629) 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, UMC 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.

In the spring of 2020, we were asked to do a Board self-evaluation on our relevance in the conference. As we were in conversation, we concluded that we were not as relevant as we had been in the past. So, over the past few months we have re-defined ourselves to become more relevant and active in the conference. By teaming up with other groups that are involved in the same mission we hope to get more done in the community and on the conference level. By working together, we can advocate more effectively and efficiently.

Peace with Justice Sunday:

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 2020, because of the pandemic we did not do well with our churches gave to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2021 total will show more churches taking the offering. One half of the offering stays in the annual conference, the other half is used by the General Board.

Caretakers of God's Creation:

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. Caretakers also co-sponsored the National Caretakers of God's Creation Climate 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.

Peace and Non-violence Work Area:

The Peace and Non-violence Work Area has been active with NFoR care for immigrants and refugees.

Reflecting our mission to serve people in need, Church and Society provided a Peace with Justice Grant to NoVa Friends of Refugees (NFoR), an interfaith grassroots network of people who welcome, assist, and advocate for refugees. During the 2018-2019 grant period, the NFoR network grew 30% and became a respected referral resource for helping resettling refugees. We have also partnered with Warriors Heart USA to help us with the resolution dealing with PTSD.

Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry:

The Eradicating Poverty Work Area are exploring way to better service out brothers and sisters who have been incarcerated to help them to be functional in society again. WE are working with other prison ministries to understand the impact has on our communities.

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly:

This year was the 29th anniversary 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 look forward to Bishop Lewis helping to lead the event in future years.

THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Church Development Team (CDT) continues to work diligently to fulfill its mission to assist in creating New Faith Communities and to promote vitality in existing churches under the All Things New initiative.

As reported a year ago, we launched two new faith communities during 2020, bringing the total number of new faith communities begun during the All Things New Initiative to fifty-two (53), of which thirty-nine (39) persist (73.6%).

The 2020 year offered new challenges in the midst of a global pandemic as well as a restructuring of staff at the conference level. Due to the pandemic, we launched no new faith communities during 2021, nor did the Five Talent Academy sponsor any programs. Nonetheless, we have had several proposals submitted for future launches, each of which represent the moving of God's Spirit in new ways. Thus far, we have had three proposals, two of which have been approved thus far, to initiate what have been variously described as micro-churches, house churches, or missional hubs. These build on the ministry modeled by Jesus, as he went from home to home proclaiming the good news. The CDT looks forward to witnessing the work of the Spirit in these new endeavors and to reporting on these efforts in the years ahead.

The Church Development Team also looks forward to advancing its work with the capable support of the new Associate Director of Influence, Dwayne Stinson. We are confident that our efforts will continue to bear ever-greater fruit with the addition of his gifts and talents.

– *Paul S. Baker, chair*

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision set forth by Bishop Lewis is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are life long learners influencing others to serve. With this mission and vision before us, the challenge is for each congregation in the Virginia Conference to become better at making disciples. This challenge may be met as each congregation develops an intentional discipleship path that identifies their discipleship system. The Board of Discipleship desires to be a resource for all congregations of the conference as they develop their intentional discipleship path.

All over the conference, we have available trained coaches who can assist churches of any size. Coaches are available to work with churches as they learn how to navigate from a membership focus to a discipleship focus. These coaches are clergy and laity within the conference who are now available for little or no cost to churches. Members of this Board continue to break down all the different aspects of an intentional discipleship plan into seed packets which can be planted over time in specific situations to reap a growing harvest of disciples within any church.

Each year the Board of Discipleship awards one youth, one laity and one Clergy the Denman Evangelism award. Along with the Denman awards, the Board of Discipleship endorses candidates for the work of evangelism in the United Methodist Church. The General Conference of the UMC offers the One Church Matters Award to each annual conference in recognition of a congregation's turn around success in growth, professions of faith and fruitfulness. We want to remember that the One Church Matters award celebrates the beginnings of a congregation's intentional discipleship path because its criteria is both baptisms and professions of faith for persons of all ages.

We also participate in the Christian Education Sunday and use those funds 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 Bishop's Convocation of Prayer. Members of the Board continually work with the Conference Staff and Cabinet in areas of Discipleship. It has been my honor to serve as Chair this year as we focus on being disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve.

– *Kathy Bennett Gochenour, Chair*

Older Adult Council

The Virginia Conference Older Adult Council has become increasingly aware of the enormous cost ageism inflicts on all ministries of the Church. The Council's mandate is to provide resources for ministry to, for, by and with older adults. We endeavor to equip both clergy and laity for ministry, which is inclusive to all members of our communities of faith

as well as to the greater community. Jesus calls us to make disciples. Our Bishop, Sharma Lewis encourages us to be life long learners. We are to be both makers and growers of disciples for the building of the Kingdom.

Yet, we have seen many long time, faithful, older adult members feel they do not have the ability to share the Good News or even know how to pray in public. We have heard older adults say “I think I’ve lived a good enough life to go to heaven.” This is heart breaking. Somehow, the message of God’s grace being shared by our dedicated clergy has not penetrated into the hearts of many good and faithful servants.

In this time of increased isolation caused by the pandemic many older adult community members are feeling even more lost and lonely. The need to reach out to the widows (widowers) and orphans as directed by Jesus has grown enormously. Being equipped to meet both the physical and spiritual needs is essential for the local church. At a time when the demands on our pastors is growing and changing constantly, we must find means to equip the laity in ways not used in generations. The “professionals” cannot be expected to do all the entire Body of Christ is called to do.

We, on the Council, have become increasingly impressed that many in leadership across the Conference are unaware of the Council’s existence and the depth of resources we provide. We are here and committed to help, to promote dialogue raising awareness of the urgent need to combat ageism, to encourage growth of ministry to, for, by and with each and every individual in the Conference regardless of age, and to promote intergenerational sharing of our faith journeys.

Please go to the Conference website to find the Older Adult Council page, which will give you a list of media resources. In each District office there is a copy of our published curriculum, Spiritual Legacy Box, developed to encourage members to share their faith experiences inter- generationally. We offer a recorded worship service, which may be used for Older Adult Sunday. We have a speakers, who will gladly offer in person or Zoom training in Older Adult Ministries, including Grief and Loss Ministries; Experiencing God for the Older Adult; Hard Questions for Adult Children and Their Aging Parents; Ministry with Boomers and Beyond; and Changing Perceptions, an Understanding of the Aging Senses in the Worship Setting.

We look forward to having many meaningful conversations and seek local church and district leaders to join us in our efforts encouraging more inclusivity in both our language and our behavior towards older adults. We can be reached by contacting our chair, Suzanne Spencer, schmidley711@gmail.com.

Conference Evangelist

Sharing the good news of Jesus & His Kingdom + Equipping the Church to do the same!

In 2020 Greg began serving as a full-time evangelist. He was first appointed to the role in 2010 in a part-time capacity while he served as the Chaplain at Virginia Wesleyan University. Greg has also served as a Pastor and church planter. “When I share that I am an evangelist, I clarify by saying: No big hair, no limousines and no coercive appeals for money, not that kind of evangelist.” Jesus’ invitation is to “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people” (Matthew 4:19 NRSV). We all need equipping to be more effective in offering Christ to others. In Ephesians 4:11-12, evangelists are listed with apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers as those who are to equip God’s people for the work of the ministry.

Greg is passionate about ‘The Method of Jesus and the Method of the Methodists’, that is small group ministry for evangelism and discipleship. “I love helping churches recover the Wesleyan Class Meeting, which goes beyond Bible study as it allows the Bible to study us! The focus is: “How is it with your soul? How is Christ at work in and through you?” So the goal is not simply more knowledge and information, but rather more Christ-likeness in our transformation!

Greg also has served as a short term missionary in Latin America and looks forward to the time he can travel with teams to partner with the Church in Latin America. He is available for preaching, teaching and equipping online or in person including help with Hispanic ministries. Please see the website for more information about Life in His Name Ministries.

Life in His Name Ministries is a 501-c3 and a faith based ministry. We trust that God through his people and the Church will provide the funds necessary for the ministry to thrive. All gifts are tax deductible.

– *Greg West, Life in His Name Ministries*

CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

“Engaging, Connecting and Equipping Clergy and Laity of the Virginia Conference for God’s mission.”

The Missional Ministries Board spent time in retreat and reflection during the 2020-21 year and is reorganizing into a new three sub-committee structure (pending Annual Conference vote) with the following titles: Missional Discipleship and Engagement, Missional Connection, and Partnerships of Hope. The board is re-focusing on its call to develop programs to assist and invite districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extensions in the Annual Conference.

Partnerships of Hope

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! I am thankful to God for allowing us to partner with the church around the globe in service to those who are in need. As you know, we have for some years committed as an Annual Conference to partner with Methodist mission initiatives in Mozambique, Brazil and Cambodia abroad and locally with our Native American brothers and sisters. That work has proven fruitful, both in terms of meeting needs and spreading the gospel.

You will also be aware that our engagement with our friends around the world has been greatly impeded by the restrictions of the pandemic. Mission teams have had to be cancelled. Efforts on the ground have been hampered because of quarantining. In sum, the needs of the world have increased, and we have had to be nimble, flexible, and adaptable during these days. In spite of it all, our work has continued.

The health of children is cared for through the clinic and orphanage in Cambine, and others are cared for through the Chicuque Rural Hospital. Widows are cared for through the compound we have built in Massinga. POH is supporting women learning productive skills through the fashioning of apparel that are sold for a profit. Men are learning woodworking skills for supporting themselves. Rice fields are productive. Acres of vegetable help feed many. Chickens are raised, eggs are sold to the end that the areas might become self-sustaining.

Shade and Fresh Water projects, supported by our wonderful missionaries on the ground (Emily Everett, Gordon and Teca Greathouse) continue to serve children at risk, protecting them from gang related activity and providing both teachers and materials so that they might learn, grow and thrive. POH has sent funds to support their work. Wells have been dug to provide fresh water for villages that have been sharing pond water with their animals. New housing has been built for persons who had previously lived in insect infested mud huts.

In Cambodia, monetary support for the Women’s Desk and their engagement with the communities in need, leadership development and employment training has been sent. Medical teams have gone in support. And more teams are needed when the COVID situation improves. IOH has continued to support new initiatives and relationships with Native Americans and are helping sponsor a virtual “Nitapewak” (FRIENDS) Family Camp. It will be open to all Native Americans and Friends of Every Nation.

And that, perhaps, is the appeal of this annual report. In this day of declining revenues, the thing that is needed more than anything else is the transformation of lives into fuller discipleship. And I know of nothing more transformative than meeting Jesus as we serve others. The relationships developed, the satisfaction of helping the kingdom come into fuller view, the extension of generosity, the extending and receipt of hospitality fostered by missional engagement may indeed be the place that invites a disbelieving world into life-saving relationships with Christ.

In addition, we will be seeking to partner with congregations that have passion for this important work and have made investments, both human and capital, to those places of passion. We are inviting you to connect with us, to share your stories, and to help us communicate those life giving and sharing ministries with others.

So we are partners with Christ in this endeavor, and I end with the offering that our committee together has made the decision to rename our endeavor “Partners In Hope.” My deepest thanks go to Bob Gochenour, Juanita Csontos, Larry Jent, Nancy Forrest, Lynda Moore, Esther Agbosu, Nancy Robinson, David Vaughan, Nancy Yarborough, John Meeuwisen, Jessie Swann, and our conference staff person, Rev. Seungsoo ‘RJ’ Jun for their great work and constant encouragement. Partner with us, my Friends, as we go beyond borders and boundaries in becoming learners and influencers, serving our brothers and sisters around the globe.

– Clarence Brown

Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team has been focused on logistics management, equipment inventory and maintenance. Deployment of ERT Teams in support of disaster response missions were placed on hold due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Early Response Team Training will continue across the AC when UMCOR/ VA CDRC determines it is safe to do so. The ERT training programs require in-person participation and activities which under current church and state restrictions cannot be accomplished. Our 6 UMCOR certified ERT Trainers are up to date on their certifications and are all chomping at the bit to get back into a training cycle once it is safe to do so.

In the event that a disaster strikes within the Annual Conference of Virginia it will be incumbent upon all of us to step up and step out in faith to do the ministry and mission of the church. We will need to do more with less; that includes people and financial resources.

Remember; “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Matt 25: 40, NIV)

Disasters can happen anywhere and anytime. The VAUMC CDRT strives to provide the training, equipment and leadership across the Annual Conference when we respond to disasters and by staying for the long-term helping both communities and survivors recover. We can't do it alone. It takes the entire church to support this ministry with its prayers, gifts and service. Help us to be prepared for the future and give generously to Advance Special #5037. Your donations allow us to continue to train and equip you for this ministry. For what you have done and will do in the future; Thank you.

– Bob Pihlcrantz

Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

UMVIM Team Leader Trainers organized by Rebecca Makowski in 2019 were able to conduct several training sessions in Virginia in early 2020. After March 15, 2020, all VAUMC training sessions were cancelled due to COVID, as were all UMVIM teams around the globe. We appreciate Rebecca Makowski's service as she stepped down as UMVIM Coordinator for the VAUMC in August 2020. Terri Morgan will coordinate UMVIM training and teams for VAUMC in 2021. Currently, all jurisdictions are researching insurance which will cover COVID in the event team travel is able to resume this year.

Mission Itineration

The Virginia Conference receives missionaries from Global Ministries to itinerate in churches across the conference. The purpose of itineration is to build understanding of the role of missionaries in God's mission across the globe, and grow church's partnership in God's mission with individual missionaries by sharing: prayer concerns, financial support, communication, and visitation of mission sites.

Since 2019 (and before the disruption of travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020), missionaries that came to Virginia, and their places of service included: John Elmore (Chile), Jennifer Moore (Macedonia), Esther Gitobu (Cambodia), Andrew Lee (Cambodia), Hyo-Won Park (Russia and Eurasia), John Nday and his wife Florence Kaying (Mozambique), and Eric Soard (Tanzania).

Beginning in May, 2020 Global Ministries began a virtual itineration program, #StillInMission, where selected missionaries “itinerate” by presenting their program to registered participants. Missionary presentations of interest to the Virginia conference have included: Susanna and Young Cho (Russia), Alma Navarro (Taiwan), Innocent Aful (Congo), Emily Everett (Brazil), Kennedy Cruz (Cambodia), Lester Dornon (Nepal), Elizabeth “Lisa” Nichols (Tennessee), and Clara Biswas (Cambodia).

Most of these #StillInMission presentations can be viewed on Global Ministries' Vimeo account. Virtual itinerations are projected to continue for the rest of 2021.

Mission Encounter

Mission Encounter prepares United Methodists for faithful living and action by participating in a transformative education program based on biblically grounded curricula in order to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world

– locally and globally. Mission Encounter lives out our Virginia Conference vision, “to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”

The summer 2020 Mission Encounter (in-person) event had to be cancelled due to the global pandemic, but a Summer 2021 Mission Encounter (virtual) is eagerly anticipated. Details are available on the vaumc.org website.

Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP)

The Conference Committee on Mission Personnel reviewed no applications for full time mission service during the past year. CCMP is in the process of setting some direction and focus to seek a wider audience of folks who may wish to consider full time mission service in cooperation with the needs of the General Board of Global Ministries.

– Kendra Grimes, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. 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; Pinnacle Living, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.
2. By Missional Ministries Board that because the Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs, the following are recommended for approval for 2022:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund). It is recommended that the period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day be designated in support of the Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund), and that local church offerings collected during that period be dedicated to this ministry.
 - c. 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.

ADVANCE SPECIALS

Advance Specials provides an opportunity for churches in the Virginia Annual Conference to participate in God’s mission through our United Methodist Connection. Each year, the Advance Special Committee of the Missional Ministries Board highlights Advance Specials in our Conference and beyond. We are committed to developing a strategy to build partnerships with these missions and highlight the work of God, through God’s people, year long.

INTERNATIONAL

Africa

Umcor Sustainable Agriculture And Development - #982188

Mozambique: Chicuque Rural Hospital - #09734A

Mozambique: Bungane Secondary School And Women’s Training Center - #3021656

Sierra Leone Kissy General Hospital #14536A

Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center - #14377A

Latin America

Brazil: Shade And Freshwater - #11580a

Brazil: John Wesley Medical Boat - #14753a

Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat - #07629a

Guatemala: Mission Guatemala - #3019214

Haiti: Education Program - #3021649
Southeast Asia
Cambodia: Street Children Ministry - #14921a
Cambodia Mission Initiative - #00230a
Vietnam Mission Initiative - #14932a
Laos: Seed Project - #3020462
Eurasia In Mission Together — Ukraine And Moldova - #14053a

NATIONAL

Jeremiah Project (#3021220)
United Methodist Volunteers In Mission — Southeastern Jurisdiction - #901875
Disaster Response, United States - #901670
Umcour Sager Brown - #901515
District Of Columbia: Christ House Medical Services - #381215
Virginia: Society Of St. Andrew - #801600
South Dakota: Tree Of Life Ministry - #123615
Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission - #761544

VIRGINIA

Children Outreach

Rocky Mount: Henry Fork Service Center | www.henryforkcenter.org - #5008
Roanoke: Kids Soar | www.kidsoar.org - #5004
Eastern Shore: Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc. | dougbchild@gmail.com #5020

Immigration

Northern Virginia: ESL and Immigrant Ministries | www.eslim.org - #5036
Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. | www.justneighbors.org - #803002

Community Outreach

Alexandria: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church | www.risinghopeumc.org - #5043
Elizabeth River: Wesley Community Service Center | sites.google.com/view/wesleyportsmouthva/home - #5025
Richmond: Belmont Community Resource Services | www.bcrsrva.org - #5039
James River: Pathways | www.pathways-va.org - #5045
Farmville: Journey Community Center | www.jccenter.org - #5009
Embrace -- A Center for Community | embracewaynesboro.org - new
Onancock's Bayside Revitalization, Inc. | <http://shorturl.at/bnNR1> - new
Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS) | www.teensopposingpoverty.org - #5010

Disability

Heart Havens | www.hearthavens.org - #6442
Camp Rainbow | <https://vaumc.org/camp-rainbow-connection/> - new

Prison Ministry

All God's Children's Camp | www.vaumc.org/agcc/ - new
Hope Beyond Bars | <https://hopebeyondthebars.org/> - new

Disaster

Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery | www.vaumc.org/disasterresponse - #5037

Retired Clergy Housing Corporation: <https://vaumc.org/retired-clergy-housing/>

Caretakers of God's Creation: <https://www.umccreationcare.org/> - #5016

Highland Support Project: www.highlandsupportproject.org - #5007

PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Heart Havens

Heart Havens continues its mission of empowering people with a developmental disability to live and thrive in their community. This year we did community differently. We had virtual paint nights with instructors, purchased iPads to support residents stay in virtual communication with family and friends and offered a multitude of other fun and unique opportunities from home. While following CDC guidelines, we were able to successfully empower people to live their best life. Aside from activities, we held vaccine three clinics at all locations.

We continue to operate group homes across the Conference. 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 the startup of Heart Havens. Through this listening, we had planned to offer new services and means of more individualized support. In the first part of 2020, Heart Havens received licensing for our day and community engagement program. These plans are on hold due to the pandemic.

We are blessed with the support of congregations and small groups throughout the Conference. Heart Havens shared our message of empowerment in a virtual setting in February during Heart Havens Month with the theme of “A Different Perspective”. As we approach the spring season, we are planning to offer work days to volunteers to address yard work, painting, and other basic maintenance needs.

With your vital support, Heart Havens continues to empower people with a developmental disability by doing more than just providing the basics but also enabling them to live vibrant, independent lives. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we invite you as the church to continue to advocate for Heart Havens and support people with a developmental disability.

Your financial gifts and volunteer engagement make our mission of empowerment possible!

–Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer

Pinnacle Living

To say that 2020 and the start of 2021 have been difficult, is an understatement. Virtually everything Pinnacle Living does to fulfill our Mission of **Enriching Life’s Journey** has changed. For the residents and team members of our five Pinnacle Living communities, the demands have been tremendous: separation from family members, loss of connection, changes in routines and schedules, physical distancing, and personal protective equipment (PPE). We have experienced illness and the loss of residents caused by the COVID pandemic. Team members and family members have fallen ill and have suffered personal loss because of this horrible virus. In this same time frame, we faced a second pandemic rooted in our country’s history of racism. Sadly, some people continue to struggle with the fact that diversity makes us stronger in everything we do.

Yet, when we speak to residents, talk with team members or visit a community, we hear about and see heroes pulling together and persevering. We have grown in our understanding of and respect for one another as we have worked hard to keep residents and team members informed and safe. Fortunately, early this year we were able to take the first steps in returning to some form of normalcy in our communities as vaccination clinics were carried out by our pharmacy partner, Walgreens.

As difficult as the last year has been, Pinnacle Living has much to celebrate as we continue our focus on person-centered culture, resident engagement, and social accountability.

- ❖ Physical renovations focused on improving the lives of our residents at Hermitage Northern Virginia were completed in the fall.
- ❖ Renovations and an expansion at Cedarfield are ongoing.
- ❖ Efforts are underway to develop an accredited Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Clinical Pastoral Education Center with a unique focus on providing spiritual care to older adults.
- ❖ Our communities and Innsbrook office partnered in Fiscal Year 2020 with 136 not-for-profit organizations and community programs to offer resource utilization, sponsorships, volunteer service, in-kind donations and collaborative

efforts that impacted persons of all ages and backgrounds.

- ❖ Also during FY2020, Pinnacle Living team members mentored 147 students involved in workforce development initiatives, providing over 6,800 hours of supervised internships, onsite training and career exploration opportunities.
- ❖ Efforts continue to enhance support for those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias through partnership with Dementia Friendly Community efforts, Dementia Friends Virginia and the Alzheimer's Association.
- ❖

Social media and email campaigns took on greater importance as we shared information with local churches about the Samaritan Program. This benevolent assistance has been given in Pinnacle Living communities since the organization was founded in 1948. The following *Samaritan Award Churches* were recognized for the highest level of giving among congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference during FY2020.

- ❖ Markham (Winchester District)
- ❖ Fairmount (Richmond)
- ❖ Westover Hills (Richmond)
- ❖ Bethany (York River)
- ❖ Trinity (Richmond)
- ❖ Walker Chapel (Arlington)
- ❖ New Hope (York River)
- ❖ Gum Spring (Richmond)
- ❖ Silverbrook (Alexandria)
- ❖ Bethia (James River)
- ❖ Clarendon (Arlington)
- ❖ Rodes (Charlottesville)

The last year has shifted the way Pinnacle Living operates each day, just as it has altered how local churches work in ministry and mission. One thing that will not change, however, is our commitment to adapt to the changing needs and desires of older adults in keeping with our Wesleyan tradition of social concern and holistic health. Thank you to all the local churches that maintain connections with our residents, volunteer to make our communities stronger and continue to support the Samaritan Program,

– *Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO*

– *Martha E. Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations*

– *Charles W. Wickham, Director of Donor Development*

UMFS - United Methodist Family Services of Virginia

In 2020, UMFS celebrated 120 years of service, continuing to live out our mission as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families across Virginia, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. We help children find loving families through our programs in foster care, adoption, and kinship care. We help children and families heal through our residential treatment programs and our work in specialized therapies. We help guide students in our specialized education schools. In 2020 we served 1,882 high-risk children. While many of our programs are focused on children and teens, we strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 7,769 high-risk children and families in 147 communities across Virginia.

Since our founding in 1900, the churches of the Virginia Conference have partnered with us as advocates for high-risk

children and families. Churches help recruit and support foster and adoptive families, provide much-needed financial support, and donate countless gifts-in-kind. Our church partners, Child Champion Councils and the UMFS Auxiliary are critical resources for the children and families we serve. UMFS is particularly grateful for all of the support we received during the pandemic, including donations of 900 masks, 420 meals, 740 items from our Amazon Wish List, Christmas gifts for 224 children, and 2,442 essential support kits, in addition to critical financial support.

As we celebrate 120 years of service, we also look to our future to ensure we can continue to serve high-risk children and families in Virginia for another 120 years and beyond. We are investing to upgrade facilities and technologies while building capacity for our programs to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities today. The Be a Champion Capital Campaign is our first comprehensive effort to revitalize our 33-acre Richmond campus since the 1950s. We are funding this project through charitable gifts, a long-term land lease on the front of our property, and internal refinancing and debt reduction. We broke ground on the new Child & Family Healing Center building in August 2020. The new building will upgrade the program from post-WW II cottages to a state-of-the-art treatment facility, serving youth struggling with acute mental health challenges. In the second phase, we will build an addition to our Charterhouse School which will enhance our career and technical education and expand services for elementary students and students with autism.

In 2021 we are also moving through a leadership transition. In April, Greg Peters will retire as President and CEO after 40 years of service to the agency. Greg has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the UMFS Master Plan, which led to the Be a Champion Capital Campaign. Chief Operating Officer Nancy Toscano has been appointed by the Board as the new President and CEO. Nancy has worked at UMFS since 2007 and will be the agency's first female President and CEO.

We are grateful for the support of the Virginia Conference and for your partnership with us as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families. We ask for your continued advocacy for high-risk children, youth, and families. Together, we can create a world where caring, opportunity and generosity are passed on from generation to generation, empowering all children to contribute to society as engaged citizens.

– Michael Giancaspro Chair, UMFS Board of Directors

– Greg Peters, President and CEO

– Nancy Toscano, Chief Operating Office

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

The Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation (“VUMHDC”) is a covenant affiliated entity with the Virginia Annual Conference. Our mission is to expand the supply of affordable housing to low-and -moderate income families, individuals and senior populations in Virginia.

VUMHDC currently operates sixteen (16) projects and is the non-profit minority partner/participant in an additional eighteen (18) properties, together totaling 1,962 units.. The properties operated by VUMHDC have an approximate value of \$60,000,000. All the apartments are classified as “affordable”, meaning that all receive some form of rent subsidy through HUD or Virginia Housing.

VUMHDC is led by President Larry Dickenson, a lay member of Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. He is assisted by the corporate officers making up the Executive Committee, and the other ten (10) Directors.

VUMHDC has identified a multi-year priority of strengthening the corporate financial capacity, as we evolve toward a new, sustainable business model. This direction will require some added Directors, consultants and employees with applicable industry experience, providing the necessary expertise needed for the expansion of our program.

During 2021, we expect to complete or advance several strategic transactions and initiatives:

- ❖ Obtain IRS approval for formation of a new 501.(C)(3) corporation, Momentum Housing Corporation, enabling us to seek and receive charitable donations of property, facilities, and financial assets, and, in return, provide a charitable tax deduction for those donations.
- ❖ Exercise Rights of First Refusal with our Investor Limited Partner for two current properties, transferring sole ownership to VUMHDC.

- ❖ Advance one or more proposed projects to financial close and construction.
- ❖ Recruit and hire two (2) employees to take on responsibilities of our expanding program.

– Larry Dickenson, President

Wesley Housing

Wesley Housing’s vision is that everyone in the greater Washington, DC region has a safe, quality, affordable home, serving as a foundation to thrive, and has a place of value in the community. This guides our mission of building up the lives of our most vulnerable community members by creating and operating healthy, inclusive, stable, affordable housing communities and providing supportive resident services. For over four decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 22 properties (more than 3,200+ residents) in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Fairfax County, and the District. We also manage 9 Community Resource/Support Service Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease, and those with disabilities to regain their dignity and renew their lives.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Despite the pandemic, Wesley Housing had its busiest year of development activity in the history of the organization in 2020. Our expert team closed financing on three new construction projects, two preservation projects, and completed rehabilitation of two additional properties. We made amazing strides toward adding and preserving over 550 affordable housing units in the region over the next two years.

- ❖ Project Completions:
 - Renovations on Brookland Place (Washington, DC) and Culpepper Garden I (Arlington, VA) completed.
- ❖ Preservation Transactions:
 - Joseph Development Inc. (JDI) and Wesley Housing began rehabilitation on 410 Cedar Street Apartments (Washington, DC).
 - Knightsbridge Apartments (Arlington, VA) began rehabilitation.
- ❖ Production Transactions
 - The Arden (Alexandria (Fairfax County), VA), The Cadence (Arlington, VA), and The Waypoint at Fairlington (Alexandria, VA) closed and began construction.
- ❖ Funding Commitments Secured:
 - Senseny Place (Winchester, VA), was awarded \$2 million through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 202 funding pool and received a \$1,600,000 award from the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) and VHTF and is expected to break ground this spring.
 - The Hampshire, a combination of the production and preservation in Washington, D.C. (Ward 4), received an award of 9% tax credits and almost \$1.7 million from the District’s Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) and is expected to begin construction this summer.
 - Whitefield Commons Apartments in Arlington received an award of 2020 9% tax credits and is expected to begin construction this summer.

RESIDENT SERVICES

- ❖ Housing Stability Initiative: In 2020, nearly 70% of Wesley’s 1,269 households were at risk of eviction. Through the work of our resident services team, 100% of “high priority” referrals (765 households) maintained their housing, 197 residents participated in employment services/career coaching, and 20 obtained new or improved employment.

- ❖ **Volunteerism & Seasonal Campaigns:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteer programs in 2020 were minimal. In response to increasing need and with the help of community partners, our resident services team implemented priority programs in the areas of housing stability, job stability, and material assistance. Additionally, 400 youth received new school supplies from our annual drive and 290 households/628 individuals received food assistance gift cards during the holy season of Ramadan through our partnership with Islamic Relief USA, more than \$45,000 in grocery store gift cards were distributed, more than \$250,000 “in-kind” supplemental food assistance was provided by community partners, and 551 residents were supported during the holiday season.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE

- ❖ Last November, Wesley Housing’s Housing Stability Initiative (HSI) was awarded Best Program or Service at the Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference, demonstrating innovative and creative efforts in providing services or assistance to citizens with housing needs.
- ❖ In January 2021, Knightsbridge Apartments in Arlington received National Affordable Housing Management Association’s (NAHMA) “Communities of Quality” national recognition, meeting NAHMA’s high standards in physical maintenance, financial management, programs and services, employee credentials, endorsements, and several other categories.
- ❖ Wesley Property Management was named 6x Winner of the SatisFacts National Resident Satisfaction “Superior” Award from resident ratings of Wesley communities

– Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY (BHECM)

Campus ministry in the Virginia Conference strives to be “a dynamic, diverse demonstration of God’s creative and inviting love” expressed through the ministries of eight Wesley Foundations, five ecumenical campus ministries and five 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.

Starting last March our campus ministries had to overcome the enormous challenges to continue their ministry under the constraints of the pandemic. They began testing and using innovative ways to do outreach, discipleship, and provide emotional support to their students. This work was complicated by reductions in the availability of conference funding. Hopefully this will be restored in the coming fiscal year. The Campus Ministry Association has been instrumental in meeting with and providing support to each ministry. The board looks forward to working with the new Associate Director of Learning Ministries, Nickie Moreno Howard and to gain from her insight and leadership.

One of the on-going projects has been to work with local boards and their property committees to enable all seven of the Wesley Foundation properties to become financially self-sustaining through the use of the CFA Capital Improvement Grants that were approved for that purpose. Four of the properties at have achieved this objective. The reduction in capital grant funding for FY 2020 and FY 2021 have presented significant “self-help challenges” for the remaining three properties.

Please review the report from the Campus Ministry Association and the individual campus ministries. We hope that you will connect with one of the ministries. Thank you, VA Conference for your continued prayers and support of your campus ministries in Virginia.

– John E. Dunning, Chair

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

The Wesley Foundation at Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College

To say that this year has been different would be an understatement, but you already know that. The Spring 2020 semester was strange, students left campus for spring break and did not really return for the rest of the school year. We worked through many first in my experience of campus ministry; students moving out of their rooms mid-semester to online school. We like many ministry's shifted and began to work with our students through zoom and online tools.

One of the side effects from all that was going on with the pandemic was a drain on our students' mental health. We pivoted again and spent most of our time together checking in and just being with each other. For the first time in my ministry we decided to be more intentional about our time together over the summer break. We continued to meet together and our students expressed the need and gratitude for the time that we had together.

We have seen many students not return to campus this fall and there have been many precautions put into place to help us meet together in person. We formed our HCT and made plan to return to meeting together. We got creative and after lots of conversation with the team and students we made the decision to meet together and have dinner in a safe way.

We have not been able to promote and share what we do with new freshmen very easily but our student leaders have stepped up and have worked hard to get the word out. To say we were nervous about this past year would have been an understatement, but God is good and we have had a good number of new students that been engaged with Wesley and have become a vital part of the ministry. Covid has taken a lot of activities, traditions, graduation, and normal student life from our students over the past year but it has not taken the need and desire for authentic community. We have focused on the need to see and be with each other and the leadership at Wesley have worked hard over the past year to be that for our students.

We are hoping for a more "normal" year to come but we also know that normal may not be where we want to return to. We are excited by what God is doing here at the Wesley Foundation at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney and want to continue the important work of giving students a place to belong.

– Justin A. Hicks, Director

Ignite Norfolk - Wesley Foundation at ODU

As with virtually every other ministry, the ministry year of 2020-2021 presented a number of challenges to IGNITENorfolk due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after the submission of last year's report, the students at Old Dominion departed for Spring Break, not to set foot back on campus until Fall 2020 (with heavy restrictions). Because of this, many of our hands-on and interactive ministries that IGNITENorfolk conducted pre-COVID had to be altered or cancelled.

IGNITE sought to continue to make connections throughout the rest of the Spring semester and into the Summer months under these new quarantine guidelines. We held numerous weekly events, including Bible studies, listening sessions, "IGNITEanswers" events where we would discuss scripture applications on humorous and serious topics, and the ability to meet with the Director one-on-one amid concerns and stresses of quarantine life.

Along the way, we continued to run the IGNITEpantry under approved COVID-19 guidelines, partnering with the newly launched ODU food pantry, to meet the increased need to address food insecurity, especially as various restaurants and food options had to put into practice their own restrictions or even shut down operations per state health guidelines.

As a response to the food restrictions on campus, IGNITE started a weekly Hot Meals program where, under approved guidelines, the Director, staff, and volunteers cooked a meal in the IGNITE kitchen that pre-registered students, faculty, and staff could pick up.

Following the challenges that IGNITENorfolk faced during the last year and the challenges that IGNITENorfolk will continue to face as we move out of COVID-19 restrictions, it has been decided that a change of direction will be needed and that the Director of IGNITE will need to be full-time moving forward.

Old Dominion is a field of ministry that is rife with opportunity. We anticipate a new season of sowing and reaping is right around the corner and, with God's help, we prayerfully set our feet on this new path, submitting our future to the Almighty.

–Randy Timmerman, Director 69

The Wesley Foundation at UVA

In addition to living within Virginia’s pandemic restrictions and our Conference’s restrictions and guidelines, Wesley at UVA also lives out our ministry in the context of restrictions from The University of Virginia. College campuses were among the first places to shut down last spring. UVA was in the middle of spring break last March (2020) when the administration announced that the rest of the semester would be online and from home. I didn’t see any students again in person until September.

Fall semester began with a university maximum in-person meeting limit of 10 people. All students were required to abide by this, whether living on the grounds of the university or elsewhere. All student clubs and organizations were expected to comply and Wesley was happy to model loving our neighbors through mutual care and safety. UVA shortened the semester, did away with fall break, and tested students routinely for COVID. At one point in the fall semester the maximum in-person meeting limit was reduced to 6 people.

The shortened spring semester (2021) began late, on February 1, with an initial maximum in-person meeting limit of 5 people. Within the first two weeks that was reduced to 0 people and for a week and a half even the libraries and gyms were closed. As of this writing, the limit is back up to 6 again, but we won’t be surprised when it changes again.

This is our context for ministry. We had just over 21 hours notice of the 0 limit before our scheduled outdoor in-person Ash Wednesday worship was to begin. We went online again.

To say that it has been difficult to plan is an understatement. But our community of faith has focused on coming together in worship (mostly online, sometimes in-person outdoors) and checking in with our new-in-the-pandemic ministry called Mental Health Mondays, a time to ask for help, share what’s difficult, offer tips on what’s working, and to find strength through the realization that we are isolated but we are not alone.

This spring semester (2021) we are trying to meet up a little more in person and outside, with Wesley Walks and outdoor parking lot yoga. We’ve also added a new small group using the “Anxiety as Opportunity for Spiritual Growth” curriculum. Though our ministry building is not as wide open as it sometimes has been, we have been able to offer safe, distanced, Healthy Church Team-supported individual study space for students.

It’s been a long year but the short story is this: We have been here for students in the most unprecedented time any of us has lived through. Thanks be to God!

– Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director

The Pace Center - Wesley Foundation at VCU

Jacque was born in a refugee camp in Burundi, just outside of Rwanda in East Africa. When she was 12 years old, a church mission group sponsored her family to move to the Virginia Beach area. Fast-forward a few years, and Jacque had graduated high school, was accepted to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and after a few semesters, began searching for a community of faith on campus. She found one in the Pace Center.

Jacque’s contagious laughter brought life to our weekly Lunch Church worship services. She shared her incredible experiences and love of the Lord, giving us all a fresh understanding of scripture during Bible Reflection. She loved to cook and volunteered to help other students share food from their cultural backgrounds during our Community Café: \$1 Thursday Lunch. She greeted first-year students on move-in day with “welcome plants” - succulents in painted pots that were donated by local United Methodist church members and youth groups to help decorate new students’ dorms. Jacque also served as a youth director for a local Episcopal church. And she poured out her heart in our Community Conversation series, when students from all backgrounds shared how the killing of George Floyd had impacted them.

At VCU, Jacque aspired to be a Physical Therapist but had struggled to find anyone to help her gain her required 50 “shadow hours” before applying to graduate school. Jacque’s struggle was not unique among VCU students. Over one-third of all VCU students are the first in their family to go to college. Jacque’s struggle was like many others who don’t have the network connections to fully capitalize on their education. Although VCU is proud of its diverse student population and it’s many first-generation college students, the Pace Center realized that VCU was failing its students by not creating a space for these crucial connections with the Richmond professional community.

After the killing of George Floyd, Pace recognized that many Richmond District church members longed to be en-

gaged in more diverse communities. In this longing lay an opportunity: United Methodists throughout Richmond have rich life experiences, connections, and a strong love of neighbor. The VCU student body is rich with diversity, the ambition to build better communities, and a drive towards educational success. The pairing of these two cohorts led to the creation of Pace's Mentorship Program - an effort to help students build networks by connecting them to mentors in the Richmond area who can help guide their civic and professional aspirations.

Reveille and Centenary UMCs agreed to be lead partners in the effort. These churches stepped up to provide funding and help Pace exceed its goal of enlisting 25 initial mentors for the pilot mentorship program. Other Richmond District church members joined, as well as community groups including Rotary Club.

2020 was a difficult year, but with the help of over 25 Richmond District churches and resources from the Virginia Annual Conference, Pace was able to engage with over 1,000 students through innovative ministries including the mentorship program, American Red Cross blood drives, Community Café, Community Conversations, Study Hall, Bible Reflection, Lunch Church, Pause & Reflect mindfulness sessions, and more. Thank you for your faith in what God is doing in this place. We look forward to seeing where God will be revealed in these mentor relationships and other ministries in 2021 and beyond!

– Katie Gooch, Director

The Wesley Foundation at Virginia State (FLOW)

This conference year has been quite a challenge for many, but we have continued to stay strong, and we have continued to do the work to make it possible for the ministry of FLOW at Virginia State University to thrive. We started this year with the challenge of having students come back to school, as we planned from March 2020 to have the students back in during the fall, however we didn't make it back in the fall semester of 2020. Flow then went from meeting in person to zoom, check in with phone calls, and the local students did outreach as much as the COVID-19 restrictions would have allowed. During this time FLOW met weekly for our coffee hour, our Bible Study, prayer, and our Sunday morning worship. A lot of FLOW time was spent and is continued to be spent on taking time out to cultivate the hearts, minds, and stories of these young adult leaders of the NOW generation.

During this conference year FLOW, had several major events that happened and that was we decided as a ministry to go to the local YMCA here during, and serve the community a spaghetti dinner, while practicing social distancing. During this time, we talked with community members as many of them talked about what their struggles were during the pandemic. We partnered with Virginia State University SGA program, and administration to help us with this project. Also during this time, we handed out gift cards to those in the community, as FLOW stands for Fellowship, Outreach, Love and Worship. Another one of our major projects that was done was during November we partnered with the Housing on Virginia State University and we gave to those in community a Thanksgiving Meal Basket. We had various different administrator from Virginia State University, local students, and key leaders in the community to donate turkeys, non-perishable food items, and we packed baskets. We gave away around 35-40 baskets.

As students have matriculated back into Virginia State University at the start of this spring semester, we have restrictions of course in how many we can have in our space, and we honor those guidelines, so we have been doing our weekly Bible Study, and prayer on zoom. Also we have resumed our regular activities of feeding those at Downtown Churches United here in Petersburg Virginia, we have giving away food baskets at Ettrick Elementary School, and we have more recently decided that we would start reading to students in our area every other Friday, to those who are in elementary school. We haven't been able to go in the buildings but we have taken time out to meet with elementary age students on zoom. Also FLOW, has recently started in conjunction with VSU, the campus food pantry. This program is to help students, faculty and staff during this challenging time.

Every week, we open this pantry to students, staff, faculty, who are struggling with food insecurities. As we know our mission is to serve God, humanity, and be kind to others in time of need. We have come together and we get boxes and we give non-perishable food items. Truth is we have some students, faculty and staff who struggle to make ends meet who only make 10 dollars an hour, and need help. We let them come in pick up how many ever boxes are needed, and we always make sure to pray, with them and check in on them sometimes weekly and sometimes those in need come by the office just to tell us thank you. We are maintaining a steady number for our worship experience online, also our Bible

Study, prayer, and weekly check-ins.

In conclusion we have had an amazing year to say the least, and we are excited as we embark upon new endeavors. This upcoming year along with the faculty, staff, and student body of VSU, we are showing our support and inclusion for all LGBTQIA persons. We are offering love, kindness, care, and support to those who would love to join us. We are holding space this year to listen to their stories, to see how we can support them in any way possible. We are sticking with the mission of Jesus Christ of loving out neighbors as we love ourselves. It has been a wonderful opportunity as the campus Pastor of VSU, and I look forward to serving this present age.

The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech

Just weeks after writing my report for the Book of Reports last year is when everything shut down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. What a difference a few weeks makes! It was on a Wednesday while Wesley was in LaBelle, FL on our annual Spring Break Mission Trip with around 30 students when everyone's phones began to alert them that they would be getting a 2nd week of Spring Break and that the rest of their second semester was more than likely going all online. This may sound like incredible news for a college student (two weeks of Spring Break!!), but the circumstances threw our students into crisis mode. That night for worship we gathered together to process what they were experiencing and how they were feeling about it. Here is one account (of many similar) of a student who already was dealing with anxiety and depression:

This felt like a self-destruct button on all of the progress I had made. All the routines I had carefully maintained, the support groups, the regular social events, having course work to distract me from getting overwhelmed by the many new emotions I had decided to feel and process in therapy. The next night when we decided to forgo worship to talk about what had happened, I had a panic attack and sobbed hysterically. To me this felt like a death sentence. I could not imagine how I would navigate this new reality without in person social connection, classes to attend, and therapeutic support I had come to rely on. I sincerely looked at the situation and thought "this is going to kill me." I had missed events and classes and stuff like that in the past when I was not able to hide the pain I was in, and now I was no longer able to make that decision myself.

– Student at Wesley (Senior)

This was a familiar refrain when we arrived back at Wesley that Saturday (having to drive 16 hours straight to get home because we couldn't stop anywhere to stay the night) and our students began to pack their things to head back home for the rest of the semester. The common question I received was "What are we going to do? I can't lose my Wesley community!" Students were in dire need and, for some, it was a matter of life and death (and this is not being dramatic)!

To make things more complicated for our community, it is after Spring Break that our Core Ministry Team transitions to new leadership! So, in the midst of a pandemic, students struggling, anxious about school, and fears of losing community, we would be figuring out what was next with new leaders who can't meet together in person. What would seem like a scenario for disaster ended up being a beautiful example of how team-based ministry and a community built on their values, mission, and vision can lead to transformation especially in the midst of crisis. Our new Core Ministry Team, without missing a beat, quickly began to evaluate our new context and develop a new short-term vision to make sure our students could stay connected in community and to minister to one another through the challenges they were facing. They created new strategies for ministry and began to adapt by trying new things and not worrying if they failed.

This concerted effort by our leadership team and ministry area teams produced a creative and multi-faceted approach to maintaining (and developing) community. From multiple GroupMe chats to a weekly worship podcast and a continuation of our CoGs (small groups) over the summer to students checking in on one another, our community was able to provide a safe and loving environment for grace, love, and spiritual growth to continue while also making sure students were being cared for in the context of community.

Overall, Wesley transitioned very seamlessly to an online format. We started the journey of COVID with vulnerability and that opened the floor for people being open about how they wanted to stay connected. Because of this, people cultivated their leadership and helped us all stay close as a community. So, for Wesley, vulnerability about how we are feeling was crucial. This honesty was something that sets Wesley apart as a community and as a ministry.

Wesley has been a grounding point during COVID. The group chats are being used daily, with people sending out mission opportunities, recipes to try in quarantine, or just sending daily pictures of their pets. Countless GroupMe were made, among them being an arts and crafts GroupMe, an Animal Crossing video game GroupMe, a pets GroupMe, and a baking GroupMe. These group chats have helped me to feel connected with some of my best friends. It helped to remind me that when all of this is over, we will be able to sit in Kelly's office and joke around again. Wesley did zoom calls to make meeting up feel similar to being in person. From Zoom Worship, to our Harry Potter and the Sacred Text discussion group, to CoGs (which are our small groups), these zoom calls have helped me feel like I was sitting right next to my Wesley family. From Netflix parties and online bingo, to baking competitions and virtual Reading Day breakfast, Wesley has been a place to help ground me. It is a community that I feel as if I could continue to grow and learn from, in spite of everything going on in the world right now.

– Student at Wesley (Senior)

These narratives are just a glimpse of what students have gone through this past year and the ways in which their campus ministry was critical to their health and well-being in a time that they needed it most! I can honestly say that our students, in one of the most challenging times to be in ministry, adapted and was able to not only meet the needs of the ministry and students, but to also transform the ministry and lives of our students.

To start the new school year, we understood that our normal ministries would need to change to accommodate all the needed safety measures and new learning situation at Virginia Tech. Our usual opportunities to meet new students and build community in our awesome building were not feasible, so our students created new opportunities to do this important work while being able to maintain the safety of students. It was a challenge when other ministry groups on campus were doing their “normal” stuff to reach out to new students and we were making the safety of students a priority. However, we witnessed students coming to our virtual events because they felt unsafe at other ministries who were going about things like normal. There is no doubt that we wished we could be in community in the same ways as before, but our students have done an amazing job doing ministry together within the safe guidelines we have in place.

There has been, and continues to be, an incredible need for students to have space to share what they are going through. Students are struggling mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually during the most challenging time ever to be a college student. Wesley at Virginia Tech created opportunities for 1v1 relationships and pastoral care so that we can meet the needs of our students. Our students continue to be there for one another living out our mission to “Love Out Loud.” I am so very proud of our students; their resiliency, passion, and desire to live out their faith is such a manifestation of the glory of God!

– Bret Gresham, Campus Minister

The Wesley Foundation at William & Mary

When I look back over 2020, I could not be prouder of our students, our board, and our community. Because of the amazing support and commitment of so many, we lived out God's call very differently, but just as powerfully, as any previous year. All of this is possible because we are clear on who God is calling us to be, and we continue to follow God's vision for us.

The leadership team provided 44 continuous weeks of ministry. Even with the campus shut down, we continued our ministry online through the spring, summer, and fall. I cannot say enough about the amazing ministry carried out by Margaret, Mazie, Caroline, Grace, Sarah Grace, Emily, and Italia!

We read and discussed the Bible and books: *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, and *Womanist Midrash* by Wil Gafney. We also had a group called *Podcast Potluck* where a different student would choose a podcast episode each week for us to listen to and discuss. We had a multitude of fellowship events ranging from online games to in-person movie nights, ice cream socials, and coffee hours (all of which were outside, individual professionally prepared food and beverages, and socially distanced).

Our Campus Food Pantry, thanks to our partnership with Williamsburg United Methodist, was able to stay open the entire year. Church, campus, and community folks donated money and supplies for the pantry to meet the needs of every-

one who utilized it this year, over 600 visits!

We provided 26 weeks of housing and food for students with no safe home to go to when the campus shut down. In addition to providing the housing at no cost, they also utilized the Campus Food Panty, along with weekly grocery runs for them to get fresh food to prepare and cook.

We celebrated 14 seniors! These amazing people laid the foundations for everything that we have done this year! We didn't get to celebrate in person, but we did have one heck of a Zoom celebration!

Wesley continues to be Wesley. Nothing exemplifies it more than what happened late one Saturday evening this past fall while the residents were having a movie night. These students had applied and been accepted to live at Wesley because of their commitment to our community and God's vision of hospitality for all. This evening, a freshman student in crisis, whom none of them knew, came to the house unannounced, walked in, and laid down to rest. We discovered that she was a freshman having a mental health crisis. We had the local fire department EMT team come evaluate her, and they determined she did need to go to a local mental health facility for evaluation. I walked with her to the ambulance, and the EMT's allowed her to sit up in the back of the ambulance. When I went downstairs (when the EMT's arrived, the residents went downstairs to give the student privacy) to share with the residents that she was safe, the unanimous sentiment was, "We're so glad that she came to our house, rather than any of the others around here, because who knows what could have happened to her." That is the power of community, faith, and love. When a stranger shows up unannounced in crisis, the first and foremost question for us is, "How can we make sure that they are loved and cared for?" And that's what we did. We don't know how or why she chose our house, but I imagine it had something to do with the Holy Spirit and our sign out front. Even in the midst of her confusion, she knew that any place with a rainbow sign that explicitly states that we are radically inclusive, Black Lives Matter, Love is Love, No Human Being Is Illegal, was a community that would love and care for her.

Thanks so much for all that you do to make Wesley the faithful community that we are!

—Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister

Arise Campus Ministry at GMU

This year has been a year of extreme difficulty for so many people and the same is true for the students at Arise Campus Ministry. With the shutting down of campus during Spring Break of 2020, some of our students found themselves in need of housing, food assistance, and additional spiritual support. This year forced us to again think creatively and holistically about how Arise lives out its vision statement, which is: Because we believe in Jesus, we welcome all, share God's universal love and compassionately live out our faith on campus and in the community.

With that goal in mind we reached out weekly to our current college students and recent alumni. We continued programming throughout the summer and created new offerings for the young adults under our care who longed for community, and were unable to find one because of the restrictions of the pandemic. We also launched an inspirational weekly worship podcast, which is seeing hundreds of plays/downloads a month. We have continued to minister to the students at and surrounding George Mason University.

This year, Arise students have actively standing up for social justice in a multitude of ways. Students have learned and discussed the history of racism, white privilege, and ways in which we can and should stand up for Black lives and continue to build an anti-racist world. We have had students pray, attend vigils, march and protest this summer in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. In addition to working for racial justice, students have also continued to insure that Arise is an affirming ministry for LGBTQ+ students. Our students have continued to reach out to LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies on campus to ensure that everyone knows that God loves and affirms even those who have been harmed and ostracized by other faith communities. We continue to live into the agreement set forth by all of our ecumenical partners, the United Methodist Church, Episcopalian Diocese of Virginia, National Capital Presbytery, the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mid-Atlantic region of the Disciples of Christ.

Another exciting development this year is the number of students who are discerning a possible call to ministry. We have seen multiple students begin their path to become clergy, as well as an alumnus who has discerned a call to work in campus ministry. This is so exciting to know that we continue the legacy of future clergy of all of our partner denomina-

tions who can trace their faith journey back to Arise Campus Ministry.

These incredible ways in which we have continued to do amazing ministry, in the midst of the pandemic is a sign of God's love and grace. This past year we continue to be blessed by a number of amazing volunteers, donors, supporters, local churches, pastors, board members and Virginia Conference partners. Without the Virginia Conference and the many faithful and loving persons who care about young adults throughout our Conference, we would not be doing God's work on campus. On behalf of myself, our staff, volunteers, students and others thank you for assisting us to build God's family, God's Kingdom at George Mason University.

–Andy Greis, Board Chair

Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington

This past year has been a challenge for everyone, but thankfully we were able to be united God's spirit in unique ways! There have been so many things happening in our world that are hard to wrestle with and that make ministry and community even more important to college students. At the CCC we had to get creative when we learned that students were going home in the middle of March 2020 and that they would be finishing the semester at home. We switched programming to online via zoom. Thankfully this provided a space for students to connect and continue participating in the weekly programming of the CCC.

Our weekly programming this year provided students opportunities to connect and deepen their faith in a physically distanced way! In spring 2020 we continued our study of the book of Luke, created space for meditation, and continued our weekly dinners via zoom. All of these provided time and space to get together via zoom to check in with one another. These check-ins became crucial to students since they rely heavily on interaction with others at the CCC. We did something new this year and we had a Bible Study over the summer which also provided opportunities for students to check in over the summer and continue faith development.

Throughout the fall 2020 semester we continued having our weekly Table Talk meals. We supported local restaurants and provided pre-packaged meals for students to pick up and then eat while on zoom together! We worshipped and had many other meaningful conversations via zoom. We also had a fall retreat in the yard of the CCC building. We were able to purchase lawn chairs so that students could sit physically distanced. Thankfully we were also able to have our tradition of a Lessons and Carols service via zoom and this provided a great opportunity to involved more community members from our supporting churches! Overall we are so thankful for all who support the CCC and who see the importance of ministry to and with college students!

–Elizabeth Snader, Campus Minister

Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

Did you ever wonder what a community college does or who they serve? Did you ever wonder how campus ministry works with a community college? Community College Ministries is your campus ministry. We serve community colleges in southern Virginia where over 40,000 students deal with faith, family, study, careers, and other challenges every single day! Colleges include Virginia Western, Dabney Lancaster, Central Virginia, Danville, New River, Patrick Henry, Wytheville, Virginia Highlands, Southwest, and Mountain Empire. These ministries continue to be active even in the days of COVID-19. Where there's a mission, there's a way! The Presbyterian Church USA and Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Church are partners with the Virginia Conference. Community College Ministries sponsors Alliance for Excellence involving hundreds of students along with African American congregations, launched in 1986 with support from GBGM's EMLC and the United Methodist Self-Development Fund. Alliance for Excellence provides vital ministries through personal or remote fellowship, seminars, choirs, discussion groups, and community service including "Hoops Don't Shoot" with youth facing the pressures of violence and poverty. The Danville group works in partnership with the Center for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation at Duke University. The Racial Healing program offers a model for changing the race narrative of race in our colleges, churches, and communities. Community College Ministries has sponsored "Rally in the Valley" bringing community college students of faith together from across the entire Commonwealth.

Our newest program is outreach among young people coming to college from foster care settings in cooperation with the Great Expectations program of the Virginia Community College System and Open Table. And finally, Community College Ministries hosts mission and service opportunities for campus ministries, colleges, churches, and youth. We have 72 home repair projects waiting for volunteers in the Appalachian region of the Commonwealth with housing and project supervision ready and available. The president of the board is Sandy Saunders of Danville, VA. The vice president of the board is Muriel Mickles of Lynchburg, VA. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

– Stephen Darr

United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University

United Campus Ministries continues to offer ecumenical and inclusive outreach to the students of CNU and to the surrounding community with a focus on faith formation. Despite the setbacks posed by COVID-19, the closure of campus, and the restrictions imposed upon the reopening of campus, we have continued to meet several times weekly via ZOOM.

Currently, we meet each week for a Coffee Hour on Sunday afternoons, which provides an opportunity for fellowship and “catching up;” for a prayer-oriented Vespers worship service on Wednesday evenings, with topical readings and its own evolving liturgy; for a three-hour, fairly intensive Bible Study on Saturday afternoons (presently we’re working through Dr. Amy-Jill Levine’s Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven); and for a Movie Night on alternating Friday evenings (where presently we’re screening *The Chosen* season 1). While not every student attends every event, they are able to curate their experience based on what works well with their schedule and what form of devotion speaks best to them.

Our students have also recently taken on a couple of ongoing projects. Moved by the plight of the unhoused this Winter, our students have begun making plans to collect donations (both monetary and material) for cold weather kits to be distributed to the unhoused next Winter. Also, in conjunction with the Women’s Club of Newport News, we hope to bring a “Little Free Pantry” to campus sometime in the next year in order to help those college students struggling with food security.

This year, our campus minister challenged our Board of Directors to be in discernment regarding a revitalization of our ministry. After some preliminary research, the Board has agreed to allocate between five and eight thousand dollars to invest in new branding, marketing, and a website. Discernment is ongoing, but the Board will be spending their March meeting (re)articulating our Vision, Values, and Mission as a ministry. After that time, the work will begin with various vendors in hopes of launching our re-branded ministry on-campus for the Fall 2021 semester. We hope to revive our ministry, which has struggled in recent history (especially with the restrictions put upon us by COVID-19) with the help of the Virginia Conference, the Board of Higher Education, and the York River District, as well as our other denominational partners.

– Michael Dean Burnett, Campus Minister

RISE Faith Community - JMU

As is true of all faith communities over the past year, we have had to redefine what our worship environments look and feel like in order to continue to gather safely. Thankfully, while our learning curve was steep and took time, we were able to lean on our staff and some new volunteer resources to create a live streaming virtual worship experience every Sunday utilizing a combination of Zoom, VMix and Facebook Live. As the old saying goes, “Necessity is the mother of invention,” a true summary of the knowledge we have sought in order to remain connected during this extremely challenging time. While COVID-19 has stolen much from us, we have resolved to not just survive, but thrive, empowered with the Holy Spirit who holds us, guides us, and as always, makes a way where there seems to be no way.

We reluctantly decided to pause some of our ministry initiatives due to safety concerns related to the pandemic. However, exciting new ones have also emerged and are bearing fruit as we learn how to dream and innovate in this new hybrid environment of in-person and virtual gathering. We continue to offer an interactive Sunday Service in the virtual

format and are celebrating the ways this format has allowed us to invite many new people in to worship with us. A particularly wonderful memory from this past year was our virtual graduation celebration in which we honored our graduation seniors, who were faced with a difficult end to their school careers due to COVID.

Conducting much of our ministry in virtual spaces has allowed us to serve two community partners, Secret Boutique (a clothing ministry for at-risk students in secondary schools) and Larkin Arts (a retail space and working art studio for emerging artists), who were in need of physical space in which to store materials and work, and has encouraged us to dream about community partnerships with each moving forward. Another beautiful collaboration emerged between RISE and some area restaurants through Deliver the Love, an initiative that delivered hot meals, grab-and-go snacks, and cards of appreciation to healthcare workers at major area hospitals. Just Love, our ministry in development that seeks to promote and empower restorative justice, continues to be an exciting plan in development with remarkable energy around it.

We expanded our part-time staff to support and nurture new and flourishing ministry opportunities, including micro-communities called +Groups (“Plus” Groups), some exciting time-limited, content-specific series on the intersection of faith with other timely cultural issues, new innovations in funding, and RISE U college ministry, now serving students at James Madison University (JMU) and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). Some wonderful innovations from RISE U have included the initiation of several weekly +Group environments, a moving and widely publicized Adopt-a-Senior event that paired college students with aging adults in senior living communities, a strengthening of ecumenical partnerships with other campus ministries, building active collaborations with existing student organizations, and fostering a partnership with JMU Media Arts & Design Department for branding development for our Just Love ministry initiative.

As RISE U continues its exciting forward momentum, we look toward expanding collaboration with student organizations that focus on marginalized groups, expansion of our Adopt-a-Senior event to an ongoing and fruitful connection between college students and senior citizens, and expanding our relationship with Secret Boutique to include area college campuses. We are thrilled to consider the possibilities that await us in 2021.

BOARD OF LAITY

During the Annual Conference session on October 31, 2020, I asked you – all 99.49% of us laity and our clergy partners – to take off your shoes and walk with me as the ones being sent to lead God’s people on the holy ground where we each stand, this sacred space where our words and actions matter more than ever. As we look around our Virginia Conference churches, our creativity is amazing. Our resiliency is inspiring. Our flexibility and agility have grown tremendously. Yet, there is so much work to do, so many places where we need to ask hard questions, where we need to take risks – even if we fail. There are yet so many places where courageous conversations must happen. This is all holy ground.

As the group tasked with challenging, inspiring and equipping the laity of the Virginia Conference for ministry in our churches and our world, the Board of Laity (BOL) has focused over the last six months on courageous conversations of our own. Rev. Jason Stanley led two-sessions of On-Boarding in December for the board. Questions of structure and function emerged, much like discussions you are having in your local churches. Insecurities and frustrations as to how best to lead in this liminal time in the denomination, in our churches and in the greater community became apparent. Follow-up conversations were held among the four regional prayer/work teams of the Board of Laity. This work will shape goal setting and action planning for the remainder of 2021.

Our Conference Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) team continues to offer vital and inspirational training and assistance to laity across the Conference, responding to a variety of questions and concerns. The first Virtual Lay Servant Academy was held on November 14, 2020, with over 100 participants in three classes. Due to the COVID pandemic, LSM offered grace to all Lay Servants by waiving continuing education requirements for those who needed a course to meet the three-year requirement in 2020. An additional year has been granted to complete the educational requirement. These are two examples of how the Conference LSM team has adapted so that Lay Servants felt supported even in the midst of the pandemic and extraordinary circumstances of the last year.

Progress on infrastructure has been made for the Conference Scouting Ministries. A grant was received from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation which will allow Scouting Ministries to structure our Conference-level efforts, provide seed money to each of the districts and support training scholarships. This work will be overseen by a newly created Conference Scouting Ministry Advisory Board.

– Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST MEN

2020 - 2023 Goals (summary)

Prepare (disciple) men for service and leadership; succession management aligned with church demographics; reach new men and their families and mentor new Christians; connect with other Conference agencies and boards: prevent domestic violence jointly with UMW; Holy Spirit led Christian fellowship through Wesleyan Transformational Small Groups (class meetings) at all fellowships; Bible studies; revise the Men’s Spiritual Weekend; and ignite Younger Men’s Ministry. To accomplish this, we have filled two key vacancies for Vice President for Spiritual Life and Chaplain and are working to fill our Younger Men’s Ministry Advocate. Mentoring our replacements is a priority paying dividends. Please continue to pray for us!

As key initiatives in the past year, the Virginia UM Men have continued to encourage the formation of Younger Men’s Ministry, along with Webinars on the Various UMM Ministries and Men’s Health. My first Cabinet meeting took a new look. We held an open conversation with four (4) UMC African American Pastors. We posed the question as to the Relevancy of the United Methodist Men Council in the African American Church since the involvement of the African American Church Fellowships are lacking on both the District and Conference Levels. At the suggestion of these Pastors, we will hold additional discussions with the various African American Churches, BMCR Pastors, and UMM Fellowships to get a sense of UMM Community involvement and the Relevancy of the UMM from a District and Conference perspective.

Over the next year, we will continue to pursue our goals to have our leadership be representative of our membership

with particular emphasis on discipling Younger Men. We have updated our By-laws as well as our vision, values, and goals for 2020-2023.

Ministries

Men's Spiritual Advance: We have revised our strategy relative to spiritual retreats and are now partnering with men regionally to conduct joint District events around the Conference each year. Our first joint event was held at Camp Overlook near Harrisonburg on January 3-4, 2020. Our next retreat is being rescheduled because of the pandemic and possibly with a different format to be announced later this year (2021).

Spiritual Webinars: We realized that since the pandemic, we have a captive audience. We decided to bring our Ministries directly to the Men of the Conference. We have entitled our Webinars – The Love, Learn and Lead Series. These were not training webinars but information interactive Webinars on the Ministries of the UMM in the Conference. We are adding (3) Three more Webinars to include one on: Men's Health, PTSD and Cybersecurity during the Pandemic. The Cybersecurity expert is one of the Experts that provides the Cybersecurity on Air Force One.

- ❖ Love, Learn, and Lead (LLL): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89824607164>
Meeting ID: 898 2460 7164
- ❖ January 12 - Intentional Discipleship, 6:30 PM
- ❖ February 16 - Personal Prayer, 6:30 PM (Andrew said the focus is on personal prayer vs. corporate prayer)
- ❖ March 16 - Racism, 6:30 PM
- ❖ April 13 - Men's Health, 6:30 PM
- ❖ TBA – PTSD
- ❖ TBA - Cybersecurity

We will continue our Webinars through the end of the year and all Webinars are posted on the VAC UMM Website (<https://www.vaumc.org/UMM>)

Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB) Mentoring: Advocate David Bean and his team have deployed a mentor/mentee training program. Using Wesley's 21 questions and corresponding scripture, the initiative will help us address generational gaps in our churches, provide new disciples with experienced mentors, and focus our discipleship on service (faith in action).

Young Men's Ministry: In coordination with the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ), we have established this ministry to explore ways to integrate and grow participation by late Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials. To this end we have deployed a mentoring program (see WBB above), and encouraged participation in small transformational groups. Additionally, by focusing on projects not presentations, interactions not programs, and by showing, not telling, we are demonstrating our dedication to building relationships, not walls. We are starting our Younger Men's Ministry from the Campus Ministry approach. We have invited the various UMM Campus Ministers across the conference to become a partner our Team.

Men's Ministry: Three certified Men's Ministry Specialists (Todd Hoar, Johnnie Draughon and David Bean) 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 of our strategy to reach new people since half of scouting families do not have church homes. In 2019, Scouting Advocate Bill Chaffin was appointed to the Conference Board of Laity. We received a \$5,000 UM Foundation grant to initiate District programs, provide scholarships to Philmont for UM scouter training during the 100th Anniversary, and funding to stabilize the Conference structure. Finally, we created a chaplain aide training program.

AMEND Together is an innovative initiative dedicated to preventing domestic violence against women and girls by engaging and educating men. The GCUMM has partnered with AMEND Together to create the AMENDING Through Faith training course in which men learn to recognize, respond to, and prevent violence against women. The Virginia Conference UMM received a grant to help fund this initiative. To find out more, visit the GCUMM website or view the

video <https://youtu.be/KskVFJktm0g>

Prayer Advocacy: There are currently seven District prayer advocates. Districts still in need of prayer advocates are Alexandria, Arlington, Charlottesville, Danville, Eastern Shore, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Rappahannock, Roanoke, and Staunton. Todd Hoar, our Conference Prayer Advocate, distributed Upper Room materials throughout the year. The Upper Room prayer wall can be found at <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/prayer-wall>.

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

The Winchester District UMM is also supporting the Saratoga House in Winchester, formerly operated by Heart Havens but now under the management of Shenandoah Valley Community Residences, Inc.

Camp Rainbow Connection holds a week-long respite camp once in June and once in July for individuals with developmental disabilities. While finances are a continuing challenge, an even greater challenge is getting enough camp counselors to serve. Camp Rainbow is held at Richard Bland College in Petersburg and Ron Rumsey is our Camp Rainbow Connection Advocate.

Prison and Jail Ministries:

UMM provides volunteer and monetary support to:

- ❖ **Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry** (DBOM) which provides the 32-week *Disciple Series* to prisoners (Gene Mims, POC);
- ❖ **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. We also advocate for the children of incarcerated adults through **All God's Children**. Each year our Conference sponsors 90 youth and children with an opportunity to grow in Christ.

Hunger Relief: Wade Mays, with the Society of St. Andrew, will have provided an estimated 1.6 million servings of food by July 2020 with the help of our UMM volunteers.

The Beacon: Our monthly e-newsletter has strong readership (2000+) from both clergy and laity as well as subscribers outside the Conference taking regular notice of our men's activities. The Beacon is emulated by other Conferences providing insightful articles, timely news items, and promoting UMM sponsored events. Our editor, Jon Simons, always welcomes your input!

– Albert S. Weal Jr., President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Connected by faith, hope and love, the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women “zoomed” forward with a slow start in 2020 but remained committed to serving women, children, and youth at home and around the world through leadership development, service and advocacy, spiritual growth, and transformative education. Events were cancelled but our will is strong.

Hearts are heavy for those who have passed and those who have suffered due to the pandemic.

Besides Mission Team and Executive Committee virtual meetings, the Annual Meeting in October was well attended for the conduction of business, the lifting of spirits and the support of each other. The Reverend Dr. Sarah Calvert was the keynote speaker.

Our women are resilient; our women are determined. Our women are faithful, and our women know the importance of the missions they support.

– Nancy Walsh, President

THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, the Board of Communications did extensive work to better understand the communications needs of the Virginia Annual Conference. The results of our conference-wide survey confirmed a strong interest in expanded digital communications. In close consultation with the conference communications staff, the board worked to address the feedback we received in the survey. As part of this initiative, we formed several work teams focused on expanding our communication ministry with laity, providing a resource hub for the conference, and developing ways to better equip local churches with communications resources.

Our efforts to expand communications with laity resulted in an 80% increase in the number of laity receiving conference communications. The resource hub was launched on Facebook in early 2021. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vaumcresourcehub> to join the resource hub group. The board will continue to expand on this work.

Our largest initiative over the last year was the Board of Communications Technology Grant. In summer 2020, the board recognized that churches would need to continue to offer worship, Sunday school, and other ministries online, and that many local churches would need resources to help purchase equipment to maintain or improve their online ministries. We received 316 applications for the Technology grant. The board allocated \$50,000 from our Advocate Reserves fund to the grant, and additional financial resources were made available to the board by the conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). The board awarded grants to 87 churches, for a total of \$77,613.50.

As part of the grant program, the board also offered technical consultations. A total of 48 churches received these consultations, which began in January 2021. The board is excited to be able to offer this support to local churches, and is working to identify ways we can expand on this initiative.

–Jill W. Gaynor, President

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Members of the Commission On Disabilities (COD) committee strive to uphold their mission statement by providing advocacy, education, and direct service on behalf of persons with challenging conditions. We affirm the responsibilities of the Church to be in ministry with all persons regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions in the life of the local church and the VA Annual Conference.

The committee normally meets at least three times annually and is made up of numerous clergy and laity throughout our VA Conference and the goal is to have a representative from each district from our VA Conference. We stay connected with the Camp Rainbow committee and Heart Havens through a representative from COD. We have grants for local churches to help with church programs and accessibilities to their buildings and we share this information on the VA Conference website and at Annual Conference at our table in the exhibit room.

We would like to thank all our clergy and laity for their support toward our COD committee, and if you would like to be a member or have any questions please feel free to contact me.

– Neil W. McLaughlin, chair

THE COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY (CEMCA)

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) serves to be the prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of all ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference. This year our work focused on education, strategic planning, advocacy, and accompaniment into account God's church at all levels (General, Conference, District, and Local). We believe that our commission can stimulate individual and group agency that will move the Virginia Annual Conference forward in more inclusive, ethnically-diverse, and racially just ways.

We represent: African-American Ministries, the Immigration Task Force, Asian-American Ministries, Native American Ministries, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), VA FOCUS 2020, Methodists Associated for the Cause of the Hispanic-American (MARCHA), National/ South-Eastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Hispanic-Latino Caucus, VAUMC’s Latino Clergy Caucus, along with Inter-Ethnic collaboration and integration across the annual conference. This year we continued to serve as a multicultural resource for VAUMC’s SEJ/GC Delegation in response to the elections at the 2019 annual conference.

As all groups, our constituencies met challenges during the past twelve months but have risen to the challenge. The Native American Ministries Association developed their family retreat into a virtual format; Asian American Ministries continues to develop leadership models and is sharing best practices for discipleship in exciting ways; BCMR and the Latino Clergy Caucus are renewing their commitments to developing new leadership in the conference through mentorship for both laity and clergy. The pandemic period has taught us all to work together in new and unprecedented ways. The work of racial reconciliation continues despite new obstacles presented.

We as a commission are not only allowing people to have voice at the table but are breaking new ground to live into that voice. When all have the freedom to live into that voice, ALL can authentically be who God has called them to be.

As a commission we are engage in the Bishop’s Call to Action work group on Racial Injustices, immigration advocacy for persons in sanctuary, and the dangling earring challenge, while monitoring and speaking to the unique dynamics in our conference.

We continue our conference monitoring efforts yearly in conjunction with CoSROW. We invite all laity and clergy to complete both the CEMCA and the CoSROW surveys found online. The CEMCA survey is at (<https://vaumc.org/cemca>). This information helps in our continued efforts to be sure all voices are heard, present, and represented in our annual conference.

We encourage all members of the Annual conference to focus on the talking points outlined in the Race & Reconciliation Convocation’s resources when engaging in difficult, faith-driven conversations as we continue the journey ever closer to becoming the Beloved Community. To this end, we are recommitting our commission by moving to a more flexible structure and meeting monthly throughout the year to address the underlying epidemic our church and communities face: Racism.

– Lori Valentine de Segovia (Laity) and Lyle Morton (Clergy), CEMCA co-chairs

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of women in the full life of the United Methodist church. At each Annual Conference, COSROW works with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) to observe and record the participation of women, minorities, youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. This data collection continues at Annual Conference 2021.

At the 2020 Annual Conference, COSROW and CEMCA worked together to collect demographic data on Lay members of the Conference. (Statistics on Clergy members are published by the Office of Clergy Excellence.) Approximately 1,300 Lay members attend Annual Conference each year. Here are the results of our survey:

Comparison of Lay Members at Annual Conference by Year (according to Survey Responses)

Year	Completed Surveys (#/%)	Women	Men	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino/a	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Youth	Young Adult	Adult	Older Adult	75+
2020	264 (20%)	62%	37%	85%	7%	2%	2.3%	.4%	0%	1%	5%	37%	43%	15%
2019	462 (35%)	64.5%	35%	90%	4%	1.3%	2.3%	1.8%	.22%	4%	4%	36%	39%	

In 2020, we received 264 survey responses, about 20% of lay members attending. Surveys were completed anonymously and requested basic demographic information: Gender, Ethnicity, and Age range. Over time, we strive for more

ethnic diversity and more delegates in the 18-34 age range.

Of the 264 people responding, 62% were women, 37% were men. Under Ethnicity, 85% were White (Not Hispanic or Latino/a), 7% were Black or African American; 2.3% were Hispanic or Latino/a; 1.5% were Asian; .4% American Indian. In 2020, we added a 75+ age range. Respondents were less than 1% Under 18; 5% age 18-34; 37% age 35-64; 43% age 65-74; and 15% age 75+.

Again, lay delegates are majority white, majority women, and ages 35-64. We are beginning to build observations for comparison.

COSROW members and volunteers also worked to monitor the Annual Conference sessions on September 19 (declared invalid) and October 31. Observed speakers were 94% white, 6% Asian, and Bishop Lewis. 56% laity and 44% clergy. Equal (50/50) men and women spoke. Presenters were 62% adults, 10% youth, 14% young adults and 14% older adults.

Resources

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) publishes articles and training resources on their website at www.gcsr.org. Training topics include inclusive language, reducing gender discrimination, and women in the Bible. COSROW has copies of their resources to preview or can assist you in contacting the General Commission. Contact any of our members. COSROW can also send trained representatives to your district to hold a Listening Post.

COSROW encourages all to consider participating in the World Council of Churches Thursdays in Black campaign. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies. To order a packet of information and buttons (free or by donation), please contact us directly. More information is available at oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black.

We're at www.vaumc.org/cosrow. Also, like us on Facebook for news, events, and updates at "Commission on the Status and Role of Women – VA United Methodist Conference."

COSROW holds two in-person meetings and two conference call meetings per year. Meeting dates are announced at www.vaumc.org/cosrow and on Facebook.

– Mary Dadisman, Clergy Chair



*The following four reports are from agencies that have been awarded
Conference Benevolence Grants for 2020:*

GRACEINSIDE

United Methodist affiliated GraceInside staff:

Chaplain Michael Blythe (Greensville Corr. Ctr. – S-1 Cluster)

Chaplain Donna Smith (Greensville Corr. Ctr. – S-2 Cluster)

Chaplain Paul Ritter (Keen Mtn. Corr. Ctr. & Marion Corr. Treatment Center)

Chaplain Daniel Theiben (Red Onion & Wallens Ridge State Prisons – Restricted Housing)

Methodist Representatives serving on GraceInside's Board of Trustees:

Rev. Marilyn Heckstall, Liaison to the Bishop (Virginia Conference UMC)

Ms. Wenda Singer, Member at Large (VAUMC)

2020 will undoubtedly be remembered as a walk through the Valley of the Shadow with the COVID-19 pandemic and the personal, social and economic suffering wrought by the scourge. GraceInside's mission to "save lives from the inside out" has been challenged on an existential basis with the lockdown of religious programs and banning of chaplains and volunteers. However, every time that circumstances seemed to block the way, God made a NEW way. GraceInside's chaplains have been allowed to communicate with their inmate parishioners via emails, written correspondence and crisis

care/pastoral phone calls. This has been a difficult year for the inmates, with no contact visiting, programs, congregate worship or Bible studies, and extremely limited movement. Added to these stressors is the shadow of the coronavirus, which has taken over 50 inmate lives. Never has the need for pastoral care been greater, and I am humbled to say that our chaplains have risen to the occasion and proven that remote ministry can reach incarcerated men and women in amazing and miraculous ways!

Amidst the tumult, in 2020 GraceInside celebrated a century of providing chaplains to Virginia's state correctional facilities. From a single chaplain assigned to the Virginia State Penitentiary in 1920 to 30 chaplains serving 30 correctional facilities in 2021, GraceInside's mission continues to be providing professional chaplain services to incarcerated men and women in Virginia's state correctional facilities. In regular times (as opposed to the pandemic lockdown), these part-time "prison pastors" plan weekly worship services, preach the Gospel, administer Holy Communion, provide pastoral care/counseling as well as coordinate religious volunteers and maintain accurate records as mandated by the Virginia Department of Corrections. During the pandemic, the chaplains fulfill these services within the scope of the limitations necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis.

At this juncture, our priorities are to minister to inmates and accompany them through this difficult journey. To that end, the support provided by VAUMC funding has literally enabled the continued existence of GraceInside and, of prison ministry in Virginia. I thank you for helping to found this ministry in 1920, and for over 100 years of faithful support! I humbly ask for your continued prayers, partnership and support so we can "hit the ground running" once this pandemic has passed and the world enters the era of "the new normal."

— *J. Randy Myers, President*

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Over the last 41 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 2020, despite the pandemic-induced financial challenges they faced, 317 congregations of the Virginia Conference provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. In spite of COVID-related restrictions for gleaning groups, 20 congregations and more than 1,400 Virginia United Methodists took part in "crop drops" or field gleaning.

Through the Virginia Gleaning Network and the Potato & Produce Project in 2020, 310 feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, emergency food assistance programs, food pantries, and large food banks) across the state received more than 3,016,830 pounds of nourishing food to share with their clients—providing more than 9 million servings of health and hope to our hungry siblings. The Seed Potato Project (a "hand up" endeavor that provides seed potatoes to poor, land-owning Appalachian families) shared an additional million servings of good food with hungry Virginians. All this is work made possible because you care.

Nationwide, 46.2 million pounds of food (138.6 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2020 through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 796 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 23,125 individuals. In 2020 half of the food SoSA distributed was food acquired through SoSA's normal channels. The other half was through months of logistical work, arranging truck-to-trunk distribution of USDA Farmers to Families Food Boxes across the United States. SoSA distributed about 1 out of every 150 food boxes made available by this USDA special distribution program nationwide.

In a challenging year, the Society of St. Andrew distributed more food than ever before and supported that by raising more money than ever before. We know this work is not our own, but our Lord's, so we are grateful for the prayers of so many faithful people and congregations that carried SoSA through 2020, doubling food distribution to meet doubled food need.

We're grateful for all the Virginia Conference congregations that join with the Society of St. Andrew through its spiri-

tual life programs, including seasonal devotional materials, Vacation Bible School curriculum, and Bible studies. In 2020, 15 VAUMC congregations adapted and used SoSA's "Abundance Orchard" VBS; 120 congregations used SoSA's Advent devotional resources, ordering 6,080 books, and 231 congregations utilized SoSA's Lenten devotions or Good Friday Fast programs, ordering 10,742 books.

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*

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Virginia Council of Churches (VCC) has a long-standing relationship with the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. The clergy, members and congregations of the VA Conference of the United Methodist continue to be active participants with the VCCC ministries. VCC is a community of Christian communions, congregations and individuals which affirm that what binds us together in Christ is much stronger than what divides us. In response to the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures, we confess Jesus Christ the incarnate Word of God, as Savior and Lord. VCC member communions covenant to manifest more fully the unity of the Church, our oneness in Christ.

Virginia Council of Churches continue to reflect on the past, while visioning how ecumenism may engage the local and state entities of Virginia. The first step on this journey is VCC's Coordinating Cabinet's "re-training" and transitioning to a working governance with a spirit of excellence and the focused realities answering the question, "What unique ministry can ecumenical congregations and denominations do better together than alone?"

One example is the reality that systemic racism is in the DNA of all systems in Virginia; in the church, racism impedes the body of Christ from actualizing its vision and mission of being one; the Good News of the gospel proclaims that we are one. With the resurgence of racism in North American systems, and increasing divisions and distrust, VCC has initiated an anti-racism pro-conciliation team (ARPCT); comprised of persons from several denominations, including the UMC, ARPCT's long-range goal is to eradicate systemic racism in Virginia, one system at a time. VCC's ARPCT work is based on the biblical imperative of right relationships with God and one another—relationships of: love and grace, equity and justice, respect and mutual accountability. The ARPCT will include providing practical resources, webinars and trainings, advocacy and support to assist leaders throughout the Commonwealth to engage and embrace the process of systemic change. Systemic racism continues to adversely affect the health and well-being of all Virginians, particularly person of color. God has given the gift of diversity to be accepted and celebrated. The Ecumenical Movement continues to affirm the need for church's mobilization to combat racism.

Other ministries VCC is engaging is the Rural Family Development Head Start in Caroline County; Next Generation of Ecumenists, pastors forty and under who meet monthly developing ecumenical relationships, addressing relevant topics and prepping to lead in the VCC's Ministries. A new addition to this ministry is the VCC mentoring program; during the 2021 spring semester, VCC has engaged its first intern who happens to be United Methodists and a Declared Candidate for Ordination of Deacons Orders in the Virginia Conference of the UMC. This group is diverse, ecumenical and brings different and life-giving perspectives to the Ecumenical Movement.

Rural Family Development Head Start Program (RFD) continues VCC's historical ministry of East Coast Migrant Head Start on the Eastern Shore. VCC continues to focus on assisting to equip and empower families with the greatest need in Caroline County; this county has a poverty rate of 9.9 %, with majority being females living in poverty. RFD provides services for child and the whole family which equips the entire them to step beyond their current challenging reality.

Virginia Council of Churches continues the steps toward all of humanity actualizing the oneness in the body of Christ. As we collectively reframe unity and liberation, equity and justice as linked realities, then we will begin to accept one of God's greatest gifts, diversity.

– *Mary Anne Glover, Transitional General Minister*

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (VICPP)

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) values its partnership with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. VICPP engages people of faith and good will in advocating economic, racial, social and environmental justice in Virginia's policies and practices.

Policy Highlights

- ❖ **Abolition of the Death Penalty.** VICPP helped lead the successful effort to make Virginia the first state in the South to abolish the death penalty. Thanks to the more than 427 clergy who signed a public letter, the dozens of chapters and congregations that met with legislators and participated in five prayer vigils around the state, and the thousands of people who responded regularly to alerts.
- ❖ **Prenatal Care for Immigrant Women.** VICPP helped draft and support budget amendments to provide prenatal care for undocumented immigrant women that were included in the House and Senate budget proposals. This will provide prenatal healthcare to more than 1000 immigrant women.
- ❖ **Water is a Human Right Resolution.** The Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL) team led the work on passage of this resolution that amplifies the importance of clean, safe, affordable drinking water as a human right for all residents of the Commonwealth. This resolution will frame VAIPL's future work on water issues.
- ❖ **Paid Sick Days for Home Health Care Workers.** VICPP led a coalition effort to get paid sick days for essential workers. Although the initial bill was reduced in scope, the bill that was approved provides 30,000 home health care workers with up to five paid sick days a year. Special thanks to United Methodist Women for this victory.
- ❖ **Equitably Modernize Public Transit Study.** VAIPL led work to get a study on equitable public transportation and modernization passed.
- ❖ **Environmental Justice Act Improvements.** Several important improvements to this ground-breaking legislation passed in 2020 were approved.
- ❖ **Minimum Wage for Farmworkers.** The House passed a bill to remove the farmworker exemption from the state minimum wage, but the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee voted it down with only five votes in support. Farmworkers, our most essential workers, should not be excluded from Virginia's minimum wage – work to do in 2021-22.

Organizing and Congressional Highlights

- ❖ **Supporting UMC advocacy.** This year, we merged the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly with our Day for All People into one week-long virtual advocacy program. It was a great program and more than 420 people registered and participated.
- ❖ **Campus Advocacy Day.** VICPP hosted a campus advocacy day for the first time ever that engaged 60 young advocates in learning about the advocacy process and meeting with legislators. UMC Chaplain Rev. Katie Gooch was one of the planners. We hope to build on this program next year.
- ❖ **Living Wage Certification programs.** VICPP continued throughout 2020 to build its living wage certification programs although at a slower pace due to the pandemic. Active programs operate in Richmond, Charlottesville and Harrisonburg. To learn more about these programs or help with one of the local committees, email Jase Hatcher at Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Recruiting Congregational Liaisons.** VICPP is recruiting Congregational Liaisons to better help connect congregations with VICPP. There are approximately 100 congregational liaisons identified, but only eight in United Methodist churches. We can do better than this! Please volunteer or recruit someone to serve as a congregational liaison. Email Dora Muhammad at Dora@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

- ❖ **Focusing on Racial Equity.** VICPP uses a racial equity lens for all its policy work. VICPP is also providing educational tools and resources to assist congregations in looking at racial justice and what faith communities can do to address the inequities caused by racism.
- ❖ **Building Civic Engagement Work.** VICPP ran Civic Engagement Summer and Civic Engagement Fall in 2020, which focused on nonpartisan voter registration and turnout. Given that Virginia has an election every year, we have opportunities to make all our congregations' 100 percent voting congregations. Be sure to follow our weekly round-ups to get more information. (Sign up at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org.)

Recommendation:

Congregations in the Virginia Conference are encouraged to identify congregational liaisons that can help connect congregations with the ministry of VICPP.

– Kim Bobo, Executive Director of VICPP



THE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TEAM

Steven J. Summers, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Martha E. Stokes, *Conference Lay Leader*

Monitors:

Neil McLaughlin, *Commission on Disabilities*

Mary Dadisman, *COSROW*

Lyle Morton, *CEMCA*

District Representatives:

Alexandria – John Meeuwissen

Arlington – Ki C. Lee

Charlottesville – Mary Jeffries

Danville – vacant

Eastern Shore – Greg Duncan

Elizabeth River – Wendy R. Howard

Farmville – Geraldine Sanderson

Harrisonburg – Laura Anne Stratton

James River – Leticia Borden

Lynchburg – *vacant*

Rappahannock River – Bert Cloud

Richmond – Scotty Doyle

Roanoke – Joanna Paysour

Staunton – Beth Christian

Winchester – Jill Ryan

York River District – Candee Martin

NOMINATIONS

Common Table for Church Vitality

Bishop's Nominee:

Aaron Fitch

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:

Daniel Wray

Lay:

Maria Baber

Bill Chaffin

Suzanne Shrader

Kenn Speicher

Church Development Team

Gary Heaton
Stephanie Kimec-Parker
Michelle Matthews
Hieu Phan
Tim Tate
Tim Ward

Board of Discipleship

Clergy:

Alexis Fathbruckner
Timothy Hazlett

Lay:

Suzanne Schall

Older Adult Council

Marie Hawks

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Kate Dotson
Robert Gates
Ryan LaRock
David Riggan

Missional Ministries Board

Clergy:

MiRhang Baek
David Magruder
Ken Thrasher

Lay:

Betsey Davis
Darlene Runaldue
Albert Weal

Commission on Archives and History

Clergy:

W. James Athearn
Michael Browder
Carlton D. Casey
Robert T. Casey
Linda E. F. Crabbs
Roger Dowdy
Raymond Edmonds, Jr.
William R. Freeman
Kendra Grimes
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.
James John

REPORTS

(Commission on Archives and History Clergy con't)

Margaret Kutz
Barbara Lewis
John T. Martin, Jr.
John C. Price
Wayne Rickman
James M. Smith
Arthur D. Thomas
Rudolph E. Tucker, Jr.
Bill Wade
Daniel Wray
Raymond Wrenn
Gary Ziegler
Seonyoung Kim
Al Horton

Lay:

Mary Ashton Athearn
Kelly Blosser
Robert S. Brock
Ann D. Callender
Jesse Fanshaw
Nina Frederick
Marilyn Riddle

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

Clergy:

Bill McClung

Lay:

Joseph Plemmons
Will York

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy:

Linda Hudgins
Claire Miller

Lay:

Carolyn Kreider

Equitable Compensation Commission

Lay:

Bill Sharp

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy:

Chip Giessler
Seong Jae Jo
Yun Chol Kim
Gayle Porias

At large:

Lydia Rodriguez Colon
Thomas James

Lay:

Zaccheaus Katta
Mary Jeffries
Carol Ann Redmon

Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:

Jim Smith

Lay:

Angie Williams

United Methodist Foundation

Pat McGuckin
Justin White
Amanda Wilson

Board of Ordained Ministry

Adam Blagg
Cynthia Lopynski
Sam Thornton

Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc

Lay:

Ima Mahone
Priscilla Sprague

Committee on Rules

Clergy:

Janine Howard
Nadeem Khokhar

Lay:

Tom Hassler

Site Selection Committee

Clergy:

Justin Allen

Conference Trustees

Lay:

Frank Caldwell

Kathleen Lutman

Bishops' Foundation

Clergy:

John Bright

Nadeem Khokhar

Lay:

Chuck Clement

Society of St. Andrew

Julie Taylor

Shawn Kiger

Kyle Bullock

Randolph-Macon Academy

Ben Spencer

Bob Spivey

Randolph-Macon College

Erica Glasper Andrews

Desmond A. Baker

Reginald M. Barley

Alice Collins Fruth

William S. Peebles IV

Graham B. Rashkind

Cindy Szadokierski

Shenandoah University

Deborah Addo

Virginia Wesleyan University

G. Robert Aston

Alisa Crider

W. Taylor Franklin

Matthew Nusbaum

Michael R. Rawls

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN
2020

	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	36,653	233	-2	20	1,222	91	213	35,378	-1,275	-3.5%	17,219	97
Arlington	27,639	220	-27	-9	24	139	159	27,501	-138	-0.5%	19,617	111
Charlottesville	12,277	38	-2	1	48	32	146	12,088	-189	-1.5%	85,699	18
Danville	9,938	5	-45	-91	29	38	176	9,564	-374	-3.8%	6,197	13
Eastern Shore	6,335	8	-64	2	19	8	104	6,150	-185	-2.9%	3,196	11
Elizabeth River	28,819	94	-12	11	65	34	296	28,517	-302	-1.0%	16,446	80
Farmville	11,337	43	3	9	113	10	197	11,072	-265	-2.3%	7,031	25
Harrisonburg	16,954	43	-28	4	30	13	260	16,670	-284	-1.7%	10,335	38
James River	17,293	16	-13	1	59	17	222	16,999	-294	-1.7%	7,034	18
Lynchburg	15,669	51	9	7	313	17	231	15,175	-494	-3.2%	9,108	52
Rappahannock River	17,768	97	16	-2	-61	39	180	17,721	-47	-0.3%	9,817	51
Richmond	39,200	125	34	2	447	35	290	38,589	-611	-1.6%	12,765	45
Roanoke	19,713	30	1	-16	150	31	234	19,313	-400	-2.0%	9,416	25
Staunton	11,969	24	-20	-20	87	39	201	11,626	-343	-2.9%	6,758	20
Winchester	17,769	40	-12	7	13	45	173	17,573	-196	-1.1%	7,992	28
York River	24,943	45	-1	-18	72	54	289	24,554	-389	-1.6%	10,024	38
Totals for 2020	314,276	1,112	-163	-92	2,630	642	3,371	308,490	-5,786	-1.8%	238,654	670

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 (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:

<u>VUMPI Plans</u>
Health
Prescription
Dental
Vision
Supplemental Life
Voluntary Life
Long Term Care
Healthcare Flexible Spending Account
Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

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

■ Report 2: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans

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

Active Clergy Health Plans

Health plans recommended to be made available in 2022 are unchanged from the plans offered in 2021. Health plans available to clergy serving in full time appointments in the Virginia Conference include the following:

- **PPO Core:** \$1,000 individual deductible, \$2,500 family deductible, 20% coinsurance
- **PPO Buy-Up:** \$750 individual deductible, \$1,875 family deductible, and 20% coinsurance
- **HSA plan:** a plan with a higher deductible (\$2,250 individual, \$4,500 family) as required by Internal Revenue Service rules for HSAs, a Conference contribution to the Health Savings Account (\$750 for individual tier enrollees, \$1,500 for all other tier enrollees), 20% coinsurance

A fourth PPO health plan with a \$500 deductible, which is made available only to clergy on medical leave with CPP disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy, will continue to be offered in 2022 with no plan design changes.

A small group of participants in the previously offered Clergy Managed Care Plan, which is a high deductible health plan that is not eligible for HSA contributions, maintained eligibility to enroll in that plan from 2019 through 2021 due to remaining medical credits in the plan. The Clergy Managed Care Plan will no longer be available in 2022 or thereafter.

The vision plan will continue to be offered in 2022, with no changes in the plan design.

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI will also continue to be offered in 2022 with no plan

design changes.

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 years of full time ministry in either Virginia Conference church appointments or Extension Ministry appointments with enrollment in the Conference-sponsored health plans.

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 Core or PPO Buy-Up plans administered by VUMPI. Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees may also enroll in the self funded dental insurance program and the fully insured vision 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 option. The RRA funding made available to retirees who elect coverage through the Connector option is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the elected health plan coverage, if any, is paid by the retiree directly to United Healthcare

■ Report 3: Pension Plan Structure

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

- A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) for service and benefits accrued on and/or prior to December 31, 1981.
- 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 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 bills 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. VUMPI bills local churches for the required amount of pension contribution, then makes monthly contributions into the clergy CRSP-DC accounts.

■ **Report 4: Welfare Plans Structure**

The welfare plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy include the Comprehensive Protection Plan (“CPP”) sponsored by 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 the Denominational Average Compensation (“DAC”) in the year of death
- Surviving spouse of active participant: 15% of DAC in the year of death
- Child of active participant: 10% of DAC in the year of death
- Annual surviving spouse annuity benefit of 20% of DAC, less the annuity benefit payable from CRSP and other Church-related sources
- Annual surviving child benefit of 10% of DAC, payable in 12 monthly installments (for those age 17 and younger; benefits are paid through the month in which the child attains age 18)
- Annual surviving child educational benefit up to 20% of DAC, payable in equal installments (for those age 18 through 24 and attending school full-time)

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

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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	\$20,808
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in the year of death	\$15,606
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in the year of death	\$10,404
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in the year of death	\$8,323
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.

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

- \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants
- \$25,808 (or 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 for clergy who retired prior to January 1, 2013) to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants

Gift Benefit

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

■ Report 5: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by Wespeth, the DAC is projected to increase from 2021 to 2022 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2021	2022
\$74,199	\$75,570



Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

■ Recommendation 1: 2022 Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations

For 2022, VUMPI recommends total Clergy Benefits Apportionments of \$16,000,000. This represents an increase of \$230,000, or approximately 1.5%, from the 2021 clergy benefits apportionments. The total benefits apportionment amount includes funding for 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 between these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2022	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 10,000,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 16,000,000

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 is pleased to note that additional funds from financial reserves were transferred into the Virginia Conference's Pre-82 pension assets during 2021, and a fully funded status in the Pre-82 pension is anticipated at year-end 2021. Accordingly, no Pre-82 pension liability apportionment is being recommended for 2022.

VUMPI makes the Conference-sponsored health plans available to clergy serving in Conference-related extension ministries that do not pay apportionments. For clergy appointed to such extension ministries who are enrolled in the health plans in 2022, VUMPI will bill the Conference Health Plan Fee. The amount billed will be \$988 per month for each enrolled clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2022 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

■ Recommendation 2: 2022 Health Plan Participant Contribution Recommendations

In administering the Conference-sponsored self-insured health plans, an element of VUMPI's strategy is to maintain plans that are similar to national average employer-sponsored health plans. In addition, VUMPI recommends participant contributions that are similar, as a percentage of the total health plan cost, to national employer-sponsored plan averages. As overall health care costs tend to increase each year, and as the actual cost trends among each of the health plans can change year-to-year, VUMPI periodically recommends changes in the recommended participant contributions. For 2022, VUMPI is recommending modest increases in the participant contributions for two of the health plans. The recommended participant contributions reflect an increase of approximately 2% for the PPO Core plan and approximately 5% for the PPO Buy-Up plan. No changes are recommended for the participant contributions for the HSA plan, the \$500 deductible PPO plan, the dental plan, the vision plan, and the group Medicare Advantage plan for Medicare-eligible retirees. The recommended increase in the participant contributions for the PPO Core and PPO Buy-Up plans are coupled with the increase of approximately 3% in the Active Clergy Health Plan apportionment to maintain a relatively consistent overall distribution of costs between church contributions and participant contributions.

Following are the 2022 participant contribution recommendations for the Conference-sponsored health plans:

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Active Clergy:

	Medical Plans			Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$104	\$137	\$80	\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$314	\$369	\$263	\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$318	\$375	\$269	\$51	\$100
Family	\$332	\$408	\$280	\$60	\$109

Note: active clergy have the opportunity to earn a \$15 reduction in the monthly participant contribution through participation in the Virginia Conference wellness program. Clergy spouses who are enrolled in the Conference health plans can also receive a \$15 reduction in the monthly participant contribution, for a total potential monthly reduction of \$30.

Clergy on Voluntary Leave, Sabbatical, or 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 Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$655	\$759	\$31	\$60
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$1,458	\$1,626	\$51	\$124
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$1,579	\$1,762	\$53	\$126
Family	\$2,034	\$2,270	\$64	\$137

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

	Medical Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO (\$500 deductible)		Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$112		\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$171		\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$174		\$51	\$100
Family	\$185		\$60	\$109

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

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	PPO Core		PPO Buy-up	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$655	\$1,632	\$759	\$1,996
15-19	\$579	\$1,321	\$709	\$1,616
20-24	\$443	\$1,011	\$542	\$1,236
25-29	\$307	\$700	\$375	\$855
30+	\$170	\$389	\$209	\$476

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	Dental Core		Dental Major	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
15-19	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
20-24	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
25-29	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131
30+	\$31	\$58	\$60	\$131

Optional Voluntary Vision Benefit Plan for Clergy and Lay Employees Enrolled in a Conference-sponsored Anthem Medical Plan

	Vision
Employee Only	\$8.34
Employee + Spouse	\$15.05
Employee + Child(ren)	\$15.05
Family	\$24.19

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

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

Group Plan Option: The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2022 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 2022 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

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

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

General Virginia Conference Health Plan Information

For participants enrolled in the Anthem health plans, either as active clergy or as a retiree not yet eligible for Medicare, 2022 health plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2021. If an eligible clergyperson 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 2022, 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 2021. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

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.

Eligibility for the Conference-sponsored retiree medical plans requires a minimum of ten years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference. Virginia Conference clergy on approved leave or serving in an Extension Ministry appointment earn credit towards retiree medical plan eligibility only if enrolled in the Conference-sponsored health plan while on leave or while serving an Extension Ministry appointment

■ Recommendation 3: 2022 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate

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

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

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR each year. For 2022, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$580 to \$585.

■ Recommendation 4: 2022 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2022 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 2022 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

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

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

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

■ **Recommendation 5: 2022 Housing Allowance/Exclusion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 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.

– Stacey Anthony, Chair

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT

December 31, 2020

Virginia Conference

Apportioned Funds	YTD 12/31/2020	YTD 12/31/2019	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Inc.\Dec.	Pct. Pd 2020	Pct. Pd 2019
Conference Apportionments						
421 Priority 1	20,223,575	19,712,781	510,794	2.59%	88.37%	85.88%
422 Priority 2	3,138,281	6,968,400	(3,830,119)	-54.96%	36.64%	80.46%
			-			
Total Apportioned Funds	23,361,856	26,681,181	(3,319,325)	-12.44%	74.28%	84.39%

Non-Apportionment Receipts

					Year	Year End
Advance Specials					2020	74.28%
GBGM	527,065	844,316	(317,251)	-37.57%	2019	84.39%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	72,531	107,442	(34,910)	-32.49%	2018	88.13%
Special Days					2017	89.91%
Human Relations	8,629	9,770	(1,141)	-11.67%	2016	87.05%
One Great Hour of Sharing	39,818	92,674	(52,856)	-57.03%	2015	85.85%
Native American Ministries	6,977	10,508	(3,531)	-33.60%	2014	87.70%
Peace with Justice	4,386	6,400	(2,014)	-31.47%	2013	88.57%
World Communion	9,269	17,190	(7,921)	-46.08%	2012	87.26%
UM Student	4,799	6,771	(1,972)	-29.12%	2011	86.83%
Other Funds					2010	84.40%
Youth Service	200	212	(12)	-5.66%	2009	85.92%
Samaritan Fund - Pinnacle Living	7,425	13,426	(6,001)	-44.70%	2008	90.08%
UMFS	79,170	78,162	1,008	1.29%	2007	92.03%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	6,921	21,105	(14,184)	-67.21%	2006	93.16%
Annual Conference Offering	41,248	123,910	(82,662)	-66.71%	2005	93.87%
Other	20,130	101,834	(81,703)	-80.23%	2004	94.79%
Total Non-Apportioned Funds	828,568	1,433,718	(605,150)	-42.21%	2003	95.58%
					2002	97.08%
					2001	96.33%
					2000	96.43%
Total Church Receipts	24,190,424	28,114,899	(3,924,475)	-16.22%	1999	94.92%
					1998	93.51%
					1997	90.64%
					1996	89.20%
					1995	89.31%
					1994	89.83%

**Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
Balance Sheets**

	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	2,881,799	1,144,958
Investments	6,400,628	6,243,417
Receivables	1,945,613	2,572,252
Prepaid expenses	74,537	99,384
Total Current Assets	11,302,577	10,060,011
Fixed Assets:		
Land	793,019	793,019
Buildings	5,132,247	5,132,247
Furniture & fixtures	369,337	369,337
Equipment and vehicles	796,348	772,076
Software	21,735	21,735
Accumulated depreciation	(2,995,303)	(2,789,658)
Total Fixed Assets	4,117,383	4,298,756
Other Assets:		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	1,169,672	1,169,672
Loans receivable	129,728	620,628
Total Other Assets	1,299,400	1,790,300
	16,719,360	16,149,067
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	3,789,831	4,089,980
Accrued expenses	-	18,014
Unearned revenue	690,817	86,553
Total Liabilities	4,480,648	4,194,547
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted conference reserves	3,530,346	3,240,974
Net assets with restrictions	8,708,366	8,713,546
Total Net Assets	12,238,712	11,954,520
	16,719,360	16,149,067

Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Statement of Changes in Unrestricted Conference Reserves
For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	348,912
Dividends and interest	53,706
Ineligible institution forfeited funding	53,220
Miscellaneous income	44,067
<i>Total Income</i>	499,905

Apportionment Closeouts:

401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	60,585
402 - Conference Services	(290,186)
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	(37,361)
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	56,429
<i>Total Apportionment Closeouts</i>	(210,533)

Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves	289,372
Beginning balance	3,240,974
Ending Balance	3,530,346

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401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2020

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	132,017.30	-	-	132,017.30	132,017.30	-	-	-	-
3510	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	51,105.19	-	30,000.00	81,105.19	63,205.00	17,900.19	(17,900.19)	-	-
5000	Emerging Funds	57,316.50	-	4,942.27	62,258.77	24,354.67	37,904.10	(91,472.41)	53,568.31	-
3600	Campus Ministry	750,216.59	-	-	750,216.59	794,457.07	(44,240.48)	44,240.48	-	-
3655	Bishop's Recalibration Event	-	818.40	-	818.40	818.40	-	-	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,104,240.49	-	37,041.80	1,141,282.29	1,175,156.38	(33,874.09)	33,874.09	-	-
		2,094,896.07	818.40	71,984.07	2,167,698.54	2,190,008.82	(22,310.28)	(31,258.03)	53,568.31	-

Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative

3100	Common Table	2,918.84	-	-	2,918.84	1,758.97	1,159.87	(1,159.87)	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	45,181.65	-	-	45,181.65	38,630.65	6,551.00	(6,551.00)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	48,614.16	-	-	48,614.16	10,801.89	37,812.27	(37,812.27)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	983,659.74	-	37,036.80	1,020,696.54	1,116,793.77	(96,097.23)	96,097.23	-	-
3240	Outsourced Graphic Design Serv	6,208.69	-	-	6,208.69	-	6,208.69	(6,208.69)	-	-
3200	Video Production	8,758.28	-	5.00	8,763.28	7,111.32	1,651.96	(1,651.96)	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	8,899.13	-	-	8,899.13	59.78	8,839.35	(8,839.35)	-	-
		1,104,240.49	-	37,041.80	1,141,282.29	1,175,156.38	(33,874.09)	33,874.09	-	-

Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration

3010	Connectional Ministries Office	6,123.19	-	-	6,123.19	18,272.02	(12,148.83)	12,148.83	-	-
3020	Communications Office	5,680.71	-	-	5,680.71	4,431.00	1,249.71	(1,249.71)	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	8,535.34	-	-	8,535.34	3,980.18	4,555.16	(4,555.16)	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & Next Gen Office	14,423.02	-	-	14,423.02	9,913.92	4,509.10	(4,509.10)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	10,419.39	-	-	10,419.39	2,033.53	8,385.86	(8,385.86)	-	-
		45,181.65	-	-	45,181.65	38,630.65	6,551.00	(6,551.00)	-	(0.00)

Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration

3105	Board of Church & Society	5,066.96	-	-	5,066.96	-	5,066.96	(5,066.96)	-	-
3110	Missional Ministries Board	5,009.85	-	-	5,009.85	217.22	4,792.63	(4,792.63)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	6,187.39	-	-	6,187.39	1,633.68	4,553.71	(4,553.71)	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	2,504.93	-	-	2,504.93	683.34	1,821.59	(1,821.59)	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	6,865.36	-	-	6,865.36	2,049.61	4,815.75	(4,815.75)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	1,384.50	-	-	1,384.50	-	1,384.50	(1,384.50)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	6,394.32	-	-	6,394.32	4,370.39	2,023.93	(2,023.93)	-	-
3140	CEMCA	1,384.50	-	-	1,384.50	614.85	769.65	(769.65)	-	-
3145	COSROW	706.52	-	-	706.52	466.92	239.60	(239.60)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	1,177.53	-	-	1,177.53	765.88	411.65	(411.65)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	11,932.30	-	-	11,932.30	-	11,932.30	(11,932.30)	-	-
		48,614.16	-	-	48,614.16	10,801.89	37,812.27	(37,812.27)	-	(0.00)

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2020

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	361,922.89	-	130,500.00	492,422.89	545,182.70	(52,759.81)	52,759.81	-	-
2110	Computer Services	115,817.84	-	3,000.00	118,817.84	189,536.66	(70,718.82)	70,718.82	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	210,899.54	-	384.61	211,284.15	128,289.75	82,994.40	(82,994.40)	-	-
2130	Conf Publications Committee	10,045.59	-	846.00	10,891.59	19,715.40	(8,823.81)	8,823.81	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	2,121.17	-	-	2,121.17	846.53	1,274.64	(1,274.64)	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	1,298.41	-	-	1,298.41	15,904.88	(14,606.47)	14,606.47	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,705.49	-	-	1,705.49	86.11	1,619.38	(1,619.38)	-	-
2170	Historical Society	3,361.51	-	-	3,361.51	2,354.23	1,007.28	(1,007.28)	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	75,816.51	-	-	75,816.51	85,265.62	(9,449.11)	9,449.11	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	12,427.43	-	500.00	12,927.43	11,410.00	1,517.43	(1,517.43)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	9,636.58	-	-	9,636.58	956.25	8,680.33	(8,680.33)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	11,628.03	(1,628.03)	1,628.03	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	23,566.69	-	-	23,566.69	26,499.98	(2,933.29)	2,933.29	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	13,333.78	-	-	13,333.78	17,455.00	(4,121.22)	4,121.22	-	-
2240	Audit	41,161.69	-	-	41,161.69	44,550.00	(3,388.31)	3,388.31	-	-
2270	General Conference Delegation	8,837.53	-	-	8,837.53	3,834.19	5,003.34	(5,003.34)	-	-
2290	Contingencies	8,185.06	-	16,962.75	25,147.81	20,873.88	4,273.93	(4,273.93)	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	218,301.89	-	-	218,301.89	184,800.60	33,501.29	(33,501.29)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	14,264.04	-	-	14,264.04	2,486.16	11,777.88	(11,777.88)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Ministry	64,776.31	-	-	64,776.31	53,963.56	10,812.75	(10,812.75)	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	32,893.18	-	2,930.00	35,823.18	26,123.29	9,699.89	(9,699.89)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	38,295.88	-	4,838.09	43,133.97	29,777.78	13,356.19	(13,356.19)	-	-
		1,268,669.01	-	169,961.45	1,438,630.46	1,421,540.60	17,089.86	(17,089.86)	-	(0.00)

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2020

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	166,892.18	-	132,900.00	299,792.18	257,666.53	42,125.65	-	(24,180.63)	17,945.02
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00
4030	Legal Expenses	176,314.65	-	-	176,314.65	483,590.16	(307,275.51)	307,275.51	-	-
4040	Race and Race Relations	-	-	23,200.00	23,200.00	6,838.65	16,361.35	-	-	16,361.35
4050	Funds Held for Future Benefits	-	-	92,104.00	92,104.00	-	92,104.00	-	-	92,104.00
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	2,713.11	(2,713.11)	-	6,272.50	3,559.39
4070	Archives	17,177.60	-	3,250.00	20,427.60	17,492.09	2,935.51	-	(10,000.00)	(7,064.49)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	-	20,000.00	15,000.00
4090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	-	17,545.42	-	17,545.42	17,545.42	-	-	-	-
		360,384.43	17,545.42	251,454.00	629,383.85	790,845.96	(161,462.11)	307,275.51	192,091.87	337,905.27
Common Table										
6100	Advocate legacy funds	-	-	30,133.50	30,133.50	86,114.79	(55,981.29)	-	117,626.43	61,645.14
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	-	4,488.77	4,488.77	965.02	3,523.75	-	2,099.10	5,622.85
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	(4,887.45)	-	(4,887.45)	-	(4,887.45)	-	4,887.45	-
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	(800.63)	-	(800.63)	-	(800.63)	-	800.63	-
6225	Campus Ministry Team	-	2,834.30	-	2,834.30	5,111.59	(2,277.29)	-	2,277.29	-
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	-	22,745.00	22,745.00	17,486.77	5,258.23	-	15,415.07	20,673.30
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	-	2,011.00	2,011.00	900.00	1,111.00	-	7,383.75	8,494.75
6310	UMVIM	-	-	-	-	3,464.60	(3,464.60)	-	23,156.05	19,691.45
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	3,075.00	3,075.00	42,600.00	(39,525.00)	-	49,498.37	9,973.37
6320	Wesley Fdtn Cap Improvements	185,064.61	-	185,064.61	370,129.22	203,615.28	166,513.94	-	95,432.71	261,946.65
6330	Wesley Foundation Maintenance	52,980.81	-	52,980.81	105,961.62	22,775.39	83,186.23	-	20,194.44	103,380.67
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	(1,233.22)	-	(1,233.22)	-	(1,233.22)	-	1,233.22	-
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	51,842.51	51,842.51	26,936.56	24,905.95	-	(4,160.58)	20,745.37
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,051.75	2,051.75
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	(330.69)	(330.69)	560.40	(891.09)	-	4,739.89	3,848.80
6510	Fresh Expressions	-	-	20,600.00	20,600.00	13,029.76	7,570.24	-	(760.78)	6,809.46
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	-	68.88	68.88	-	68.88	-	-	68.88
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	-	(49.73)	(49.73)	(49.73)	-	-	-	-
6590	Clergywomen's Coaching Init.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	273.74	273.74
		238,045.42	(4,087.00)	372,629.66	606,588.08	423,510.43	183,077.65	-	342,148.53	525,226.18
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Meal at AC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	449.55	449.55
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	505.22	505.22	472.69	32.53	-	3,444.47	3,477.00
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	853.86	853.86
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,276.90	9,276.90
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	1,600.00	1,600.00	-	1,600.00	-	(386.93)	1,213.07
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	26,477.20	26,477.20	26,747.44	(270.24)	-	270.24	-
4690	BOM Training Events	-	-	1,842.62	1,842.62	504.06	1,338.56	-	2,976.10	4,314.66
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	65,000.00	65,000.00	64,478.00	522.00	-	(522.00)	-
4710	Calling 21	-	-	5,000.00	5,000.00	(162.88)	5,162.88	-	14,549.55	19,712.43
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,737.62	2,737.62
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	-	-	-	86.74	(86.74)	-	17,266.60	17,179.86
4760	Exploration	-	-	155.59	155.59	-	155.59	-	(155.59)	-
4770	Pilgrimages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,945.61	2,945.61
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	-	2,667.25	667.25
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	26,569.25	-	-	26,569.25	38,866.59	(12,297.34)	-	110,630.14	98,332.80
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	-	7,765.80	7,765.80	7,316.43	449.37	-	93.87	543.24
4820	Licensing School	-	-	8,700.00	8,700.00	8,700.00	-	-	-	-
		26,569.25	-	117,046.43	143,615.68	149,009.07	(5,393.39)	-	167,097.24	161,703.85
Total		624,999.10	13,458.42	741,130.09	1,379,587.61	1,363,365.46	16,222.15	307,275.51	701,337.64	1,024,835.30

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2020

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	-	-	(1,187.90)	(1,187.90)	180,185.71	(181,373.61)	-	4,298,757.31	4,117,383.70
		-	-	(1,187.90)	(1,187.90)	180,185.71	(181,373.61)	-	4,298,757.31	4,117,383.70
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	430,722.44	-	6,285.70	437,008.14	567,200.11	(130,191.97)	-	1,439,982.64	1,309,790.67
		430,722.44	-	6,285.70	437,008.14	567,200.11	(130,191.97)	-	1,439,982.64	1,309,790.67
Ministerial Education Fund										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	-	-	700.00	700.00	96,758.68	(96,058.68)	-	608,971.90	512,913.22
		-	-	700.00	700.00	96,758.68	(96,058.68)	-	608,971.90	512,913.22
Donor restricted										
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	(21,615.40)	-	(21,615.40)	-	(21,615.40)	-	21,615.40	-
8050	Francis Asbury Education Fund	-	-	8,981.25	8,981.25	25.00	8,956.25	-	1,177,034.27	1,185,990.52
8100	Partnerships of Hope	-	22,237.03	5,691.00	27,928.03	124.47	27,803.56	-	10,393.46	38,197.02
8110	POH - Mozambique	-	-	-	-	3,940.58	(3,940.58)	-	11,522.27	7,581.69
8111	POH - Brazil	-	-	-	-	(1,800.00)	1,800.00	-	26,291.15	28,091.15
8114	POH - Cambodia	-	-	-	-	10,172.87	(10,172.87)	-	28,576.08	18,403.21
8115	Haiti Music School	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	-	-
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	250.00	250.00	-	250.00	-	10,894.18	11,144.18
8160	CEMCA-Hispanic Aid Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,616.78	9,616.78
8200	Bishops' Foundation	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,061.50	(61.50)	-	1,350.59	1,289.09
8300	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	-	-	-	20,000.00	(20,000.00)	-	136,556.26	116,556.26
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	-	4,967.50	4,967.50	10,165.59	(5,198.09)	-	121,854.04	116,655.95
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	-	893.25	893.25	5,900.00	(5,006.75)	-	6,197.78	1,191.03
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	1,830.50	1,830.50	-	1,830.50	-	20,019.32	21,849.82
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	3,850.55	3,850.55	-	3,850.55	-	17,624.95	21,475.50
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	(5,700.80)	-	(5,700.80)	-	(5,700.80)	-	5,700.80	-
8330	Merit Awards	-	(324.63)	-	(324.63)	-	(324.63)	-	324.63	-
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	275.00	275.00	-	275.00	-	2,396.48	2,671.48
8415	Danville Recovery	-	-	-	-	1,681.51	(1,681.51)	-	(42,077.79)	(43,759.30)
		-	(5,403.80)	39,739.05	34,335.25	63,271.52	(28,936.27)	-	1,565,890.65	1,536,954.38
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8500	CFA Pandemic Grant Fund	-	-	335,215.80	335,215.80	84,261.36	250,954.44	-	-	250,954.44
8503	Pandemic Relief Fund	-	-	13,163.17	13,163.17	-	13,163.17	-	(89.32)	13,073.85
8504	2019 SEJ COB Leadership Mtg	-	16,130.52	-	16,130.52	-	16,130.52	-	(16,130.52)	-
8505	Called Session Training Event	-	699.16	-	699.16	57.94	641.22	-	(641.22)	-
8506	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	-	-	-	5,400.00	(5,400.00)	-	17,886.33	12,486.33
8509	Clergywomen's Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,685.19	2,685.19
8510	Heritage	-	-	1,337.12	1,337.12	1,141.25	195.87	-	4,834.41	5,030.28
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	(8,906.58)	-	(8,906.58)	-	(8,906.58)	-	8,906.58	-
8525	Scouting Ministries	-	8,906.58	5,000.00	13,906.58	-	13,906.58	-	-	13,906.58
8530	Voices of Youth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,504.06	1,504.06
8540	ARMS	-	-	1,090.00	1,090.00	2,753.70	(1,663.70)	-	21,553.32	19,889.62
8545	Richmond Area Episcopal office	26,499.98	-	203,779.71	230,279.69	113,438.09	116,841.60	-	-	116,841.60
8546	Bishops John Wesley Sevice Fnd	-	-	10,694.79	10,694.79	7,225.00	3,469.79	-	-	3,469.79
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	822.00	822.00	-	822.00	-	3,825.56	4,647.56
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	(119.65)	-	(119.65)	213.69	(333.34)	-	333.34	-
8566	Bishop's Conv - Race & Recon	-	(1,051.37)	-	(1,051.37)	-	(1,051.37)	-	1,051.37	-
8570	Conference Data Initiative	-	350.61	-	350.61	-	350.61	-	(350.61)	-
8575	Social Committee	-	13.91	-	13.91	-	13.91	-	(13.91)	-
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	-	560.00	560.00	200.00	360.00	-	(315.30)	44.70
		26,499.98	16,023.18	571,662.59	614,185.75	214,691.03	399,494.72	-	45,039.28	444,534.00

DISTRICT ALIGNMENT TEAM/IDAT REPORT

This year of pandemic has called us to grow, shift, and change in ways beyond our imagination and control. Among all of this uncertainty, God loves us and we have learned more deeply how much we need that love. We have also learned how much we care about our church even in the fragmented state we find it. We need one another to truly live into God’s love and share that love with those around us.

Over this past year our conference and district teams have also sought to grow and adapt as we have witnessed promising growth from our local churches. In the spirit of the early church in Acts we have witnessed congregations of all sizes all around the conference charting new and innovative ways to reach out to their community and one another. In the summer of 2020, CF&A alongside our Bishop formed a team to learn from the movement of the Spirit in this season and propose adaptive changes to our districts that would both continue the good work of our local churches and better position our structure to resource them.

The District Alignment Team (DAT) was formed out of this deep need. Through prayer, holy conversation, and meditation on the input from our conference, this team arrived at six recommendations, which were announced this past February.

How can Districts most effectively order themselves for the adaptive challenges of the 21st century?

District Alignment Team Recommendations		Creating a system that is adaptive, nimble & efficient so that our churches can thrive in current & future tumultuous conditions.			
Support & resource clergy as a matter of priority.	Facilitate collaboration between churches as a matter of community.	Streamline & automate routine, repetitive processes as a matter of stewardship.	Reset the District landscape as a matter of revitalization.	Create equitable baseline District budgets as a matter of fairness.	Determine how to measure our effectiveness to foster fearless innovation.
How can we best resource our clergy so that they feel equipped & motivated to lead our local churches into a new future?	How can we create a system of cooperation & collaboration between our local churches so that we can more effectively engage with & be relevant in our communities?	How can we update our structures & processes to be effective & efficient in order to free up valuable time and resources for ministry?	How can we design a District landscape that brings a new sense of excitement & offers new ways forward?	How can we make sure that every church in every District has access to a sufficient level of resources & possibilities?	How should we measure the impact these changes have in our local churches, our communities & our vision/mission?
1	2	3	4	5	6

As this team’s strategic work came to a close, a new team was formed to discern possible pathways to make these recommendations come to life. This implementation think tank also known as the Implementation District Alignment Team (iDAT) began meeting in December of 2020 and began to pray together on a daily basis. The team assembles over zoom weekly - renewed in the mission of the church, the vision of our conference and our intended purpose to listen for the word that God is speaking. The team continues to meet to pray, discuss feedback, and discern possibilities.

God is calling all of us to continue the good work started over this pandemic year. Just as Paul wrote the Corinthian church in his first letter “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” 1 Corinthians 3:6-7. We are all servants of God seeking to be faithful with the work that God has set out for us. We don’t do this work alone.

Out of the work of DAT and iDAT a few recommendations have been made around the number of District Superin-

tendents in 2021 and the beginning of a new position for 2022 to come alongside our clergy called District Developer for Clergy Resourcing & Community Engagement. Beyond these decisions we only have possibilities. We invite you to join us in this process of making possibilities a reality through constant and fervent prayer, participating in virtual conversations, and engaging with other communications. We have all grown through the unimaginable difficulties over the last year. Let us move forward in faith to the planting and watering God is calling us to here and now, so that in everything we do as a church we can bring glory to our God who is the ultimate source of every good and perfect thing.

For more information on the work of the iDAT go to <https://vaumc.org/dat/>.

– Prayerfully, faithfully and respectfully submitted,
Implementation District Alignment Team (iDAT) Members
Bishop Sharma Lewis
Denise Bates, District Superintendent
Kyungsuk Cho, spiritual leader
Michelle Matthews
David Domnisse, co-convener
Kathy Merry, co-convener
Carol Draper, support
Charles Ledlum-Bates, District Superintendent
Scott Davis, District Superintendent
Ashley Isernhagen
Jim Chandler
Joshua King
June Carpenter
Kirk Nave
Tracy Bass
Sandra Fulcher

REPORTS

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Council on Finance and Administration

SECTION I - Proposed Conference Budget for 2022

	Sch.	2021	2022	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	2,510,000	2,670,000	8.61%	160,000	6.37%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,830,000	1,889,000	6.12%	59,000	3.22%
403 - District Ministry and Administration Fund	C	1,820,000	3,150,000	10.17%	1,330,000	73.08%
404 - Equitable Compensation		200,000	200,000	0.65%	-	0.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		900,000	900,000	2.91%	-	0.00%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		420,000	336,000	1.08%	(84,000)	-20.00%
Total Conference Apportionments		7,680,000	9,145,000	29.54%	1,465,000	19.08%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	10,000,000	32.28%	290,000	2.99%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,000,000	19.37%	(60,000)	-0.99%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		15,770,000	16,000,000	51.65%	230,000	1.46%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		865,000	880,000	2.84%	15,000	1.73%
411 - World Service		2,150,000	2,970,000	9.59%	820,000	38.14%
412 - General & Interdenominational Fund		325,000	480,000	1.55%	155,000	47.69%
413 - Ministerial Education		675,000	1,005,000	3.25%	330,000	48.89%
414 - Black College Fund		315,000	400,000	1.29%	85,000	26.98%
415 - Africa University Fund		70,000	90,000	0.29%	20,000	28.57%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		4,400,000	5,825,000	18.81%	1,425,000	32.39%
Total Apportionments		27,850,000	30,970,000	100.00%	3,120,000	11.20%

NOTE: In 2022, the increase in Fund 403 is in anticipation of a decrease in District Apportionments.

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2021	2022	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Common Table Directed Ministries					
A. Program & Board Administrative (see below)	1,125,000	1,331,000	4.30%	206,000	18.31%
B. Benevolence Grants	160,000	160,000	0.52%	-	0.00%
C. Special & Sustaining Grants	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
D. Conference Programs	80,000	80,000	0.26%	-	0.00%
E. Campus Ministries	800,000	825,000	2.66%	25,000	3.13%
	2,215,000	2,446,000	7.90%	231,000	8.94%
Other Ministries					
Wesley Foundation Capital Improvements	100,000	-	0.00%	(100,000)	-100.00%
Wesley Foundation Maintenance	60,000	85,000	0.27%	25,000	41.67%
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
Total Ministry Expenses	2,395,000	2,551,000	8.23%	156,000	5.21%
Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	115,000	119,000	0.38%	4,000	3.48%
Total 401 Apportionment	2,510,000	2,670,000	8.61%	160,000	5.10%
Supporting Details for Line Items Above					
A. Program & Board Administrative Expenses					
1. Common Table	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
3. Agency Administration	50,000	38,000	0.12%	(12,000)	-24.00%
4. Personnel Costs	504,500	670,000	2.16%	165,500	32.80%
5. Communications	230,000	270,000	0.87%	40,000	17.39%
6. Outsourced Graphic Design Services	6,000	6,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
7. Video Production & Documentation	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. Information Technology	265,500	266,000	0.86%	500	0.19%
9. Contingency	8,000	20,000	0.06%	12,000	150.00%
	1,125,000	1,331,000	4.30%	206,000	14.94%

REPORTS

Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2021	2022	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	344,500	386,500	1.26%	42,000	12.19%
2. Bishop's Assistant	55,000	-	0.00%	(55,000)	-100.00%
3. Annual Conference Session	245,000	245,000	0.79%	-	0.00%
4. Treasurer's Office	405,000	439,000	1.42%	34,000	8.40%
5. Human Resources	-	35,000	0.11%	35,000	100.00%
6. Computer Services	120,000	120,000	0.39%	-	0.00%
7. Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.09%	-	0.00%
8. Pastor Relocation & Transition	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
9. Archives	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
10. Council on Finance and Administration	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
11. Historical Society	4,000	4,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
12. Board of Trustees	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-	0.00%
13. Telephone Service	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
14. Insurance	18,000	20,000	0.06%	2,000	11.11%
15. Postage & Printing	33,000	33,000	0.11%	-	0.00%
16. Building Operations & Services	175,000	175,000	0.57%	-	0.00%
17. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
18. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
19. Legal	200,000	200,000	0.65%	-	0.00%
20. Audit	45,000	45,000	0.15%	-	0.00%
21. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
22. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	94,000	95,000	0.31%	1,000	1.06%
	1,830,000	1,889,000	6.12%	59,000	2.96%

Board of Ordained Ministry

1. Minister's Family Counseling	8,000	15,000	0.05%	7,000	87.50%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	14,500	14,500	0.05%	-	0.00%
6. Personnel Costs	215,000	250,000	0.81%	35,000	16.28%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	70,000	70,000	0.23%	-	0.00%
	344,500	386,500	1.26%	42,000	9.84%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Ministry and Administration Fund

	2021	2022	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
DS Salaries, Housing, & Pension	1,645,000	1,222,000	3.95%	(423,000)	-25.71%
DS Travel & Meetings	130,000	100,000	0.32%	(30,000)	-23.08%
DS Continuing Education & Other	30,000	20,000	0.06%	(10,000)	-33.33%
District Developers Salaries, Housing & Pension	-	830,000	2.68%	830,000	100.00%
District Administrative Managers	-	120,000	0.39%	120,000	100.00%
District Ministry	-	480,000	1.55%	480,000	100.00%
District Superintendent Directed Funds	-	320,000	1.03%	320,000	100.00%
Extended Cabinet Directed Funds	-	40,000	0.13%	40,000	100.00%
DS & DD Moving expenses	-	18,000	0.06%	18,000	100.00%
Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	15,000	-	0.00%	(15,000)	-100.00%
	1,820,000	3,150,000	10.17%	1,330,000	66.50%

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:

2022 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	2,670,000
402-Conference Services	1,889,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	3,150,000
404-Equitable Compensation	200,000
405-Church Extension & Development	900,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	336,000
407-Active Clergy Health	10,000,000
408-Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
410-Episcopal Fund	880,000
411-World Service	2,970,000
412-General & Interdenominational Fund	480,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	1,005,000
414-Black College Fund	400,000
415-Africa University Fund	90,000
	\$ 30,970,000

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.

402-Conference Services

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

403-District Ministry and Administration Fund

- This apportionment covers
 - the District Superintendents' compensation, housing, and benefits, including continuing education and travel costs
 - the personnel costs for the District Developers and District Administrative Managers, beginning July 1, 2022

REPORTS

- District Ministry and Administration Budgets, beginning July 1, 2022
- District Superintendent and Extended Cabinet directed funds, beginning July 1, 2022

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 **\$336,000 for 2022**. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2022:

Virginia Education Fund Allocation

Ferrum College	23.0%	78,000
Randolph-Macon College	22.0%	74,000
Randolph-Macon Academy	12.0%	40,000
Shenandoah University	21.5%	72,000
Virginia Wesleyan College	21.5%	72,000
		<u>\$ 336,000</u>

Report on 2020

- 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 2020.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	775,896
402 Conference Services	361,385
403 District Superintendents	334,980
404 Equitable Compensation	29,563
	<u>1,501,825</u>

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. 2022 apportionments are calculated using 2020 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 (\$5,500) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2021 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 (2020 for 2022 apportionments).

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

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

- 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.
- Effective January 1, 2020, Ecumenical (multi-denominational) churches will be direct billed for health insurance when they are served by an eligible United Methodist pastor and will not be subject to the 407 apportionment.

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 2022:

- 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.
- Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund). It is recommended that the period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day be designated in support of the Pinnacle Living (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.
- Partnerships of Hope. It is recommended that September be designated as Partners of Hope 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.

SECTION V - Policies

A. DISTRICT MINISTRY AND ADMINISTRATION FUND (403)

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 between \$105,000 and \$120,000 at the discretion of the Bishop.
 - 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, 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, pending the final recommendations regarding district alignment.

Note, there will be further recommendations coming from CFA once the decisions have been made regarding district alignment.

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 45 cents for Conference staff. The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers is set at half the IRS rate for volunteers (currently 28 cents) for those 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.

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.]
 - 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	\$ 1,272,000
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

958,000

\$ 2,230,000

At December 31, 2020 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 fulltime 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 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 2021 *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 printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25 which includes shipping. 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 COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Conference-Provided Publications Committee be continued, composed of the following: (1) the Director of Connectional Ministries; (2) Conference Treasurer; and (3) 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. Clergy can opt out of this hard copy mailing by submitting the form at this link: <https://vaumc.org/findclergy/>.

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!

William H Talley IV, President

CALL TO ACTION WORK GROUP (CAWG)

The Call-to-Action Work Group (CAWG) was designed and put into action after Bishop Lewis' calls for action against systemic racism. The original call was to address the following three elements of concern.

1. To inform clergy and laity to have authentic conversation on race and reconciliation in their houses of worship, communities, and workplaces. We need to acknowledge racism as a sin and actively pursue whatever is necessary to dismantle the injustices.
2. Community policing: emphasizes working with neighborhood residents as partners in creating public safety. We can offer our support and involvement with law enforcement agencies that work in our community to identify problems and to collaborate on implementing solutions that produce meaningful results for the community.
3. We can encourage civilian participation in oversight of law enforcement training to strengthen trust with the community. Every community should define the appropriate form and structure of civilian oversight to meet the needs of that community.

For these items to be implemented, the Call-to-Action Work Group was formed. The group has representatives from each Board, Agency, and committee. With this representation from throughout the Annual Conference we can be in dialog on these three issues and to help expand the conversation to other areas of concern in the Annual Conference and the Commonwealth as a whole.

On August 12, 2020 we held a "Virginia Speaks" this event was organized by Conference staff and the Governor and Attorney General offices. This event was designed to hear the concerns of law enforcement and the community to help us in understand the gravity of the issues. After the conversation there was a greater appreciation of our concerns and that of law enforcement. We will be working on Virginia Speaks 2.0 later this year to move beyond talk to action.

As we move forward with our work, all that we do is grounded in prayer. On the conference website under A Call to Racial Reconciliation and Justice you can see all the activities the group has been working on over the past year. In 2021 our focus will be having an authentic conversation with clergy and laity. We are finding that the more we learn and know about each other that we have more in common than we have differences. We first most learn to be honest with ourselves and others to accomplish an authentic conversation.

– James Page, Convener

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Beginning a new quadrennium July 1st, the Board welcomed 20 new members and 2 new District Superintendents, all nominated by our Bishop and elected by the AC. The Board is grateful for the leadership of Rev. John Hall, past chair of the BOM and long-time Cabinet representative Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster.

In January and March, the Board held its first interviews by ZOOM, interviewing 20 candidates for full and associate membership, and 24 candidates for provisional membership. Except for the newsworthy ZOOM crash on the east coast on January 26th, the interviews went off without a hitch! Thank you to the candidates and Board members for their patience and grace during these virtual interviews.

The Board is deeply grateful to Candler School of Theology for welcoming our Virginia clergy to their virtual licensing school in the spring of 2020. This year, Licensing School will be virtual and led by clergy in the Virginia Conference as well a few courses through Candler.

The Candidacy Team and Call Culture Team continue to sojourn with those exploring a call to ministry. The Calling 21 team continues to reimagine this internship program in ways that would best support our students. While the pandemic cancelled the program in the summer of 2020, the team is excited to have a new form of the internship for 2021. The Grants & Loans committee was able to award a grand total of \$75, 264 in scholarships this year as we support the educational journey of candidates.

In March, the Center for Clergy Excellence and the Conference Relations Committee off the Board, presented a document to the Bishop and Cabinet about the low morale of clergy during this pandemic. The Board and Order Chairs are exploring with the Cabinet ways in which we can better undergird, support and resource our clergy.

The Board cannot speak highly enough of Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman's leadership among our conference clergy, laity and the denomination. She models clergy excellence! Because of her heart and connectional spirit with those discerning a call to ministry, we have new and younger clergy serving among us. The Board is grateful for Ms. Kristen Dowdy Seibert, Program and Administrative Coordinator for her work throughout the year on behalf of the Board. Her technological support during our recent virtual interviews enabled its success.

– Tammy L. Estep, Chair

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy (COE) is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Book of Discipline*. A process for this review has been created and is used by all Conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ). The Virginia COE meets with Bishop Lewis three to four times a year to engage in conversation around this process and to discuss matters present in the Virginia Annual Conference and larger connection. The COE communicates the results and insights of this review with the SEJ COE for use in their assignment process.

Bishop Lewis continues to serve in her first quadrennium due to delays to Jurisdictional Conferences brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Jurisdictional Conference was not held at its regular time. Currently, a virtual Jurisdictional Conference is planned for July 2021, to receive retirements of five bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ). Elections of new bishops will not be held until delegates can meet in-person, currently scheduled for November 2022.

In the interim, the eight active bishops of the SEJ will be assigned to cover its 15 Annual Conferences. The Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will work with the SEJ College of Bishops to design a plan of coverage before making episcopal assignments which will be presented to delegates during the Jurisdictional Conference in July 2021. The Committee on Episcopacy for the Virginia Annual Conference will share insights about our Annual Conference with the SEJ COE to assist them in the plan of coverage and assignment process, just as it would in a normal year.

– Tom Berlin, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly scheduled meetings, virtually, in September 2020 and March 2021. In addition, Special Called Meetings were held to address proposed requests from churches to exit the denomination under *Book of Discipline* defined procedures. Further communications via conference calls occurred during the Conference year to follow-up on other issues.

The Board continues to address property issues related to discontinued and/or abandoned United Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference. This is time-consuming, but important work in the stewardship of Conference church properties. The Board continues its ongoing management of the Episcopal residence jointly with the Episcopal Residence Committee.

At the 2019 General Conference, a process for local church disaffiliations was approved and adopted as Paragraph 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*. The Judicial Council later upheld Paragraph 2553 as being constitutional. To date, this disaffiliation process has not been utilized in the Annual Conference. However, certain requests for exiting the denomination by way of a church closure under Paragraph 2549 of the *Book of Discipline*, together with a transfer of the local church property to a new, independent church corporation, have been considered and evaluated by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Cabinet. The Board, in coordination with the Cabinet and with the support of counsel, established a subcommittee to review requests to exit the denomination and the terms of related property transfers. In assessing the proposed terms of any property transfers, the Board and its subcommittee will consider, among other factors, the value of the subject property, and will require terms no less favorable to the Annual Conference than those provided for in a disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553, including the payment of the existing church's share of unfunded pension liabilities, unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, and an additional 12 months of apportionments, plus attorneys' fees. As of this report, two church requests for exiting the denomination have been negotiated and approved, in each case involving a closure under the terms of Paragraph 2549 and transfer of property to the new church corporation.

Certain others are under consideration at the time of this report. Given the announced delay of General Conference until August 2022, and other proposals regarding the future structure of the UMC, the Board's process reviews on disaffiliation requests to date represent important foundational work that may be useful in the coming years.

The Board of Trustees is directly supported by the Williams Mullen firm, which provides expert attorney services and counsel on Board of Trustees and Annual Conference matters. The firm, and Andrew White, integrate well into the total work of the Board, providing expert counsel to us in our current and ongoing work. During our review of disaffiliation requests, the attorney support of the Williams Mullen firm has been especially helpful.

The current slate of officers for the Conference Trustees is: Carl L. Moravitz, president; Kathy Lutman, vice president; Clyde T. Nelson, secretary; David Dommissie, treasurer.

I am thankful for the dedication of all the members of our Board as we work to meet the important tasks set out for the Board by the Conference and the *Discipline*. I am especially thankful for the continued leadership of our Vice President, Kathy Lutman, who has stepped in many times over the past year to help me in the many tasks of our Board.

– Carl L. Moravitz, President

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides funding for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism, spiritual formation, preaching, congregational leadership, spiritual leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit. Funding comes from donations received in honor of retired bishops who select the Foundation as the trustee. 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 agency providing funding for clergy and laity leadership development, the foundation supported the 5 Talent Academy of 2020 and remains interested in supporting conference ministry programming that fosters 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 Resources/Bishops' Foundation.

– Kevin W. Bruny, Co-Chair

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Ferrum College

When we welcomed 2020, we had no way of knowing we would also be welcoming the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Ferrum College persevered in its gritty, determined fashion, keeping campus COVID-19 cases among the lowest in our area, and even enjoying many accomplishments last year.

We successfully transitioned to virtual instruction over the course of just a few days in the spring of 2020. During the summer, every one of our faculty completed an intensive online teaching certification so they would be ready to provide high-quality instruction both in the classroom and online.

In anticipation of opening the 2020-2021 academic year, we launched a Bi-Term Model and separated the fall and spring semesters into two 7-week terms. The College also offered three different course delivery models: fully online, hybrid, and hyflex, which gave students the option of attending sessions in the classroom, participating online, or in some cases, doing both.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, Ferrum College was approved to become a Level IV institution, and is now authorized to offer a variety of masters and specialist degree programs. This approval came after a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) review team determined Ferrum to be 100 percent in compliance with every required accreditation standard.

Another pandemic-era achievement: the College added a pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), which launched its first cohort in January 2021. The new BSN program complements the College's existing and completely

online RN to BSN program that launched in the fall of 2020.

On Giving Tuesday, the global day of giving that fell on December 1, 2020, Ferrum invited donors to be “Ferrum Bold” by making a gift of any size to any program. The College ended the day with gifts from over 260 donors exceeding \$106,000, including a \$50,000 challenge gift from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

Ferrum College entered agreements with two partner institutions that opened new pathways to students wanting to pursue a graduate degree: with the University of Pikeville, an agreement reserving a seat in its Master of Social Work program, and with the Appalachian School of Law, a 3-plus-3 Dual Degree Agreement, which will allow students to enroll at ASL after just three years at Ferrum.

Thanks to a gift from alumnus Maury Carter '53 and his family, Ferrum dedicated the Carter Center for Academic Success, an on-campus resource focused on helping students achieve academic success through tutoring, advising, study groups, and more.

Additionally, the College was able to create the Michael T. Christian '63 Center for First-Year Experience, through a gift from alumnus Michael Christian. This Center serves all incoming students with a goal of helping them transition to college life.

As we implement our new strategic plan, I am reminded that the strength of Ferrum College is our people. We had many opportunities this past year to put our motto into practice - “Not Self, But Others,” - by offering support to each other and to our students. None of us expected the year we had, but every one of us worked together to grow, strengthen, and achieve more than we could ever have imagined. We are grateful for the encouragement the United Methodist Church has offered its membership during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we welcome your support as we work to build the future.

– David L. Johns, Ph.D.

Randolph-Macon Academy

It is because of the Lord’s Grace that Randolph-Macon Academy continues to successfully operate with on-campus instructions for this current 2020-21 school year. With uncertainty, unrest and anxiety seen from parents unlike any year in our school’s existence, R-MA’s preparation in providing safe in-person classes will lead our senior class to once again graduate for the 130th time.

A’s success was dutifully noted by several media outlets, including WTOP News, Diplomatic Connections magazine and The Enrollment Management Association’s podcast with industry professionals. R-MA invested significantly in marketing resources to ensure proper and honest messaging. This involved a brand new website, new But That’s a Military School YouTube video with nearly 100,000 views, and transparent and consistent messaging for Covid-19 related news on our website organized by date with a comprehensive reopening plan. And the results were clear - we began the current school year with an increase in enrollment for the first time in 5 years and look to continue this trend for the upcoming school year. R-MA is also now ranked as one of the best private schools in Virginia by Niche.com:

- ❖ #5 in the Most Diverse Private High Schools in Virginia category
- ❖ #6 in the Best Boarding High Schools in Virginia category
- ❖ #13 in the Best Private High Schools in Virginia category

This did not go unnoticed with our parent community. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, especially during our regular Zoom Town Hall meetings where we provided accurate and timely updates to the safety and positive progress of the school. Parents were particularly thrilled with our new Pre-Professional Pathways program, which allows students to explore passions and career interests to best prepare them for the rigors of university. We launched 4 Pathways that will provide students with a solid foundation and competitive edge in the college admissions process:

1. Aviation: Drones, Pilot Ground School, Computer Science, Graphic and Digital Design
2. Global Entrepreneurship: Psychology, Statistics, Business Symposiums, Capstone Projects

3. High Flight: Academic and physical preparation for service academy appointments
4. Software & Engineering: Computer Science, Robotics, 3D Printers, Cyber Security

Our Chapel Service continues to be an integral part of R-MA life, every Wednesday. Chaplain Orndorff has taken the lead in creating Media and Praise Teams where several student volunteers lead the worship service by providing a live, streaming experience on YouTube for our entire community to view - in real-time! Whether in socially distanced chapel pews, classrooms, labs or offices, the entire R-MA community - faculty, staff and students - is able to receive the Word of God, participate in communion, read scripture and sing praise songs.

Our entire faculty and staff community has heeded advice from the CDC, with nearly 80% being fully vaccinated at this time. We are thankful for this opportunity and hope this gesture positively persuades others to do the same.

We are seeing an exponential increase in prospective applications, many of which require Financial Aid. Many of these applicants are academically highly qualified, but lack the financial resources to attend a private school due to parental economic realities caused by the

Pandemic, at no fault of their own. We are grateful for the United Methodist Church's commitment in providing scholarships to R-MA, and will be happy to have a conversation to discuss a possible increase in the number of scholarships available for such qualified applicants.

In closing, I thank you for all our Church has done for our students and for R-MA this year; I pray for strength and wisdom for our Bishop and for the Virginia Conference in the year ahead; and I look forward to all we can do together, in the name of the Lord.

– David C. Wesley, Brigadier General, 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 with individualized attention between our exceptional faculty and students. Though classes were offered in a mix of formats due to the pandemic, the school maintained a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1 and average class size of 14 students. The college has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

Now in our 191st year, the college is larger and more diverse than at any time in history, having experienced a significant growth in our student body in recent years. The 2020-21 academic year opened with 1554 students from 29 states (including the District of Columbia) and 25 countries. Of these students, 55% are female and 45% are male.

R-MC prides itself on an exceptional sense of responsibility for student success and 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.

Randolph-Macon celebrates our strong alumni giving record. Even in the midst of the pandemic, in FY2020, R-MC continued to rank in the top 30 of all colleges and universities in the nation for the percentage of alumni who gave back to the college.

The college facilities are being improved and expanded, thanks in part to this generosity. This includes the recently opened Payne Hall, as well as ongoing construction for a renovated and expanded performing arts center.

The college has been educating Christian clergy throughout its history. Randolph-Macon College currently has more than 150 living alumni who are clergy, more than two-thirds of whom are United Methodist Clergy. There are currently twelve students in the pre-ministerial program, including five Bailey Scholars. 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. Students awarded this scholarship receive half-tuition for the first two years and full tuition for the junior and senior years. The program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. There are 11 recent Bailey Scholar and pre-ministerial students in seminaries across the country.

Randolph-Macon is engaging high school students across the Virginia Conference in a number of ways including Convergence: A Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science, Valuing the Voices in Our Church (a program focused on leadership, diversity, and call), and Pathways to Science (an opportunity for rising sophomore Hispanic girls to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities.)

Randolph-Macon continues expanding the programs it offers today's students. The college admitted its first class of Nursing students in 2019, and announced plans for a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program to begin in January 2023. An applied mathematics major was also recently added.

As the oldest continuously operating Methodist college in the country, Randolph-Macon College appreciates our historic and ongoing relationship to the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

– Robert Lindgren, President

Shenandoah University

“Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.” They are three simple rules, but they have become deeply difficult and remarkably complex this year. As we moved from in-person classes to all online classes in March 2020, we were ready. A vast majority of our faculty were already certified to teach online. Each student receives the same technology when they come to Shenandoah University. When they returned home in March 2020, they had what they needed to succeed! Students were pleased with the flexibility and the ability to pivot in a moment. We transitioned without missing a beat.

However, we also learned that students wanted to return to in-person learning in Fall 2020. Again, we did not miss a beat. We welcomed our largest incoming class ever in Fall 2020 and we had the largest enrollment in the history of Shenandoah University, over 4100 students. As we were aware, increased density would make things a challenge in the fall during COVID. So, we got to work over the summer and added more residence halls, leased a hotel and convention center just across the street, added another eating venue, and started our own COVID testing. Yes, our Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy created a saliva pool sampling test so that we could test more people, more often. We had more students, but we had more residence halls, more rooms, less density, and more testing. We added outdoor tents for classrooms. We held worship outside until mid-November! We turned a gym and our large meeting rooms into classrooms. We spread out. We stayed safe and stayed in-person for the entire fall semester. “Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”

However, we wanted to do more. So, in January 2021, we turned the Shenandoah University Wilkins Athletic and Events Center (the 77,000 square foot building is the largest within 70 miles) into a mass vaccination site in partnership with Valley Health Systems and the Virginia Department of Health. We encouraged faculty and staff to volunteer in administering the vaccine, recording data, and escorting the elderly into and out of the building. Students in our nursing and health professions volunteered their skills and time when they were not in class. We started with 300 vaccines one day and ramped up to 750 vaccines the next. By the third day, we were administering 1500 vaccines each day. Now, we regularly have administered 2500 vaccines in one day and we could probably do 5000 a day, if we had the vaccine supply. Some weeks we were open to the community six out of seven days! One day there were four letters to the editor in the local Winchester Star newspaper about the partnership, the efficiency, and the hospitality. As I write this in February 2021, we have administered over 30,000 vaccines.

We knew that Shenandoah University was a unique place with excellence in nursing, pharmacy, health professions, as well as music, theatre, and dance. Little did we know that vaccines for a global pandemic would be given by our faculty in the health professions and then, while our community waited the required fifteen minutes to ensure no adverse reactions to the vaccine, there would be live music from our gifted Conservatory faculty and students. Health professions and Conservatory talent really work well together! When we told you last year that we notified the Virginia Conference Site Selection Committee about our new Wilkins Athletic and Events Center and asked for your help in identifying large-scale regional events, we knew that this building was not just for Shenandoah University, but for our community. Thank you for being a part of our community! “Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”

Shenandoah University remains committed to educating and serving the diversity of God's people and we want to continue to build a mutually beneficial partnership with our community as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transfor-

mation of the world. We are better together. So, together let us

“do all the good we can,
by all the means we can,
in all the ways we can,
in all the places we can,
at all the times we can,
to all the people we can,
as long as ever we can.”

– Tracy Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., President

Virginia Wesleyan University

It has been an honor to continue to serve as president of the North American Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities (formerly the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church), leading the 117 Methodist-related higher education institutions during this pivotal time for the Church.

Virginia Wesleyan University was proud to offer in-person instruction for the 2020-21 academic year. While COVID-19 has affected every aspect of campus life, we continue to offer courses, opportunities for student engagement, and intercollegiate athletics in the safest way possible during these challenging times.

Addressing national trends, affordability remains a top priority. Virginia Wesleyan offers a multi-faceted plan of affordability that combines the fourth consecutive year of freezing tuition costs, the endowed Batten Honors College, an expanded donor-funded Work & Learn Program for student employment, a concurrent enrollment program with Virginia community colleges, affordable out-of-semester 12-month course options, and a fifth-year tuition guarantee.

Since our 2017 transition to University status, we have added new graduate programs and several thriving online programs. Academic programs have been expanded to include a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with Sentara College of Health Sciences and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) online, which will begin in the fall of 2021. Through a gift in 2019, we established a program to expand the study of African-American history and traditions.

Despite all the challenges of 2020, the University was able to finish several projects on campus. The Boyd Dining Center was completely remodeled. Convocation Hall in the Jane P. Batten Student Center became TowneBank Arena with new flooring and expanded seating among the many upgrades the facility received. Coastal 61 at Oxford Village, the 244-apartment private-public partnership project located on the north end of campus, was completed and all units are currently leased. Modernization of the original Fine Arts Building, now named Susan T. Beverly Hall, continued throughout the fall and will be finished in January 2021.

Our Greer Environmental Sciences Center and highly selective Batten Honors College, both opened in 2017, continue to be national niche programs. The Greer Center has enhanced prominence in the natural sciences programs and has earned multiple accolades, including 2018 Conservationist of the Year from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and recognition from the Elizabeth River Project for Sustained Distinguished Performance at the River Stars Model

Level again for 2021. The Batten Honors College welcomed its fourth class in fall 2020 and is now at full capacity with 160 students.

A third national-niche program of VWU is the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom which was renamed the Robert Nusbaum Center in April 2020 for the Center's founding visionary. The center aims to create a civil society through education, respectful dialogue, and mutual understanding, and it equips students and community members to address difficult and urgent problems. We are dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and named the University's first chief diversity officer in early 2020. In fall 2020, we became an inaugural member of the Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance (LACRELA).

Religious life on campus is vibrant as Marlin Ministries serves students of all faiths, interests, and backgrounds. Socially-distanced ecumenical services are offered weekly in the Monumental Chapel and Beazley Recital Hall and in-person and virtual gatherings are held each week for students, faculty, and staff with various interests and journeys in their faith. Due to changes in financial support from the Church, our Chaplain, Marie Porter, is serving in a part-time capacity

while also directing youth ministry at a local church. The donor-funded Boyd Fellows program provides opportunities for student leaders to assist with the administrative, visionary, and programmatic aspects of religious life on campus. Agreements with the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and the Duke University Divinity School provide early assurance opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in the ministry.

– *Scott D. Miller, Ph.D., President*

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND SPOUSES

A.R.M.S. works with our Conference Office of Pensions and Benefits to address the needs and desires of our retired clergy and spouses. Due to Covid & a virtual Annual Conference, both the retired clergy/spouses' banquet, and our 2020 retired clergy & spouses retreat were cancelled, but our association gave \$5000 to the conference Pensions & Benefits Fund & \$1000 to Eagle Eyrie Retreat Ctr. to help with Covid-related shortfall. Our retreat "Solid Hope in Changing Times" is set (hopefully) for October 6-7, 2021. We can all use that! (More information this summer.) We again ask retired pastors & spouses to consider giving \$10 annually toward expenses and reducing the cost of our retreat, with checks payable to VUMC for ARMS.

– *Steve & Susan Hassmer Co-Presidents, ARMS Board of Directors*

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

Since it was first chartered in 1870 the Preachers' Relief Society has sought to assist clergy, both active and retired, their families, widows and widowers facing sudden financial crises by giving them grants. Over the years many have requested and been given grants for a wide variety of reasons. In the last few years the number of persons making requests has been in the low single digits and the preponderance of the requests have come about because of the need for medical treatment. That was true in 2020. Two grants were awarded and both were medically related.

Those persons needing help should apply through their district superintendent. The district superintendent will forward the request to the Society with a recommendation as to how large a grant should be awarded. Each grant is carefully considered by the Society and a response is made in accord with the need and the Society's ability to meet it.

The Society welcomes contributions. In recent years it has been primarily dependent upon increasing its assets through investments. In this it has been aided by the Mercadante Riggan Financial Group of BB&T Scott & Stringfellow. Those interested in helping may contact Ben Riggan at 757-446-6839 or one of the officers of the Society.

It has been a great privilege for me to have been able to help people facing crisis through the work of the Society and a particular honor and privilege to have been its president. I leave with this annual conference as will directors Sallye Bowen and Harold White, Sr. Their service is much appreciated. It is a pleasure to announce that Robert F. Cofield, Jr. will be the new president; Edward Lilly, vice-president; James R. Bergdoll, secretary; and Katherine Kidwell, treasurer. The other current directors are Robert N. Baker III and James S. Mathews. This Annual Conference will elect three additional directors.

– *Robert T. Casey, President*

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) has been serving retired clergy and their families for 88 years by providing housing following retirement for those who qualify. Currently, RCHC owns nineteen (19) properties across our conference in Bridgewater, Danville, Hampton, Lynchburg, Mechanicsville, North Chesterfield, Prince George, Raphine, Roanoke, and Winchester. This is a decrease from last year's report as we sold one property.

At this time, our expenses outweigh our income, and we are dependent upon donor gifts to help offset that difference. Contributions and other sources of revenues are needed more than ever to ensure the long-term viability of this wonderful ministry.

The annual Covenant of Gratitude drive is another way individuals and congregations can help support the work of RCHC. The Covenant of Gratitude asks for a commitment of a minimum of \$1 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference session. We appreciate the past support we received from our Covenant of Gratitude family, but we are asking those who can, to do a bit more! If you are a current Covenant of Gratitude supporter, or if you have never supported our ministry before, please consider a gift to \$2, \$5, or even \$10 for each commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference. Your donation will help offset basic operations and unexpected repairs. Please remember, we receive no funds from the conference for the important work we do. We also invite you to make RCHC a part of your estate planning. If you are interested in learning more about how to support this mission, please contact Rev. Charles Wickham at 804-474-8724 and he will be happy to meet with you.

I would like to thank Walter “B” Brown and Marilyn Lipieko for their many years of leadership and service to our Board of Directors. They each have completed 14 years of service and rotated off the board. I would also like to welcome Randy Shelton, from the Virginia United Methodist Development Company, and Mahood Fonville, a Richmond area realtor, as new board members.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you in advance for any assistance you give. What an honor and privilege it is to talk with the families we serve and hear them say, “We are so appreciative of RCHC! It has been a life saver for us! Thank you so much!” Our clergy and their family have given themselves to the service of God and what an honor to now help support them with housing.

– D. Michael Houff, RCHC Board of Directors, Chair

THE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

Serving members in North Carolina, Maryland, DC, West Virginia, and of course Virginia, The United Methodist Credit Union (TUMCU) offers savings and checking accounts, loans, credit cards, online services, and personal financial management resources, as well as:

- ❖ SnapLoans that provide educational lines of credit for college students attending a United Methodist affiliated college or seminary;
- ❖ Jubilee Assistance Funds in partnership with local churches to help people with financial emergencies;
- ❖ A partnership with a financial services firm to assist with college planning, annuities, long term care, and saving for retirement;
- ❖ Church loans to help with parsonage repairs, van or bus purchases, and the refinancing of current loans for better rates and terms; and
- ❖ Project loans (up to \$50,000 unsecured) and Visa rewards credit cards for church business.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, TUMCU provided the following assistance:

- ❖ Helped more than two hundred churches secure first-round, forgivable loans totaling over 4.7 million dollars under the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that was part of the federal government’s CARES Act.
- ❖ Also assisted a number of United Methodist related organizations, ministries, camps, and missions with PPP funding.
- ❖ Have begun the PPP Forgiveness process for all first-round funding.
- ❖ Is actively participating in PPP Second-Draw funding, with nearly two million dollars of additional church financial assistance as of February 15 this year.

- ❖ Offered quick issue, low interest emergency COVID loans and 0% interest on new credit card purchases for six months.
- ❖ Instituted “no-fee” credit card transfers, and an easy, “skip-a-pay” feature on all consumer loans for all members in good standing.

In the past year, TUMCU has also increased its internet presence, allowing members to do even more with the credit union online, such as completing loan and new membership applications, loan disbursements, and information requests.

A new stewardship resource for member churches was also introduced when the Rev. Burt Brooks joined the credit union team as Director of Stewardship & Outreach. His tasks include consulting with churches about annual giving, capital campaigns, and stewardship planning. His services are free to congregations as part of TUMCU’s commitment to help churches grow in their mission and ministry. The Rev. Brooks has already launched a multi-week “Stewardship Academy” to assist newer pastors, and will be offering it periodically throughout the coming year.

A new missional project to assist members with adoptions has also been implemented. The program is designed to assist prospective adoptive parents with the legal, travel, and extraordinary expenses that are unique to each of their adoption situations.

As a result of its continued assistance to its member churches and individuals, the credit union has grown to become a financial institution with more than twenty million dollars in deposits. Needless to say, this has been a very busy and fruitful year for The United Methodist Credit Union as we have helped our members gain all they can, and save all they can, so they can give all they can.

– *Alvin J. Horton, Chair*

VA PAUMCS

(Professional Administrators Of The United Methodist Connectional Structure)

The purpose of PAUMCS is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuous education and spiritual enrichment. PAUMCS promotes and encourages the training and support of United Methodist Church secretaries; serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect church secretaries; encourages and assists in the establishment of chapters of church secretaries, within or across jurisdictional and annual conference boundaries, and assists in coordinating the program and work of these chapters.

The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries was organized on April 14, 1982 in Dallas, Texas. Since that first meeting, conferences have been held annually, by-laws and a logo were adopted, working committees were formed, a quarterly newsletter was established and chapters were organized across the connection. 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 the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶807.18).

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS was established March 1999 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone. Since that time the membership of the Virginia chapter has grown to as many as 90 members and an all time high of 130 attendees at a fall event at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center. The chapter sponsors two meetings each year: normally, a one day fall training event and a one day spring training event and annual meeting, each good for .5 CEUs.

At their National Conference in Chicago in May 2017 the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries voted to change their name to the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure, thereby broadening their vision while retaining their acronym, PAUMCS.

VA PAUMCS 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. For a member to be in good standing, annual dues must be paid for the current year. Membership advantages include reduced rates on workshop registration fees, a bi-annual chapter newsletter and networking with other church secretaries throughout the Virginia Conference.

During the Annual Conference year 2020-2021 VA PAUMCS:

- ❖ In 2020 our annual mailing is digital. All newsletters, events and updates are posted to our webpage at <www.vaumc.org/paumcs> and promoted by MailChimp.
- ❖ Our National PAUMCS Conference has gone virtual to be held April 15-17. The sponsoring host committee is from Kansas City, MO Chapter. The theme is “Keep Our Eyes Focused on Christ” and our workshops will cover the Role of Administrators, the Development of Disciples and growing the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ Our VA PAUMCS spring event was to be held Wednesday, May 27, at the VAUMC Conference Center. As with most groups in 2020 our meeting was canceled due to COVID. Our executive committee will discuss ways we can stay connected through this difficult time.

Bishop Lewis has said, “United Methodist Church secretaries are called to ministry as surely as any pastor. Our administrative staff persons are a part of the ministry teams of our local churches and other United Methodist agencies. It is critically important that we work to develop effectiveness and vitality in the life of these teams. To that end the VA PAUMCS is committed to providing a supportive base for the training and fellowship of its members.”

– Karen O. Albro, President

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Both the fall and the spring meetings of the Trustees of the Virginia Conference Historical Society have been held online via Zoom. The fall program was an online lecture by Prof. Ryan Danker. In lieu of a program, the spring meeting included memorials for Cathy Morgan and Lee Sheaffer. The following reports have been submitted by our organizations.

– Mike Browder, President

Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation owns and is comprised of (3) Historic sites. The Edward Dromgoole House called “Canaan”, the Original Randolph-Macon College/ Boydton Academy and Bible Institute, and the Ebenezer Academy (school) sanctioned by Bishop Francis Asbury. All properties date back into the 17th and 18th centuries. The results of the past year, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation has revamped its strategic plans for two of its properties. The primary focus is now stabilization of the Historic Edward Dromgoole House in Valentines, Va. for its preservation.

Due to an impending Grant by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, through the National Park Service a detailed analysis of the entire structure will be conducted by the VADHR Personnel. The First will be the Dromgoole House and later on the RMC Site. Due to the efforts of Ann Keeling, Carol Corker, Lisa Jordan, Pam Archer, Walter Beales and many others. This \$199,000 Grant will be awarded in March 2021. Shortly after the award, a number of qualified contractors will be determined and based on qualification the winning contractor will begin work to stabilize the two chimneys and rebuild the original foundation for the stabilization of the Dromgoole House. This work has to be completed within a two-year period. To help further this initiative and restoration, the OBCF was provided a matching grant for up \$30,000, that expires on April 15, 2021. This is open to all interested parties, foundation and contributors!!! We have not completed the total matched dollars for the grant to date. All Gifts are also welcome!!!

Another important activity this year is the Formal Historic Recognition of the Edward Dromgoole house. This project was undertaken by Rev Dr. Art Thomas to have the Dromgoole House be designated as a Historic Site of the Virginia United Methodist Conference. This nomination was voted on and sanctioned in October 2020.

This site is now designate UMC Conference Historic Site #564.

There has been many additional activities, seminars, and visits to all our sites over the last year. For the first time in many years, we have major initiatives at all our sites that is making people aware that we are moving forward and not just “talking”, come join us and help make our efforts a reality !!! Through Ann Keeling research she found great significance regarding the value and impact the Boydton Academy and Bible Institute had on early education of the new Black Americans on into the 19 century.

YOU CAN TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES AND INDEAVORS BY GOING TO OUR (NEW) WEBSITE. <https://vamc.org/oldbrunswickcircuit.org> You can also request a copy of our very comprehensive 2020 News Letter. If needed Send a request to atkeeling@verizon.net or jhmottva38@hotmail.com

We are grateful for the progress being made by the OBCF, but are much in need of help from United Methodists across the Conference. Financial gifts, on-site volunteers, and researchers are welcome to join in these efforts to preserve these vital aspects of the origins of Methodism in Virginia. Our focus is “Preserving Our Heritage to Inspire the Future.”

– *Jim Mott, President*

The Old Stone Church Foundation

In 1974, the Virginia Conference Historical Society established the Old Stone Church Foundation to preserve, protect and interpret the Old Stone Church site in Leesburg, Virginia. This United Methodist Heritage Landmark, deeded in 1766, was the first Methodist-owned church property in America.

Due to health concerns, the Old Stone Church Foundation did not meet in 2020 and has not yet done so in 2021. As per the bylaws of the foundation, we submitted our existing slate of directors, all of whom will serve another year, for confirmation at the Fall meeting of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, held on October 3, 2020.

We added two memorial bricks to the prayer garden last year and performed general upkeep on the Old Stone Church Site throughout the year. We continue our efforts to make the Old Stone Church Site a United Methodist pilgrimage destination.

– *Ralph Carver, Acting President*

The William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation oversees the preservation, care and interpretation of the William Watters Gravesite, United Methodist Historic Site No. 7, found at the Adams-Wren-Watters Cemetery in McLean, Virginia. William Watters was the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher.

Due to Covid-19, the William Watters Foundation held our Annual Meeting via Zoom on September 17, 2020. The board approved the 2020-2021 slate of board members and officers at that meeting. The board of directors were then duly confirmed at the fall meeting of the Virginia Conference Historical Society on October 3, 2020.

Throughout the summer and fall, two board members, David Meyer and Myra Lindsey, and another volunteer, Eryn Lindsey, provided a major cleanup up of the William Watters Gravesite, while another board member, Jon Vrana, cleansed the obelisk. People of the neighborhood took notice and began to stop by to see the memorial, giving our workers a chance to inform guests about William Watters and the gravesite. The foundation was also able to establish better relationships with our neighbors, whose homes stand adjacent to the cemetery.

Our newest foundation board member, Jon Vrana, is developing a historical interpretation of William Watters.

In the months ahead, the foundation plans to repair the driveway, focus on foundation investments, and develop a plan to deter trespassers who use the privately-owned land and lawns surrounding the cemetery as a cut-through to another street.

– *Myra P. Lindsey, President*

History Update of the Virginia Conference

The Historical Society has formed a committee to begin developing an update of the history of the Virginia United Methodist Conference. The last history published by the Historical Society was written by William Warren Sweet in 1955. Several principles are guiding the update project:

1. The work might take several years to complete to allow for sufficient care and deliberation
2. The overall concept of the publication would be topical rather than chronological
3. A number of writers would be engaged to address the various topics rather than a single author
4. The overall scope in view might be the “Last 100 Years”

A sampling of some topics under consideration:

1. A brief overview of One Hundred Years in the Virginia Conference
2. Union of the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South and Methodist Protestant Churches to form the Methodist Church in 1939
3. Union of the Evangelical United Brethren, Methodist Church and Central Jurisdiction Dissolution to form the United Methodist Church in 1968
4. Racial issues and civil rights
5. Theological trends
6. Spiritual formation and renewal
7. Women’s issues, i.e. ordination, full clergy rights, organizations for mission
8. The Mission Enterprise - Organization, Conceptual Evolution and Practical Application
9. Growing racial diversity – American Asian, Latino/Hispanic, Native American
10. The Church faces War – Support, Protest Peacemaking
11. Social justice issues
12. Christian Higher Education in the Virginia Conference
13. Church and community
14. Ecumenical relations
15. Changing views of art, church architecture, liturgy and music
16. Evolution of thinking on pastoral ministry, appointment process, etc.
17. Emerging issues: church separation proposals, COVID-19 impact, etc.

The Historical Society and its History Update Committee welcomes interest and participation in this project. There are some 15 people on the committee and a number of others who are involved in contributing to the development of material on selected topics. Initial outlines and draft documents are in preparation.

– *Jim Athearn*

Heritage

Since 1973, the Virginia Conference Historical Society has published HERITAGE, the semiannual scholarly journal dedicated to Virginia United Methodist history. The Spring 2021 issue tells of Francis Asbury’s final days of ministry and his death and temporary burial at the home of his friend, George Arnold, in Spotsylvania County. It also features a presentation given by the Rev. Michael H. Browder, Ph.D. to the Old Stone Church Foundation, on the origins of the United Brethren in Christ and its first connections in Loudoun County. With much gratitude to a generous benefactor, we plan to send a free copy of Spring 2021 HERITAGE to every current senior church pastor in the Virginia Conference.

Archives

New Business:

The World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska has closed. Nancy Watkins, Archivist at the SEJ Heritage Center has offered the VAUMC Archives a pew from Leesburg. Space must be found in the Archives or in the UMC Building to house the pew; the pew must also be transported from Lake Junaluska to Glen Allen. Plans are in the works to address both of these issues.

In an effort to streamline the process of keeping statistics about the Archives, I've created a database that will make that process easier.

I've been asked to write an article for Heritage focusing on how COVID has impacted my work at the Archives. I'd hoped to also focus on the church's response to the 1918 Flu pandemic, but that will have to wait until everything opens back up.

Continuing Business:

I continue to take classes when time permits, and will be participating in one starting this month as well as another one later in the Spring. They will both be virtual.

Processing the backlog of church records continues to be an ongoing task. Deaccessioning continues as well, opening up much needed shelf space in the Archives.

Research requests continue to roll in--last year's total was 109--and I continue to spend a majority of my time on them. I've had about 20 so far this year, as of the beginning of March.

The Archives Committee continues to support me; our last (Zoom) meeting was on Feb. 22, 2021.

I continue to participate in the History Book Committee.

—Stephanie Davis, Conference Archivist

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

Faithfully partnering since 1971, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to serve local United Methodist churches and Conference agencies throughout the Virginia Conference in the expansion of their programs and ministries through asset management, investing, endowments and planned giving. As such, the Foundation seeks to be in compliance with the Socially Responsible Investing principles of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*. As a servicing organization of the Virginia Conference, we consider ourselves to be your partner in ministry. Our commitment is to live out our core values with a vision for relevant ministry that leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Our values: Integrity, Connection, Excellence

Our vision: To be the preferred financial services partner of the Virginia Conference

Our mission: To serve, steward and minister in the spirit of Christ while focusing on achieving excellence in both customer service and our fiduciary responsibilities.

In 2021, the Foundation celebrates fifty years of financial service to the Virginia Conference. As of December 31, 2020, there are over \$82 Million in assets under management across 320 investment accounts. These accounts include churches, districts, the Virginia United Methodist Conference and United Methodist agencies. The \$82 Million is invested in five different funds: the Balanced Fund, the Balanced Plus Fund, the Stock Fund, the Bond Fund, and Charitable Gift Annuities. Our investment advisors include the Humphrey-Kelly Group, a designated institutional investment consulting team with Merrill Lynch's Global Institutional Consulting group with a focus on non-profit faith based organizations.

Foundation staff members visit local churches to assist in starting endowment programs to support the long-term funding of mission projects. For example, scholarship funds are popular and ensure that younger generations will have the education needed to proclaim the message of Christ. The Foundation currently manages over 90 endowments.

Since 2015, the Foundation's Grant ministry has awarded grants to Virginia United Methodist Churches and affiliated

agencies across the Virginia Conference. The program's focus is on unifying mission, ministry and impact to better assist and equip ministries in their projects, as well as help them to build a future. Grants are given from three funds: Foundation Grants Fund, Dr. William J. and Frances Hanna Memorial Grant, and Micah 6:8/No Harm Do Good Endowment Grant. In October 2020, many different ministries across the Virginia Conference applied for a grant. After thorough consideration by the Grant Committee, the Foundation Board of Directors awarded grants to 25 ministries totaling \$66,650 in December 2020.

Throughout 2020 and the pandemic, our commitment to serving every local church and dedication to helping all God's children, both present and forthcoming generations, is steadfast. We stand ready to help your church or your members design a program that will grow and serve others.

– *Bo Bowden, President*

Virginia United Methodist Development Company

Founded in 2014, the Virginia United Methodist Development Company ('DevCo') exists as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, a supporting organization of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. DevCo fulfills its mission by providing loans to churches and affiliates for ministry expansion through investments made by individuals, churches and United Methodist agencies.

DevCo loan services include new construction loans, facility expansion loans, capital improvement loans, debt refinancing, as well as loans for building purchase and land acquisition. As of December 31, 2020, the Development Company has 40 loans totaling \$32 Million throughout the Virginia Conference.

As part of the connection, DevCo makes loans to United Methodist churches and related entities, funded by savings and investment certificates from United Methodist churches, related ministries, members and family or friends. DevCo acts as a conduit for missional investing and is able to provide financing to move God's kingdom forward. With the help of over 900 DevCo investors totaling \$42 Million, loans are made for a variety of situations, such as providing a church the opportunity to buy an adjacent piece of property for additional parking, opening a preschool in an underserved community, or saving the church thousands of dollars by refinancing its mortgage. Through missional investing, a church can

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Mission Offering 2021

The Annual Conference Mission Offering will be collected during the Saturday morning, June 19th, sending worship service. We ask churches to share the Annual Conference Missional Offering purpose and encourage church members to participate. All offerings collected by the local church can be sent to the Conference Treasurer's office or through our online giving link (<http://www.vaumc.org/ACoffering>). Individual gifts are also welcome using the online giving link. Checks may be made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC" with "AC Offering 2021" in the memo line.

Local churches are encouraged by Bishop Lewis to participate in this second-mile offering as an expression of support for designated conference priority mission projects and programs locally, nationally, and globally. Our goal total set by Bishop Lewis for the offering is \$200,000. If every church in Virginia Conference contributes \$200, we will easily reach this goal! Our collective effort to become a blessing will remind us how we are 'United as One' in God's mission!

Purpose of 2021 Annual Conference Missional Offering

Food Insecurity in the Commonwealth: Long lines across the country, with people waiting in line for food, revealed the food insecurity ordinary people experience. We believe that the long-lasting effect of COVID creates more demand for food. The Virginia Annual Conference members' offering will address this problem and contribute to support and solve food insecurity in the Commonwealth.

Partnerships of Hope: Partnerships of Hope, formerly known as 'Initiatives of Hope,' has been a unique approach to focus our efforts to share the Good News globally. With the name change, we plan to strengthen our partnership among local churches to reach out to our partners overseas. Cambodia, Mozambique, and Brazil are the three countries in which we are focusing our efforts. A couple of years ago, we recognized and included the Native American ministries and expanded our partnership.

Offerings collected through the 2021 Annual Conference will be distributed evenly among the causes. Your local church's support of the 2021 Annual Conference Missional Offering will be a testament to how we are 'United as One' in God's mission!

For more information, visit www.vaumc.org/ACoffering

2021 "United As One" Community Cans & Kits Collection



COVID-19 demanded a certain level of adaptability throughout the life of the church. In the same way, the Conference Kits and Cans4Conference collection needs to be adaptable. UMCOR reached out and shared that it would be challenging to process 50,000+ UMCOR kits collected through our Annual Conference. So, the Annual Conference Kit collection team came up with an idea to use the familiarity of collecting kits to benefit local ministries as we become adaptable.

This year, during the 2021 Annual Conference, we will collect Cans and Kits, which local churches are asked to collect before the conference, to be dropped off at the district site on June 19. A collaborative team of Conference Kits and Cans4Conference made this possible, as the collected goods will benefit local ministries.

What will we collect?

According to the District Mission coordinator’s directions, local churches will collect modified Hygiene kits, School kits, cans, and dry food. Each District will designate the mission organization to receive these kits and foods and provides detailed instructions according to the local ministries’ needs.

When do we collect these items?

Local churches are encouraged to start collecting items 4-6 weeks (mid-May) before the Annual Conference. Resources, such as promotional materials, videos, bulletin inserts, will be shared through www.vaumc.org/kits. On June 19th, following the commissioning to mission service, United in Mission and Ministry worship, we encourage one representative from each congregation to bring the collected items and drop them off at the district collection site.

Who do we need to contact for information specific to our District?

Each District assigned a District Mission Coordinator to coordinate the United as One Community Cans & Kits collection. The District Mission Coordinator will share more information regarding the designated sites for drop-off and detailed lists of items to collect. The list of District Mission Coordinators can be found below.

Can our District simultaneously host mini-Great day of Service type projects?

Yes, districts can plan and host service projects of under 10 people following the resources provided by the Mission and Ministry Workgroup. M&M workgroup published “*Non-Worship Gatherings of 10 or Less*” which offers steps to plan a service project with under 10 people carefully. Plans must be submitted to and approved by each District Superintendent before announcing the event.

District Mission Coordinator List

District	Coordinator	Contact
Arlington & Alexandria	Kenn Speicher	speicherak@gmail.com
Charlottesville	Darryl Lam	darryllam@comcast.net
Danville	Tobias Lutz	tobiaslutz@vaumc.org
	Ryan Ware	ryanware@vaumc.org
Eastern Shore	Kendra Powell	kendrapowell@vaumc.org
Elizabeth River	Marta Pizzeck	marta.pizzeck@dominionenterprises.com
Farmville	Susie Thomas	susiethomas@vaumc.org
	Michael Teixeira	michaelteixeira@vaumc.org
Harrisonburg	Brian Posey	brianposey@vaumc.org
James River Lynchburg	Gilbert “Gibby” Elder	Gibby06elder@aol.com
Rappahannock River	Leigh Anne Taylor	leighannetaylor@vaumc.org
Richmond	Steve Little	stevlittle@vaumc.org
Roanoke	Linda Porter	Lindaporter1948@gmail.com
Staunton	Jeff Wilson	jeffwilson@vaumc.org
Winchester	Doug Harris	Doug.vipins@gmail.com
York River	Chad Hrbek	chadhrbek@vaumc.org
	David Magruder	davidmagruder@vaumc.org

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JULY 2021

- 1 Application available from Center for Clergy Excellence for Provisional, Full, and Associate Membership, and Professional Certification
- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application Deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 2 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m. Independence Day holiday
- 5 UM Center closed for Independence Day holiday
- 8 Common Table for Church Vitality, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)
- 13 Provisional Residency Event (for all years)
- 22 Missional Ministries Board meeting (virtual)
- TBD Virginia Conference Mission Encounter (Virtual)

AUGUST 2021

- 10 VUMHDC Quarterly Board meeting, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)
- 15 Provisional, Full, Associate and Certification Application Deadline

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 11 Board of Church and Society meeting, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)
- 11 UMW Young Women's Event (virtual)
- 14 BHECM meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Board of Laity Meeting (virtual)
- 23 Common Table for Church Vitality meeting, 10:00 a.m., Location TBD

OCTOBER 2021

- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application Deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 1-3 VWU Homecoming and Family Weekend
- 2 UMW Budget Meeting (virtual)
- 3 World Communion Sunday
- 6 Conference Rules Committee, 10:00 a.m. Location TBD
- 11 COSROW meeting (virtual)
- 17 Laity Sunday
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality meeting, 10:00 a.m., Location TBD
- 22 UMW Executive Committee Meeting (virtual)
- 23 UMW 49th Annual Meeting (virtual)

NOVEMBER 2021

- 12 Bishops' Foundation meeting
- 15 VUMHDC Annual meeting, 10:00 a.m. Location TBD
- 16 BHECM Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 24 UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
- 25-26 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance
- 28 United Methodist Student Day

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2021

- 1 Full and Associate Membership Paper Deadline
- 3-5 Combined Middle & High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg (tentative)
- 5 VWU December Graduates' Reconciliation Ceremony
- 18 Shenandoah University December Degree Conferral
- 23 UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas observance
- 24-28 UM Center Closed for Christmas observance

JANUARY 2022

- 1 UM Center closed New Years Day
- 7 Provisional Membership and Certification Paper Deadline
- 8 UMW Planning Meeting (virtual)
- 12 Conference Rules Committee, 10:00 a.m. Location TBD
- 14-15 Candidacy Summit
- 17 UM Center closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 30-Feb. 2 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting

FEBRUARY 2022

- 1-28 Black History Month
- 1 Calling 21 Intern Application Deadline
- 1 Transfer and Minister of Another Denomination Application Deadline
- 5 Board of Church and Society meeting, 10:00 a.m., UM Center, Glen Allen
- 15 Clergy Retirement Request deadline
- 15 BHECM Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 27-Mar. 2 Board of Ordained Ministry meeting

MARCH 2022

- 5 Board of Laity meeting (Location TBD)
- 4 Deadline for *Book of Reports*
- 12 Conference Rules Committee
- 25 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, Location TBD

APRIL 2022

- 1 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 8-10 VWU Spring Alumni Weekend
- 14 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m.
- 15 UM Center closed, Good Friday Observance

MAY 2022

- 10-11 Provisional Residency Event
- 14 VWU Commencement
- 13-15 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Location TBD
- 17 BHECM Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Shenandoah University Commencement
- 23 Randolph-Macon College Commencement
- 27 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m. for Memorial Day Observance
- 30 UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2022

- 4 UMW Day at Ferrum College, Location TBD
- 20-22 Annual Conference, Hampton

JULY 2022

- 1 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m. for Independence Day observance
- 4 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- TBD Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, Location TBD

AUGUST 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 2 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m., Labor Day Observance
- 5 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 17 Board of Laity meeting (Location TBD)

OCTOBER 2022

- 1 UMW Budget Meeting, Location TBD
- 21 UMW Executive Committee, Location TBD
- 22 UMW 50th Annual Meeting, Location TBD

NOVEMBER 2022

- 23 UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
- 24-25 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2022

- 22 UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Observance
- 23-27 UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

BHECM	Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
COSROW	Commission on Status and Role of Women
TBD	To Be Determined
UM Center	Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen
UMC	United Methodist Church
UMW	United Methodist Women
VUMDHC	Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation, Inc.
VWU	Virginia Wesleyan University

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Email: _____ Church: _____

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I would like _____ copy(ies) of the *2021 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

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I would like _____ spiral-bound printed *2021 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping/handling).

2021 DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY ORDERS

One free copy of the *2021 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 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 mail the completed form to Virginia United Methodist Communications, 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 "Directory of the Ministry").

Widow/Widower of Clergy: Check here to request a free printed copy of the *2021 Directory of the Ministry*: _____

Clergy can opt-out of receiving a hard copy of this mailing by visiting <https://vaumc.org/findclergy/> and filling out the form.

2021 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The conference *Journal* is available in two forms:

- Posted on www.vaumc.org/ac2021 as a free PDF. Sections will be posted as they are available and as a whole document once completed.
- As a regular or spiral-bound print copy for the cost of \$25 (includes shipping). Request for printed copies must be made by August 1, 2021.

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. The anticipated mailing date will be February 2022.

Checks should be made out to "VAUMC-Communications Office" and mailed to **P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058**.

Individuals requesting a printed copy should mail in check and send in order form information at the same time. Order form will also be available at <https://vaumc.org/ac2021/>.

Send your questions via email to communications@vaumc.org or call **(804) 521-1113**.



