

# BOOK OF REPORTS

241st Session of the  
Virginia Annual Conference



United as One in  
**MISSION**

June 15-17, 2023  
Roanoke, Virginia



## **IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **New Registration Procedure - Please Read Carefully**

The Annual Conference is transitioning to a new system of registration to make the process go more smoothly and to improve our stewardship by reducing paper usage and mailing costs. This also eliminates the need for you to bring materials with you. If you are a clergy, diaconal, or lay member of the Virginia Annual Conference, you will receive your official name badge at the Registration Area when you come to Annual Conference. It will not be sent to you prior to Annual Conference, nor will you receive a registration card.

Any changes to your address, contact information or appointment may be addressed separately. Clergy can go to <https://unity.vaumc.org> and update their information at any time. (You will need your Unity login information.) Lay members should contact their local church or district (for at-large members) to ensure that the Unity system has their correct information.

If you did not opt in to receive a Book of Reports, but subsequently decide you want a printed copy, a limited number of copies will be available at the Registration area for \$5.00 per copy.

### **Please follow the procedure below:**

1. When you arrive at the Berglund Center, go immediately to the registration area located in the Berglund Special Events Center. All clergy, diaconal, and lay members will register there. The Registration Help Desk will also be there.
2. Go to either the clergy or lay registration area and give your name. Your badge and badge holder will be given to you and a bar code on the badge will be scanned, registering your attendance at Annual Conference.
3. Persons who need special attention regarding registration will be asked to go to the Registration Help Desk. Here, name badge corrections, alternate/reserve registrations, and other such situations will be handled. You will receive your updated name badge, if necessary. Guest name badges may also be obtained at the Registration Help Desk.
4. Official packet documents will be available online at <https://vaumc.org/AC2023/>. You may wish to print these documents ahead of time if you do not have access to them during conference.
5. At the conclusion of the conference, receptacles will be provided to collect the plastic holder of your name badge for reuse at future conference sessions, so please be gentle with its use.

### **ALTERNATES AND RESERVES**

Alternates and Reserves who become the primary member AFTER MAY 31st should download an Alternate Member form, which needs to be completed and signed by the appropriate person before coming to Annual Conference. The form is available at [www.vaumc.org/AC2023](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2023). Please be sure to download the appropriate form, either the Alternate Member Form for local church members or Alternate Member DISTRICT for District At-Large members. Bring your form directly to Help Desk. A new badge will be provided and scanned there.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Registration hours:

Wednesday, June 14: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Thursday, June 15: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration

Friday, June 16: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Registration Help Desk

**Per Diem:** By conference action, retirees, persons receiving their first appointment and selected others (see pages 10 & 11 of this *Book of Reports* for the list) are authorized to receive reimbursement for expenses to attend Annual Conference. This reimbursement is not to exceed \$200 per night (\$600 maximum reimbursement, receipts required,) and is subject to the limitations of conference approved rates. Vouchers will be available online at [www.vaumc.org/AC2023](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2023) and at the VUMPI display in the Special Events Center and should be submitted to the Conference Treasurer's Office with appropriate receipts. The Conference Treasurer encourages all reimbursements to be made by direct deposit. Instructions will be attached to the vouchers to make provisions for direct deposit. **Vouchers will not be accepted after July 31st.**

**Banquets:** A list of banquets is available on the Annual Conference web page at [www.vaumc.org/AC2023](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2023). Other information may be obtained from the banquet host or from the information desk at the Berglund Center.

**Accessible parking:** The Berglund Center provides for ample parking. The parking lots have designated accessible parking spots. In addition, there will be a dedicated area exclusively for accessible parking.

**Accessible seating:** Each section of seating will have accessible (wheelchair/scooter) seating areas with clear site view of the stage. The spaces will be clearly marked.

**Access for those with hearing and vision challenges:** Assisted listening receivers will be available with sign-out of the equipment at the Accessibility table. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided for all sessions.

**To order journals or clergy/diaconal directories:** An order form is available on page 117 of this *Book of Reports*. Order forms will also be available at the information desk in the Display Hall; or email the communications office at [communications@vaumc.org](mailto:communications@vaumc.org).

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The 241st session  
**VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
of The United Methodist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

June 15-17, 2023

# **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 2023 Annual Conference theme is  
"United as One in Mission".  
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 2022 *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 2022 *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](http://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.



## Virginia Conference,

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at Annual Conference this year in Roanoke from June 15-17. Our theme this year is “United as One in Mission.” We will focus on moving beyond the walls of the church in mission. In other words, how do we crack the local church open?

I want this to be a joyful time, a time of fellowship, and a time of conversation. To that end, I think I have caused a little consternation because we have removed a lot of the scheduled meetings from the schedule.

We have worked to keep most evenings free. I want you to link up with your friends, to share time at tables all over Roanoke, and to really enjoy the fellowship.

To me, that’s what Holy Conferencing is all about. John Wesley, in his descriptions of Holy Conferencing, never mentions business sessions, never mentions Robert’s Rules of Order, and never mentions motions from the floor. I don’t think he would recognize what Annual Conference has become. I think what he did have was a time when the clergy and now, in our time, laity, could discuss three things: what are we preaching, how do we preach, and how are we in mission to the world?

That’s what we are going to focus on in conversation: conversation about our shared mission, conversation about how our churches are, and conversation about what we need to be doing in the future. This is a sacred time to get to know each other and enjoy each other’s company.

This will be a fun time. We will have conversation starters for you as you gather around tables in Roanoke that will spark fruitful discussion and, I think, lead to more Holy Conferencing than we’ve ever experienced before.

Come to Roanoke. Come ready to be joyful and enjoy the time together. Come ready to experience fellowship. And come ready to re-engage and reinforce our commitment to mission.

I look forward to seeing you there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hauptert-Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson  
Resident Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference



**The Reverend Gary C. Miller** is the youngest child of the late John and Beatrice Miller. Pastor Miller is a life-long resident of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Married to his high school sweetheart Tampa Renee Miller, they are the proud parents of Kamesha LaShawn Miller and their grand-pup MAX.

While working at NASA Wallops Flight Facility in the Engineering Department and Supervisor of the Mobile Radar Group, Gary heeded the call of God to serve as an Assistant Pastor of the Dea's Chapel Charge under the leadership of Dr. John Fisher. After the death of his beloved Pastor, The Reverend Clyde Cannon Rev. Miller returned to his home church (St. John's UMC/Atlantic) and was appointed as a bi-vocational part-time Pastor of the St. John's United Methodist Church of the Virginia Annual Conference.

While serving in the Virginia Annual Conference Pastor Miller had the pleasure of serving as Senior Pastor of The St. John's United Methodist on the Eastern Shore District for 33 years. As pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church, the congregation grew numerically and spiritually. As a result of that growth, the congregation entered a major building project: the purchase 13 Acres of land and the building of a new complex that includes a sanctuary, educational wing and a community recreation center with a gymnasium. St. John's United Methodist was able to move from a very small congregation to becoming one of the stronger mid-size congregations in the conference.

Pastor Miller continues for serve the VAUMC as a member of The Board of Ordained Ministry, a member of The Virginia Cross-Racial, Cross-Cultural committee and a member of the Coastal District committee on Ministry. Before retiring, Pastor Miller served on Eastern Shore District: Superintendent's Committee, Religion & Race delegate to VAUMC, Nominations Committee, Building and Locations Committee, Chairperson of District Clergy Association, DCOM, District 5 Talent Representative, District coaching committee for Choosing a Faithful Path.

On the Conference level, Pastor Miller served on the following boards and agencies: Chair of conference Religion and Race committee, VA FOCUS 2020 Design Team, Conference Black Church initiative, Conference Council of Ministries, Virginia Rep. to GCORR, Conference Nominations Committee, and The Conference 5 Talent Committee.

AGENDA

241st Session of the Virginia Annual Conference

June 15-17, 2023

Berglund Center

Roanoke, Virginia

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Presiding

“United as One in Mission”

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

– ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

Sunday Afternoon, June 11

(Please note: This is an online, pre-Annual Conference event.

Lay members will receive more information about how to virtually attend soon.)

3:00 p.m. Laity Session..... Virtual, Zoom event

Wednesday Morning, June 14

(Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Wednesday Afternoon, June 14

2:00 p.m. Clergy Session .....Performing Arts Theatre

Thursday Morning, June 15

(Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

8:30-9:30 a.m. Optional Laity “Heart-to-Heart” Conversation ..... Berglund Hall

10:00 a.m. Call to Order ..... Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Hymn ..... “And Are We Yet Alive”
Prayer..... Rev. James B. Godwin
Mr. Keith Cox
Welcome .....Mayor Sherman Lea, Sr.
Opening Worship ..... Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Communion
Annual Conference Offering

(Agenda continues on next page.)



# AGENDA

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District Welcome and Organizing Motions .....	Rev. J. Douglas Forrester Host District Superintendent
Election of Assistant Secretaries & Editor of the Journal.....	Rev. Joshua King
Rules Committee Report.....	Mr. Scott Diamond
Monitoring Report .....	Rev. Jennifer Day Rev. Lauren Wright
Approval of Consent Agenda	

## Thursday Afternoon, June 15

2:00 p.m.	Laity Address .....	Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader
	Report of the Cabinet.....	Rev. Denise Bates
	Minute Questions	
	Recognition of New Faith Communities .....	Mr. Dwayne Stinson
	Common Table Report.....	Rev. Dr. Steven Summers
	Election of Boards and Agencies.....	Ms. Martha Stokes
	Consecration of Conference Leadership.....	Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
	Board of Communication .....	Rev. Andrew Ware
	Delegation Report.....	Mr. Warren Harper
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

## Thursday Evening, June 15

7:30 p.m.	Missions Social.....	Display Hall
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## Friday Morning, June 16

*(Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)*

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist .....	Prayer Room
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith .....	Rev. Drew Willson
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study .....	Rev. Seungsoo (RJ) Jun
9:00 a.m.	Report of the Minutes Committee .....	Rev. Alan Layman
	Recognitions	
	United Methodist College Presidents	
	Denman and One Matters Award .....	Rev. Tim Hazlett Rev. Matt Sergent
	Green Church Award	Mr. Brian Christoffersten
	Francis Asbury Awards.....	Rev. Ryan LaRock
10:30 a.m.	Relationship Partners UMFS, Heart Haven & Pinnacle Living	
11:00 a.m.	A Service of Remembrance .....	Rev. Gary Miller
12:00 noon	Recess for Lunch	



### SPEAKING ON A MOTION/MAKING A MOTION

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

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

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

NOTE: Motions must be written out and turned in to the conference Secretary, even if not passed or seconded. If you are commenting on a report or motion on the floor (being discussed), then state if you speak in favor or opposition to the motion and make your comments (limit two minutes unless a shorter time has been established). If you desire to make a motion introducing a new issue or concept that is not part of a report presented to the conference, then you must write a motion.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS' ROOM

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

## STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

*As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at its 2022 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.

#### 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.** All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* in ¶ 602.4, and 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;
  - f. the conference lay leader;
  - g. district lay leaders;
  - h. the president of the conference young adult organization;

## STANDING RULES

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- 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 youth 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. at least three additional youth between the ages of 12 and 18 and at least three additional young adults 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;
  - u. conference Scouting coordinator;
  - 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; 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.
  - w. And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the annual conference (¶ 32, *2016 Book of Discipline*) 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.
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:

## STANDING RULES

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- a. By the districts:
    - i. two youth between the ages of 12 and 18;
    - ii. two young adults 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 com-



## STANDING RULES

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mittee 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. **Ex-Officio Members.** 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, as necessary, 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 Annu-al Conference agenda or 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 or before the opening session, but not to be considered by the annual confer-ence 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.
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 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. 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 agen-cies under the preceding paragraphs shall be referred to the Rules Committee for its consideration and recommen-dation 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 K.

### 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 and speaking, once recognized, 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. **Lay 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.**

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- 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 for Lay and Clergy voting. 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 € 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 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.

### B. 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.

- 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 Network 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 (CLDDT) 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 and invite 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 Associate Director of Serving Ministries 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) Partnership of 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.

**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 exper-

tise 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), 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.** 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, Virginia 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 communications 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.** (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 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* (2016 BOD ¶635.2) and shall be directly amenable to the annual conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have no more than sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop, (2016 BOD ¶635.1a) in consultation with the Board Chair and Cabinet, and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each

quadrennium. The Board shall elect from its membership officers deemed necessary to fulfill its duties (2016 BOD ¶635 1c). The annual conference registrar and at least one District Superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve as members of 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 loses its representation on the Board, an additional person shall be appointed ad interim to the Board by the bishop in consultation with the Board Chair and the Cabinet, ensuring inclusive representation from each district. Ad interim members will be voted on at the next annual conference.

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

### **D. 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.

### **E. 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.

### **F. 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.

## **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 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).

### **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) to serve a four-year term, not to exceed two

## STANDING RULES

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consecutive terms. 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 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 the *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. ELECTRONIC VOTING PROCEDURE**

Anytime the presider opens the floor, during an electronic meeting, whether for questions, discussions, motions, and/or amendments he or she shall wait at least 3 minutes before putting the question, motion, report or amendment to a vote.

### **G. 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.

### **H. LIMITS ON SPEAKING**

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

### **I. 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.

### **J. 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.

### **K. 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.

### **L. 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.

### **M. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES**

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.

### **N. 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

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### NAME BADGE COLORS

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

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

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

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

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

- RM & RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

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

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

## NAME BADGE COLORS

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### **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 Jan. 1, 2006  
Approved as Amended June 18, 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. 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 un-expired 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 presider.

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 presider. 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 *The 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.

### XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality shall become effective June 18, 2021.

## COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference discussions over the past year focused almost entirely on technical corrections and clarifications to the Virginia Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure. 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 I.B.3.d – add the words “(hereinafter “United Women in Faith”)” immediately following “United Methodist Women”. Thereafter, in ten additional references to United Methodist Women throughout the Standing Rules, that term is replaced with “United Women in Faith.”**

**Rationale:** As is well known, in 2022 this important ministry rebranded itself with the name United Women in Faith. It is confirmed that United Methodist Women remains this ministry's legal corporate name. “United Women in Faith” will be a doing-business-as name. In consulting with the conference president of UWIF, it was asked that references to this ministry in our rules be changed to reflect this doing-business-as (“dba”) name. Thus, the first reference for clarity purposes continues to cite the legal name with the dba name, and all other references are to UWIF”

- **Rule I.D.14 – strike the words “two persons, one clergy and one lay” and replace with the words “four persons, two clergy and two lay”. As amended, the sentence would read, “It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of four persons, two clergy and two lay, from each district.”**

**Rationale:** After consolidating the number of districts in the Virginia Annual Conference, this rule was not amended to adjust the number of available tellers. After consultation with the Chief Teller, it was requested that this rule be adjusted so that sufficient tellers can be available at the Annual Conference. With this change, 32 persons will continue to be selected as tellers.

- **Rule II.A.1 – strike “and mailing of” from the rule subheading and insert “and publishing of”. As amended, the subheading would read “Submission of Annual Reports and Publishing of *Book of Reports*.”**

**Rationale:** This change was requested given the fact that the conference no longer automatically mails the *Book of Reports* to clergy and laity. The process is now to have the *Book of Reports* made available electronically to all members, and to allow those that wish to “opt in” to continue to receive a mailed copy of the report.

- **Rule II.A.2 – strike from the first sentence “recommendations or resolutions” from the first sentence and insert in its place “reports”. In the second sentence, strike the word “shall” and replace it with “may.” As amended, this rule would read, “For report printed in the *Book of Reports*, verbal introductions shall not exceed five minutes, and there shall be no further reading of reports, unless requested for clarification or requested by a majority vote of the annual conference. The presiding bishop may amend the Annual Conference agenda or schedule as needed.”**

**Rationale:** Several years ago the members voted to remove resolutions from being introduced at Annual Conference. Instead, persons wishing to have the body consider such items are given physical space to allow interested persons to review and sign resolutions. The proposed change from the use of the word “shall” to “may” is to allow more flexibility.

- **Rule V.B.4.e – in the discussion of membership, insert the phrase “(or their designee)” after the membership position for “a current United Methodist College or University President”.**

**Rationale:** This ministry sought flexibility with this membership position realizing that with their other responsibilities, a university or college president was not always available for meetings. This proposed amendment would allow for the president to designate another person to participate on his/her behalf when unavailable.

- **Rule V.B.4.e – strike the sentence: “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.” As amended, this sentence would be replaced with “The designated conference staff person will serve as a member with voice but no vote.”**

**Rationale:** This change was requested by this ministry due to certain staff changes and the fact that the position of Director of AEI no longer exists.

- **Rule V.C.11 – strike the two references to the “Joint Committee on Incapacity” and replace them with “Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave.” As amended, the beginning of this rule would read “Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave. There shall be a Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave consisting of ...”.**

**Rationale:** A member of the Rules Committee noted an inadvertent oversight in not previously correcting the name change for this committee

- **Rule V.C.14 – strike the word “Campus” in the first sentence from the phrase “General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.” As amended, this sentence would read “The Board of Ordained Ministry in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Common Table for Church Vitality, ...”**

**Rationale:** This change was requested by the Board of Ordained Ministry after recognizing an inadvertent oversight in not earlier requesting such a change when the denomination made the name change several years ago. A review of the *Book of Discipline* does confirm at paragraph 1401 that the proper name is now the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

- **Appendix – (1) Under the category of “White (May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and clergy matters)”, and then under subcategory of “And the following who have completed the educational requirements ...” insert “RL – Retired Local Pastor serving an appointment (§320.5 and §316.6)”; and, (2) under the category of “White (May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, and clergy matters) and under subcategory of “And the following who have not met the requirements ...” insert “RL – Retired Local Pastor serving an appointment (§320.5 and §316.6)”.**

**Rationale:** As conference staff began preparing for this year’s annual conference they sought clarification and confirmation as to their understanding that retired local pastors currently appointed to a pastoral charge are entitled to vote. It was noted that the only reference to retired local pastors in the Appendix was under the category of “White (voice but no vote)”. After consultation with the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, it was confirmed that pursuant to both paragraphs 316.6 and 320.5 of the *Book of Discipline* that a retired local pastor who is serving a local church/charge has the same voting rights as a licensed local pastor as stated in paragraph 316.6. Paragraph 320.5 states “Retired local pastors may attend annual conference sessions with voice but no vote. ... [but] a retired local pastor may be appointed by the bishop to a charge and licensed upon recommendation by the district committee on ordained ministry ...” So, it is the license and the appointment that gives a retired local pastor the right to vote since they are under appointment, with a license, and therefore have the voting rights of paragraph 316.6 even though they are retired.

- **Technical Changes –**
  - o Rule I.B.4 – change cite of “Paragraphs 3.d-u” to “paragraph “I.B.3.d-v”
  - o Rule I.B.4 – change cite of “¶ I.C.3” to “¶ I.B.3”
  - o Rule I.B.5 – change “born” to “borne”
  - o Rule I.B.6 – change “¶ I.C.1, .2 and .3” to “¶ I.B.1, .2 and .3”



- o Rule II.D.4 – change “VII K” to “VII.K”
- o Rule III.E.5 – change “€” to “(e)”
- o Rule V.B.1 – change “¶ I.E.8” to “¶ I.D.8”
- o Rule V.B.4.e – change cite “I.E.8” to “I.D.8”
- o Rule V.B.4.e – change cite “I.E.11” to “I.D.11”

**Rationale:** The Standing Rules referenced above require these minor technical changes due to past inadvertent oversight in not revising cross-references to other rules, or due to other typographical errors.

*–Scott Diamond, Chair*

## CABINET REPORT

### **Coastal Virginia**

The Coastal Virginia District had a jubilee year. We are celebrating a revival of God's call in ministry, mission, and innovation. As early as September of 2022 the numbers in our churches resurged beyond Covid era attendance. While our youngest pastor has baptized over ten people who professed faith this year; he is just ahead of a fourteen-year-old preacher on the Eastern Shore who is calling youth and young adults to Christ by preaching Jesus. We have set up one of the most Holy Spirit filled Simplified Accountable Structure Boards of Directors who are carrying out God's will. The Board strategically planned and established our first Hispanic ministry in our District. The Coast is the place to be about God's ministry, mission, and innovation in 2023!

### **Living Waters District**

The Living Waters District is active in mission, ministry and outreach. The 15 geographic streams are finding new, and old, ways to work side-by-side together in their communities for Christ. Local Church food pantry ministries, care packages, backpack ministries in schools and other outreach meet community needs. Plans for six regional revival services are underway for 2023-2024 with churches in each area planning together to build teams that will address logistics, prayer, hospitality, and follow up to connect with local UMC Churches.

### **Mission Rivers District**

The creation of the new Mission Rivers District has provided new opportunities in support of our laity and clergy. With the hiring of two District Directors of Connectional Ministries (DDCM), the election of our Board of Directors, the introduction of the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS), the restructuring of our Youth & Young Adult Council, the continued focus of our United Women in Faith on Mission, Youth, and Children, and a renewed commitment of our United Methodist Men, we are inspired by what God is about to do with and through us. Our primary focus is to offer a shared ministry experience between laity and clergy – one that returns to a laity-led church and supports clergy to be the best they can be.

### **Mountain View District**

The past year has been an exciting time of new creation on the Mountain View District! So we can connect through the contexts within the MV District, we have formed 3 regions, Peaks View (in the north), Ridge View (in the central) and River View (in the south), each with their own Connecting Ministry Coordinators. Within each region, "neighborhoods" of churches which share community will be a primary connecting point to live out the love of Christ in real and tangible ways, discerning the needs of community and engaging laity and clergy to connect and serve, being the hands and feet of Christ where they live.

### **Northern Virginia District**

The Northern Virginia District has seen partnerships develop between churches in youth ministry, worship and community outreach. The district continues to support youth leader cohorts and a church communicator's group. Local churches were trained and encouraged to develop fresh expressions and are experimenting with yoga church, improv church and bikes and Bible. The district launched three new church plants: The Open Table, Hope UMC and Provision Church. The first ever district mission project sent 1200 flood buckets to Richmond.

### **Shenandoah River District**

The Shenandoah River District is blessed to have wonderful clergy and laity that is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ. Back in November, we had our first, in person, District Conference and Charge Conferences, where over 400 people participated at Randolph Macon Academy. It was a time of celebration, worship, remembrance of our baptisms, and adopted our new simplified structure. We continue to find ways in being the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Valley Ridge District

During the 2022-2023 Conference year, the Valley Ridge District has been hard at work launching our new District Leadership Board as we have reorganized ourselves in accordance with the SAS model. Embrace Waynesboro continues to be a “center for community” and a ministry incubator as it reaches out to our District in creative ministries compassion. For the coming year, we are setting goals including the development of smaller “regions” for ministry and programming within the District, as well as having at least one lay servant in each church, all as we endeavor to engage, empower, and equip our local churches for ministry in their varied contexts.

–Denise P. Bates, Dean

## SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee is responsible for making the arrangements for the meeting of the Virginia Annual Conference. By Annual Conference rules, the Committee recommends the location for the Annual Conference three (3) years in advance. The Annual Conference Session will convene on Wednesday and conclude on Saturday as set by Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson.

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

<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 20-22, 2024</b>
<b>Roanoke</b>	<b>June 11-14, 2025</b>

The Site Selection Committee recommends the **2026 Virginia Annual Conference** be held in:

<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 17-20, 2026</b>
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The Committee, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Annual Conference Event Planner, continues to consider other locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. For your reference, the following criteria is used in evaluating potential Annual Conference sites:

- ❖ Venue to accommodate 3,000 people
- ❖ 1,500 hotel rooms in the area
- ❖ Headquarters hotel in close proximity to Conference site
- ❖ Parking for 2,000 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 3,000 patrons within 1½ - 2 hour timeframe
- ❖ 10,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Site Selection Committee recommends that the 2026 Virginia Annual Conference be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA June 17-20, 2026.

–Neal E. Wise, Site Selection Committee

**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 \$160,437 was provided to 26 charges in 2022.

There were 7 charges receiving salary support in 2021 that did not require salary support in 2022. These are Victoria (Living Waters), Bowling Green (Mission Rivers), Heathsville (Mission Rivers), Mount Pleasant (Shenandoah), Welbourne (Three Notch'd), Epworth Selma (Valley Ridge), and Fieldstone (Valley Ridge). 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 2024 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 2024 is \$67,848, which is an increase of 2.3% percent from 2023. The Commission recommends the Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2024 be approved as outlined below:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	<b>2024 Proposed</b>	<b>2023 Approved</b>
1. The Minimum Compensation Schedule:		
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$45,000	\$45,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$40,500	\$40,500
c. Local Pastors	\$38,000	\$38,000
2. The Floor Schedule:		
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$30,000	\$30,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$27,000	\$27,000
c. Local Pastors	\$25,000	\$25,000

The Equitable Compensation Financial Report for 2021-2022 is provided below:

**Equitable Compensation Financial Report**

	<b>Year Ending 2021</b>	<b>Year Ending 2022</b>
Apportioned	200,000	200,000
Uncollected Apportionment	(42,200)	(33,250)
<b>Apportionment Income</b>	<b>157,800</b>	<b>166,750</b>
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>78.90%</i>	<i>83.38%</i>
Grants	172,133	160,437
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>172,133</b>	<b>160,437</b>
<b>Receipts Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>(14,333)</b>	<b>6,313</b>

–Rev. Tom Durrance, Chair

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

Section I: Reports

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

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

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference (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 2024 are unchanged from the plans offered in 2023. 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 2024 with no plan design changes.

The vision plan will continue to be offered in 2024, with no changes in the plan design.

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI will also continue to be offered in 2024 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
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 2023 to 2024 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2023	2024
\$76,221	\$78,292





## Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

### ■ Recommendation 1: 2024 Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations

For 2024, VUMPI recommends total Clergy Benefits Apportionments of \$16,000,000. This represents no change from the 2023 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 - 2024	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 10,000,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
<b>TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 16,000,000</b>

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 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 2024, 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: 2024 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

### ■ Recommendation 2: 2024 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 2024, due to an increase in health plan cost trends observed in 2022 and the early months of 2023, VUMPI is recommending a 5% increase in health plan contributions across all medical plan options. Recommended participant contributions for the Conference-sponsored dental and vision plans are unchanged from 2023.

Following are the 2024 participant contribution recommendations for the Conference-sponsored health plans:

#### Active Clergy:

	Medical Plans			Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$109	\$144	\$84	\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$320	\$387	\$276	\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$334	\$394	\$282	\$51	\$100
Family	\$349	\$428	\$294	\$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*

**VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.**

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*\$30 in a non-individual coverage tier.*

**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	\$668	\$774	\$31	\$60
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$1,487	\$1,659	\$51	\$124
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$1,611	\$1,797	\$53	\$126
Family	\$2,075	\$2,315	\$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	\$118		\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$180		\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$183		\$51	\$100
Family	\$194		\$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	\$688	\$1,714	\$797	\$2,096
15-19	\$608	\$1,387	\$744	\$1,697
20-24	\$465	\$1,062	\$569	\$1,298
25-29	\$322	\$735	\$394	\$898
30+	\$179	\$408	\$219	\$500

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 2024 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

Medicare-eligible Retirees - Monthly Personal Contributions		
Years of Service	Individual	Family
10-14	\$394	\$788
15-19	\$326	\$651
20-24	\$257	\$515
25-29	\$189	\$378
30+	\$121	\$242

**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 2024 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, 2024 health plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2023. If an eligible clergy person does not elect coverage options during the annual open enrollment period, the default enrollment option is the prior year’s plan

selections (except for Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Spending Account contributions), and enrollees will be subject to the associated individual personal contribution rates.

If not selected during the open enrollment period, no Flexible Spending Account contributions can be made during 2024, 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 2023. 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: 2024 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 2024, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$600 to \$611.

### ■ Recommendation 4: 2024 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations

#### Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2024 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 2024 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 factor, 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: 2024 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, 2024 through December 31, 2024 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

## COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

This past Conference year has been another focused and fruitful season for the Common Table for Church Vitality. Our Annual Conference Standing Rules state our charge, *“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.”* (Rule V.A)

We continue to praise God and offer the Virginia Annual Conference our thanks for the joy of serving as the members of the Common Table. We covenant to do our best to fulfill our charge to the glory of God.

**To that end, in the last year the Common Table has been** *working in collaboration with Connectional Ministries staff and our varied partners in ministry to...*

*1....resource our VAUMC local churches and connectional entities.* Through a variety of communications (print, video, web-based, social media, and personal contact) we resource local churches, extension ministries, districts, and varied other ministry expressions. In addition, tactical and strategic resources are provided to boards, agencies, and the larger body of the Virginia Annual Conference through our ministries. Such resourcing is shaped by expressions ranging from the economic (such as \$260,000 in grant funding) to the relational (such as the development of a comprehensive Campus Crisis Response for our colleges and university campus ministries and the ongoing work with our relational and missional partners).

*2.... model nimble and adaptive leadership as we move boldly forward as United Methodists for the cause of Christ.* The Common Table is acutely aware that significant levels of ministry shift are being experienced by our churches, districts, and larger ministry contexts. These cultural shifts have been exacerbated by post-COVID and disaffiliation related realities. However, while challenging, we view these experiences as a God-season of opportunity to re-envision Church with fresh eyes and new expressions of the historic faith in a manner that serves in the name of Christ and includes all.

*3....reorganize our Connectional Ministries staff with an intentional focus on innovation, creativity, discipleship, and congregational vitality.* Our Connectional Ministries lead staff recently held a reorganization retreat with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson. The Holy Spirit moved mightily in that retreat, and the Common Table supported the resultant reorganization plan as a means for our Connectional Ministries to best resource and equip our local churches and other ministry settings in the future.

We are especially thankful for the entire ten-member Connectional Ministries staff who serve under the leadership umbrella of the Common Table. Our Connectional Ministries staff are hard-working faithful servants of Christ. They work with passion, efficiency, and excellence. Our work together as a team is joyful and mutually supportive. We are especially thankful for the ministry of Rev. R.J. Jun who is returning to ministry as the lead pastor of a church after Annual Conference. We also eagerly anticipate new staff members to complete our team for the work ahead.

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

As the Common Table... we joyfully share that our work has been filled with 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.

*The following reports, from page 52 to page 76, 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 violence, environmental destruction, and poverty. So that we may address these three interconnected areas, we have organized three work areas: Peace and Non-Violence, Creation Justice, and Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries. After the 2020 self-evaluation on our relevance in the conference, we concluded that we were not as relevant as we had been in the past. So, we have intentionally started seeking ways to listening to the needs of the conference. By teaming up with other groups that are involved in the same mission we are so can do a better job in advocating for our basic principles.

### Conference Legislative Network

Team met monthly from late Summer through January for planning of United Methodist Day at General Assembly. Workgroups including logistics, communication, scheduling, programming met regularly between team meetings. Developed and held new preview event in early December, to help prepare participants for United Methodist Day at General Assembly.

Engaged Rev. Neal Christie as keynote speaker. Enlisted 3 district superintendents, Rev. Sarah Calvert, Rev. Victor Gomez and Rev. Doug Forrester to film video on the importance of United Methodists engaging in advocacy, to be shown at event. Initiated several conversations with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson on the importance of advocacy and enlisted her support with welcome video to be shown at event.

Worked with Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy on position papers and calls to action. Scheduled appointments for Senators where 3 or more constituents were registered to attend. Recruited 10 guides to assist participants finding their way to appointments with legislators and answering questions. Hosted United Methodist Day at General Assembly at the Pace Center of VCU, including breakfast and introductions, overview of day's activities, in-person visits with legislators, 2 participants testified at House sub-committee on Solitary Confinement bill, follow up debriefing with Kim Bobo of VICPP, keynote address from Rev. Christie on the

Social Principles undergirding our advocacy efforts.

Co-hosted follow up event with VICPP, "What's Up at General Assembly and Beyond" after crossover day on current status of bills and ongoing advocacy efforts. Will meet in early April to review evaluations and begin plans for next year's event.

### 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 giving to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2022 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.

### Creation Justice:

- ❖ Creation Justice developed a partnership with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light to help educate and provide advocacy opportunities to the Annual Conference in support of climate and environmental justice efforts
- ❖ Revised the Green Church Initiative to GCI 3.0 <https://doc.vaumc.org/ChurchSociety/GreenChurchInitiative.pdf>
- ❖ Prompted the Green Church Initiative and recognized Monumental UMC, Portsmouth for the Green Church Award <https://youtu.be/B0w0ueZLQZY>

- ❖ Virginian Methodist also participated in learning and networking opportunities with the UMC Creation Justice Movements UMC Annual Conference Organizing Workshops. <https://umcreationjustice.org/annual-conference-organizing-workshops/>

### **Peace and Non-violence Work Area:**

Blessed are the peacemakers. The Peace & Non-Violence (PNV) work group supports the Virginia Conference and its congregations in learning about and acting to foster peace in our world and address the causes and impacts of violence. Activities include raising awareness and providing learning resources, advocating for legislation and public policies, and PNV-related initiatives across the Conference. In 2022, we supported the end of the death penalty in Virginia, advocated for equitable support of immigrants and refugees, advocated for the end of predatory payday lending, and supported an initiative for compassionate care of veterans and their families dealing with the impacts of PTSD. In 2022, the PNV work group is continuing advocacy for immigrants and refugees, including support of the VAUMC response to assisting Afghan allies being resettled in Virginia. The work group is exploring new focus areas, especially as international tensions and the threat of war increase, as Taliban leadership in Afghanistan heighten oppression of women, and as black history and diversity/equity/inclusion programs are being challenged in our state. We encourage others to join us in this important work.

### **Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry:**

The Eradicating Poverty Work Area are exploring way to better serve our brothers and sisters who have been incarcerated and to help them to be functional in society again. We are working with other prison ministries to understand the impact on our communities. REPORTS 59 We are also exploring opportunities to partner with groups that are focused on poverty in our communities. United Methodist Day at the General Assembly: This year was the 30th anniversary of United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy to hold the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. With emphasis this year on ending solitary confinement and a bill to better utilize refugee talent to strengthen our education system. We look forward to Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson leadership in future years.

– James Page, Clergy Co-Chair

## **THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

The Church Development Team (CDT) continues in its mission to fulfill the All Things New vision of the Virginia Annual Conference. Using Conference resources, CDT provides grants, guidance, and accountability to new faith communities and supports leadership opportunities that disciple more people, more young people, and more diverse people for Jesus Christ in Virginia United Methodism.

During the Annual Conference of 2008 members voted to begin 250 new faith communities in 30 years. While we are not on track to establish 250 new faith communities by 2036, to date we have begun 59. Of these, 76 percent are still open. This is above the overall denominational average. Additionally, 25 of these are ethnic new faith communities that have a robust record of vitality and growth in the Virginia Conference, and our three newest faith communities aim to be multicultural.

CDT is supporting New Song UMC, New Life, and edges with Leadership Grants. The grants for New Song and New Life support the work necessary to establish new faith communities; edges will provide training for local churches in how to reach and include unchurched and dechurched persons more effectively.

This year CDT is embracing Ministry Incubators as a way to foster innovation in our conference. We will be partnering with Ministry Incubators to journey year-long with churches through innovative projects.

I want to thank the talented and gifted clergy and laity who serve on CDT. Their experiences and passion for church development will continue to bear fruit in the Virginia Conference. Additionally, I want to thank our Conference staff person, Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influence Ministries. Dwayne's abilities, passion and creative thinking continue to serve CDT well. Finally, I want to thank all the local churches in the Conference. Apportionments paid through the



sacrifices of local United Methodists provides the funding that makes great things happen with Church Development in Virginia.

– *Rev. Stephanie Kimec Parker, Chair. CDT*

### THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

2022 marked a change in leadership for the Board of Communications as well as a transitional time for our Full Board and Executive Team. We celebrated the tenure of our former President, Jill Gaynor, and Vice President, Rev. John Vest, and we transitioned to our new President, Rev. Andrew Ware, and Vice President, Rachel Sanders.

We also acknowledged the long-term service of Cynthia Lopinski (Secretary) and Kim Johnson (Executive At-Large) on the Board and Executive Committee, both of whom will be cycling off the board at the end of this conference year. Coupled with other many long-time servers and the retirement of long-tenured conference webmaster and data manager (and master of all things conference really) Brenda Capen, we recognized that the Board of Communications is in a pivotal position to capitalize on the wonderful leadership of the past to transition into a new future for conference, district, and local church communications.

Moving into a new Conference year the direction of the Board continues to be driven by seeking to help the Conference and churches use their resources to effectively communicate with the people of the Virginia Conference. Capitalizing on a successful communications webinar in 2022, our Board got to work planning its second iteration for 2023. Our Communications Training workgroup sought to help smaller and rural churches in adapting to their environments to effectively communicate, utilize technology, and engage with their congregations and communities. In March, this training was offered to help these congregations, and more efforts have been made by our board to work with churches in need regarding the knowledge of church communications and technologies.

Our Board has revisited the resources offered through the conference and has tried to make available help based on the needs local churches have. Whether in the area of technology, digital media, or effective communications, we have members of our board who have been willing to offer some consultations with pastors and congregations. We hope to continue to foster these connections as we live into the vision of this board to help churches and the Conference to effectively communicate with the people of the Virginia Annual Conference.

Be sure to stay on the lookout for board members who will have a “Communications” name badge marker and can answer your questions or direct you to resources for your local church.

–*Andrew Ware, President*

### REPORT FROM THE VIRGINIA DELEGATION

After multiple pandemic-induced postponements, the 2020 General Conference is scheduled for April 23 - May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The delegation elected to the 2020 General Conference by the 2019 session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be seated in Charlotte and the legislation that was duly submitted to the 2020 General Conference will be before the General Conference in Charlotte.

Some important legislation before the 2020/2024 General Conference may come before the Annual Conference to be approved in the form of constitutional amendments as early as the 2024 Annual Conference.

There are two items in particular that relate to the future structure of our denomination.

### THE PROTOCOL

The **Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation and Restructuring** was announced in January 2020. That legislation outlined a gracious separation of the United Methodist Church. It was the result of a mediated settlement that key leaders in the United Methodist Church entered into in order to facilitate a gracious end to years of division and dysfunction over issues related to full inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in the life of the United Methodist Church. It would have accomplished this goal through creating a simple pathway for Annual Conferences, local churches, and cler-

gy to exit the United Methodist Church to a new traditionalist denomination subsidized by the United Methodist Church. Learn more: <https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/legislation>

Following the postponements of the 2020 General Conference and the 2022 launch of the Global Methodist Church, a number of members of the mediated settlement team as well as organizations that had previously been publicly supportive of the Protocol legislation released a statement walking back their support of the legislative package. The statement read, in part: **“Given the growing opposition to the Protocol within the constituencies we represent, the dwindling support among General Conference delegates, and the serious reservations of Central Conference leaders, we can no longer in good faith support the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation or work towards its adoption at the next General Conference.”** <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/protocols-day-has-passed-some-negotiators-say>

## REGIONALIZATION

The other legislative packages that seek to address the future structure of our denomination relate to regionalization. Two legislative packages, one developed by the Connectional Table and another named the “Christmas Covenant,” attempt to allow for regional contextualization within our global United Methodist Church. (Learn more: <https://www.christmascovenant.com/pagecc>) They would create a United States Regional Conference that would allow the United Methodist Church in the United States to govern itself in a contextual way. All Central Conferences would likewise become Regional Conferences. This seeks to address long-standing geographic and racial inequities in governance of the church by placing the US church on equal footing with the church as a whole. **All Regional Conferences would have contextual flexibility to address the mission and ministry for their contexts, including matters of LGBTQ+ inclusion.** The General Conference would continue to meet to address the matters that apply to all contexts around the world including, but not limited to, the official doctrine and beliefs of the United Methodist Church (as spelled out in Part III of the *Book of Discipline*).

Having studied the “Christmas Covenant” legislative package as a whole group, the General Conference Delegation of the Virginia Annual Conference issued the following statement in April 2022:

*Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*On March 16, 2022, members of the Virginia Conference Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences met to discuss what work we could do now to move our connection forward in light of the recent postponement of General Conference to 2024. Early this year, we heard presentations regarding the Christmas Covenant (so named because of the time which it was offered by the Cavite Annual Conference of the Philippines in 2019). This followed work last fall to review Parts I-IV of The United Methodist Book of Discipline which describe the essentials of our faith: the history of the Methodist movement, the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules, Distinctive Wesleyan Emphases, and Theological Task.*

*The Christmas Covenant would transform the existing Central Conferences into Regional Conferences and create a United States Regional Conference. It would increase the ability of each Regional Conference to adapt the Book of Discipline to fit its missional context and create a more equitable structure for our global church. The denominational Connectional Table has endorsed the Christmas Covenant framework for a U.S. Regional Conference (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/connectional-table-affirms-the-christmas-covenantlegislation>).*

*We believe this Christmas Covenant shows a way into a new future for The United Methodist Church. Our Virginia Delegates to General Conference voted unanimously to endorse the Christmas Covenant. We are now forming a resolution for the 2022 Virginia Annual Conference to endorse the Christmas Covenant as well. We invite you to learn more about the Christmas Covenant legislation by visiting <https://www.christmascovenant.com/pagecc>.*

*We, the undersigned, are voicing our support for the Christmas Covenant as the most viable way for our United Methodist Church to move forward into a new future:*

*General Conference Delegates (at the time of April endorsement)*

*Clergy: Rev. Tom Berlin; Rev. Lindsey Freeman. Rev. Meredith McNabb; Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn; Rev. Dr. Rhonda*

*Van Dyke; Rev. Mark Ogren; Rev. Grace Han; Rev. Beth Givens; Rev. Jason Stanley; Rev. Kirk Nave; Rev. Jonathan Page*

*Laity: Mr. Warren Harper; Ms. Martha Stokes; Ms. Shirley Cauffman; Ms. Alison Malloy; Mr. Marshall Bailey; Ms. Jill Gaynor; Mr. Jake Paysour; Mr. Mark Elder; Dr. Karen McElfish; Mr. Andrew Kissell; Ms. Kim Johnson*

Additionally, **Wespath has endorsed these legislative packages dealing with regionalization.** Wespath notes that regionalization would streamline the work of future General Conferences and reduce costs (potentially millions per quadrennium) by allowing the General Conference not to spend time on matters that only relate to US context/laws. Additionally, regionalization allows for equitable, contextualized governance subject to the legal, regulatory, and business practice of that region. The *Book of Discipline* distinguishes between connectional issues (for the whole UMC) and adaptable issues (such as clergy pensions as governed by regional/national laws). Currently the United States is the only regional area whose adaptable issues are decided by the full General Conference. Regionalization helps the UMC adapt its governance to meet the specific needs of regions and the denomination as a whole. **In short, Wespath strongly supports the concept of a U.S. regional body to deal with U.S. specific matters.** Learn more: <https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5442.pdf>

**The General Conference Delegation of the Virginia Annual Conference encourages all members of the Virginia Annual Conference to familiarize themselves with the proposed legislative packages on regionalization.** We make this recommendation because we 1) believe this pathway to be the best way to end the decades long impasse the United Methodist Church has found herself in and 2) so that our Annual Conference may be prepared to vote as early as June 2024 on any constitutional amendments that might arise as a result of these legislative packages.

General Conference Delegates (as of Nov. 2022)

Clergy

Rev. Lindsey Freeman  
Rev. Meredith McNabb  
Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn  
Rev. Dr. Rhonda Van Dyke  
Rev. Mark Ogren  
Rev. Grace Han  
Rev. Beth Givens  
Rev. Jason Stanley  
Rev. Kirk Nave  
Rev. Jonathan Page  
Rev. Jeff Mickle

Laity

Mr. Warren Harper  
Ms. Martha Stokes  
Ms. Shirley Cauffman  
Ms. Alison Malloy  
Mr. Marshall Bailey  
Ms. Jill Gaynor  
Mr. Jake Paysour  
Mr. Mark Elder  
Dr. Karen McElfish  
Mr. Andrew Kissell  
Ms. Kim Johnson

### BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

After several years of research, study, and visioning for the future the Board of Discipleship has been using a garden metaphor; ‘transplanted’ into a more fertile setting so that it can better provide resources and training to local churches to assist them in building contextual discipleship processes to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our goal is to foster and promote holistic approaches to disciple-making through Christian education, small-group ministries, camping, retreats, evangelism, stewardship, worship, lay development, spiritual formation, age-level/life-span ministries, leadership education, and other areas as the Annual Conference determines.

As a part of our being transplanted, we have thus far created five teams that will help us till the soil: Operations, Education, Communication, Awards, and Regional Planters. Operations oversees the overall structure and ministry goals of the Board; Education oversees the development of curriculum and instruction (thus far this team has created two instructional pieces: one to assist local churches to use our garden metaphor and the second to be used at the Lay Servant Academy in the Fall of 2023); Communications oversees our updated webpage, videos, and other tools to assist in the garden; Awards oversees the Harry Denman and One Matter Awards, Regional Planters will work directly with each district ensuring that every church is aware of the board’s mission and ministry.

This year we also approved Team Charters as well as a Board and Team Covenants. The covenant will assist us in our accountability and everyday operations of the board and its teams; whereas the charters provide frameworks by which team will go about doing their work including permission to seek out and recruit non-board members to assist on the ministries of the teams.

In the coming year we will continue to work on team formation, update our webpage, and began examining the standards and process by which Conference Evangelists are approved and annually recertified.

I would like to give a personal thanks to our board members who have truly helped to cultivate a new culture for the Board. Special thanks are also extended to the team leaders: Susan Schall – Operations, Linda Ray – Education, Robin BeMiller – Communications, Matt Sergent – Awards, and Jim Wishmyer – Regional Planters. The Board itself would like to recognize Seungsoo “RJ” Jun for his assistance this year as our liaison with Connectional Ministries.

– *Dr. Timothy D. Hazlett Chair*

### CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

The Missional Ministries Board (MMB) invites local churches to be part of God’s mission through our connectional system. To cover all dimensions of Acts 1:8 mission, whether in the Local Community, Beyond the Community, or the Global Community, the MMB operates using the following three teams:

- ❖ Missional Discipleship and Engagement - Directing and coordinating the missional efforts of local churches to reach out and serve their communities and beyond.
- ❖ Missional Connection - Bridging the missional effort between the General Board of Global Ministries, the Virginia Annual Conference, and our Districts.
- ❖ Partnerships of Hope - Empowering and creating new partnerships to support and engage in mission initiatives within and beyond the United States.

In plain English, the Conference Missional Ministries Board connects people called to serve with those in need; and during the past conference year has supported the following ideas, programs, activities, and ministries (and more):

- ❖ Used car donations
- ❖ United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Leader Training
- ❖ Refugee Responses
- ❖ Mission Encounter - summer & winter on-line offerings
- ❖ Humanitarian Relief & Recovery

- ❖ Early Response Team (ERT) Certification Training
- ❖ Cleaning Kits → 3,752 assembled & delivered
- ❖ Hurricane Ian aftermath
- ❖ Missionary Itinerancy
- ❖ Praying for & Celebrating Ukrainian and Russian churches
- ❖ Shopping for Afghan Allies
- ❖ VAUMC ERT to Florida
- ❖ 2022-2023 Virginia Advance Specials
- ❖ Transitional Home @ Journey Community Center
- ❖ Reconnection of Mission Partners in Mexico

**The Missional Discipleship and Engagement Team** includes the following committees: Health & Welfare, Immigration Outreach, Mission Encounter, UMCOR/Disaster Response, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), and United Women in Faith.

**Health & Welfare Committee** is continuing its work on identifying the needs of each district to strengthen the connection between ministries such as Food pantries, Health workers and now sponsoring work for benevolence funds.

**Immigration Outreach Committee** has been supporting the effort of the VAUMC Refugee Response Team, finding ways to support churches engaged in resettlement and ultimately welcoming our new neighbors.

**Disaster Response** recently convened a Conference level Disaster Response Committee which will oversee the training of volunteers and maintain the readiness for ERT deployments. The committee is working to assist the Districts in having a disaster coordinator join the committee in helping the conference work in responding to future disasters. Our Disaster Response Coordinator planned and led the November special called UMCOR Cleaning Kit collection of 3,572 kits.

**Mission Encounter** started an additional gathering during winter on top of the summer gathering in 2022. During the winter session, we had an adult session and planned a youth session in partnership with the Shenandoah University Campus ministry. The ME 2023 is now preparing for its summer gathering. This gathering will be held at the Virginia Conference Center and Good Shepherd UMC on the last weekend of July. For more information, go to [www.vaumc.org/me](http://www.vaumc.org/me)

The Missional Connection Team includes the following committees: Advance Specials & Initiatives, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, District & Local Church Influence, and Missionary Personnel.

### Advance Special List for 2023-24

#### International

##### AFRICA

UMCOR Yambasu Agricultural Initiative - #982188

Mozambique: Chicouque 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

### **EUROPE**

Eurasia In Mission Together — Ukraine And Moldova - #14053A

## **National**

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission — Southeastern Jurisdiction - #901875  
Disaster Response, United States - #901670  
UMCOR Sager Brown - #901515  
District Of Columbia: Christ House Medical Services - #381215  
Virginia: Society Of St. Andrew - #801600  
Hinton Rural Life Center - #73132  
Appalachia Service Project, Inc. (ASP) - #982050  
Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc. - #781350  
Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc. - #773726  
Kentucky: Henderson Settlement Frakes - #773365  
South Dakota: Tree Of Life Ministries - #123615  
Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission - #761544

## **Virginia**

### **CHILDREN OUTREACH**

Mountain View: Henry Fork Service Center [www.henryforkcenter.org](http://www.henryforkcenter.org) - #5008  
Valley Ridge: Kids Soar [www.kidsoar.org](http://www.kidsoar.org) - #5004  
Coastal Virginia: Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc. [dougbchild@gmail.com](mailto:dougbchild@gmail.com) - #5020  
Three Notch'd: The Open Table - #5042 Creating a group and friends to assist individuals in overcoming poverty  
[www.theopentable.org](http://www.theopentable.org)

### **IMMIGRATION**

Northern Virginia: ESL and Immigrant Ministries [www.eslim.org](http://www.eslim.org) - #5036  
Northern Virginia: Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. [www.justneighbors.org](http://www.justneighbors.org) - #803002

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Northern Virginia: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) - #5043  
Coastal Virginia: Wesley Community Service Center <https://sites.google.com/view/wesleyportsmouthva/home> - #5025  
Three Notch'd: Belmont Community Resource Services [www.bcrsrva.org](http://www.bcrsrva.org) - #5039  
Living Waters: Journey Community Center [www.jccenter.org](http://www.jccenter.org) - #5009  
Valley Ridge: Embrace -- A Center for Community [embracewaynesboro.org](http://embracewaynesboro.org) - #5034

### **DISABILITY**

Three Notch'd: Heart Havens [www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org) - #6442  
Camp Rainbow Connection <https://vaumc.org/crc/> #6443

### **PRISON MINISTRY**

All God's Children's Camp [www.vaumc.org/agcc/](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc/) #5301  
Living Waters: Hope Beyond Bars <https://hopebeyondthebars.org/> #5040

### DISASTER

Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery [www.vaumc.org/disasterresponse](http://www.vaumc.org/disasterresponse) - #5037

Virginia UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) - #5038

Funding local church's UMVIM team trips [www.vaumc.org/umvim](http://www.vaumc.org/umvim)

### OVERSEAS MISSION

Three Notch'd: Highland Support Project [www.highlandsupportproject.org](http://www.highlandsupportproject.org) - #5007

Three Notch'd: Retired Clergy Housing Corporation <https://vaumc.org/retired-clergy-housing/> - #5030

## New Virginia United Methodist Advance Specials

**Sherbourne UMC Food Pantry Ministry** - Three Notch'd District - Food collection and distribution

**Central Virginia Mission Hub** - Three Notch'd District - UMCOR Kit collection site. <https://www.cvmhub.org/>

**Equipment for Caring** - Shenandoah River District - Collection site for medical supplies and relief kits  
[www.ShenandoahRiverdistrict.org/ministries](http://www.ShenandoahRiverdistrict.org/ministries)

The Partnerships of Hope Team includes the following committees: Beyond Borders & Boundaries (Brazil, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Native Americans, and Vietnam), In Mission Together, and Missionary Itineration.

**POH Brazil** - Rebuilding a relationship with Brazil after the end of the contract of Emily Everett, GBGM Missionary serving the Shade and Water Program. However, the team continues its support for the Shade and Water Program.

**POH Cambodia** - Supporting the work of nurturing leaders in the Cambodia Methodist Church, now a provisional Methodist Denomination, through Community Health and Agriculture Development (CHAD) and Street Children Ministry (Orphanage). We are grateful that Missionary Helen deLeon Camarce will join us at this Annual Conference in Roanoke, VA.

**POH Haiti** - Partnering with Food For The Poor (FFTP), a non-governmental agency, to provide leadership training for pastors and leaders of the Haitian Methodist Church. The Haitian Methodist Training Event, which took place November 11-15, 2022, gathered approximately 125 young leaders of the EMH (Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti). The support of POH, FFTP, and several churches in Virginia fully funded this event.

**POH Mozambique** - Responded to John Nday's plan to install an egg incubator at Cambine Agriculture Program. Through support from several churches from Virginia and POH, the Cambine Agriculture Program will soon be able to use the egg incubator to teach sustainable farming in the area.

**POH Native American** - Representatives from Virginia Native American Ministries visited the Tuscarora reservation to hear first-hand accounts from boarding school survivors and pray for the healing of the land. We participated in the work to start a monument to those who died. The work continues through Rev. Larry Jent as we help find the answer to "Who we are?"

**POH Vietnam** - Partnering with the GBGM Asia office and the Korean Methodist Church, sponsored a youth sports tournament for young Methodists in Vietnam. This was the first time youth from different groups of methodists in Vietnam gathered together. We are now seeking Virginia churches interested in supporting this mission and engaging in a movement of spreading Wesleyan roots in Vietnam.

**Partnerships of Hope** continue to explore overseas mission opportunities in which the churches of the Virginia Conference are already engaged. POH would like to help churches collaborate with one another and celebrate what God is doing through our connection!

*–John Meeuwissen, Chair*

## PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

### Heart Havens

Heart Havens continues its mission of empowering people with a developmental disability to live and thrive in their community. At the end of 2022, we opened our seventh location, called Post Oak, in Virginia Beach, just three miles from our first home called Macleigh-Holland, founded in 1998. We are so blessed by the support from many congregations and groups throughout the conference making this and other initiatives possible.

This year we are focusing on “Moving Forward” with a Capital Campaign of \$200,000 to cover renovation and start-up costs associated with opening our 8th location, very close to the Conference Center in Glen Allen. Funds are needed to add a fourth bedroom, accessible bathroom, generator, vans, and other repairs. The new location, called Meadowbrook, is scheduled to open in April and allows us to expand our mission.

As we operate homes across the Conference, we have identified projects to better serve our residents. At Bonnie house in Stuarts Draft, we are fundraising to add a generator for emergency power outages. Generators are critical for providing continuous care during hurricanes and winter storms, as many of our residents have challenges with outages and evacuating. In the Richmond area, our Mary Beth Graff home is in need of a kitchen renovation, as many of the original fixtures are still in place and well loved.

We continue to run a robust volunteer program, holding a work day for each home in the spring and fall. Many UMCs, some neighbors and a few companies participate. All groups are welcome to be a part of this hands-on activity. With this work, our homes are well maintained and shine inside and out!

We are blessed with the support of congregations and groups throughout the Conference. 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  
& Rebecca Huff, Chief Operations Officer

### Pinnacle Living

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginnings of what today is Pinnacle Living. The dreams and years of hard work of the early advocates and leaders of the Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church to establish a “home for the aged” became reality in 1948. On June 8, 1948, the Hermitage property on Westwood Avenue in Richmond was purchased. Two important events took place on November 1st of that same year: Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Via, Sr. moved into Hermitage Richmond to begin preparing the community for residents, and the corporation known as the Virginia Methodist Home for the Aged assumed operation of the Asa and Blandine Snyder Memorial Home.

The journey that began in 1948 continues today through Pinnacle Living’s Mission of *Enriching Life’s Journey*. Much has changed in aging services and senior living. Now more than at any time in history, we are all aging differently with ever-changing expectations. Pinnacle Living remains committed to honoring our heritage and building upon our strong foundation as we create new opportunities for adults to age faithfully and well.

Pinnacle Living has much to celebrate since the last Annual Conference as we continue our focus on person-centered culture, resident engagement, and social accountability.

- ❖ This winter, three of our communities – Cedarfield, Hermitage Richmond, and Hermitage Roanoke – completed the reaccreditation process through CARF International. WindsorMeade successfully completed its first CARF accreditation in March of 2022. Accreditation is an ongoing process signaling to the public that a service provider is committed to continuously improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community. Today there are only 98 Life Plan Communities across the nation that are CARF accredited. Fifteen of the 98 are in Virginia; four of those are Pinnacle Living communities.



- ❖ Our Richmond communities – Cedarfield and Hermitage Richmond – along with the Pinnacle Living office were recognized as one of the Top Workplaces in the large size company category in the Metro Richmond Region for the sixth consecutive year. The Richmond area program is sponsored by the *Richmond Times Dispatch*.
- ❖ WindsorMeade participated for the first time in the *Hampton Roads Inside Business 2022* Top Workplaces initiative and was named a top workplace in the midsize company category.
- ❖ Pinnacle Living is one of five partners sponsoring the Dreaming Home project with LeadingAge Virginia. Brandermill Woods, LifeSpire, Beth Sholom and Westminster Canterbury Richmond are also participating in this work. The vision of the Dreaming Home project is to help elders across multiple demographics in greater Richmond to “dream home.” This work will help us better understand the desires and values for home as we age, recognizing options shared may include lifestyle choices very different from the Life Plan Community models we currently offer. Although the initial efforts are focused in the greater Richmond area, the overarching objective of the project is to help all senior living providers create and maintain cultures of inclusion and align services and offerings with the desires and values for home of diverse elders.
- ❖ Residents, community volunteers, and team members in partnership with 122 local organizations continued to do amazing work which impacted the broader community. From connections with local workforce development programs to collecting food for area food banks and pantries, from hosting benefits in support of Ukrainian refugees to packing UMCOR kits, our residents and team members positively touched citizens of all ages and backgrounds in their localities.
- ❖ 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.

We offer our deepest appreciation to all the local churches that included the Samaritan Program in your second mile giving. This safety net is a key part of our benevolent mission. The following *Samaritan Award Churches* were recognized for the highest level of giving among congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference during FY2022.

- ❖ Reveille (Three Notch’d District)
- ❖ Trinity - Richmond (Three Notch’d)
- ❖ Annandale (Northern Virginia)
- ❖ Rocky Mount (Mountain View)
- ❖ New Hope – Saluda (Mission Rivers)
- ❖ Lawrence Memorial (Valley Ridge)
- ❖ Shady Grove – Mechanicsville (Three Notch’d)
- ❖ Gum Spring (Three Notch’d)
- ❖ Clarendon (Northern Virginia)
- ❖ Walker Chapel (Northern Virginia)

Thank you to all the local churches that maintain connections with our residents, volunteer time to make our communities stronger, and continue to support the Samaritan Program. We ask for your continued advocacy for the needs of older adults in your local community and across the Commonwealth. Together, as relationship partners in the mission outreach of the Virginia Conference, we can enhance health, wellness, and faithful aging for all people as we strive for a culture in which age does not define the person.

– Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO  
– Martha E. Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations  
– Charles W. Wickham, Director of Donor Development

### 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PINNACLE LIVING

*We recognize these recommendations are the responsibility of the Missional Ministries Board and are traditionally included as part of the Common Table report and Council on Finance and Administration report. However, we do not want them to be forgotten.*

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

### **UMFS - United Methodist Family Services of Virginia**

In 2022, UMFS continued to live out our mission as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. We serve children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges through foster and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and residential mental health treatment programs. In 2022 we served 1,970 children and teens. We strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 8,466 high-risk children and family members in 108 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, serve as volunteers in UMFS programs, provide much-needed financial support, and donate countless gifts-in-kind. Church partners and the UMFS Auxiliary are critical resources for the children and families at UMFS.

In 2022 we celebrated the completion of the first phase of the UMFS Be a Champion capital campaign with the official opening of the new Child & Family Healing Center facility. This state-of-the-art residential mental health facility is now serving youth from across Virginia. The second phase of the campaign is well underway: the new addition to the UMFS Charterhouse School building. The addition includes 10 new classrooms, a recreational therapy room, a cafeteria and a kitchen for our new dining program. The addition is scheduled to be completed in fall 2023. We are grateful for the generous support of everyone who helped make this possible.

The past year also marked the beginning of a new strategic vision for UMFS. We're forming deeper partnerships with grassroots organizations who share our mission. That includes organizations like Caring Closet, which provides high quality clothing at no cost to at-risk children and families, including many UMFS clients. The collaboration with the Caring Closet means the organization can operate rent-free from a larger space than its previous location, while reaching more individuals and extending its mission. There is power and strength in partnership. We're continuing to explore additional partnerships with our greater community to work towards a shared mission of empowering high-risk children and families to achieve a brighter future.

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.

*– Nancy Toscano, President and CEO*

### **Wesley Housing**

Wesley Housing's (WH) 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 nearly five decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 29 properties serving 3,200+ residents in Alex-

andria, Arlington, Manassas, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Winchester, and the District. We also manage 13 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

In 2022, WH had its busiest period of development activity in the organization's history. By the end of the year, the team's efforts led to adding or preserving more than 500 affordable housing units to the region, representing over \$231M in total development costs. This allows more than 1,500 new residents the opportunity to rent a home they can afford.

Completions included:

### *New Construction:*

- ❖ **The Arden** (126 units, Alexandria [Fairfax County], VA) – mixed-use, multifamily housing which is now home to Wesley Housing's new main office; **The Cadence** (97 units, Arlington, VA) – multifamily housing; **The Waypoint** (81 units, Alexandria, VA) – multifamily housing; **Senseny Place** (63 units, Winchester, VA) – senior housing

### *Renovation:*

- ❖ **Whitefield Commons** (68 units, Arlington, VA) – multifamily housing; **Quarry Station Seniors Apartments** (80 units, Manassas, VA) – senior housing

Additionally, our real estate development team has over 700 affordable units in its development pipeline to be produced by 2027, including new construction, acquisitions, and renovations. Recent pipeline updates from 2022-present include:

- ❖ •WH acquired **Parc Square Apartments** (66 units, Alexandria, VA). After first addressing life safety issues to improve habitability, Wesley plans to redevelop the property, as well as properties owned by Community Lodgings.
- ❖ The Alexandria City Council voted in favor of the Planning Commission's proposal to rezone three parcels of land to develop **ParcView II** (200 units, Alexandria, VA), WH's proposed redevelopment of its existing ParcView Apartments. The community engagement process continues.
- ❖ The Falls Church City Council approved WH to operate five quadplexes in **Virginia Village** (20 units, Falls Church) with a long-term goal of redeveloping the community into permanent affordable housing.
- ❖ WH acquired **Holmead Apartments** (100 units in Washington, DC [Ward 1]), which will be converted into affordable, accessible units for those earning between 30-80% AMI.
- ❖ Fairfax County authorized a \$5.6M commitment of Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority Funds for the **Wesley-Lamb Center Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Community**. In addition, the Fairfax City Council approved a \$700K investment from the City of Fairfax Housing Trust Fund. The funding commitments follow Fairfax City Council unanimously approving a Special Use Permit to redevelop the Hy-Way Motel into a five-story 54-unit residential/mixed-use community.
- ❖ WH, in partnership with **First Christian Church of Falls Church**, secured zoning entitlements from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to construct 95 affordable units of independent senior living on the land immediately adjacent to the Church (6165 Leesburg Pike).
- ❖ **1 Hawaii** (70 units, Washington, DC [Ward 5]) is expected to close and begin redevelopment in Spring 2023.
- ❖ Renovations continue on **The Hampshire** (56 units, Washington, DC) which is expected to complete in Spring 2023.

## RESIDENT SERVICES

- ❖ **Housing Stability Initiative:** With some of the most cost-burdened renters in the country living in our area, our resident services team provided 3,100 of them with award-winning supportive services. In 2022, we received 1,548 eviction prevention referrals due to households' non-payment of rent (between 150 to 250 households monthly, many duplicated each month). Through the work of our Resident Services Coordinators, 100% found payment solutions totaling more than \$1M and maintained housing. Two hundred fifteen (215) residents participated in workforce

development activities (job skills classes, one-on-one coaching) and attained new job skills. Sixty-four (64) residents secured new or more gainful employment, while others continue to work on their career plans. 780 families received material assistance, including food items and holiday gifts, and nearly 400 residents participated in health and wellness offerings.

### OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

- ❖ WH was recently recognized for the following awards in 2022: Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) Developer of the Year; Virginia Housing Alliance named President/CEO Shelley Murphy Game Changer of the Year and Senior Resident Services Coordinator Cierra Falke Outstanding Service Provider.
- ❖ •In January 2023, longtime President/CEO of WH Shelley S. Murphy passed the torch to her successor, former WH Senior Vice President of Real Estate Development, Kamilah McAfee. Murphy retired from WH after a remarkable 15-year tenure with the organization.

**RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS:** None

*–Kamilah McAfee, President/CEO*

## THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY (BHECM)

It has been an exciting year as many of our campus ministries have been restoring and renewing the sense of community that the pandemic profoundly affected. From Rise Against Hunger events on campus to anti-racism work to food outreach ministries to the launching of new community groups, these students give our Board tremendous hope in a season of many uncertainties in anticipation of General Conference 2024. Our campus ministries hold firmly and embody the values of full inclusion and have become safe harbors for students who, in other faith communities, have felt shamed or dehumanized. We celebrate the unique and resilient ministries at our Wesley Foundations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, ecumenical communities, and United Methodist institutions.

In the last year alone, our world has witnessed far too many acts of gun violence, and our college campuses in the Virginia Annual Conference have been subject to many of these atrocities. Our Board unanimously agreed that a more effective Conference response was vital during these tragedies. As a result, a task force has worked together to create a diverse means of support that will provide intentional care for campus ministers and their students when they are in crisis.

In the last year, we have placed more responsibility on each Board member as a liaison to a respective campus ministry setting so that their local boards have a point of connection that can attend meetings and offer various means of support throughout the year.

While we continue to award property grants to Wesley Foundations each year, we are discerning how to ensure in the coming years that our campus ministries have greater access to resources for the purpose of capital improvements and building fundraising. We remain hopeful and prayerful that by placing more intentionality around coaching opportunities and new innovations to support our Conference's continued efforts toward sustainability.

New this year, in March, we held a retreat in partnership with the United Methodist Commission (Georgia) for our campus ministers and chaplains to ensure strategic alignment within our campus ministries. The campus ministers have worked to establish the core values of campus ministry in the Virginia Conference and to develop a new set of metrics to ensure that the Board of Higher Education has a means of providing the systems of support and accountability our campus ministries need to thrive. In addition, the UM Commission is working with the campus ministers and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to improve communication, support, and missional alignment.

Our Board looks forward to partnering in ministry with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, and we are excited that she made it a priority to meet with our campus ministers and chaplains in the spring to hear about their ideas and vision for the Annual Conference. We remain grateful for the continued support of Dwayne Stinson and Becky Tate, who are deeply committed to ensuring the well-being of our campus ministers. In the coming year, our Board challenges each local church to connect with your district's campus minister(s) to learn how to support the mission in these spaces. Your congre-

gation may feel led to offer financial support, provide a meal for students, or to explore other innovative ideas. I encourage you to read about the incredible ministry taking place beyond the local church as we celebrate the gifts of our campus and collegiate ministries.

– Ryan LaRock, Board Chair

### WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

#### The Wesley-Westminster Foundation (WWF) at Norfolk State University (NSU)

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation (WWF) at Norfolk State University (NSU) is grateful for the continued support of the Virginia Annual Conference and the Coastal Virginia District. WWF Campus Ministry is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches seeking to impact the College, the Community, and the Current Culture with Christian Principles, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. This ministry continues to be the largest and most active campus ministry at NSU. It is our desire that we provide a safe place to explore and to experience one's faith, while offering a respectful and non-threatening environment of love, service to others and learning.

We made it through the worst of Covid and are now happily able to meet in person regularly. Our semester began with one of the most successful Back to School Cookouts yet. Serving more than 150 students, staff and community members made our day. This kick-off to the new school year helped to jump start our efforts to reach more students and neighbors. As a result, several children from the community share with us weekly. We offer tutoring, mentoring and meals to these young people who attend area elementary and middle schools. In addition, these young people often join us for our weekly Bible Study and dinner held each Wednesday.

Additionally, students designed P.A.P. (Prayer and Praise) Tuesdays for those who have class Wednesday evenings and cannot attend Bible Study. This is a time of prayer and contemplation followed by lunch. This year's Thanksgiving Dinner was amazing. We were able to serve more than 120 homecooked meals. During our Spiritual Retreat for our students, we had several presenters, a masseuse, a trauma therapist, and a counselor present. District Superintendent Cecilia Brooks extended the invitation, and it was my pleasure to bring greetings to the Coastal Virginia District sharing the work and the witness of WWF Campus Ministry.

Our partnerships have allowed us to distribute more than 2 thousand pounds of fresh produce to food insecure families. The food donations have also helped us with our weekly meals served at the Campus House. Students assist in community outreach as well. Several students help two churches with their food pantry as well as our continued efforts to provide meals to the homeless. As a ministry we donated cereal and toiletry items to Slover Library and participated in Unite Slover's Black History Program. Rev. Greg West joined us as a guest Bible Study teacher and captured our hearts with a new love for small group ministry.

Students love WWF Campus Ministry and thank you for your commitment and dedication to their spiritual growth and development. They eagerly show up week after week hungry and passionate chasing after Christ.

– Rev. Dr. Joy Denise Carrington, Director

#### Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University

I am excited to say this year, we launched WesleyODU. After a year of hard work preparing the space, planning events, and praying for the Holy Spirit to be at work in this new ministry, we opened the doors to WesleyODU. Our goal and vision are to create a ministry at ODU where students, faculty, and staff are invited to explore faith together and where each person is welcomed and invited to be authentically themselves. In our first semester, we started small groups, devotions, service activities, and fellowship opportunities. Events like baking apple pies to take home for Thanksgiving, pumpkin carving, paint nights, and bonfire chats are just a few of the many events offered over the past year. It has been an incredible blessing that from these events, five students went from being participants into leadership. As I prepared this report, I invited some of the students to share why they chose Wesley. Here is what they had to say: "Wesley is my favorite place to go because it is always a welcoming environment. I love that I can explore my faith and ask questions without judgment."

Sarah Schrum (Jr.) “ I keep coming to Wesley because I feel included and cared for whenever I walk through the door. We have fun events like carving pumpkins and apple pie baking but also faith building nights like small group and following a study that keeps me involved and excited to come back.” Hannah Brewer (Fr.) “I came to Wesley because I was looking for a home away from home and had been searching for a church family. I grew up in the United Methodist Church and knew that was something I wanted to find during my time on campus. It also gave me leadership experience and helped me make new friends.” Lucy Jarvis (Jr.) It is an incredible joy to serve with these students and to be in ministry on the campus of ODU. To be a place where students, faculty, and staff can find a loving community, where they can grow in their faith, and where they can know they are loved. We are grateful for the many ways the Virginia Annual Conference has supported and continues to support WesleyODU. We are so excited about what this next year will bring and how God will be at work in us.

–Joshua McCauley, Campus Minister

### The Wesley Foundation at UVA

“Wesley is the highlight of my week! I love spending time in worship and fellowship with a close-knit group of students!” -Gracie Moore, 3rd year

“I love Wesley because it’s so inviting and comfortable! I always know that I will see kind faces at Wesley and enjoy a warm atmosphere!” -Danielle Cloud, 1st year

“At Wesley, I feel like my whole self is welcomed.” -Joshua Barbish, 3rd year

Wesley at UVA is a community where faith is nurtured, and relationships rooted in God’s radical love are formed! When students are navigating college pressures, Wesley provides space to be vulnerable and discern alongside others where God is leading them. Students are grateful for deepened relationships and new opportunities after masked and limited gatherings during COVID-19.

There is renewed energy around Wesley traditions that have been reimaged, like weekly dinner nights, which we now call “Dinner &.” The “&” represents worship together, a service project, a forum with a professor/community member, or a fun program, which we do after dinner. Each week we also have small group and coffee meet-ups, which create space to share the beauty and struggles of life and explore faith. This year, we are focusing on partnerships with local churches, campus ministries, and on and off Grounds (UVA’s term for campus) organizations. Recently we launched “Home Away from Home,” a program with Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, pairing students and families who want inter-generational connection. We have partnered with other campus ministries for fun events like snow tubing, Friendsgiving, and study breaks. We have leaned on each other in challenging moments and come together for meaningful opportunities such as a community worship service and providing trauma-informed support for students. During midterm season, we partnered with the SPCA for an outreach event where we brought dogs on Grounds. This year we also launched Market Mondays, a new space for graduate students to connect monthly at a local food court, which we learned was needed through conversations with Ph.D. and masters’ students. As I write this, we are preparing to travel to Richmond for a mission-based Spring Break trip, the first time for many students. Every day, students study and share life in our building.

These relationships, opportunities, and the space Wesley provides are vital. Students and the university, like everyone, are yearning for community as we rediscover what life together rooted in faith looks like after COVID. This past fall, when a shooting occurred on Grounds, students leaned on the Wesley community for the necessary support and space to decompress.

In my first year as Campus Minister and Director at Wesley at UVA, I have been encouraged by growth among our group and am excited for what God has in store for the year ahead. I am thankful for your continued support of campus ministry across our Conference!

– Devon Earle, Campus Minister & Director

### Wesley Foundation at Virginia Commonwealth University | PACE

The Pace Center is the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Commonwealth University. At Pace, the unity and diversity of

the Body of Christ found in 1 Corinthians 12 is the vision through which we see our community. Pace believes the Kingdom of God is a reality to be experienced by all and emphasizes the following values: Every individual is created with infinite value and lives more fully in the Kingdom when they are empowered to use their gifts to help their communities thrive. All are created to live in deep relationships with one another, not in isolation.

In 2022, Pace's focus was stability. The Pace's Center has grown rapidly since it reopened in 2017. In 2022, over 1,500 unique students built community at Pace by developing, leading and attending programs. Though we welcomed a similar number of students in 2021, the number of students who stepped into leadership grew in 2022 due to the addition of a new Student Development and Engagement Coordinator position. This position was filled by a Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) minister who enabled Pace to devote more focus to our student leaders - students engaged in our 6-hour/week Fellowship program and others who lead ministries. A further partnership with VCU's PCUSA campus ministry helped Pace to expand our pastoral care to students who are struggling with increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and uncertainty, and reach more students on VCU's campus who were interested in exploring their faith.

Pace has had great success with our Student Circles program, which was piloted in 2021. This ministry provides an intentional space for holistic care and an opportunity for students to develop a relationship with a non-student adult. Through the efforts of several local pastors and community members from multiple denominations, students have had a dedicated, weekly circle they can rely upon for guidance and support as they navigate college life. To quote one pastor and Student Circle Leader, "One of my students basically said flat out that she didn't feel like she had made friends at VCU until she participated in Student Circles. What happens at Student Circles is church."

Members of local congregations have continued to strengthen what has become one of our most popular programs - Stories and Lunch. Each week, members of local United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA), and Episcopalian churches prepare a homemade meal for students, who gather to make new connections and share about their unique experiences, cultures, and gifts. Up to 60 students attend each week, some of whom are food insecure.

A true test of Pace's stability came in October of 2022, when Rev. Katie Gooch welcomed her third child, a baby girl, into the world and left for maternity leave. The Pace Center's community remained just as active, ministries continued, and students continued to develop Servant Leadership skills. We feel that this is a true testament to the ministry we have developed at Pace and the relationships we have formed with local congregations and community members. A huge thank you to all those who have become part of the ministry of Pace!

*—Katherine Gooch, Campus Minister*

### **The Wesley Foundation at Virginia State (FLOW)**

This year F.L.O.W. has participated in several different events. As we embarked upon this year, we made a conscious and ecumenical effort to be inclusive to everyone that we encountered on campus. This year one of our biggest projects was to make sure our students felt comfortable at Virginia State University regardless of religion, race, or sexuality. So during this year we participated with our Muslim population by making sure that their hours of prayer throughout the day were honored. So, we opened up our chapel, and the student leaders along with myself made sure during those times that they were not disturbed or distracted. Furthermore, during the week we would sit down and all have Bible Study together and great dialogue with students who were not just Muslims, but it opened the door for those who were agnostic, Jewish, or identified in other religious practices. In our time of sharing, we learned how vital it has been for us to weave our faith stories together and how much they are parallel. It was an enthusiastic time for us because we wanted to make sure that everyone knew who campus ministry was, and how we could be better in serving the community at Virginia State University. During this time we also took time out to share different meals throughout the week and give space for persons who just wanted to belong. Also, we participate in worship each Sunday together. Although Ettrick United Methodist closed its doors, we decided that the ministry did not stop, and we gather on in Foster Hall every Sunday at 12 noon, for worship. Students come in from all religious backgrounds and we worship and discuss various topics.

F.L.O.W. stands for Fellowship, Love, Outreach, and Worship. We wanted to be more than people who worshipped on a Sunday. We decided that it mattered how we connected to others in community at VSU and how we connected with the outside community. Some of the ways we connected outside is every 3rd Saturday we participate in the Ettrick Food

Bank, where we feed over 4,000 families in conjunction with Feed More, Food Lion, Walmart and Publix. We have prayer, and breakfast, and students from F.L.O.W. come and pack boxes for families who are in need. We also took time out during the week to partner with Good Shepherd Baptist Church where we go every 3rd Wednesday and pack food boxes for 300 families. We added another outreach effort where we partnered with Kings Uplifting Kings, and we gave away clothing to homeless men in Petersburg and Richmond.

Another aspect of ministry that we participated in was an LGBTQIA+ Small group. We saw not only the need to be inclusive of those whose religion was different from ours, we decided that it would be vital to give those students who identified in this community a space where they felt loved. So, on every Wednesday we gathered with this group, and we answered questions for them about the Bible and LGBTQIA+, and how them being a part of the community was important to us. Also, during this time, we as a group sat and listened to those who needed spiritual guidance and counsel. We took time to make sure we were effectively hearing them and being a necessary refuge of safety for them.

In conclusion, we have had a great year of ministry at F.L.O.W., and we would love to partner even more with our local United Methodist Churches in our community. We would love to participate in any outreach, ministry, and community efforts to join as one body. We are elated to continue the work of being disciples of Christ in this world, and we are elated to continue the work of God through all humanity. As a ministry we want to continue it with the support of our local churches in any way that we can. For those who support us with your prayers we are eternally grateful.

–Jasmyn C. Graham, Campus Minister

## The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech

In my 13 years of campus ministry, I have consistently heard questions about campus ministries importance, the “pay-out” for the Conference, and whether or not they need buildings. Do I understand where the questions are coming from? I do. Do I think these questions need to be asked? Sure. Do I feel like these questions wouldn’t be asked if people got to know campus ministries and their impact on students and the Church? Absolutely.

That is why I am taking a different approach to this year’s *Book of Reports* article and sharing with the Annual Conference my answers to these questions from Wesley at Virginia Tech’s point of view.

So, why is campus ministry important? My simple answer is it is a matter of life and death for many students. This is not hyperbole or an over exaggeration. I can point to many students in my time as campus minister at Wesley at Virginia Tech (and 2 in this past year) where if it were not for Wesley, students have said they would no longer be alive. Even if it is not a matter of life and death for all students, it is something that all students need to walk the journey of faith, school, relationships, call and vocation, and identity. Here is a student’s perspective on this question:

*“I was done with the Church prior to going to college, but if it weren’t for Wesley at VT, and the community within it, I would have ended my life due to events that transpired my first semester of college. I am here today because of campus ministry.”—Freshman*

Do we need campus ministry in our AC? If we are being real about keeping young adults in the Church, then campus ministry is vital in this endeavor! We already see our youth leave for college or the workplace and never return to church. At Wesley our vision, “to be an affirming, grace-filled community that develops and sends our disciples rooted in faith,” directly relates to connecting our graduates to local church ministry in the UMC. Campus Ministry is, in our “Connection,” the connecting point from youth group to local churches during the young adult years. Our failure to connect our youth to our UNITED METHODIST campus ministries (emphasis is important) for a long time and it shows in the lack of young leaders in our churches. If we do this well, then, I believe, we will see our Connection working the way it is intended.

*“During my undergraduate studies, Wesley at Virginia Tech gave me a strong community of friends, a safe and supportive place to land in between classes, and introduced me to worship and leadership opportunities in the local United Methodist Church. I know firsthand that many of my peers would never have set foot back in the church if they didn’t find a home at Wesley first.”*

Do we need to have buildings for campus ministry? Our campus ministry building (which sits on the very edge of campus – a dorm is across the street) has over 100 students (some repeats) coming in and out of our building every day!



Our building has students who come to eat together, study, sleep, have small groups, participate in events, worship weekly, pray together, get pastoral care, be in mission with the community (food pantry), put on youth retreats for our District, and so much more. It is used ALL DAY EVERYDAY for numerous ministry opportunities! So, yes, having a building is important for students to have a place to do ministry and be in community.

*“Campus Ministry, and the Wesley Building, has allowed me to grow in my faith and stay in the Church when I thought I would leave it forever because there wasn’t a space for me. But it is a safe place I go to question, doubt, and struggle with others in Christian community.” – Junior*

What are the “payouts” of campus ministry? We are reaching unchurched, those who left the church, and students who love the church as we develop disciples of Jesus, that are young adults, eager to lead the UMC in our local churches. We are the connecting young adults back into our local churches.

*– Bret Gresham, Campus Minister*

## The Wesley Foundation at William & Mary

I could not be prouder of our students, board, and community. Because of the amazing support and commitment of so many, we live out God’s call powerfully, no matter what the circumstances. 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. Wesley continues to be a vital ministry and lifeline for many students, with a variety of ministries, all focused on meeting students where they are and just the way they are. Throughout each week, students have a variety of ways to connect and grow in faith and community.

With all our ministries, Wesley continues to have thousands of interactions with students, as well as faculty and staff, each year. Since January 2020, the Wesley House has continuously provided housing for students. When the campus is open, we are housing the students who have applied, interviewed, and been accepted to live at Wesley. When campus is closed to residents, we are full of students who do not have a safe place to live with the dorms shut down. With these students, we are not only providing housing, but groceries, transportation, and vital community for folks who do not have a network of support. When there are more students than we can house, we network with trusted folks in the community to find them housing.

Wesley is not only about impacting the students but the entire campus community. For example, Wesley played a key role in supporting an incredible coalition of food service workers, students, faculty, staff, community faith leaders, union organizers, and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy in supporting the food service workers in forming a union for the first time in history. The result is \$3 per hour raises, union health insurance, and a pension in their first union contract. There were workers who had been at the college for over forty years, making \$15.50 an hour with no benefits. I was so proud to see so many UMC clergy supporting this effort, including Rev. Dave Rochford, Bishop Pete Weaver, and Rev. Charles Swadley.

Wesley continues to be the main support on campus for many students who are LGBTQIA+, providing housing, transportation, food, and community for students who are marginalized in a variety of ways. Furthermore, as a result of our work to alleviate food insecurity, a new student group formed on campus this year, Food for All, that is working holistically to eliminate food insecurity. They even won a grant that resulted in Wesley now having a commercial fridge to store perishable food items. We can help more students than ever as a result.

But don’t take my word for it; listen to what one student, new to Wesley, has to say: “I was struck by the warm, welcoming, unconditionally accepting atmosphere of the group. I was impressed by how meetings managed to blend light-hearted fun and friendship, and serious conversations, and I left them all feeling both joyful and contemplative. I was also really moved by how the Wesley House functions as a campus pantry and as a sanctuary for students who don’t have anywhere else to go. Above all, I really liked Wesley’s attitude of striving to do good without being self-congratulatory, always exploring the systemic roots of issues, embracing Christian values of doing good while examining how Christianity has been used for nefarious purposes and emphasizing “loving your neighbor” while taking a stand against injustice and discrimination.” Thanks so much for continuing to empower our students to transform the campus and the community!

*–Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister*

## Rise U/Rise United Methodist Faith Community

The 2022-2023 academic year could be summed up in one word: “renewed.” As a faith community, we have experienced renewed energy, renewed hope, and renewed leadership this year. We are grateful for a revitalized community with an emerging sense of purpose and direction. This year, our leadership team has talked a lot about living in the metaphorical “laboratory,” a space where leaders are willing to experiment with new ideas, programs, and events. This takes immense bravery and courage, and a willingness to fail sometimes. We’re learning a lot, and we give thanks for the committed team of college students and staff members who are willing to commit their time, energy and passion as we journey together.

Spring of 2022 was deeply traumatic for RISE. We were feeling hopeful as we began to close the Covid chapter, and instead we were met with tragedy. In the span of three months, three suicides occurred on the JMU Campus. Additionally, Bridgewater College experienced a school shooting. As a faith community, we were lost, confused, and traumatized. Yet, in this pain, we found hope. We held trauma-informed workshops for students, we intentionally gathered for ongoing processing, and a nonprofit came out of this pain. This season taught us a great deal about our collective need for connection and community, and it led us to launch a nonprofit called The Struggle Bus - a literal vehicle for hope, resilience, and God’s everlasting love. The Struggle Bus received a grant from Young People’s Ministries (part of Discipleship Ministries of the UMC). The Struggle Bus has offered renewed hope in a time of intense and immense trauma and loss. We look forward to offering more updates about this initiative in the future (check out [strugglebushburg.com](http://strugglebushburg.com) for more information).

In the fall of 2022, we relaunched a revitalized college leadership team for the first time in several years. We gathered a team of six committed students and spent 2+ hours every week together relationship building, trust building, and dreaming about the future of RISE. A number of college students also went on a fall retreat just outside of Harrisonburg, VA. We spent the weekend on a mountaintop exploring the ideas of holy rest and authentic sharing in community. This semester, we continued to have a student-led weekly devotional time on campus and students took over leading our weekly Dinner Church. We also launched a program called the Influencer Initiative, where we paired up college students with community members as a mentorship program. We intentionally chose the language of “influencer” over “mentor” as that would resonate with Gen Z college folks better than “mentor.” In this launch semester, we had 6 pairings. We celebrate a renewed sense of vision and purpose as we empower students to lead the ministry in various ways.

As we transitioned into the spring 2023 semester, another student took on leading our regular evening small group. We continue to have a strong leadership team, composed mostly of college aged folks. A main highlight of this semester was a Taco Tuesday Kickoff Event. Originally, we were going to have it at the RISE Homebase. However, the event fell on a particularly cold and rainy evening, and a number of students texted saying that they couldn’t attend for various reasons. Instead of canceling the event, we pivoted and offered to deliver tacos to students. This resulted in numerous students signing up for taco deliveries and several new students requested to eat together on campus despite the weather. While it wasn’t the kickoff event we’d planned and prayed for, the ability to pivot resulted in a much more fruitful experience. Sometimes God’s love looks like tacos coming to a student’s apartment on a cold, rainy January evening! This semester we also will attend our first alternative spring break trip in several years. We will be going to Baltimore, MD with ARISE Campus Ministry at George Mason University. Several newly connected students have signed up for this trip and we celebrate the new connections.

On a personal note, working in Campus Ministry for the past 2.5 years has helped me more fully understand my calling to full-time ordained ministry. I will be leaving RISE this summer to fully live into this call and prepare to attend Seminary full time at Wesley Theological Seminary. I would not have fully understood this calling if it weren’t for the ability to work in Campus Ministry. I am indescribably grateful for the ongoing support of the Annual Conference (so is the rest of RISE). We celebrate the renewed energy, hope, and leadership that we have experienced in the past year, and we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide and encourage us on this journey in this next year.

–Abby Butler-Cefalo, Campus Outreach Coordinator

## ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES

### ARISE at George Mason University

The past academic year at Arise Campus Ministry has been one of resolve and excitement. We continue to serve students and staff at both George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community Colleges. We currently have four life-groups that meet throughout the week and minister to a growing number of students. These life-groups study the Bible, grow together, and encourage one another. They also serve the community and offer leadership and model faithful care and commitment to others attending our university. We have helped feed students on campus who struggle with food insecurity, serve those in our community through hypothermia shelters, care for children who need weekend meals, advocate for racial justice, and stand firm in our commitment for full inclusion of all of God's children.

We want to say thank you to all the members of the Virginia Annual Conference. Your support, encouragement, and standing for full inclusion of all persons in the United Methodist Church has kept myself, and our students encouraged and inspired. Your bravery, your love, and your witness has meant so much to our campus ministry. It is no surprise that since January 1, 2023, we have 3 students who are now ready to discern a call to ordained ministry. Even when some "leaders" tried to deny the humanity and God's call in our students, you stood up and helped these students remember that God does the calling and God is not done with them yet. Thank you for your bravery and thank you for your continued commitment to stand up against all oppression, evil and injustice in whatever forms they show themselves. Let us continue to stand together because it matters, you matter and what we do as an Annual Conference matters.

*–Drew Ensz, Ministry Director*

## Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington

This past year at the Campus Christian Community (CCC) has provided many aspects of growth, discipleship, and fellowship. We are thankful for the continued support of the BHECM as well as our many other supporters that continue to see the importance of investing in Campus Ministry. The Board of Directors continues to work to lead the CCC and invest in the lives of the students.

This past year we have seen a large senior class come up that graduates in May 2023, many of which have been involved for several years. Often, college focuses a lot on the transition into college and doesn't spend much time thinking about the transition out of college. Therefore, we partnered with another campus ministry to offer senior dinner and conversations where we talk about how they feel about graduating and address various topics they are concerned about as they approach graduation.

We also have partnered with our sister campus ministry and began implementing Faculty and Staff "get-togethers" to bring together faculty and staff that are connected to the supporting churches of our ministries. This has been such a joy and blessing to create space for them to come and talk about faith, vocation, and other connections they have as employees of the university.

We continue to encounter new students and find ways to connect on campus with various groups and organizations. This past year we have studied the prophets and the book of Matthew in our Bible Studies at the CCC. Bible Study is a great time for students to have conversations and ask questions about faith and life as we encounter God through scripture. One of our most attended weekly events is Table Talk on Thursday evenings. We gather for dinner, conversation, and then either worship or an activity. This past year we have been so thankful to bring back our supporting churches to come and provide the meals for students! This is a great opportunity for students to meet congregants of the supporting churches and also for the congregants to get to spend time getting to know the college students!

Overall, we are thankful for the support of many and are excited to see where God leads us in the upcoming year!

*– Elizabeth J. Snader, Campus Minister*

## Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

Community College Ministries was launched by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and five other church organizations on January 24, 1984, in response to the rapid growth of community colleges in Virginia and the need for ministry specifically with that student population. The number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in the community colleges we serve this academic year is over 26,000. Our mission is to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with community college students and support them in their personal, spiritual, educational, family, and job environment. One of the first and continuing ministries is Alliance for Excellence. With leadership in 1986 from the Reverend Willie Butler (UMC) and the Reverend James Ephraim (PCUSA) and with a generous grant from EMLC of GBGM and the PCUSA's Martin Luther King, Jr., Fund for Self-Determination, Alliance for Excellence became a vital partnership among area Black churches and community colleges. The goal was to bridge the 50% gap in educational participation of Black and White students and sustain more equitable and supportive participation in post-secondary education. In 2018, Alliance for Excellence, teamed with the Office of Racial Healing at Duke University to sponsor racial healing circles. That year, over two hundred people assembled at Virginia Western Community College (top) to celebrate over 30 years of ministries sponsored by Community College Ministries. From 1984 to 2018, over 30,000 young people have offered or benefited from programs of Community College Ministries as disciples of Jesus Christ. Another need we discovered were the challenges faced by rising college students coming out of foster care homes and institutions so in 2018 we started working with Open Table, United Methodist Family Services, and the colleges' Great Expectations. Since our inception, Community College Ministries has not only been a ministry of outreach, but also a ministry of hosting. We have hosted mission volunteer groups to work in our communities, namely those struggling economically in the Appalachian counties of southwestern Virginia. Aging mining families could not afford to do even modest improvements on their homes and so we teamed with Grace House on the Mountain and the Bins-Counts Center near St. Paul, Virginia, on home repair and winterization. Community College Ministries and Pearisburg Presbyterian Church also teamed to offer retreats in the natural sanctuaries of the New River Valley. The campus minister, Steve Darr, has also supplied pastoral services at First UMC of Pembroke, Asbury UMC in Christiansburg, Park UMC in Christiansburg, Pearisburg Presbyterian Church, Christiansburg Presbyterian, and the Presbyterian Church of Radford. We also hope to reinstate "Rally in the Valley" gathering of college fellowship groups to inspire a kindred fellowship among diverse groups. Sandy Saunders of Danville is president of our board of directors. Muriel Mickles of Lynchburg is our vice-president. There's lots more. Please contact us about a presentation to your church or church group. We would love to share our story. "

*–Steve Darr, Campus Minister*

## Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University

The Wesley-Westminster Foundation (WWF) at Norfolk State University (NSU) is grateful for the continued support of the Virginia Annual Conference and the Coastal Virginia District. WWF Campus Ministry is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches seeking to impact the College, the Community, and the Current Culture with Christian Principles, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. This ministry continues to be the largest and most active campus ministry at NSU. It is our desire that we provide a safe place to explore and to experience one's faith, while offering a respectful and non-threatening environment of love, service to others and learning.

We made it through the worst of Covid and are now happily able to meet in person regularly. Our semester began with one of the most successful Back to School Cookouts yet. Serving more than 150 students, staff and community members made our day. This kick-off to the new school year helped to jump start our efforts to reach more students and neighbors. As a result, several children from the community share with us weekly. We offer tutoring, mentoring and meals to these young people who attend area elementary and middle schools. In addition, these young people often join us for our weekly Bible Study and dinner held each Wednesday.

Additionally, students designed P.A.P. (Prayer and Praise) Tuesdays for those who have class Wednesday evenings and cannot attend Bible Study. This is a time of prayer and contemplation followed by lunch. This year's Thanksgiving Dinner was amazing. We were able to serve more than 120 homecooked meals. During our Spiritual Retreat for our students, we had several presenters, a masseuse, a trauma therapist, and a counselor present. District Superintendent Cecilia Brooks

extended the invitation, and it was my pleasure to bring greetings to the Coastal Virginia District sharing the work and the witness of WWF Campus Ministry.

Our partnerships have allowed us to distribute more than 2 thousand pounds of fresh produce to food insecure families. The food donations have also helped us with our weekly meals served at the Campus House. Students assist in community outreach as well. Several students help two churches with their food pantry as well as our continued efforts to provide meals to the homeless. As a ministry we donated cereal and toiletry items to Slover Library and participated in Unite Slover's Black History Program. Rev. Greg West joined us as a guest Bible Study teacher and captured our hearts with a new love for small group ministry.

Students love WWF Campus Ministry and thank you for your commitment and dedication to their spiritual growth and development. They eagerly show up week after week hungry and passionate chasing after Christ.

*—Joy Denise Carrington*

## BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity has focused much time and attention on living into district structure and leadership changes following action of the 2022 Annual Conference. District Lay Leaders and Associates have been looking at new ways to strengthen communication networks, create and offer resources, and support new expressions of our connectional ministry and mission. In October 2022, a second retreat of the District Lay Leaders, Associates, and District Superintendents was held virtually. The retreat focused on the adaptive leadership skills needed for this time in the life of our denomination. District Lay Leaders and Associates have continued to meet quarterly with Bishop Lewis and Bishop Hauptert-Johnson as the Lay Council, offering a time for conversation and questions directly with the Bishop. There are three objectives of the Lay Council: (1) enhance communication, (2) support our efforts to share vital information with the local churches, and (3) provide opportunities to learn directly from the Bishop, the Connectional Ministries team and other Conference staff. A true highlight of the year was the first in-person meeting since early 2020 of the Board of Laity on March 4th.

Our Conference Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) team under the direction of Richard Spiers, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, has been actively providing training throughout the year. Several districts have held both online and in-person training with over 150 completing the basic and advanced LSM courses. Two Conference Lay Servant Academy events were held this year: one hybrid and one in-person event. Over 180 laity participated in these Academy sessions. A highlight of the February 2022 event was an advanced course led by Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, Fresh Expressions United Methodist Strategist with Discipleship Ministries. Trained laity are critical in the life of our church, assisting pastors in leading worship, teaching Bible studies and Sunday School, leading small groups, offering congregational care, and leading mission teams.

In August 2022, Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz and Ms. Jenn Robinson-O'Brien began leading the Certified Lay Minister (CLM) training program specifically for laity of the Virginia Conference. The program requires successful completion of four training modules. The first cohort of 16 individuals seeking to become CLMs began Module One of the training in the fall and started Module Two in February. A second cohort of 14 individuals began Module One in March. It has been amazing to see the interest and power of this training which has included individuals from every district. Much appreciation and gratitude are given for the vision and leadership of Rev. Dr. Dietz and Ms. Robinson-O'Brien with the Virginia Conference CLM program. This will be a growing part of our lay ministry efforts as today there are over 50 laity filling pulpits as Lay Supply, serving as CLMs or CLMs in training. This movement takes us back to our Wesleyan roots.

As our denominational and conference UMC Scouting Leadership Teams continue to address how best to structure The UMC's relationship with scouting over the long term, it is important to share some of the positive impacts of Scouting Ministries over the last year. Scouting Coordinators and leaders from The UMC were asked by the Philmont Scout Ranch BSA (Boy Scouts of America) near Cimarron, New Mexico, to revitalize the outdoor chapels at the base location. Bill Chaffin, Conference Director of Scouting, was honored to assemble and lead that effort. Eighteen Scouters, three from Virginia, traveled to Philmont in September to update the two outdoor Protestant chapels. The next BSA National Jamboree will be held July 19-28 at Bechtel Summit near Beckley, West Virginia. This site was home to the last National Jamboree and the last World Jamboree (WSJ24). The UMC, including the Virginia Conference, will once again have a

strong presence there. This year, the Girl Scouts of the USA is celebrating its 100th anniversary relationship with The UMC. It was 1913 when the second Girl Scout troop was formed at Hyde Park Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. Today United Methodist churches across the United States partner with Girl Scouts to reach out to communities and young women. The UMC Scouting community continues to work at building and renewing relationships between our youth and the churches with which we have partnered. The 12th Point of the Scout Law is “A Scout is reverent.” The Girl Scout Promise states “I will try to serve God and my country.” The fundamental relationship to God remains steadfast.

On behalf of the Board of Laity, thank you for all that you do as authentic followers of Jesus Christ to continually grow in your faith, to make disciples, to multiply leaders and to transform the world.

– *Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader*

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

As of January 1st, the Virginia Conference United Women in Faith has successfully reorganized into the eight districts of the Virginia Conference. Our ladies are not only resilient but are committed and determined to follow their 154 years of legacy serving women, children, and youth.

Our women faced the renaming of our organization from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith in March 2022, a process which contained a mixture of both bitter-sweetness and forward-thinking. Then in June, the membership faced yet another challenge precipitated by the District Initiative. All in all, our ladies faced these two upsets by righting our ship and moving toward the light of Jesus Christ with faith, hope, and love.

Continuing to respect both the seriousness of the pandemic and recognizing that our mission to “seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities” encouraged the development of opportunities for our members to experience the Spiritual Life Retreat, the Pre-Annual Conference Brunch, Mission Encounter, the Young Women’s Retreat, and the 50th Annual Meeting. In addition, the quadrennial Assembly 2022 was held in May both by Zoom and in Orlando, Florida.

We are both dedicated and encouraged, decisive and enlightened to be a community of women, knowing God and experiencing freedom, developing creative and supportive fellowship, and expanding and witnessing mission. Thanks be to God; we are United Women in Faith.

–*Nancy Walsh, President*

### COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Members of the Commission On Disabilities (COD) committee continue 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 in the life of the local church and the VA Annual Conference with all persons regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions.

The Commission is comprised of Virginia Conference clergy and laity members who meet three times per calendar year. Included in our membership are representatives from the Camp Rainbow committee and the Heart Havens Advance Special Mission.

Annually, we provide 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. This year we approved multiple Accessibility grants for local churches to assist with improving their facility accessibility and related church programs.

We would like to thank all our clergy and laity for their continued support of the COD committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of the COD or have questions about the work that we do please feel to reach out to one of our members.

– *Claire B. Miller, Chair*

## THE COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY (CEMCA)

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) is called to advocate for the full and equal participation of all ethnic and racial constituents in the life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference, to be a voice to the church for their concerns, and to guide the Conference in its fight against all forms of evil including racism.

In our meetings and ongoing work, we represent and listen to the voices of African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native American Ministries. We continue to address our charge to voice the needs and concerns of ethnic clergy, laity, and local congregations, communicating them to the Conference and its leadership. We provide a forum for listening to ethnic minority concerns in our churches and our world, praying for guidance from the Holy Spirit to confront the sin of racism in the church, the nation, and the world.

We believe that the United Methodist Church in Virginia is uniquely positioned to catalyze consciousness and reconciliation, given its institutional resources and membership that crosses racial and cultural lines and includes grassroots and elites in its congregations. The Commission has prioritized improving our organization by creating steering and communications committees. We are meeting with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, providing a voice for racial and ethnic concerns at the Common Table and the Conference Nominating Committee, and trying to increase participation of and support for ethnic members.

We continue our Annual Conference monitoring efforts in collaboration with COSROW to ensure that all voices are represented. We are strategizing to discern the best way to listen, analyze, educate, and mobilize our local churches and congregants to complement larger cultural discussions of justice (e.g., heritage months and discourse around race) and listen to God's guidance. We are analyzing the results from a series of meetings with pastors to respond better to their concerns and support efforts to prepare pastors and congregations for cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments.

Native American Ministries Sunday is being highlighted this year as a model for how we might communicate more effectively with our local churches and provide resources and a forum for celebrating our diverse spiritual heritages.

Our constituent ministries have made significant contributions this year:

**African American Ministries:** The Virginia Chapter of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) and Bishop Sharma Lewis hosted the Southeastern Jurisdiction BMCR Annual meeting with the theme: A Woke Black Church: Reminiscent, Intergenerational, and Resilient. The various workshops, listening sessions, and worship encounters blessed over 200 Black Methodists from across the Southeast. Workshop topics included intergenerational ministry and leadership, Pan-Methodism, and Racial Healing. This year's HBCU highlight was Paine College from Augusta, Georgia, whose choir entertained us, and president, Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones inspired us.

**Asian-American Ministries:** The Asian American Minister's Association (AAMA) was full of renewed activity and energy with an annual banquet; a clergy family retreat with 104 attendees gathering for worship, prayer, workshops, games, fellowship, and meals; and an event for our clergy family youth. We had an information session for individuals pursuing ordination, and the executive team met monthly to pray, reflect, and plan. AAMA looks forward to supporting all Asian American clergy and families with resourcing and support to be more fruitful in our ministry and mission.

**Latino Ministries:** The new leadership team of the Latino Clergy Caucus has addressed isolation and disconnection caused by the pandemic, holding clergy-family retreats in the fall and spring with relaxation and training, and a monthly prayer time on Zoom. They have supported members in their education and training and are working to create a cohesive and connected group eager to take risks and dreams only possible with God.

**Native American Ministries:** hosted four virtual events and two in-person gatherings. These events were international in scope, focusing on boarding school memories. On the Tuscarora reservation, these efforts began a memorial to the children who died in boarding schools. Elders shared memories of boarding schools at all events.

In the past year, we have heard about disaffiliating, hurt communities, and disunity in the body. It is our prayer and our task that one day we may come together in unity and support all the least, last, and left behind..., a.k.a. minorities of any kind.

We look forward to serving our ethnic minority communities and educating ourselves and the broader conference about racial justice and diversity issues in the coming year.

– Eduardo Carrillo (Clergy) and Lester Kurtz (Laity), Co-Chairs



*The following reports are from agencies that were awarded  
Conference Benevolence Grants for 2022.*

### CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION

We are overjoyed to share that Camp Rainbow Connection will return this year to Richard Bland College in Petersburg, VA July 15-21, 2023. The staff and volunteers of CRC are dedicated to providing a wonderful and enriching summer program for each camper, along with a week of respite for families and caregivers. Campers participate in a variety of activities including Bible class, music, science, arts and crafts, games, dancing and special activities. Our mission is one of healing and acceptance towards all God's people. Because we are a ministry of the Virginia Conference of the UMC, participation of people of all backgrounds, ability levels, heritages and faiths is encouraged. Our theme this year is "Our God is Dino-Mighty!" and we can't wait to experience the love of God with each other while we're together.

*—Vicky Butler, CRC Core Leadership Team Chair & Stacy Roberts, Camp Coordinator*

### EMBRACE—A CENTER FOR COMMUNITY

**Life-changing returns on your investment:** That's the goal at Embrace — A Center for Community, where we measure growth in terms of transformative community impact, one neighbor and one family at a time. Through Embrace, your investment fuels growth that yields life-changing returns, now and for generations to come. Here are some of the innovative ways we are turning dollars and cents into Spirit-fueled relationships and common-sense solutions for long-term stability.

#### 2022 RESULTS

Embrace is a real-life example of the Parable of the Talents. During 2022, God worked through the Embrace community to multiply approximately \$45,000 in giving to more than \$450,000 in positive community impact. Here's what your investment yielded last year:

- ❖ 1 family business seeded
- ❖ 2 community health workers provided with office space
- ❖ 14 hours of certification-level mental health training provided
- ❖ 30 persons assisted with Driver's License applications
- ❖ 60 persons provided with free legal services for non-immigration cases
- ❖ 85 persons received free legal representation in immigration cases
- ❖ 225 adult visits to the community clothing closet
- ❖ 226 free medical clinic visits
- ❖ 243 student visits to Secret Boutique clothing closet
- ❖ 460 persons provided with economic assistance
- ❖ 480 student visits to the community garden
- ❖ 517 persons connected to wrap-around services
- ❖ 1,750 books distributed
- ❖ 1,805 family visits to glean food from the gardens
- ❖ 2,000 gallons of water saved through rain-capture



- ❖ 2,500+ hours of volunteer labor contributed
- ❖ 3,600+ pounds of produce shared
- ❖ 6,929 compassionate interactions with neighbors
- ❖ \$10,000 given in financial assistance
- ❖ 10,112 items of clothing gifted

### AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN AT GOD’S HOUSE

Located in a low- to moderate-income neighborhood in the heart of one of Waynesboro’s most active, socially diverse communities, Embrace is a holy resource dedicated for the equipping of God’s people and revelation of God’s Kingdom on earth. We view the Embrace campus as God’s house, complete with a big lawn and garden.

**Interior:** Our spaces are multi-functional, accommodating the changing needs of a vibrant family. The **sanctuary** is filled with tables and chairs and serves as **community gathering space** where all of God’s children are welcome to live, love, learn, eat, and worship — quite literally — around God’s table. A **food pharmacy and market** is being constructed in the space to nourish bodies as well as souls. Three **classrooms** house a **clothing ministry and hair salon**. A **conference room** is home for a **community partner** that serves our immigrant neighbors. A **laundry center** has been added to the **kitchen**, and a **prayer nook** added to the **pantry**. The hallway houses a small **cafe**, and a coat area is now a **coffee-and-conversation nook**. And the entire building hosts **weekly free medical clinics**.

**Exterior:** A 2.5-acre yard has become a **neighborhood park and urban agrihood**. Our **Community Garden** provides 3,600+ pounds of food for hungry neighbors, while our **prayer labyrinth** is a place of peace. A **natural park and therapy garden** is currently being installed by local college students, and a local agricultural non-profit is expanding their pumpkin patch into a full-scale **urban farm**.

**Shared Commitment:** Embrace brings neighbors and more than 30 community partners together to share hope, including: Allegheny Mountain Institute, Augusta County Schools, Augusta Health, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, City of Waynesboro, Futuro Latino, Head Start, Office on Youth, Promotores de Salud, Sin Barreras, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Tech, Valley Community Services Board, Waynesboro City Public Schools, and dozens of churches and businesses.

### Mission Outpost, Mission Laboratory & Incubator

As the Valley Ridge District’s Mission Outpost, Embrace is a place where new models of ministry and worship are cultivated, a community cared for and strengthened, and the greater church comes to try new things, learn new lessons, and be re-invigorated. At Embrace, **the church explores new ways of being** in relationship with each other as the body of Christ and being in relationship as that body with our neighbors and our world. Through service to our neighbors, hands-on learning opportunities, and publication of our discoveries, we are committed to sharing what we learn with the church. As we explore and embrace a life of learning and service together, we are **equipped to be disciple-makers as we work alongside Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**.

—Jenelle Watson, Director

## GRACEINSIDE

On January 17, 2023, GraceInside celebrated 103 years of missional ministry to incarcerated men and women in Virginia’s state correctional facilities. Our ministry was originally founded in 1920 by seven Protestant Christian denominations – including Methodists – in order to assign Chaplains to the state prisons (something that can’t be provided or compensated with taxpayer monies per Virginia’s state constitution). GraceInside Chaplains are ambassadors for Jesus Christ, helping to change hearts and to bring new life and hope to the all too often forgotten “least of these” through God’s amazing grace. For over a century these committed and passionate Servants of God have preached, led worship services, taught the Bible, disciplined believers in the “Inside Church”, baptized, served Holy Communion, provided pastoral and crisis care/counseling, recruited/trained/coordinated religious volunteers, etc.

Our Chaplains also serve as the Religious/Faith-Based Program Coordinators/Department Heads at the correctional facilities where they are assigned. In this role, they minister to the spiritual needs and advocate for the religious and human rights of inmates of all faiths and ensure equal meeting time/space/materials and volunteers for all faith groups. GraceInside currently has 33 Chaplains, serving at all 42 Virginia state correctional facilities, ministering to nearly 24,000 inmates. Our ministry simply wouldn't have survived and wouldn't have continued to exist had it not been for the committed, generous and unfailing financial support of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church (which to this day remains our top denominational/judiciary funding body).

We praise God for providing new ways for our Chaplains to reach out to and to minister to the state's incarcerated men and women during the COVID-19 pandemic, even during its height, when all programs were temporarily suspended and our Chaplains and religious volunteers couldn't enter the prisons. Bags of paper mail went back and forth between the Chaplains and inmates twice a week – transferred right at the front gates of the prisons. Our Chaplains for the first time ever were able to email each and every inmate at their assigned facilities in order to accept prayer requests and to provide counsel and encouragement. Inmates that experienced illnesses/deaths in their families were allowed by the Wardens to have crisis phone calls with their Chaplains on special lines and in private spaces. A newly expanded closed circuit TV system was installed in all of the prisons on which to show religious programs and services on DVD.

We are happy to report that during 2022-2023 our Chaplains physically returned to the prisons, and religious services and programs gradually began again. Hundreds of faithful religious volunteers also returned to help minister to the inmates. Truly, prison ministry in Virginia's state prisons "began anew" – and Virginia Conference United Methodists were at the forefront in making this happen (unfailing in your prayers, financial support of our Chaplains and now again in stepping up to volunteer again in this unique mission field). Hallelujah! With your help and support, GraceInside was able to send a small group of Chaplains to the Annual Meeting of the Correctional Ministries & Chaplains Association (CMCA) in March 2022 in New Orleans, LA, where they were able to learn from and network with state Chaplains and representatives from national ministries like Kairos and Prison Fellowship. Then came an event that we had all longed for over the previous three years. In November 2022, all 33 Chaplains came together once again for our Annual Fall Training Retreat at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond to reset, renew and refresh. These three special days allowed the Chaplains to reconnect with one another, to fellowship, to worship, to pray together, and to receive excellent training to renew their knowledge and skills post-pandemic. What a blessing!

Truly our spiritual "tanks" have been "refilled" by the Holy Spirit, and with your faithful prayers, financial support and volunteerism we are ready to move forward with our unique ministry. Many thanks to each and every one of you – our Virginia Conference United Methodist Brothers and Sisters – for allowing us to be your missionaries in Virginia's state prisons!

*– J. Randy Myers, President*

## SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Over the last 44 years, the Virginia Conference has been an important 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 2022, 299 Virginia congregations provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. 24 congregations and more than 1,450 Virginia United Methodists took part in "crop drops" or field gleaning.

Through the Virginia Gleaning Network, the Potato & Produce Project, 217 feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, emergency food assistance programs, food pantries, and large food banks) across the state received more than 4.1 million pounds of nourishing food to share with their clients—providing more than 16.4 million servings of health and hope to our hungry brothers and sisters. The Seed Project (a "hand up" endeavor that provides seed potatoes and vegetable seeds to poor, land-owning Appalachian families) shared an additional 3.3 million servings of good food with hungry Virginians. All this is work made possible because you care.

Nationwide, 20.7 million pounds of food (82.8 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2022

through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 854 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 17,550+ individuals. The Board of Directors is actively working to build the capacity in both funding and partnerships with farmers and feeding agencies to expand SoSA's work into new areas over the next few years. United Methodist congregations across the United States will be integral to SoSA's growth, and the Virginia Conference has paved the way for relationships that now extend across the continent.

We're grateful for all the Virginia Conference congregations that join with the Society of St. Andrew through its spiritual life programs, including seasonal devotional materials, Vacation Bible School curriculum, and Bible studies. In 2022, 16 Virginia congregations participated in SoSA's "Abundance Orchard" VBS; 270 congregations used SoSA's Advent devotional resources, and 252 congregations utilized SoSA's Lenten devotions or Good Friday Fast programs. We look forward to bringing back SoSA's longstanding Harvest of Hope mission workcamp program in 2023, including events on at Camp Occohannock on the Bay.

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."

### **Action Item for Annual Conference**

The Society of St. Andrew submits the following names for Conference Election as members of the Society of St. Andrew's Board of Directors, Class of 2026:

**Andrew Dillon**

**Lillie Wiggins**

**Jeff Holland**

*– Lynette Johnson, Executive Director*



## **THE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TEAM**

Steven J. Summers, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Martha E. Stokes, *Conference Lay Leader*

### **Monitors:**

Vacant, *Commission on Disabilities*

Lauren Wright and Jenny Day, *COSROW*

Lester Kurtz and Eduardo Carrillo, *CEMCA*

### **District Representatives:**

Coastal Virginia – Vacant

Living Waters – Kenneth Thrasher

Mission Rivers – Angie Hoen

Mountain View – Vacant

Northern Virginia – Ki Lee

Shenandoah River – Jill Ryan

Three Notch'd – Scotty Doyle

Valley Ridge – Jonathan Greer

## Nominations

### Board of Church and Society

Re-Elect

Maria Baber, *Lay*  
Marilyn Blagg, *Lay*  
Shayne Estes, *Clergy*  
Archana Samuel, *Clergy*

Nominated

Jaydee Hanson, *Clergy*

### Church Development Team

Re-Elect

Amanda Garber, *Clergy*

### Board of Discipleship

Re-Elect

Kevin Mooers, *Lay*

Nominated

John Conway, *Clergy*

### Older Adult Council

Re-Elect

Suzanne Spencer, *Lay*

### Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Re-Elect

Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, *Clergy*  
Sarah Payne, *Clergy*  
Robert Gates, *Lay*

### Missional Ministries Board

Re-Elect

Mihrang Baek, *Clergy*  
Seung Hae Yoo-Hess, *Clergy*  
Jon Woodburn, *Clergy*  
Reba Miller, *Lay*  
Albert Weal, *Lay*

Nominated

Dick Arnold, *Lay*

### Conference Board of Communications

Re-Elect

Doug Paysour, *Clergy*

## REPORTS

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Nominated

Claire Miller, *Clergy*

**Commission on Disabilities**

Re-Elect

Young Sung Ryu, *Clergy*

Gary Ayres, *Lay*

Martha Daggy, *Lay*

**Commission on Equitable Compensation**

Re-Elect

Brad Philips, *Clergy*

Paula Totten, *Lay*

**Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy**

Re-Elect

Steve Snodgrass, *Clergy*

James Klagge, *Lay*

Josefa Wall, *Lay*

**Council on Finance and Administration**

Re-Elect

Elizabeth Foss, *Clergy*

Cindy Martin, *Lay*

Nominated

Mark Ogren, *Clergy*

**Commission on the Status and Role of Women**

Re-Elect

Lauren Wright, *Clergy*

Deb Washer, *Clergy*

**Conference Trustees**

Re-Elect

Jim O'Quinn, *Clergy*

Karen Elmore, *Lay*

**Society of St. Andrew**

Nominated

Andrew Dillon

Lillie Wiggins

Jeff Holland

## BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Like churches coming out of the pandemic, the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is envisioning what our credentialing process should look like in our rapidly changing world. In July of 2022, members of VA BOM participated in a Mastermind Cohort with 3 other Conference's to evaluate current interview processes and requirements while dreaming of new ways to meet the ministerial needs of the local church, our communities, and the conference. We also explored ways to grow the cultural competency of the BOM, dcom's and the Annual Conference. At our 3 full board meetings, BOM members brainstormed new structures and processes for the 8 District Committees of Ordained Ministry, what tracks are needed for credentialing across callings of ministry in the local church and beyond, as well as developed a Day of Discernment Retreat for approved candidates in the provisional and associate membership process. We look forward to fleshing out these dreams and new processes for the 2024 – 2028 quadrennium.

The Provisional Membership Team coordinated mentor covenant groups for provisional elders/deacons and hosted 2 provisional residency events at Roslyn Retreat Center. The July 2022 event was on “Proclaiming the Good News” with Rev. Drew Colby and the May 2023 event was on “Trauma Informed Ministry” led by Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wanger. The Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Team developed a training for clergy, churches, boards or agencies to grow their cultural competency and prepare for cross racial appointments. The Spiritual Formation Team held 3 different Soul Care retreats for the rest, renewal, and revitalization of our clergy and continues to lead Simple Presence - 20 minutes of prayer via zoom every weekday at 6 am where clergy and laity across the conference gather for scripture and pray for the conference, clergy, laity and candidates for ministry. The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Ministers met for the first time since the pandemic and developed plans for a retreat and continuing support. There are Gatherings planned for extension ministers, campus ministers, ordinands, and dCOMs just to name a few.

In November 2022, the Center for Clergy Excellence welcomed Rev. Lyn Harding as the full time Administrative Coordinator. We are grateful for the difference she has already made in our work. We continue in gratitude for the ministry of Rev. Jessie Colwell, Director and Rev. Crystal Sygeel, Associate Director of Call and Candidacy. I continue to be awed by and grateful for the laity and clergy of BOM who continually give of themselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

– 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 Conference COE will meet with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson at least two or three times a year to engage in conversation around this process and 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.

At the time of this writing we the Virginia Annual Conference have just welcomed, January 1, 2023, our new bishop Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson assigned to Virginia November 2022 at the Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting in Lake Junaluska, N.C. We are looking forward to her ministry with us. Our committee has met with Bishop Sue to introduce ourselves and we all look forward to getting to know her better.

– Warren R. Harper, Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly scheduled meetings in September 2022 and March of 2023. In addition, Special Called Meetings were held to address proposed requests from churches to exit the domination under *Book of Discipline* defined procedures.

The Board continues to address and process requests for disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553 of the 2016 *Book of Disci-*

pline as amended in 2019. In addition to the two Special Annual Conferences that have been held to vote on these disaffiliations, we continue to process churches for the next two Special Annual Conference which will be held on May 6, 2023 and October 7, 2023. Paragraph 2553 sunsets as of 12/31/23 and the Board will await new legislation from the General Conference when it meets in 2024.

The Board is directly supported in our work by the Williams Mullen Law Firm, which provides expert legal services and counsel to the Board of Trustees in regards to church disaffiliations as well as other Board of Trustee and Annual Conference matters. We are especially grateful for the work of Andrew White and Charles Alvis of Williams Mullen who have provided invaluable counsel and services to the Board.

The Board continues its ongoing management of the Episcopal residence jointly with the Episcopal Residence Committee as well as the management of the Conference Center.

The current slate of officers for the Conference Board of Trustees is Kathy Lutman, President; Gene Cross, Vice President; Clyde Nelson, Secretary; David Dommissiee, Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees mourns the loss of our long-time member and past President Carl Moravitz. Carl loved baseball, especially the Nat's and Celine Dion but mostly he loved his family, the United Methodist Church, and the Lord. He served all 3 exceptionally well even amid great personal loss and physical illness. While we will miss Carl's humor, intelligence, and kindness we rejoice that he has claimed the promise of resurrection and has been reunited with his beloved daughter Carla.

– Kathy Lutman, President

## UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

### Ferrum College

Ferrum College is a private, Methodist Church-affiliated, liberal arts college serving a student body of more than 800. We are a dynamic learning community where students enter with promise and leave with purpose. The College lives out its traditional ideals of serving “Not Self, But Others” by providing outstanding educational opportunities to our diverse student body (63% of our students are Pell grant eligible, 99% receive tuition assistance; 25% of our students are the first in their families to pursue higher education.)

The College's primary accomplishments include having the second oldest environmental science program in the U.S., being the only private liberal arts college in Virginia to offer a degree in agriculture, and ongoing close ties to our community through service-oriented projects that add valuable experience to our students' educations, such as the water quality project at Smith Mountain Lake, which monitors the levels of bacteria, algae, and pollutants during the lake's peak use season to ensure public health and safety.

In 2022, the College began a significant expansion of its student support services to increase equity in education outcomes and increase student retention. Persistence to graduation was also addressed, assisted by a grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. The grant will fund several initiatives including new and expanded programming to help students make the transition to college life. Special emphasis is being placed on first year and first-generation college students to intervene with early academic alerts, consistent advising, financial literacy instruction, and a student opportunity fund to help students experiencing sudden financial hardship to cover emergency costs.

To better meet students' emotional and mental health needs, federal funding was secured to empower the Office of Student Life and Engagement. Additional mental health staffing, centralizing of services, and increased wellness activities were provided to assist students. The funding was obtained through an Office of Postsecondary Education federal grant and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III - Supplemental Support under the American Rescue Plan for education stabilization.

The College continued its growth with two new graduate degree programs: a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Athletic

Coaching. Both programs are 100% online and can be completed in one year. The College boasts a 100% placement rate for its Teacher Education graduates, and athletics continues to be an integral part of the Ferrum College experience dating back to its time as a junior college.

Underscoring the strength of the College's Teacher Education program, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) granted accreditation to the program with no stipulations or areas for improvement through 2029. CAEP accreditation assures future teacher education majors at Ferrum College they will graduate prepared to teach effectively. After students complete their program, they receive a license or certificate for the state where they choose to teach.

The most significant changes over the past year have been personnel changes, including the departure of our former President, Dr. David L. Johns, who resigned from his position in November.

The College's Board of Trustees acted quickly to find an interim president, and selected Dr. Mirta Martin, who began her duties in advance of the Spring 2023 semester. Dr. Martin comes to Ferrum College from Fairmont University and has an extensive background in higher education. She is the College's second female president and is its first Latina president.

Lisa Bowling was named vice president of Institutional Advancement. Former Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Jason Powell has been promoted to assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. In addition, Dr. Martha Haley-Bowling has been promoted to dean of Graduate and Professional studies, and Dr. Tim Daniels has been promoted to dean of Undergraduate Studies.

In the short term, Dr. Martin will move strategically to leverage her professional network and build new connections to promote Ferrum College, strengthen programs, and attract and serve students who will benefit from the College's student-centered approach and array of academic supports.

With new leadership comes the need for some revisions to the College's Strategic Plan, and adjustments to the College's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan will be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval and adoption.

*–Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D., President.*

## Randolph-Macon Academy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I wrote to you last year, none of us could have known how much more challenging the second year of the Pandemic would be. R-MA has met that challenge in ways that humble and inspire me. We have operated safely on-campus and in-person continuously since August of 2020 and our students' determination to pursue their education has been as impressive as at any point in the Academy's 130-year history. Our enrollment this year included the largest increase in new students since 2003.

Highlights of the year include our re-accreditation by The Falcon Foundation and by the Virginia Association of Independent schools, our re-entry into varsity sports, and changes in our state rankings, as released by Niche.com:

- ❖ #4 in the *Most Diverse Private High Schools in Virginia* category (up from #5 last year)
- ❖ #6 in the *Best Boarding High Schools in Virginia* category (down from #4 last year)
- ❖ #10 in the *Best Private High Schools in Virginia* category (up from #13 last year)

Our Unmanned Systems Lab earned a \$307,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration and we conducted our first-ever President's Weekend on Kiawah Island, SC, to better inform long-time donors and friends of the Academy about the work we are doing to prepare our students for lives of meaning and success. Examples of that program can be seen here:

*Power of Rise:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDl4puLJJu8>

*Rise Above:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCvttAa686o>

Our Chapel services and programs continue to be an important part of the way we prepare our students for life after high school and we are grateful to the Conference for providing temporary Chaplain and teaching support while we searched for a new Chaplain. We are excited to welcome Rev. Monica Reynolds when she arrives to take that post this summer.

In closing, I would say that Virginia's Methodist High School continues to do what she was created to do: prepare young people to make a difference in an indifferent world and we thank the Bishop for supporting that important work.

God bless you and God bless America.

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



## Randolph-Macon College

Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon College is a co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia. 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. The school maintains a student-faculty ratio of just over 10 to 1 and average class size of 16 students. RMC has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

The College is now in our 193rd year, and we welcomed a class of 421 freshmen this year. RMC experienced significant growth in our student body in recent years and is more diverse than at any point in our history. The 2022-23 academic year opened with 1491 students from 26 states (including the District of Columbia) and 25 other 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 academic 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. This year, we were ranked 19th in the nation for the percentage of our alumni who make a gift of any size to the College. The generosity of our alumni has allowed us to continue improving and expanding the campus. This winter, we opened Duke Hall, our 18th significant new building or renovation in 15 years. This magnificent 3-story building is home to our Master in Physician Assistant Studies program, which is the College’s first graduate program. We welcomed our first cohort of 24 students in January in the new space. Duke Hall is also the location of three large classrooms, as well as new locker rooms, offices and meeting spaces for our successful athletics teams.

Last March, the Randolph-Macon men’s basketball team brought home the College’s first-ever national championship in NCAA Division III athletics, displaying integrity, good sportsmanship and grit during a remarkable season, that both celebrated and honored our RMC Community.

R-MC has been educating Christian clergy throughout its history. We currently have 267 alumni active in or retired from full time Christian ministry. Two-thirds of these clergy alumni are United Methodist. We are proud of our pre-ministerial program that includes our Bailey Scholars. Our 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. The Bailey Scholars are joined by a cohort of other students also pursuing a vocation in ministry.

We continue to host our summer camp: Convergence: A Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science. We also are excited that Pathways to Science (an opportunity for rising sophomore Hispanic girls to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities) continues to be a significant program in our summer schedule. We are partnering with the Fox Foundation to support and host an annual Va UMC lecture on faith and science themes, and RMC continues to partner with Duncan Memorial UMC to host the annual Ira Andrews Lecture, which is open to the public. We are honored to be home to a significant part of the Va UMC Conference Archives in our library and invite interested parties to visit the Archives and discover many amazing historical pieces.

Much of this intentional programming is under the leadership of the College’s outstanding chaplain, Rev. Kendra Grimes. Rev. Grimes serves the entire campus, providing sensitive pastoral care to our faculty, staff and students, taking students to lead worship at Cedarfield Retirement Community in Richmond and to serve at Westview on the James. Rev. Grimes remains active in the Conference and serves as a member of the VA UMC Missional Ministries Board, Mission Encounter planning team, and the Conference Historical Society. And her good work is supported by our annual apportionment from the Conference – for which we are profoundly grateful. It is money well-used.

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

– Robert Lindgren, President

### RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

This is an exciting year as the Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) celebrates 90 years of service to retired clergy and their families who qualify. To have such a strong history is a testimony of a great mission and ministry!

RCHC has upgraded appliances and HVAC units in several residences this year. Hailstorms damaged two roofs which were replaced.

As an older adult ministry, transitions occurred throughout the year. A few residents required more support than they could receive at home and entered senior living communities that could accommodate their needs. Others had serious illnesses and have recovered. One of our residents, Rev. Bob Justis, received his heavenly reward. We are thankful RCHC was available to support him for several years and can continue to support his wife, Carol.

Even though the rent residents pay is the primary source of income, it does not cover the total cost of this ministry. Donations to the Covenant of Gratitude help offset basic operations and unexpected repairs. I invite you to support retired clergy and their families who have given a significant part of their lives to the local churches and now reside in RCHC housing. The Covenant of Gratitude requests a commitment of a \$1 minimum per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference session. With the ever-increasing cost of providing support, please consider a gift to \$5 or even \$10 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference. Your ongoing support is important to meeting the needs of those we serve.

I 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.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you in advance for any assistance you give. All of the hard work is so worthwhile when you hear a resident say, "Thank you for all your support! I just don't know what I would do without RCHC!" Our clergy and their families have given themselves to the service of God and what an honor to now help support them with housing.

*—Dr. Michael Houff, RCHC Board of Directors, Chair*

### PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

The Preachers' Relief Society has been a ministry to the clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference since 1870. The sole purpose is to assist clergy families who are facing emergency financial needs.

If in need, clergy, retired and active, their widows and widowers should apply for help through their district superintendent. The superintendent will forward the request to the Society with a recommendation as to how large a grant should be awarded. Each request is responded to immediately in what the Society believes is appropriate after it has carefully evaluated the crisis and also considered the financial resources of the Society. All grants given are confidential. The recipients, of course, are free to disclose whatever they wish.

The Society welcomes contributions. In recent years these have been small in number. Fortunately, the Society's ability to provide grants has been sustained by the returns on its investments. The Mercadante Riggan Wealth Management Group of Davenport and Company currently serves as the Society's investment advisors. Those wishing to contribute to this ministry may contact our treasurer, Katherine Kidwell at [kbkidwell@msn.com](mailto:kbkidwell@msn.com).

The current directors of the Society are: Robert F. Cofield, Jr., president; Edward D. Lilly, vice-president; Clark D. Cundiff, secretary; Katherine Kidwell, treasurer; Esther Agbosu; Robert N. Baker, III; James R. Bergdoll, James S. Mathews; and Elizabeth W. Taylor.

*—Robert F. Cofield Jr., President*

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church continues to be characterized by strong foundations and committees whose individual reports are included below. Postponed by a hurricane, the Fall Meeting of the Trustees occurred on November 5 in Williams-burg, where David Rochford introduced us to Joseph Pilmore.

The Spring meeting took place on February 25 at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen, where a historic bench was dedicated in memory of Cathy Morgan. For the program, Ben Campbell spoke on the scourge of slavery in Antebellum Richmond. The 2023 Fall Meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for October 7.

– Mike Browder, President

### Virginia United Methodist HERITAGE

Virginia United Methodist *HERITAGE*, the bi-annual scholarly journal of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, was first published in 1973. The ideal of the publication is to inform readers of the rich heritage of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Fall 2022 issue featured *Edward Dromgoole, Sr.: A Virginia Methodist's Attempts to Follow John Wesley's Anti-slavery Ethic*, written by Arthur Dicken Thomas, Ph.D. His article included a portrait of Edward Dromgoole, commissioned by the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, and painted by Emma Lou Marchant Martin. The painting was “produced as an approximate artistic likeness” of Dromgoole, based on portraits of his son and other family members.

Our Spring 2023 issue presents *John Kobler: The Lone Itinerant*, by Omer Kelly Blosser; *Lay Speaker Ministry: A United Methodist Tradition*, by Tom Gatewood; and a new feature: *Saddlebags*, envisioned by publications committee member, Mark Leep. *Saddlebags* delivers anecdotes about the day-to-day lives of the circuit riders of Virginia Conference history.

The Rev. Linda Crabbs and the Rev. Barbara Lewis are performing an audit of the production costs of *HERITAGE*, to determine if the journal is priced correctly. The current rate will remain in effect for the Spring 2023 issue, with any rate changes beginning with fall subscriptions.

The Spring 2023 issue of *HERITAGE* will be mailed in early May. The publications committee has had a great response to advertising *HERITAGE* on ClergyNet and LaityNet and will continue to use those assets to improve our number of subscriptions

–Myra Lindsey, Editor

### Archives Committee

The Archivist continues to be extremely busy: During the past year, she has been working on various requests from the Virginia Conference Historical Society (VCHS) Book Committee members and others for research; developing records guidance for disaffiliating and closing churches; arranging and filing incoming records and donations; and addressing issues such as arrangement and consolidation of the current collection.

In addition to these regular activities, she has also created an inventory of audiovisual items contained in the collection; developed an oversized item collection and is researching appropriate storage options for its long-term protection; made significant additions to the closed church database originally requested by Bishop Lewis; and begun updating shelf listings to provide retrieval information for recently reorganized records.

The Committee approved the purchase of a scanner to replace the current outdated equipment in order to expedite scanning documents to provide customers with more complete online access to the collections.

In the spring of 2022, the Archives Committee submitted a request to the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) for support for an increase in the Archives operating hours. This request was made because Stephanie Davis was receiving numerous requests for assistance that required research in addition to her overall responsibilities and required her to work more than her then her allocated 15 hours.

The Committee was informed that, in June, the CFA approved \$2,000 in 2022 and \$4,000 in 2023 for Archival support. Since notice of this financial support was not received by the Committee until October, there was insufficient time to use the entire \$2,000 by the end of the year and it was rolled over for use in 2023. As a result, the Archives operating hours have been increased to 18 hours per week, which allows more time to respond to requests and perform more tasks. Additionally, the Archives has established regular operating hours of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

At the VCSH February 23 meeting, a bench received from the World Methodist Museum last year and previously used in the Old Stone Church was dedicated to the memory of Cathy Morgan who had been an important leader in the Archives work of the Virginia Conference.

After reviewing the Archivist's work, the Committee feels very strongly that an hourly wage of \$20, that has never been increased to date, is inadequate for the job of Archivist and has submitted justifications for a wage increase to be included in the Conference's 2024 budget to the CFA.

The Committee discussed the possibility of an intern to assist in the Archives. However, training and supervising an intern would consume too much of time of the Archivist's allotted hours. The Committee has also been working closely with the Archivist on guidance for disaffiliating churches. Guidelines to Districts for the handling of records from such churches has been written and a schedule for the disposition of the records is being developed.

A distribution of \$16,000 in accrued interest from the Patti Russell Endowment Fund was transferred to the Archives budget line in December. The Committee will be working together with the Archivist to determine how best to use these funds. Possible uses include digitizing materials and making them available electronically, purchasing large items needed for archival materials including a cabinet for oversized items, and additional file cabinet storage space.

Archival storage space continues to be an issue and the Committee has been discussing ways to increase space or obtaining additional storage space.

*–Nina Frederick, Chair*

### History Update Committee

The History Update Committee, formed in 2021, continues its work to update the history of the Virginia United Methodist Conference. The previous history of Virginia Methodism was published in 1955 by William Warren Sweet. The present aim is to explore the various movements and trends of the Virginia Conference over much of the 20th century, drawing from various archives, such as The Virginia Advocate, and interviews with people who have memories. A number of writers from the committee and other contributors are currently developing outlines and drafts of their respective chapters on selected topics. The project is expected to take several years in order to allow for adequate care and deliberation. We anticipate that current and emerging issues will also be given careful attention. The resulting product will most likely be digital with abbreviated print copies.

The History Update Committee consists of some 15 people. The Historical Society and its Update Committee welcomes interest and participation of others in this project as we continue our work.

*–Jim Athearn, Chair*

### The Old Brunswick Foundation

- 1) TOBCF **continued the implementation of the \$209,605 ESHPF grant** received in 2021 from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) in partnership with the National Park Services (NPS) to:
  - a) Work through three revisions of a **proposal from architectural firm Glave & Holmes** and signed the final proposal on March 6, 2023. As a result of this proposal Glave & Holmes will write the Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure a general contractor for the stabilization work needed on the foundation and chimneys of the Dromgoole house, provide engineering calculations and specifications as well as contract and construction administration services. TOBCF has approved spending \$30,872 from its treasury funds (outside of the grant funds) for these services.
  - b) As recommended by Glave & Holmes, TOBCF developed and provided them with a **detailed description of the drainage system that had been installed around the Dromgoole house**. Glave and Holmes added this information as an addendum to the previously submitted version of the Dromgoole Historic Structure Report. The revised version of this report is now posted as a research and construction reference on TOBCF's webpages at:

<https://doc.vaumc.org/HistoricalSociety/DromgooleHsHSR2023Mar13.pdf>

- c) VDHR **secured a contract** under this grant **to** have the consulting firm, Environmental Research Group, (ERG) **complete a National Register of Historic Place nomination to have our Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site designated as a Historic District.** TOBCF participated in the start-up meeting, three days of on-site fieldwork and met with ERG to provide them with pertinent historical information about the site.
  - d) While requests made by the VDHR to NPS to increase the grant award amounts due to Covid supply chain issues were denied, the period of performance was extended to March 2024.
- 2) **TOBCF continued the work on the foundation of the Helensha Cottage** located on the Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site. Having raised the building off its original foundation, poured new concrete footings, built a new cinder block foundation and piers and replaced some deteriorated under-beams, the house was lowered back onto its new foundation which was then veneered in brick that had been saved for that purpose from another local historic construction. To repair the chimneys, **one cube of additional matching custom-made brick was located, purchased and transported** from Salisbury, NC at a cost of about \$1500. Because a special lime mortar must be used when working with old brick, repairs to the chimney have been delayed until after the temperature remains above 40 degrees.
  - 3) **TOBCF commissioned the painting of a conceptual portrait of Edward Dromgoole Sr.** The portrait was painted and framed for \$700. Arrangements have been made to temporarily house and display the portrait at St. Paul's College Museum with long-range plans to hang it in the Dromgoole House when the preservation of that building is completed.
  - 4) **TOBCF'S outreach, publicity and education activities** included:
    - a) Setting up a display about our historical sites at the 2022 Virginia Annual Conference
    - b) Touring and meeting with the leadership at the Wake Forest Museum in Wake Forest NC to get pointers on management of historical site from a museum that has a similar history as our Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site
    - c) Board Member, Dr. Art Thomas. researching and giving a presentation about the Slaves of Edward Dromgoole at the meeting of the William Waters Foundation
    - d) Submitting two articles for publication in the Fall 2022 issue of the *Heritage* bulletin
    - e) Writing and distributing TOBCF's *2022 Annual e-Newsletter* now posted on our webpages at:  
<https://doc.vaumc.org/HistoricalSociety/2022Newsletter.pdf>
  - 5) **TOBCF's Future Directions and Plans**
    - a) Vice President Marc Thompson along with other committed Board Members are developing a Strategic 5 year Plan for all the activities and sites of the OBCF.

—James (Jim) Mott, President

### The William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation oversees the preservation and interpretation of the gravesite of William Watters, the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher. Watters was officially appointed to his first circuit at the first Methodist Conference in America, held in Philadelphia in 1773. The William Watters Gravesite, United Methodist Historic Site No. 7, is in McLean, Va.

The William Watters Foundation held its annual meeting via Zoom on September 3, 2022. Arthur Dicken Thomas, Jr., Ph.D. was the guest speaker, whose topic was Edward Dromgoole, Sr.: A Virginia Methodist's Attempts to Follow Wesley's Anti-Slavery Ethic. His discussion was featured in the Virginia United Methodist HERITAGE Fall 2022 issue. The board also recognized E. Jean Balcom for her many years of loyal service to the William Watters Foundation, particularly for her leadership as foundation president, 2006-2018.

The foundation approved its board of directors at the annual meeting, including one new board member: William Stead. The Virginia Conference Historical Society confirmed the directors at its fall 2022 meeting. The foundation elected

officers at the November 7 board meeting, held via Zoom.

We continue to care for the gravesite. In doing so, six valuable volunteers provided lawn care this past year: Jon Vrana, Brenda Royden, Pastor Rudy Tucker, Lyle Minter, David Meyer and Myra Lindsey.

*—Myra P. Lindsey, President*

### **The Old Stone Church Foundation**

After two years of dealing with COVID, the Old Stone Church Foundation was able to have in-person meetings in 2022, including our Annual Meeting. Dr. Michael Browder Jr. served as Keynote Speaker, presenting on Wesleyan Theology. Additionally, William “Bill” Harrison was elected President of the Foundation. New board members were also selected to ensure a continued presence for the Foundation.

The property continues to be well maintained and serves as a welcoming site for any and all who wish to visit. The board discussed other ways to honor the sight, and we still have plans for future expansions of our prayer walk. Individuals can purchase bricks to recognize loved ones, living and deceased. We hope that everyone will take an interest in the Foundation and join us as members, preserving this historic site for generations to come. We invite you all to take the time to visit our site anytime you find yourself in the area.

*—Ralph Carver, Vice President for Bill Harrison*

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

**Report of the Conference Statistician  
2022**

	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
Coastal Virginia	34,122	221	20	16	108	167	368	33,736	-386	-1.1%	12,620	150
Living Waters	27,326	141	24	42	537	191	363	26,442	-884	-3.2%	9,251	82
Mission Rivers	41,472	269	-37	17	662	118	420	40,521	-951	-2.3%	11,733	157
Mountain View	24,120	135	1	21	315	927	355	22,680	-1,440	-6.0%	10,298	72
Northern Virginia	62,509	528	-101	10	402	79	321	62,144	-365	-0.6%	19,546	312
Shenandoah River	33,239	141	27	-18	730	329	401	31,929	-1,310	-3.9%	10,048	114
Three Notch'd	50,032	367	-307	-17	353	53	461	49,208	-824	-1.6%	12,246	193
Valley Ridge	30,305	148	-310	-25	278	287	397	29,156	-1,149	-3.8%	9,497	77
Totals for 2022	303,125	1,950	-683	46	3,385	2,151	3,086	295,816	-7,309	-2.4%	95,239	1,157

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT  
Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2022  
Virginia Conference

<b>Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>Receipts 12/31/2022</b>	<b>Receipts 12/31/2021</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>Pct. Pd 2022</b>	<b>Pct. Pd 2021</b>
<b>Conference Apportionments</b>					
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	2,231,365	2,158,889	72,477	83.57%	86.01%
402 Conference Services	1,573,380	1,554,366	19,014	83.29%	84.94%
403 District Superintendents	1,148,041	1,516,927	(368,886)	85.55%	83.35%
404 Equitable Compensation	166,748	157,791	8,958	83.37%	78.90%
405 Church Extension & Development	722,726	689,135	33,591	80.30%	76.57%
406 Virginia Education Fund	269,084	242,752	26,331	80.08%	57.80%
Subtotal	6,111,345	6,319,860	(208,515)	83.29%	82.29%
<b>Clergy Benefit Apportionments</b>					
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,667,325	8,417,464	249,862	86.67%	86.69%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,134,462	5,241,751	(107,290)	85.57%	86.50%
Subtotal	13,801,787	13,659,215	142,572	86.26%	86.62%
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>					
410 Episcopal	696,795	636,664	60,131	80.55%	73.60%
411 World Service	1,699,219	1,046,197	653,022	79.03%	48.66%
412 General & Interdenominational Fund	252,465	150,567	101,898	77.68%	46.33%
413 Ministerial Education	521,054	411,828	109,226	77.19%	61.01%
414 Black College	245,088	182,081	63,007	77.81%	57.80%
415 Africa University	70,254	44,673	25,581	100.36%	63.82%
Subtotal	3,484,874	2,472,010	1,012,865	79.20%	56.18%
<b>Total Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>23,398,006</b>	<b>22,451,085</b>	<b>946,922</b>	<b>84.36%</b>	<b>80.61%</b>
<b>Other Apportionments</b>					
1799 Optional General Church	401,535		401,535	28.18%	0.00%
<b>Total Other Funds</b>	<b>401,535</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>401,535</b>	<b>28.18%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Non-Apportionment Receipts</b>					
<b>Advance Specials</b>				<b>Year</b>	<b>Year End</b>
				2022	84.36%
GBGM	1,248,704	757,955	490,748	2021	80.61%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	174,341	84,200	90,141	2020	74.28%
				2019	84.39%
<b>Special Days</b>				2018	88.13%
Human Relations	3,896	4,338	(441)	2017	89.91%
One Great Hour of Sharing	36,607	31,921	4,686	2016	87.05%
Native American Ministries	10,684	8,553	2,130	2015	85.85%
Peace with Justice	4,812	4,216	597	2014	87.70%
World Communion	9,344	11,591	(2,247)	2013	88.57%
UM Student	4,102	4,044	58	2012	87.26%
				2011	86.83%
<b>Other Funds</b>				2010	84.40%
Youth Service	2,175	150	2,025	2009	85.92%
Samaritan Fund - Pinnacle Living	9,738	20,619	(10,881)	2008	90.08%
UMFS	47,654	44,447	3,207	2007	92.03%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	9,552	6,245	3,307	2006	93.16%
Annual Conference Offering	78,648	88,629	(9,981)	2005	93.87%
Other	48,832	72,908	(24,076)	2004	94.79%
<b>Total Non-Apportionment Funds</b>	<b>1,689,088</b>	<b>1,139,815</b>	<b>549,272</b>	2003	95.58%
				2002	97.08%
<b>Total Church Receipts</b>	<b>25,488,630</b>	<b>23,590,900</b>	<b>1,897,730</b>	2001	96.33%



## REPORTS

### Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### Balance Sheets

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	4,078,088	5,858,613
Investments	4,844,660	4,158,104
Receivables	2,672,839	1,873,948
Prepaid expenses	91,181	18,077
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>11,686,768</b>	<b>11,908,742</b>
 <b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Land	793,019	793,019
Buildings	5,132,247	5,132,247
Furniture & equipment	1,118,462	1,118,322
Accumulated depreciation	(3,272,680)	(3,111,583)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3,771,049</b>	<b>3,932,006</b>
 <b>Other Assets</b>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	1,469,247	1,462,995
Loans receivable	118,115	127,728
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>1,587,362</b>	<b>1,590,723</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>17,045,179</b>	<b>17,431,471</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	3,804,731	3,574,234
Accrued and payable personnel expenses	119,913	94,672
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3,924,644</b>	<b>3,668,906</b>
 <b>Net Assets</b>		
Without Restrictions	1,281,535	3,456,919
Other board designated & board restricted	11,838,999	10,305,646
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>13,120,534</b>	<b>13,762,565</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>17,045,179</b>	<b>17,431,471</b>

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

**Statement of Changes in Conference Reserves**

**For the Year Ending December 31, 2022**

<b>Beginning of Year Balance</b>		3,451,264
<b>Income (Expenses) charged directly to reserves:</b>		
Boy Scouts of America Commitment	(990,456)	
Net loss on investments held at the Foundation	(354,839)	
Dividends and interest	82,370	
2nd yr of Apportionments from disaffiliated churches and misc	104,456	
		(1,158,468)
<b>Conference Apportionment Closeouts</b>		
Conference Mission & Ministries	(126,178)	
Conference Services	(980,058)	
District Superintendents Fund	88,663	
Equitable Compensation	6,312	
		(1,011,261)
<b>End of Year Balance</b>		1,281,535

# REPORTS

**Virginia United Methodist Conference of The United Methodist Church**  
**401 - Conference Mission & Ministry**  
**Financial Summary**

12/31/2022

Project Name	Apportionment Receipts	Revenues from other sources	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	Beginning Balance	Closeout to Reserves	Ending Balance
Program & Board Administrative (see below)	1,164,259.37	50,966.40	<b>1,215,225.77</b>	<b>1,245,319.60</b>	(30,093.83)	-	30,093.83	-
Conference Benevolence Grants	139,951.23	(6,717.66)	<b>133,233.57</b>	<b>133,233.57</b>	-	-	-	-
CT Special & Sustaining Grants	43,734.76	70,000.00	<b>113,734.76</b>	<b>117,825.00</b>	(4,090.24)	-	4,090.24	-
Conference Programs	69,975.61	(61,000.00)	<b>8,975.61</b>	<b>1,836.05</b>	7,139.56	55,916.89	-	<b>63,056.45</b>
Campus Ministry	721,623.47	18,885.00	<b>740,508.47</b>	<b>848,581.71</b>	(108,073.24)	-	108,073.24	-
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	17,493.90	-	<b>17,493.90</b>	<b>1,414.71</b>	16,079.19	-	(16,079.19)	-
	<b>2,157,038.34</b>	<b>72,133.74</b>	<b>2,229,172.08</b>	<b>2,348,210.64</b>	<b>(119,038.56)</b>	<b>55,916.89</b>	<b>126,178.12</b>	<b>63,056.45</b>
<b>Program &amp; Board Administrative</b>								
Common Table	2,633.00	-	<b>2,633.00</b>	<b>487.06</b>	2,145.94	-	(2,145.94)	-
Connectional Ministries Office	48,978.47	-	<b>48,978.47</b>	<b>40,926.82</b>	8,051.65	-	(8,051.65)	-
Board & Agency Administration	33,247.33	11,211.00	<b>44,458.33</b>	<b>28,104.90</b>	16,353.43	-	(16,353.43)	-
Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,054,900.18	39,755.40	<b>1,094,655.58</b>	<b>1,138,996.87</b>	(44,341.29)	-	44,341.29	-
Video Production	7,006.49	-	<b>7,006.49</b>	<b>3,984.93</b>	3,021.56	-	(3,021.56)	-
CT Contingencies	17,493.90	-	<b>17,493.90</b>	<b>32,819.02</b>	(15,325.12)	-	15,325.12	-
	<b>1,164,259.37</b>	<b>50,966.40</b>	<b>1,215,225.77</b>	<b>1,245,319.60</b>	<b>(30,093.83)</b>	-	<b>30,093.83</b>	-

**402 - Conference Services**

Project Name	Apportionment Receipts	Revenues from other sources	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	Beginning Balance	Closeout to Reserves	Ending Balance
Treasurer's Office	394,108.20	201,000.00	<b>595,108.20</b>	<b>632,592.70</b>	(37,484.50)	-	37,484.50	-
Computer Services	104,437.30	-	<b>104,437.30</b>	<b>319,020.09</b>	(214,582.79)	-	214,582.79	-
Annual Conference Session	213,230.71	1,960.27	<b>215,190.98</b>	<b>448,157.66</b>	(232,966.68)	-	232,966.68	-
Conf Publications Committee	6,526.36	33.00	<b>6,559.36</b>	<b>16,360.97</b>	(9,801.61)	-	9,801.61	-
Council on Finance & Admin	1,733.08	-	<b>1,733.08</b>	<b>4,162.79</b>	(2,429.71)	-	2,429.71	-
Board of Trustees	874.34	-	<b>874.34</b>	<b>41.97</b>	832.37	-	(832.37)	-
Committee on Episcopacy	1,733.08	-	<b>1,733.08</b>	<b>1,906.96</b>	(173.88)	-	173.88	-
Historical Society	3,481.76	5,000.00	<b>8,481.76</b>	<b>959.25</b>	7,522.51	-	(7,522.51)	-
Cabinet Discretionary Fund	8,696.61	-	<b>8,696.61</b>	<b>235.40</b>	8,461.21	-	(8,461.21)	-
Pastor Relocation Transition	6,526.36	-	<b>6,526.36</b>	<b>5,925.96</b>	600.40	-	(600.40)	-
Episcopal Residence	-	10,000.00	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>14,109.05</b>	(4,109.05)	-	4,109.05	-
Conference Liability Insurance	17,408.84	-	<b>17,408.84</b>	<b>16,825.00</b>	583.84	-	(583.84)	-
Audit	39,158.12	-	<b>39,158.12</b>	<b>55,195.00</b>	(16,036.88)	-	16,036.88	-
Human Resources	30,461.53	-	<b>30,461.53</b>	<b>68,375.24</b>	(37,913.71)	-	37,913.71	-
General Conference Delegation	-	2,373.50	<b>2,373.50</b>	<b>707.28</b>	1,666.22	-	(1,666.22)	-
Contingencies	4,356.11	-	<b>4,356.11</b>	-	4,356.11	-	(4,356.11)	-
CFA Discretionary	-	(6,198.30)	<b>(6,198.30)</b>	-	(6,198.30)	-	6,198.30	-
Postage, Printing & Phone	37,425.05	2,577.30	<b>40,002.35</b>	<b>81,998.12</b>	(41,995.77)	-	41,995.77	-
BOM Personnel Costs	217,571.19	-	<b>217,571.19</b>	<b>246,158.17</b>	(28,586.98)	-	28,586.98	-
Clergy Excellence Admin.	12,615.52	-	<b>12,615.52</b>	<b>14,475.24</b>	(1,859.72)	-	1,859.72	-
Board of Ordained Ministry	60,923.04	-	<b>60,923.04</b>	<b>52,905.11</b>	8,017.93	-	(8,017.93)	-
BOM - Ministerial Support	27,854.10	-	<b>27,854.10</b>	<b>7,047.38</b>	20,806.72	-	(20,806.72)	-
	<b>1,189,121.30</b>	<b>216,745.77</b>	<b>1,405,867.07</b>	<b>1,987,159.34</b>	<b>(581,292.27)</b>	-	<b>581,292.27</b>	-

# REPORTS

**Virginia United Methodist Conference of The United Methodist Church  
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances  
Financial Summary**

12/31/2022

Project Name	Apportionment Receipts	Revenues from other sources	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Revenues Over	Beginning Balance	Closeout to Reserves	Ending Balance
					(Under) Expenses			
<b>CFA</b>								
Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	-	160,957.44	(160,957.44)	3,932,005.95	-	3,771,048.51
United Methodist Center	152,307.62	85,732.50	238,040.12	262,991.27	(24,951.15)	34,521.84	-	9,570.69
Long Term Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	-	200,000.00
Legal Expenses	174,056.95	-	174,056.95	572,822.58	(398,765.63)	-	398,765.63	-
Survivor Trust Fund commitment	-	988,456.00	988,456.00	-	988,456.00	(20,000.00)	-	968,456.00
Race & Race Relations	-	-	-	4,409.00	(4,409.00)	8,682.25	-	4,273.25
Funds Held for Future Benefits	-	542,931.25	542,931.25	-	542,931.25	172,415.00	-	715,346.25
Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	454.77	-	454.77
Archives	17,408.84	18,000.00	35,408.84	19,617.15	15,791.69	9,592.83	-	25,384.52
Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
District Support Fund	-	782,383.41	782,383.41	80,906.63	701,476.78	178,523.22	-	880,000.00
CFA Contingency	-	(718,445.47)	(718,445.47)	53,500.00	(771,945.47)	771,945.47	-	-
United Merriment Committee	-	518.01	518.01	232.53	285.48	(285.48)	-	-
	<b>343,773.41</b>	<b>1,699,575.70</b>	<b>2,043,349.11</b>	<b>1,155,436.60</b>	<b>887,912.51</b>	<b>5,302,855.85</b>	<b>398,765.63</b>	<b>6,589,533.99</b>

**Common Table**

Advocate legacy funds	-	-	-	-	-	58,644.85	-	58,644.85
Wesley Fdtn Capital Improvements	-	(1,072.39)	(1,072.39)	8,574.00	(9,646.39)	9,646.39	-	-
Wesley Fdtn Maintenance Fund	74,326.80	1,072.39	75,399.19	132,104.75	(56,705.56)	81,157.18	-	24,451.62
Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	104,444.99	-	104,444.99
All God's Children Camp	-	48,463.14	48,463.14	47,854.17	608.97	29,697.13	-	30,306.10
Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	2,051.75	-	2,051.75
CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lay Servant Ministries	-	6,984.13	6,984.13	2,975.32	4,008.81	11,262.77	-	15,271.58
Lay Servant Ministry Events	-	225.00	225.00	-	225.00	-	-	225.00
Camp Rainbow	-	54,101.10	54,101.10	43,942.64	10,158.46	27,565.31	-	37,723.77
Commission on Disabilities	-	262.00	262.00	3,032.54	(2,770.54)	7,434.75	-	4,664.21
Voices of Youth	-	-	-	-	-	1,549.94	-	1,549.94
Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UMVIM	-	92.72	92.72	740.56	(647.84)	19,691.45	-	19,043.61
Caretakers of God's Creation	-	1,294.00	1,294.00	-	1,294.00	5,919.56	-	7,213.56
Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	-	-	-	3,848.80	-	3,848.80
Fresh Expressions	-	-	-	500.00	(500.00)	6,809.46	-	6,309.46
CDT Training Events	-	196.59	196.59	196.59	-	-	-	-
Small Church Pastors	-	1,493.15	1,493.15	782.70	710.45	(710.45)	-	-
Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	(203.07)	(203.07)	-	(203.07)	203.07	-	-
Large Church Lead Pastors	-	3,293.87	3,293.87	3,410.42	(116.55)	116.55	-	-
Clergywomen's Coaching Init.	-	-	-	-	-	273.74	-	273.74
	<b>74,326.80</b>	<b>116,202.63</b>	<b>190,529.43</b>	<b>244,113.69</b>	<b>(53,584.26)</b>	<b>369,607.24</b>	-	<b>316,022.98</b>

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

Licensing School	-	20,907.58	20,907.58	24,356.88	(3,449.30)	3,449.30	-	-
Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	9,276.90	-	9,276.90
Order of Deacons	-	921.57	921.57	1,190.52	(268.95)	3,764.91	-	3,495.96
Welcome Meal at AC	-	2,464.95	2,464.95	2,914.50	(449.55)	449.55	-	-
Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	853.86	-	853.86
Spouse Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	1,213.07	-	1,213.07
Seminary Scholarships	-	32,243.60	32,243.60	16,000.00	16,243.60	(965.31)	-	15,278.29
BOM Training Events	-	-	-	-	-	5,820.40	-	5,820.40
Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	65,000.00	65,000.00	26,850.00	38,150.00	30,500.00	-	68,650.00
Calling 21	-	-	-	4,051.44	(4,051.44)	17,835.93	-	13,784.49
AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	-	-	-	2,737.62	-	2,737.62
Ministers' Convocation	-	-	-	-	-	16,429.86	-	16,429.86
Pilgrimages	-	-	-	-	-	2,945.61	-	2,945.61
Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	270.24	(270.24)	667.25	-	397.01
VA Clergy Leadership Program	17,408.84	600.00	18,008.84	29,096.38	(11,087.54)	117,678.61	-	106,591.07
Candidacy Summit	-	9,852.96	9,852.96	2,277.55	7,575.41	(2,102.16)	-	5,473.25
Creating a Culture of Renewal	-	21,292.00	21,292.00	48,011.73	(26,719.73)	32,000.00	-	5,280.27
Clergy Spiritual Vitality	-	30,583.29	30,583.29	15,941.55	14,641.74	-	-	14,641.74
United Methodist Studies Program	-	4,450.00	4,450.00	3,003.00	1,447.00	-	-	1,447.00
	<b>17,408.84</b>	<b>188,315.95</b>	<b>205,724.79</b>	<b>173,963.79</b>	<b>31,761.00</b>	<b>242,555.40</b>	-	<b>274,316.40</b>

# REPORTS

Virginia United Methodist Conference of The United Methodist Church  
 Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds  
 Financial Summary

12/31/2022

Project Name	Apportionment Receipts	Revenues from other sources	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	Beginning Balance	Closeout to Reserves	Ending Balance
<b>Ministerial Education Funds</b>								
Ministerial Education Funds	153,510.24	9,528.91	163,039.15	213,965.94	(50,926.79)	531,433.80	-	480,507.01
	<b>153,510.24</b>	<b>9,528.91</b>	<b>163,039.15</b>	<b>213,965.94</b>	<b>(50,926.79)</b>	<b>531,433.80</b>	-	<b>480,507.01</b>
<b>Church Extension Funds</b>								
Church Extension Fund	722,725.97	27,488.54	750,214.51	566,254.10	183,960.41	1,638,865.55	-	1,822,825.96
	<b>722,725.97</b>	<b>27,488.54</b>	<b>750,214.51</b>	<b>566,254.10</b>	<b>183,960.41</b>	<b>1,638,865.55</b>	-	<b>1,822,825.96</b>
<b>Donor Restricted</b>								
Disaster Relief Fund	-	11,780.30	11,780.30	37,939.85	(26,159.55)	66,899.76	-	40,740.21
AC Serving Response Fund	-	112,497.97	112,497.97	11,182.01	101,315.96	242.45	-	101,558.41
Partnerships of Hope	-	343.82	343.82	500.00	(156.18)	52,938.73	-	52,782.55
POH - Mozambique	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00	9,980.69	-	11,980.69
POH - Brazil	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	23,300.00	(13,300.00)	32,490.15	-	19,190.15
POH - Cambodia	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00	(20,000.00)	27,802.21	-	7,802.21
POH - Vietnam	-	12,000.00	12,000.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
POH - Native Americans	-	16,000.00	16,000.00	19,009.79	(3,009.79)	9,000.00	-	5,990.21
POH-Haiti	-	59,798.49	59,798.49	58,113.57	1,684.92	10,348.37	-	12,033.29
Russian Initiative	-	-	-	11,144.18	(11,144.18)	11,144.18	-	-
Francis Asbury Education Funds	-	7,827.82	7,827.82	-	7,827.82	1,461,419.33	-	1,469,247.15
CEMCA-Hispanic Aid Fund	-	-	-	-	-	9,616.78	-	9,616.78
Bishops' Foundation	-	175.00	175.00	-	175.00	1,289.09	-	1,464.09
Youth Service Fund	-	4,220.04	4,220.04	-	4,220.04	1,191.03	-	5,411.07
Peace with Justice	-	2,406.12	2,406.12	-	2,406.12	23,957.61	-	26,363.73
Native American Awareness Sun.	-	5,341.75	5,341.75	-	5,341.75	25,752.17	-	31,093.92
Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	-	462.26	(462.26)	2,264.94	-	1,802.68
Pandemic Relief Fund	-	163.42	163.42	1,875.00	(1,711.58)	1,711.58	-	-
CFA Strategic Mission Fund	-	28.83	28.83	-	28.83	250,534.44	-	250,563.27
AC Youth Gift	-	34,718.72	34,718.72	-	34,718.72	-	-	34,718.72
Annual Conference Offering	-	154,597.20	154,597.20	154,597.20	-	-	-	-
	-	<b>451,899.48</b>	<b>451,899.48</b>	<b>366,123.86</b>	<b>85,775.62</b>	<b>1,998,583.51</b>	-	<b>2,084,359.13</b>
Clergy Support Obligation	-	56,493.00	56,493.00	-	56,493.00	-	-	56,493.00
Richmond Area Episcopal office	23,076.40	75,470.00	98,546.40	114,334.69	(15,788.29)	117,460.19	-	101,671.90
Bishop's John Wesley Service Fund	-	2,252.00	2,252.00	-	2,252.00	5,098.65	-	7,350.65
ARMS	-	8,262.50	8,262.50	14,452.71	(6,190.21)	20,896.24	-	14,706.03
Heritage	-	1,070.00	1,070.00	1,303.30	(233.30)	7,018.18	-	6,784.88
Cabinet Dues	-	68.72	68.72	113.42	(44.70)	44.70	-	-
Virginia FOCUS Initiative	-	697.32	697.32	6,675.00	(5,977.68)	5,977.68	-	-
Clergywomen's Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	2,685.19	-	2,685.19
Scouting Ministries	-	-	-	942.75	(942.75)	12,301.57	-	11,358.82
	<b>23,076.40</b>	<b>144,313.54</b>	<b>167,389.94</b>	<b>137,821.87</b>	<b>29,568.07</b>	<b>171,482.40</b>	-	<b>201,050.47</b>

## REPORTS

### Council on Finance and Administration

#### SECTION I - Proposed Conference Budget for 2024

	Sch.	2023	2024	% of Budget	Inc.//(Dec.)	% Chg
<b>Conference Apportionments</b>						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,133,000	3,237,000	11.83%	104,000	3.32%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,992,000	1,920,000	7.02%	(72,000)	-3.61%
403 - Appointive Cabinet Fund	C	1,095,000	1,300,000	4.75%	205,000	18.72%
404 - Equitable Compensation		210,000	180,000	0.66%	(30,000)	-14.29%
405 - Church Extension & Development		900,000	400,000	1.46%	(500,000)	-55.56%
<b>Total Conference Apportionments</b>		<b>7,330,000</b>	<b>7,037,000</b>	<b>25.72%</b>	<b>(293,000)</b>	<b>-4.00%</b>
<b>Clergy Benefits Apportionments</b>						
407 - Active Clergy Health		10,000,000	10,000,000	36.55%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,000,000	6,000,000	21.93%	-	0.00%
408 - Funds Held for Future Benefits		-	(75,000)	-0.27%	(75,000)	
<b>Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments</b>		<b>16,000,000</b>	<b>15,925,000</b>	<b>58.20%</b>	<b>(75,000)</b>	<b>-0.47%</b>
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>						
410 - Episcopal Fund		865,000	865,000	3.16%	-	0.00%
411 - World Service		2,150,000	2,150,000	7.86%	-	0.00%
412 - General & Interdenominational Fund		325,000	325,000	1.19%	-	0.00%
413 - Ministerial Education		675,000	675,000	2.47%	-	0.00%
414 - Black College Fund		315,000	315,000	1.15%	-	0.00%
415 - Africa University Fund		70,000	70,000	0.26%	-	0.00%
<b>Total General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>		<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>16.08%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Apportionments</b>		<b>27,730,000</b>	<b>27,362,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(368,000)</b>	<b>-1.33%</b>

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2023	2024	% of Budget	Inc./(Dec.)	% Chg
<b>SECTION I - Approved Conference Budget for 2023</b>					
<b>Common Table Directed Ministries</b>					
A. Program & Board Administrative (see below)	1,417,000	1,506,000	5.50%	89,000	6.3%
B. Benevolence Grants	160,000	160,000	0.58%	-	0.0%
C. Special & Sustaining Grants	50,000	50,000	0.18%	-	0.0%
D. Targeted Ministries	80,000	80,000	0.29%	-	0.0%
E. Ministries at Educational Institutions	1,186,000	1,200,000	4.39%	14,000	1.2%
	2,893,000	2,996,000	10.94%	103,000	3.6%
<b>Other Ministries</b>					
F. Wesley Foundation Maintenance	85,000	85,000	0.31%	-	0.0%
G. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.0%
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	2,998,000	3,101,000	11.32%	103,000	3.4%
<b>Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall</b>	135,000	136,000	0.50%	1,000	0.7%
<b>Total 401 Apportionment</b>	<b>3,133,000</b>	<b>3,237,000</b>	<b>11.82%</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

Supporting Details for Line Items Above

A. Program & Board Administrative Expenses

1. Common Table	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.0%
2. Departmental Administration	58,000	50,000	0.18%	(8,000)	-13.8%
3. Agency Administration	42,000	25,000	0.09%	(17,000)	-40.5%
4. Personnel Costs	695,000	764,000	2.79%	69,000	9.9%
5. Communications	294,000	254,000	0.93%	(40,000)	-13.6%
6. Information Technology	300,000	385,000	1.41%	85,000	28.3%
7. Contingency	25,000	25,000	0.09%	-	0.0%
	1,417,000	1,506,000	5.50%	89,000	6.3%

## REPORTS

### Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2023	2024	% of Budget	Inc./Dec.	% Chg
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	411,500	413,500	1.51%	2,000	0.49%
2. Annual Conference Session	245,000	280,000	1.02%	35,000	14.29%
3. Treasurer's Office	450,000	455,000	1.66%	5,000	1.11%
4. Human Resources	45,000	45,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
5. Computer Services and telephone	130,000	147,000	0.54%	17,000	13.08%
6. Episcopal Office Support	26,500	26,500	0.10%	-	0.00%
7. Episcopal Residence		5,000	0.02%	5,000	
8. Pastor Relocation & Transition	7,500	7,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
9. Archives	20,000	26,000	0.10%	6,000	30.00%
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. Insurance	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
14. Postage & Printing	33,000	26,000	0.10%	(7,000)	-21.21%
15. Building Operations & Services	175,000	190,000	0.69%	15,000	8.57%
16. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
17. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
18. Legal	250,000	90,000	0.33%	(160,000)	-64.00%
19. Audit	52,000	55,000	0.20%	3,000	5.77%
20. Episcopal Committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
21. General Conference	-	10,000	0.04%	10,000	
22. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	95,000	92,000	0.34%	(3,000)	-3.16%
	<b>1,992,000</b>	<b>1,920,000</b>	<b>7.02%</b>	<b>(72,000)</b>	<b>-3.61%</b>

#### Board of Ordained Ministry

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
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	0.07%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	14,500	15,500	0.06%	1,000	6.90%
6. Personnel Costs	275,000	275,000	1.01%	-	0.00%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	70,000	71,000	0.26%	1,000	1.43%
	<b>411,500</b>	<b>413,500</b>	<b>1.51%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0.49%</b>

### Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - Appointive Cabinet Fund

1. Salaries & Pension	925,000	1,130,000	4.13%	205,000	22.16%
2. Travel & Meetings	100,000	100,000	0.37%	-	0.00%
3. Continuing Education & Other	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	50,000	50,000	0.18%	-	0.00%
	<b>1,095,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>4.75%</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>18.72%</b>



**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:

**2024 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments**

401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	3,237,000
402 - Conference Services	1,920,000
403 - Appointive Cabinet Fund	1,300,000
404 - Equitable Compensation	180,000
405 - Church Extension & Development	400,000
407 - Active Clergy Health	10,000,000
408 - Retired Clergy Health	5,925,000
410 - Episcopal Fund	865,000
411 - World Service	2,150,000
412 - General & Interdenominational Fund	325,000
413 - Ministerial Education Fund	675,000
414 - Black College Fund	315,000
415 - Africa University Fund	70,000
	<b>\$ 27,362,000</b>

**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 Ministries at Educational Institutions, 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-Appointive Cabinet Fund**

This apportionment covers the personnel and travel costs of the Appointive Cabinet.

**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.

**Report on 2022**

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 Apportionment Shortfalls for 2022.

	<b>Shortfall</b>
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	438,635
402 Conference Services	315,620
403 District Superintendents	193,959
404 Equitable Compensation	33,243
	<b>981,456</b>

**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. 2024 apportionments are calculated using 2022 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:

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

- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**  
The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,500) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2023 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 (2022 for 2024 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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 2024:

- 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. APPOINTIVE CABINET FUND**

Overall Policies for the Fund:

- In compliance with the Book of Discipline, the current salaries and expenses for district superintendents (DS), and those under special appointment, will be published in the Conference Journal with each DS's salary individually calculated and assigned each year as part of the appointive process, using the following criteria:
  - Each District Superintendent's salary shall be \$100,000.
  - Each year, the annual salaries of the District Superintendents are to be recommended by CFA to the Annual Conference.
  - CFA also administers salary-related expenses, to include such items as pensions, supplemental benefits, travel by voucher, continuing education, and other Cabinet-related expenses. CFA, in consultation with the Bishop, sets the Assistant to the Bishop's salary and related personnel costs.
  - 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 Superintendents' costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

### **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 50 cents for Conference staff. The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers is set at half the IRS rate for volunteers (currently 29 cents) for those serving boards and agencies of the Conference.
- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$35 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 \$200, 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 \$200 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.
  - d) Council on Finance and Administration has the authority to utilize reserves in excess of the minimum to preserve the Conference’s financial stability.
- The Council has set the following target for Conference Reserve Funds:

Core Reserves:	
A. 20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,286,000
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 not including cash equivalents	<u>427,000</u>
	<u>\$ 1,713,000</u>

On December 31, 2022, the Annual Conference had reserves less than the target amount, see Treasurer’s Report for details.

- 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 2023 Journal, as sections are finalized, will be posted on the Virginia Conference website ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) as a PDF file. Please note that going forward the Journal publication will only be printed through Amazon rather than the conference accepting print orders. It will still be available for free on the conference website. When the whole publication of the Journal is completed, notifications will be sent out to the conference and conference members as well as posted to [www.vaumc.org/AC2023](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2023) about when and where to order a print copy.

### **G. 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.

### **H. IRS REGULATIONS**

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

### **I. 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.

### **J. FINANCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

When CFA proposes significant changes in apportionments (10% or more), for any board, agency, or other recipient of financial support, such proposed changes and the guiding rationale shall be presented in writing to the Annual Conference for its information and final approval and convey this information no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Conference session.

### **K. LEGAL EXPENSE POLICY**

The Annual Conference shall not pay for the legal expenses for local church or district matters such as non-appointed personnel, churches seeking disaffiliation, property issues, etc.

## **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

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

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

**Our values:** *Integrity, Connection, Excellence*

**Our vision:** Your trusted partner in stewarding God’s entrusted resources

**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.*

As of December 31, 2022, there are over \$96.5 million in assets under management across more than 600 accounts. These accounts include churches, districts, the Virginia United Methodist Conference and United Methodist agencies. The \$96.5 million are invested in four different funds: the Balanced Fund, the Balanced Plus Fund, the Stock Fund and the Bond Fund. 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 more than 90 endowments. We also assist churches and their members set up donor advised funds (DAFs) and other charitable gift optimization strategies.

Since 2015, the Foundation’s grant ministry has awarded a total of nearly \$400,000 in 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 to help them build a future. Grants are given from three funds:

- ❖ Foundation Grants Fund
- ❖ Dr. William J. and Frances Hanna Memorial Grant
- ❖ Micah 6:8/No Harm Do Good Endowment Grant.

In October 2022, many different ministries across the Virginia Conference applied for a grant. After thorough consideration by the Grants Committee, the Foundation Board of Directors awarded grants to 22 ministries totaling \$56,250 in December 2022.

Throughout 2023 and beyond, 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 of ministries that can grow and serve others because your church finances are on sound footings.

– 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, 2022, the Development Company has 41 loans totaling \$34.7 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 help advance God's kingdom. With the help of more than 750 DevCo investment accounts totaling nearly \$40 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 redirect funds to the community and help create "open hearts, open minds and open doors."

At DevCo, we consider ourselves your partner in ministry. Our team takes a personal interest in the ministries of the churches we serve. We are concerned about the spiritual health of local church ministry, not just financial health. Our desire is to equip local church leaders in understanding how to serve their community through strategic planning and missional engagement. Additionally, DevCo has a fiduciary responsibility to protect our investors' money, which funds church loans, and that responsibility is coupled with our strong desire to see local churches fulfill their God-given mission.

*– Bo Bowden, President*

## A Reporting Guide for Lay Members of the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference

June 15-17, 2023

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, presiding  
Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader

*Lay Ministry is the work of mission or ministry to which each believer is called.  
As Christians we are called to this ministry or priesthood – not just clergy.  
Each of us has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others in love.*

— Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church

### Dear Lay Member of the Virginia Annual Conference:

Thank you for serving as a member of 2023 Virginia Annual Conference. We come to this role in a variety of ways. You may be representing your local charge or district. Your service may be determined by virtue of your role on a Virginia Conference or General Church board or commission. No matter how we have been chosen to serve as lay members of this Annual Conference session, we share the same responsibilities to:

- ❖ Interpret the actions of the Annual Conference to our congregations,
- ❖ Build the connection between the congregation and all United Methodist churches, and
- ❖ Connect the church of God with people who are not yet part of it.

These responsibilities come from the stated purpose of the Annual Conference as found in *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (BOD), Chapter 4, Section IX: THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ¶601: “...the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your church/district/board to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your church/district/board. An effective lay member of Annual Conference informs these groups about The United Methodist Church in the conference and around the world, bringing our United Methodist connection to life.

To carry out your responsibilities as a lay member, the *BOD* notes that you shall:

- ❖ Attend and participate in this session of the Annual Conference: “The lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except...” matters of ministerial relations (¶602.6, 2016 *Book of Discipline*). Come prepared to participate. As we do our work during the conference session and in the months that follow, we must hold one another accountable to the mission and vision of the church.
- ❖ “Connect” with your local church when you return: “...The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference” (¶251.2, 2016 *Book of Discipline*). You have a key role in linking the mission and vision of the local congregation to the mission and vision of the annual conference.

This reporting guide is offered to:

- ❖ Aid lay members in recording your experiences and feelings about the actions and events of this Annual Conference session;

- ❖ Encourage you to interpret the mission and ministry we have together through our Annual Conference; and
- ❖ Assist you in preparing your report and interpretation of the actions and business of the 2023 Annual Conference session for sharing back in their local church. Communication truly improves connection.

### SPEAKING DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

You have the right to speak and vote on all issues except those that have to do with clergy and ministerial orders and relations. Listen for specific instructions regarding communicating at this session. Follow the instructions that are given to be recognized in this setting.

If you wish to speak, take a few moments to think about what you want to say. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Hauptert-Johnson, I am your name, a lay member from *name of your local church and district*.” State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point! If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. You will be asked to write the motion in proper format as approved for this session and communicate it to the Conference Secretary.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❖ To help you while attending Annual Conference, please follow the agenda as printed in this *Book of Reports*. Be on time for all scheduled events.
- ❖ Standing Rules govern the session (see Standing Rules of Order and Procedure in this *Book of Reports*).
- ❖ Items to be voted on come from this *Book of Reports* and from issues raised by members of the conference.
- ❖ There is an equal number of lay and clergy making the decisions. You are a representative of the approximately 308,000 United Methodist laity in 1,000+ churches divided into 8 districts across the Virginia conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

### PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries: The Rev. Dr. Steve Summers
- Conference Secretary: Rev. Joshua King
- Conference Lay Leader: Martha Stokes
- Conference President of United Methodist Women: Nancy Walsh
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Albert Weal
- Your District Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_
- Your District Lay Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORTING

A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include:

- ❖ Significant happenings and impressions. Make sure to take your own notes and use daily proceedings reported on the VAUMC website. A summary video will be available through the Conference Communications Office.
- ❖ Observations on the diversity and unity of our conference. Identify some of the challenges this creates and some of

the benefits this brings.

- ❖ Reflection on the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

### **How will you share your experience and the action of the Annual Conference with your congregation?**

- ❖ Write an article(s) for your church newsletter.
- ❖ Display pictures, resource material, etc.
- ❖ Facilitate a panel with members presenting different aspects of conference.
- ❖ Share a dialogue between clergy and lay members.
- ❖ Be interviewed by someone in the congregation.

### **When will you share your report?**

- ❖ Sunday morning during worship
- ❖ Church Council meeting
- ❖ United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings
- ❖ Adult church school and/or small groups
- ❖ Conversation with others
- ❖ Special all-church gathering

### **What will you share?**

- ❖ Observations and notes you have written down during sessions and events
- ❖ Highlights of reports offered during the conference sessions and from the *Book of Reports*
- ❖ Materials received both online and in your packet
- ❖ Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials)

You will receive an evaluation survey after the conference via email. I encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions. Your comments will assist the planning committee for the next annual conference.

If you have questions, please reach out to your District Lay Leader or Virginia Conference Lay Leader, Martha Stokes, by email at [marthastokes@vaumc.org](mailto:marthastokes@vaumc.org) or call (804) 366-7162.

## 2023 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

During the Annual Conference at Roanoke, we have several ways for churches of the Virginia Conference to be part of the collective mission! Information on all the mission opportunities can be found at [www.vaumc.org/acmission](http://www.vaumc.org/acmission)

Use this QR code to visit the page.



### Pre-Conference

1. **Annual Conference Offering (#NurturingTogether):** Churches are encouraged to invite members to be part of the AC Offering. This year's goal for the AC Offering is to reach \$150,000. Through the collective effort, we will be able to sponsor support for Refugee Response (25%), Food Insecurity (25%), and Partnerships of Hope (50%). For more information, go to [www.vaumc.org/nurturing](http://www.vaumc.org/nurturing)
2. **AC Kits & Cans (#CollectingTogether):** Each District will hold a District-wide collection event. We will be collecting UMCOR Cleaning, Hygiene, and the newly released Menstrual Kits. Details of the District collection sites and packing instructions can be found on the district website or at [www.vaumc.org/collecting](http://www.vaumc.org/collecting)

### During Conference

1. **Mission Social (#EngagingTogether):** On June 15th, Thursday evening, we will host a gathering at the Display area, starting at 7 pm. Mission Social will invite mission organizations and missionaries to provide an opportunity to interact with mission opportunities. Desserts will be provided for members who are attending.
2. **AC Mission Projects (#JoiningHandsTogether):** Three mission opportunities will be available during the conference
  - a. **Blood Drive:** Red Cross will come and host a two-day Blood Drive (June 14th, Thurs - June 15th, Friday)
  - b. **UMCOR Menstruation Kit Assembly:** We will set up an assembly line to assemble 2,000 additional UMCOR Menstrual Kits (June 14th, Thursday)
  - c. **Rise Against Hunger:** Assembling 20,000 Rise Against Hunger Kits (June 15th, Friday)
3. **VAUMC 5K (#BeingTogether):** We invite you to join the VAUMC 5K Run/Walk held at the Roanoke Green Way! This event will be held on June 16th, Saturday at 6 pm. All proceeds will be donated to the AC offering (#NurturingTogether)!

Use this QR code to Register for this event!



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## ORDER FORM FOR *JOURNAL AND DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the *2023 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

### 2023 DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY ORDERS

One free copy of the *2023 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 Center for Clergy Excellence, 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 *2023 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.

### 2023 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The conference *Journal* is available in two forms:

- Posted on [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) as a free PDF. Sections will be posted as they are available and as a whole document once completed.
- Available as a mailed publication with limited print copies. When the publication is available for purchase, conference members and district offices will be notified and also the conference website ([www.vaumc.org/AC2023](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2023)) will be updated with the corresponding link.

Send your questions via email to [communications@vaumc.org](mailto:communications@vaumc.org) or call (804) 521-1113.



