
The 236th session
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church

Hampton, Virginia

June 15-17, 2018

BOOK OF REPORTS

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

Edited by

The Office of Connectional Ministries and

Virginia United Methodist Communications

*On the cover: The 2018 Annual Conference theme is
“Servant Leaders Making a Difference”
Logo designed by Cathryn Huff*

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP LEWIS



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I welcome you to the 2018 session of our Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. I am very excited about this annual gathering and look forward to seeing and meeting you soon.

It is a delight to be together again at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia for the 236th Annual Conference Session. I am grateful to the Annual Conference planning team, the Great Day of Service planning team, York River District host committee and the Hampton Roads Convention Center staff for their excellent preparation and warm hospitality.

Our conference theme this year is “Servant Leaders Making A Difference,” guided by the Scriptural passage of I Peter 4:10 (NIV): *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”* Our theme connects to the conference vision that was shared last year **“to be Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”**

We have a wonderful opportunity to be the Body of Christ in faithful and active service to the community of Hampton by participating in The Great Day of Service. The Great Day of Service will be divided into three sections: (1) ministry outside of the Convention Center; (2) UMCOR Kit building in the Convention Center; and (3) presentations on social justice issues at the Convention Center. I am encouraging each clergy and lay delegate to sign up for one of the three activities on Saturday afternoon.

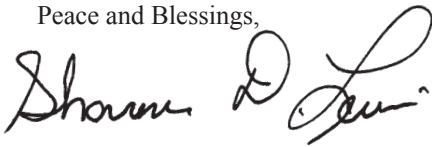
I am pleased to announce those who have graciously accepted our invitation to participate in the Annual Conference Session.

Our conference preachers will be Bishop B. Michael Watson, Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church for the Mission and Service for the Ordering of Ministry. We will also hear from the Rev. Ileana Rosario, pastor of Lower Church UMC, for the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion and the Rev. David T. Forrest, pastor of Saint Thomas UMC (Manassas), who will speak on behalf of the retiring class.

This year our conference offering will support Cambodia, Brazil, Mozambique, Haiti, Native Americans, Moscow Seminary, and recovery efforts in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Please continue to keep the Annual Conference gathering in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct us as we seek to answer God’s call.

Peace and Blessings,



Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

SPECIAL SPEAKERS



Bishop B. Michael Watson (*preaching at the Saturday morning mission service and the Saturday evening Service for the Ordering of Ministry*) was born into an active Methodist family in Dothan, Ala. After graduating from Dothan High School, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and real estate from The University of Alabama, a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Vanderbilt University. He was ordained deacon by Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson and elder by Bishop Carl J. Sanders.

As a member of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, Watson served as pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Molino, Fla., and as pastor of Christ UMC in Milton, Fla. He was appointed to start a new congregation in his hometown,

where he served as founding pastor of Covenant UMC from 1979-1990. From 1990 until his election to the episcopacy in 2000, he served as the pastor of Dauphin Way UMC in Mobile, Ala.

Watson also served as president of the Mobile County School Board, which is the largest school system in the state of Alabama with more than 66,000 students and nearly 8,000 employees. He served as chairperson of his conference Board of Ordained Ministry, chairperson of the conference Three-year Covenant Community for Spiritual Formation, chairperson of the steering committee of the Southeastern Jurisdiction's larger church consultation, a member of the Emmaus Community, a trustee of several colleges, a member of Emory University's Clergy Advisory Council, president of two civic clubs, president of The University of Alabama alumni chapter, president of the ministerial union, board member of the United Way, Boys Club, Girl Scouts, Red Cross and Inner City Mission.

A delegate to World Methodist Conferences in Singapore (1991) and Brazil (1996), he is currently a member of the World Methodist Council and a member of The United Methodist National Youth Ministry Organization.

Watson was elected to the episcopacy by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2000 and was assigned to the South Georgia Area. He served there until 2008, when he was assigned to the North Georgia Area. He retired in 2016.

He is married to Margaret Lee Watson. The couple have two children: Benjamin (Ben) Lee Watson and Elizabeth Margaret Watson and three grandchildren.



The Rev. Ileana Rosario (*preaching the Friday evening Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion*) was born in Puerto Rico where she was an active member of The United Methodist Church. She received her B.A. in Communications from the University of Puerto Rico and worked as an assistant to the President of the Senate.

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In 1991, she arrived in Virginia with her family and obtained her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1999. That same year, she was ordained as probationary member and appointed as Associate Pastor at Culmore UMC in Falls Church, Va. While there she created and founded GRACE Ministries, a community outreach program which now serves 1,500 people a month and empowers them to become leaders in their communities. In 2001, she started a new Hispanic church in the Arlington District.

Rosario's effort was recognized by President George Bush who invited her to a Christmas reception at the White House on December 12, 2001 as part of the faith-based initiative. She also received an award from the Daughters of the Covenant at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston, Va.

She was consecrated as Elder on June 2004, making history as the first Latino pastor elected as delegate for the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. She was elected member of the Commission of the General Conference where she represented the Virginia Conference until 2012.

In January 2007, she was appointed as the new Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries in the Virginia Conference. She was also the Latino Faith Communities Coordinator for the Alexandria-Arlington Districts until 2009.

Rosario's next appointment took her to Wesley Chapel UMC in Suffolk, Va., in 2009.

Rosario is very proud of her three wonderful daughters: Ileana who graduated from UCLA and works in San Diego; Ruth, who lives with her husband in Salinas, Calif.; and Julianne, who is now living in Hartfield, Va.

Rosario has been serving as pastor to Lower UMC in Hartfield since 2015.



236th Session of Virginia Annual Conference **June 15-17, 2018**

Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis Presiding

"Servant Leaders Making a Difference"

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

Thursday Afternoon, June 14
(Registration: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

AGENDA

Friday Morning, June 15

(Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

9:00 a.m.	Report on Commission on a Way Forward.....	Rev. Tom Berlin Halls B & C
10:30 a.m.	Laity Session	Halls B & C
10:30 a.m.	Clergy Session	Ballrooms D, E, F & G

Friday Afternoon, June 15

2:00 p.m.	Call to Order.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis “And Are We Yet Alive”
	Prayer	Rev. Gilbert F. Cofer Mr. Chaz Nickens
	Welcome and Organizing Motions.....	Rev. Seonyoung Kim (Host District Superintendent)
	Election of	Rev. Susan Reaves Assistant Secretaries Editor of the <i>Journal</i> Annual Conference Committees
	Rules Committee.....	Rev. Joshua King
	Monitoring Report.....	Rev. Mary Dadisman
	Report of the Cabinet	Rev. Kathleen Overby-Webster
	Minute Questions	
	Recognition of New Faith Communities	Rev. Kathleen Overby-Webster
	Laity Address	Mr. Warren Harper
	Site Selection Committee Report.....	Mr. Neal Wise
	Glory Sighting.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Approval of Consent Agenda.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Report of Equitable Compensation	Rev. Joe Carson
	Board of Pensions Report.....	Mr. Ken Peterson
	Common Table Report	Dr. Carlos Liceaga, Rev. Gary Miller, Ms. Iris Smith
	Election of Boards and Agencies	Mr. Warren Harper, Rev. Marc Brown
	Consecration of Conference Leadership	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Glory Sighting.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Resolutions	Rev. Melody Tanner
5:00 p.m.	Recess for Dinner	

Friday Evening, June 15

7:30 p.m.	A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion	Rev. Ileana Rosario
9:30 p.m.	Rehearsal for Service of Ordering for Ministry	

(Continued on next page)

AGENDA

Saturday Morning, June 16

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

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Room 207
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith.....	Ms. Christal Heyward
8:30 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Recognition of Retirees	Rev. David Forrest
	Report on 2019 General Conference.....	General Conference Delegation
	Glory Sighting.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Resolutions	Rev. Melody Tanner
	Recognitions	
	United Methodist College Presidents.....	Rev. John Peters
	Wesley Theological Seminary Video	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Green Church Recognition	Rev. Anita Mays
11:00 a.m.	Worship	Bishop B. Michael Watson
	Annual Conference Offering	
12:00 noon	Recess for Lunch	

Saturday Afternoon, June 16

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Great Day of Service

Saturday Evening, June 16

7:30 p.m. A Service for the Ordering of Ministry..... Bishop B. Michael Watson

Sunday Morning, June 17

7:30 a.m.	Morning Eucharist.....	Room 207
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith.....	Ms. Christal Heyward
8:30 a.m.	Report of Minutes Committee	Rev. Stan Thompson
	Report of the Statistician.....	Mr. David Dommisie
	Report of the Treasurer	Mr. David Dommisie
	Report of Council on Finance and	
	Administration (CFA)	Ms. Betty Forbes
	Recognitions	
	Denman Award	Rev. Don Jamison
	Glory Sighting	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Unfinished Conference Business	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Resolutions	Rev. Melody Tanner
11:00 a.m.	Worship	
	Distribution of the Appointments Edition of the <i>Advocate</i>	
	Fixing of the Appointments.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
	Adjournment.....	Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

SPEAKING ON A MOTION/MAKING A MOTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS’ ROOM

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

STANDING RULES

STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at its 2017 Session

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

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

I. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

B. MEMBERSHIP

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

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- h. the president of the conference young adult organization;
- i. a member of the conference youth organization;
- j. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
- k. the conference secretary of global ministries;
- l. the conference director of lay servant ministries;
- m. one young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected as set forth in *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.4.

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

- n. one additional young person between the ages of 12 and 18 and one additional young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries with nomination(s) for the youth members to be received from the District Council on Youth Ministries and nomination(s) for the young adults to be received from the District Coordinator of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, college chaplain(s) and campus minister(s) if such persons exist in the district;
- o. the conference Treasurer;
- p. the Chancellor(s) of the annual conference;
- q. the Director of Connectional Ministries
- r. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
- s. district presidents of United Methodist Men;
- t. district presidents of United Methodist Women;
- u. the president or chairperson of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Resolutions Committee; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.
- v. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination

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of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding annual conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the Bishop by September 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.

- w. Conference scouting coordinator.
- x. All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the *2016 Book of Discipline* in ¶ 602.4.

4. Members of Next Succeeding Annual Conference. By the adoption of Paragraphs 3. d-u, all lay persons holding the positions enumerated in those sub-paragraphs are elected as lay members of the next succeeding annual conference. In the event of a change in the persons holding a position in ¶ I.C.3. between sessions of the annual conference, the person holding the position at the time of the next succeeding annual conference shall be the member of the annual conference.

5. Expenses. Unless otherwise covered by a local charge, expenses of attending annual conference shall be born as follows:

- a. By the districts:
 - i. two young persons between the ages of 12 and 18;
 - ii. two young persons between the ages of 18 and 30;
 - iii. the district lay leaders;
 - iv. the district president of the United Methodist Men;
 - v. the district president of the United Methodist Women;
 - vi. additional district members at large;
- b. By the annual conference:
 - i. the Director of Connectional Ministries
 - ii. the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries;
 - iii. the president of the conference young adult organization;
 - iv. a member of the conference youth organization;
 - v. the conference Treasurer;
 - vi. the conference Chancellor(s);
 - vii. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related annual conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;
 - viii. the chair of the annual conference college student organization;
 - ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee
 - x. the conference scouting coordinator
- c. By annual conference boards or agencies:
 - i. the Conference Lay Leader
 - ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
 - iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;
 - iv. the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
 - v. the president or chairperson, of the following annual conference

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agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship, Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; United Methodist Foundation; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions; Inc., Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

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

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

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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 Leadership Discovery and Development Team:** There shall be a Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The team shall meet at least quarterly. The Director of Connectional Ministries and the Conference Lay Leader shall serve as co-chairs. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall consist of 18 members in addition to the co-chairs. Two members (one clergy, one lay) shall be appointed by the Bishop to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The Bishop will make replacement appointments in a manner that continues to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation and in

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a manner that maintains the clergy/laity balance on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. Of the remaining 16 members, eight shall be clergy and eight shall be lay. Each district of the Virginia Annual Conference shall be represented. Representatives of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Disabilities, and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy shall monitor and have voice at these meetings.

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

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

- 2. District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** There shall be on each district a Nominations Facilitation Committee composed of the District Superintendent as chair; the district lay leader; president of United Methodist Men; president of United Methodist Women; a representative of United Methodist Youth; a college chaplain or a campus minister (applies only to districts with Wesley Foundation or ecumenical campus ministry programs), the district representative to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, plus one to three persons (lay and clergy) elected by the district council on ministries. The committee shall meet on the call of the chair at least twice a year between annual conference and March 1. The committee shall develop and maintain a talent bank of lay and clergy persons from the district who could be qualified nominees for the various boards and agencies of the annual conference. The committee shall prepare a profile on each person nominated and upon having a person nominated to a board or agency of the conference, will provide a copy of that profile, including address and phone number, conference boards or agencies the individual is already serving, and the person's willingness to serve, to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
- 3. Information to Be Furnished to Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** Each board, council, commission and committee of the annual conference shall furnish to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team on a timely basis for the use of the District Nominations Facilitation Committees:
 - a. A summary of its responsibilities and the specific division/committee for which a vacancy exists;
 - b. A list of the gifts and talents desired;
 - c. Length of service expected;
 - d. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g., number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.); and
 - e. Schedule of times and locations of its meetings during the year.

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

4. **When Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team Should Make Nominations.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall annually or quadrennially, as set forth by Disciplinary provision or Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies, nominate the membership of the boards, councils, commissions, and committees of the annual conference. Nominees for boards and other agencies shall be published in the *Book of Reports*.
5. **Removal Due to Absences.** Any member of any board, council, commission or committee who is absent from two meetings of such board, council, commission or committee without excuse, or from three consecutive agency meetings for any reason, shall automatically cease to be a member of such board, council, commission or committee. The secretary of each board, council, commission or committee shall notify the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team of vacancies. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the board, council, commission or committee until the next annual conference session, at which time the annual conference shall fill the vacancy.
6. **Request at Annual Charge Conferences for Names to be Given to District Nominations Facilitation Committee.** At each annual charge conference the elder presiding at the charge conference shall ask if the Lay Leadership Committee has any names to recommend for conference boards, councils, commissions or committees. Such names shall be given to the district Nominations Facilitation Committee.
7. **Multicultural Inclusiveness.** The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall strive to insure multicultural inclusiveness.
8. **Normal Term Of Service Is Four Years.** Unless otherwise specified in these rules or in the *Book of Discipline*, a person elected to a board, council, commission or committee of the annual conference is elected for a four-year term of service and is eligible for re-election to an additional four-year term. However, if one is first elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for re-election to two full terms. A person completing two consecutive full terms is eligible for re-election to that agency after an interim of one year. In the case of a board or agency with an eight-year term, members elected to fill unexpired terms of three years or less shall be eligible for re-election to one full term of eight years. Program boards and agencies other than the Board of Ordained Ministry may co-opt specific persons for specific projects for short periods of time as consultants, without vote. Any combination of continuous service as either a regular or co-opted member shall count on the eight-year time limit for consecutive service. The term of office of members of conference boards and agencies shall begin with the adjournment of the Annual Conference at which said members are elected and shall extend until their successors are elected.
9. **Members of general boards or agencies shall be members ex-officio of the corresponding conference board or agency.**
10. **Nomination or Election to Only One Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee with Limited Exceptions.** No person is eligible for nomination,

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election, or interim appointment to more than one board, council, commission, or standing committee, except where permitted by the *Discipline* and/or conference structure.

- 11. District Superintendent Not Eligible to be Chairperson or President of Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee.** No District Superintendent shall be eligible to serve as a chairperson or president of any board, council, commission, or committee of the annual conference. The Bishop may appoint a representative of the Cabinet to any board, council, commission, or committee which is not program-related of which a member of the Cabinet is not already an elected member. The appointment of District Superintendents to boards, councils, commissions, or committees which are program related shall be made annually.
- 12. Officers of Quadrennially Elected Boards, Councils, Commissions or Committees.** Officers of boards, councils, commissions, and committees whose members are required to be elected quadrennially shall be elected by the representative agency at the session of the annual conference at which new members are elected or within ninety days after adjournment. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor. The organizational or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the Bishop.
- 13. Officers of Other Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees.** Officers of other boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be elected by the representative agency at the agency's last regular meeting prior to each annual conference. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor.
- 14. Resolutions Committee.** There shall be a Resolutions Committee of five persons elected annually by the annual conference upon nomination by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
- 15. Tellers.** For those sessions of the annual conference where there is no election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller, who shall be ineligible to serve again for a quadrennium. It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of two persons, one clergy and one lay, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in the annual conference session, the chief teller shall have the tellers ready to count the vote, having previously trained them to accurately and efficiently perform their duties.

II. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS

A. REPORTS

- 1. Submission of Annual Reports and Mailing of Book of Reports.** Agencies shall submit annual reports to the designated person before the date set annually by the Common Table for Church Vitality. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall mail the *Book of Reports* to each clergy and lay member of annual conference at least 30 days before the opening session of annual conference, printing and mailing at conference expense.

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2. **Reporting At Annual Conference.** For reports printed in the *Book of Reports*, verbal introductions shall not exceed five minutes, and there shall be no further reading of recommendations or resolutions, unless requested for clarification or requested by a majority vote of the annual conference. The presiding Bishop shall amend the Annual Conference schedule as needed.
3. **Amendments to be Submitted in Writing.** Persons proposing amendments to any report must submit them in writing to the secretary upon presentation to the annual conference.
4. **Submission of New Reports, Changes, or Additions to Printed Report.** Persons proposing new reports, changes or additions to the printed report of an agency in the *Book of Reports* must submit them in writing for delivery to members of the annual conference at the opening session, but not to be considered by the annual conference before the morning session of the second day of annual conference.
5. **Presiding Officer of Agency giving Report has Privilege of Floor, without Vote, for that Report.** When the annual conference has before it the report of any agency, or a matter concerning any agency, the presiding officer of that group, if not a member of the conference, shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, for that report.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolutions.** Resolutions to be presented to the annual conference shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the resolution; submitter(s) must be a member of the annual conference.
2. **Urgent Resolutions.** Urgent resolutions regarding circumstances arising after the due date for publication of the *Book of Reports* shall be submitted at least 14 days prior to the opening session of annual conference to the Director of Connectional Ministries to be considered emergency resolutions and, if so considered, are to be distributed via all conference e-mail groups and provided in writing to the members of the annual conference at the time of registration.
3. **Referring Resolutions, Response of Agency, Addressing, and Voting on Resolutions.** The Director of Connectional Ministries shall refer resolutions related to the work of an annual conference agency to that agency for consideration and report at annual conference with that agency's scheduled report, or such other appropriate time as may be determined by the presiding officer or by the vote of the annual conference. The chair of such agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to present the recommendation of the agency to annual conference. The member of annual conference who has signed the resolution shall have a maximum of two minutes to address the resolution. The resolution shall then be subject to floor debate and action. Two speeches for concurrence and two speeches for non-concurrence shall be permitted with a time limit for each speaker of two minutes. If an outside expert is present and desires to speak, the bishop is the only authorized entity to grant permission with a suspension of the rules. The expert shall be considered as

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one of two speakers in concurrence or non-concurrence of the resolution. Once a member has spoken, the member may not speak again in consideration of the said resolution, unless speaking to an amendment. Voting on resolutions will be on the resolution itself, not on a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence by the agency. After floor debate the chair of the conference agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to address the annual conference immediately prior to vote on a resolution. In the event the Director of Connectional Ministries has not referred a resolution to another agency for consideration, it shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee.

4. Annual Conference Will Vote on the Action to be Taken in the Resolution.

Persons proposing resolutions may submit documentation, rationale and support with the resolution, but the annual conference will vote only on the resolution, so that the “whereas” or preamble language of a resolution will not become part of the conference minutes or quoted in recitals of conference action.

C. PROPOSALS REQUIRING PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

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

D. PROPOSALS REQUIRING FUNDING

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

E. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference other than a vote to receive said items for publication in the *Journal* shall be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the 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.

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F. PROPOSALS REQUIRING ADDITION TO AGENDA

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

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

A. AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

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

B. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Clergy and lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be elected in a fair and open process at the session of the annual conference held not more than two years preceding the session of General Conference.

1. **Special Sessions.** Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.
2. **Number of Delegates.** The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.
3. **Election of General Conference and jurisdictional conference Delegates.** The number of General Conference delegates authorized by the secretary of the General Conference shall be first elected, followed by balloting on the authorized number of the jurisdictional conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized numbers of the jurisdictional conference delegates have been elected, 10 clergy and 10 lay reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.
4. **Speeches/Printed Materials.** No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed at the site of the Annual Conference on behalf of any nominee.
5. **Nominee Participation.** Nothing herein shall prevent any nominee from
 - a. appearing at the podium or floor microphone for the purpose of conducting Conference business.
 - b. fully participating in activities of the Conference including the debate over budgets, proposals, or resolutions pending before the Conference.
This shall include the right to bring petitions, amendments, or resolutions

to the Conference and encourage votes for or against the same.

- c. conducting one-on-one conversations about the election of delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference including how that nominee proposes to represent the Conference at such events. Nominees are reminded to respect the need of the Conference to conduct business and are asked to take such conversations off the floor of the Conference.

C. CLERGY NOMINATIONS

1. Eligibility

- a. **To be nominated.** All clergy members in full connection are eligible to be nominated (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 1½" x 2½" (unless nominated at Clergy Session), address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and should include

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a personal statement no to exceed 150 words in which may be indicated the nominee's experience, qualifications, and reasons for wanting to serve. There shall be a box to be checked stating: "Nominee is aware of nomination and agrees to serve if elected.", and a line for the signature of the nominee. The completed nomination form or facsimile thereof must be returned to the Director of Connectional Ministries no later than March 1 preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections. The deadline is non-negotiable.

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

D. LAY NOMINATIONS

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

Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 members of The United Methodist Church or major fraction thereof in that district, based upon figures reported at the preceding annual conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.

2. **Agency Nominations.** The lay members of the following agencies of the annual conference may also nominate one additional lay delegate: Board of Church and Society; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Laity; Commission on the Status and Role of Women; United Methodist Men; United Methodist Women; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.;

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and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. In addition to the aforementioned nominees, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and the Virginia United Methodist Student Movement each may nominate one delegate.

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

E. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

1. **Membership.** The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the Bishop plus one member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee.
2. **Function.** Each District Superintendent shall by January 15 of the year of election submit to this committee in care of the Director of Connectional Ministries completed forms for all nominees from the district. The committee shall then forward a list of all nominees to the agencies named in ¶ III.D.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 submitted at the Laity Session of the Annual Conference.
3. **List of Nominees.** The lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms.

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F. BALLOTING PROCEDURES

1. **Separate Voting Areas.** Following the convening of Annual Conference, clergy and laity will separate to elect General and jurisdictional delegates and alternates, allowing five (5) hours to complete the process.
2. **Ballots Shall be Counted Electronically.** The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.
3. **Valid Ballots.** To be valid, a ballot:
 - (a) must be cast on the ballot bearing the number designated by the presiding officer for that particular ballot; and
 - (b) must be voted for the number of delegates to be elected on that ballot, no more and no less.
4. **Voting Area.** The presiding officer shall designate the areas of the Lay and Clergy Sessions where members shall be seated during balloting. Ballots shall be cast from only those present and seated within the voting areas of the annual conference and displaying the proper credentials.
5. **Ballot Reporting.** After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the Bishop which shall contain (a) number of ballots cast; (b) number of ballots not valid; (c) number of ballots counted; (d) number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each, beginning with the largest number of votes.
6. **Majority Required for Election.** On every ballot, a majority of the valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of a delegate, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.
7. **Reading or Distributing Names.** On the first ballot for General Conference, the presiding officer shall read or display all names receiving votes with the number of votes cast for each. After the first ballot, the 25 nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be read or displayed, according to the highest number of votes received. In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available position on the General or jurisdictional delegation, a run-off election will be ordered by the bishop to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those in the run-off are open for votes. The names will be read in order of their election. The person with the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate delegation. When all General Conference delegates have been elected, the same procedure shall be followed for jurisdictional conference delegates.
8. **Handling of Ballots after Counting and Recording.** Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballot results and deliver them to the annual conference secretary. The annual conference secretary shall retain all ballot results until the adjournment of the annual conference after which they shall be destroyed.

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G. TELLERS

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

H. EXPENSES OF CLERGY AND LAY ALTERNATES

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

I. DELEGATES UNDER THE AGE OF 18

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

IV. NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTION

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

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

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V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

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

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

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board will consist of a minimum of 12 and up to 16 persons: six nominated by the bishop and Cabinet, six nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, and up to four additional persons who may be co-opted by the team for expertise and diversity. The membership of this team will be placed in four classes to ensure continuity. The team is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

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

The Directing Board will consist of the following nine (9) members: three officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) to be elected by the Annual Conference, the chair of the Best Practices Group, the chair of the Connecting Group, and four (4) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex-officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- d. Missional Ministries.** The Missional Ministries Board in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the annual conference. The Conference Director of Justice and Missional Excellence shall serve as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM), fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶ 633.3 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into two (2) mission teams: (1) Missional Discipleship and Engagement and (2) Missional Connection. The position of Conference Coordinator of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall be an ex-officio member of the Mission Connection Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board, as outlined in ¶ 633.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

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

- e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries.** The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶ 1405 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set forth in ¶ 634 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

Membership: With an effort to maintain a balance of clergy and laity, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries shall have 12 Conference elected members (placed in four classes): a current campus minister, a current Campus Ministry Local Board Chairperson, a current local church pastor with passion for campus ministry, a current United Methodist College or University President, a young adult/student, a member with expertise in property management, and six general members (with a preference for expertise in executive leadership, finance, communication, and marketing). The member who has expertise in the area of property management shall also serve as the chairperson of the Conference Board of Property Managers of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. Ex officio members shall be: the Director of Connectional Ministries, a Liaison District Superintendent (liaison between the BHECM and the Cabinet), an additional District Superintendent, the Conference Treasurer,

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and any Virginia Conference member to the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The related conference staff person (the Director of Ministries with Young People) and the Director of the Association of Educational Institutions (AEI) will serve as members with voice but no vote. The term for chairperson shall be four years and terms for members shall also be four years and follow section I E8 of the Conference Rules and Policies. Nominations and election of the chairperson shall follow sections I E11 of the Conference Rules and Policies. The Executive Committee of the BHECM shall consist of the chairperson, the Liaison District Superintendent, the current campus minister, the member with expertise in property management and three general members.

Organization: The BHECM will meet a minimum of every other month. The Executive Committee will meet as needed. The BHECM will also be responsible for a minimum of one annual meeting for the following: Effectiveness Training Forums for Local Campus Ministry Boards, Effectiveness Training Forums for Campus Ministers/Chaplains, and Effectiveness Discussion Forums for District Superintendents. The incorporated entities of the board are the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc. The conference board of property managers is a sub-group of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. The Executive Committee of the Board shall function as the board of directors of both the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc.

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

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

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

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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 training for leadership development of both lay and clergypersons of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit, and whose Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) directors nominated by the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference and elected by the Annual Conference: three (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 United Methodist, Inc.** There shall be a Board of Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the annual conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated
 - a. **Function** The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - b. **Membership** Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., shall consist of 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 Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., the Conference Information Systems Director, and any member of United Methodist Communications, the General Board of Publications, and any other general board or agency whose purpose or function is included with the purposes and functions of this organization, or their successors, who is a member of a local charge in the Virginia Annual Conference or a clergy member of the Virginia Annual Conference. There shall be a president, vice president and secretary.
 - c. **Organization** There shall be the following committees:
 - i. *Executive Committee* shall consist of the elected officers of the corporation, the conference director of Communications and three additional members of the board. The three non-officer members of the Executive Committee shall be elected quadrennially by the Board of Directors and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify. Vacancies may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. All non-officer members of the Executive Committee shall be chosen from among the directors. The Executive Committee shall include both laypersons and clergypersons. The president shall act as chair of

STANDING RULES

the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall also serve as the committee on Nominations, with the corporation vice president overseeing the business of nominations. The Executive Committee shall review board membership annually and recommend changes in membership to the board.

- ii. *Project Committees* As needs arise, project committees may be appointed by the president to function on behalf of specific projects or activities of the corporation. Any two (2) members of a project committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the committee's business. The president shall be an ex-officio of all such project committees. It is strongly encouraged that all board members serve on a project.

d. Finance

- i. The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference shall be designated as the person who can authorize expenditures on behalf of the corporation under the direction of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. Budget. The Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, working closely with the board president, committee chairs, and communications staff will annually develop the various communication budgets and submit them to the board for approval and will regularly review expenditures to insure compliance with the adopted budgets. The Board of Directors, prior to the budget deadline of the annual conference Connectional Ministries office each year, shall recommend an income and expense budget covering all activities for the next fiscal year, including capital improvements or expenditures.
4. **Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT).** (See ¶ I.D.1. for composition and function of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development 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 Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the annual conference. In addition, one District Superintendent named by the Cabinet shall be a member. It shall perform the duties assigned to it by the *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 Board of Global Ministries, as appropriate in each case, to meet these requests.

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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 Leadership Discovery and Development Team. A minimum of two members shall be youth and young adults between the ages of 12 - 35. The commission will be constituted so that two-thirds of the membership be representative of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be ex-officio members of the commission with both voice and vote. The presidents or chairs of conference caucuses, fellowships, or associations for racial and ethnic constituencies shall be ex-officio members of the commission with voice but not vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.
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 Leadership Discovery and Development 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 charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 2016; fourteen (14) of the twenty-three (23) trustees shall be elected by the Annual Conference.
11. **Incapacity, Joint Committee on.** There shall be a Joint Committee on Incapacity consisting of two representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry, two representatives from the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., one representative from the Cabinet and one representative of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Their duties shall be as prescribed by the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 652).
12. **Investigation, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (See ¶ 2703.2).
13. **Minutes, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Minutes consisting of seven members nominated by the Cabinet for a term of eight years, provided that the terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and terms of the other three shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. At least three members shall be lay persons and at least three shall be clergy. The chair shall be designated by the Cabinet. The committee shall review the daily minutes of the annual conference proceedings and report at the next session. Within three weeks of the close of the annual conference session, the committee will meet with the conference secretary to review and correct the minutes of proceedings before submitting the same for printing in the conference *Journal*.

- 14. Ordained Ministry.** The Board of Ordained Ministry in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches in preparing and aiding persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ as this has been historically understood by United Methodism. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall perform all the duties and functions as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* and shall be directly amenable to the annual conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 635.1) and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. The annual conference registrar and at least one District Superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. At least one person from each district shall be included on the board. If during the course of the quadrennium a district should lose its representation on the board, an additional person shall be elected to the board to ensure representation from each district.
- 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 in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶639.2a) If no District Superintendent is a member of this agency the Bishop may name one to represent the Cabinet. He or she shall have voice but not vote. This agency shall perform the duties set forth in the *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 Association of United Methodist Secretaries.** There shall be a Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries (VAPAU MCS), 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.

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- 18. Rules Committee.** There shall be a Rules Committee consisting of nine members elected by the annual conference on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team or from the floor for a term of eight years. The terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be lay and four members shall be clergy. The chancellor(s) of the annual conference shall be *ex officio* members of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies between sessions of the annual conference, and make its recommendations to the annual conference. Proposed amendments to the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the annual conference shall be referred to the Rules Committee.
- 19. Site Selection, Committee on.** There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one-half lay and one-half clergy, elected on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the terms of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other class to expire at the end of the next quadrennium. This committee shall make arrangements for the meeting of the annual conference and shall recommend a location for the meeting of the annual conference a minimum of five years in advance.
- 20. Status and Role of Women in the Church, Commission on the.** There shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference. In addition, the conference United Methodist Women shall name one member. The Bishop may appoint to the commission a District Superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote. The majority of the commission, including both lay and clergy, shall be women. The chairperson shall be a woman.
- 21. Trustees, Board of.** There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 members, elected by the annual conference, organized and with responsibilities as set forth in the *2016 Book of Discipline* (§§ 2512-2517).

C. TASK FORCES

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

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D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

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

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year (in accordance with the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶658).

B. AGENDA

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

Members of the district conference shall elect the district lay leader (¶660.2) for a term of not less than four years and not more than six years. The district conference shall also elect the committee on the district superintendency (¶669.1,2), the district trustees (¶2518.2) and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The district committee on ordained ministry (¶666.1) and the district board of church location and building (¶2519) are approved or elected by the annual conference.

C. MEMBERSHIP

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

District officers who are members of the district conference include*: the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries or equivalent body, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, a representative of the district youth council*, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults*, the district coordinators of children, youth,

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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 *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.

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E. METHOD OF VOTING

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

F. EXCEPTIONS TO THE NO INTERRUPTION RULE

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

G. LIMITS ON SPEAKING

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

H. HIGH PRIVILEGE

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

I. CALL FOR DIVISION OF ANY QUESTION

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

J. MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITING

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

K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

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

M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

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

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NAME BADGE COLORS

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

Lay Members

At-Large District Lay Members

District and Conference Lay Leaders

Conference President of United Methodist Men

Conference President of United Methodist Women

Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Conference Scouting Coordinator

President or equivalent of Conference Young Adult Organization

President of Conference Youth Organization

Chair, Conference College Student Organization

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

Diaconal Ministers

Retired Diaconal Ministers

Deaconesses (see also ¶1314.5)

Home Missioners

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

FE Elder in Full Connection (¶334.1)

FD Deacon in Full Connection (¶329.2)

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

RM & RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

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

AM Associate Members (¶35 and ¶602.1c)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OF Full member of another denomination (¶346.2)

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

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

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

WHITE (voice but no vote)

AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (§334.5)

RL Retired Local Pastor (§320.5)

OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

OP Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)

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

RED (no voice or vote)

SY Lay Supply

LM Certified Lay Minister

HL Honorable Location (§359)

RHL Retired – Honorable Location (§359.3)

MOD Minister of Another Denomination Serving an Ecumenical Parish in VA

G Official Guest

ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

BROWN (not official)

All others

CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Effective January 1, 2006

I. PURPOSE

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

A. MISSION

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

B. VALUES

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

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

II. MEMBERSHIP

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

A. Voting Members

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader

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3. Director of Connectional Ministries
4. Cabinet representative assigned by the bishop
5. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy representative (in accordance with ¶643.5)
6. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with ¶634.3)
7. Eight at-large members equally divided between clergy and laity in annual classes, including two young adult/youth representatives, as elected in III

B. Non-voting Members

1. Representative from Council on Finance and Administration assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration
2. The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table without vote.

It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference.

III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

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

IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS

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

V. MEETINGS

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

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VI. OFFICERS

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

VII. COMMITTEES

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

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

C. OTHER COMMITTEES

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

VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF

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

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

STANDING RULES

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

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

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

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

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

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

IX. FINANCES

The Common Table shall present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration to cover the expenses for the work of the Common Table and the boards and agencies, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups for which it is responsible. The right of the Annual Conference boards and agencies to be heard by the Council on Finance and Administration shall not be denied, as provided by ¶614 the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

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

- Board of Church and Society
- Board of Communications

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

Other Attendees

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

The Director of Connectional Ministries shall chair these meetings.

XI. AMENDMENTS

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

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

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

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

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

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Committee on Resolutions

Darlene Amon
Grace Han
James D. Hudson
Lynda Moore
Melody Tanner, *Chair*

Memoirs

Debra Lucas

Tellers

Kyungsuk Cho, *Head Teller*

Clergy:

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

Larry Craddock
Brett Isernhagen
Neil McLaughlin
Tammy Franklin
Donghwan Paul Oh
Sandra Benton Plasters
James Kim
John Haynes, Jr.
James Carey
June Carpenter
Donna Blythe
Larry Cochran
Ray Sandifer
Charles Bates
Keiko Foster
Kenneth Cleveland

Lay:

Rhona Alexander Powell
Mary Ellen VanNederynen
Catherine McLaughlin
Lisa Haskins
Katelyn Leatherbury
Kevin Otey
Michelle Clary
Joe Amend, III
Marie Hawks
Connie Coleman
Dottie Garrison
Lauren Adkins
Ronda Rogers
Erin Schaeffer
Charles Browning
Warren Wright

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference, as approved by 2017 Annual Conference, continued the work of placing information related to the Delegates of General and jurisdictional conference on the Virginia Conference Website (vaumc.org/GCSEJExpenses). In addition to placing information on the website, the Rules Committee continued this year looking at the nomination and election process of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. The Rules Committee felt that it would be in the best of interest to align our rules with the potential changes of Constitutional Amendment III from 2016 General Conference, requiring a nomination from the floor. And so, the Rules Committee is recommending Standing Rules Section III.C.2. b. to read:

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.

And Section III. D.5., to read:

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 (III.D.3.) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.

In addition to working on our nomination and election process, the Rules Committee this year considered proposals from Board of Discipleship and Common Table (Resolutions Committee). Under the Board of Discipleship, the Rules Committee is recommending changing the Rules to adhere to their newly restructured Board. And also, with adherence to the Common Table's proposal on restructuring of the Resolutions Committee, to alter the Rules in section II to reflect the changes proposed by Common Table.

In general maintenance of the Rules, the Rules Committee is recommending all language in the Rules Committee in regards to "Alternative Structure/Equivalent Body" to read "Equivalent Body".

And in conclusion, the Rules Committee spoke extensively this year about the need for our members to become familiar with Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The Rules Committee drafted a letter which was included in your Annual Conference packet.

– Joshua S. King, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

Changes Recommended by Rules Committee

Paragraph I.B.3.n. – strike all of n following “District Council on Ministries” and add “or equivalent body.”

Paragraph I.B.3.u. – strike “Resolutions Committee;”

Paragraph I.B.5.b.ix – strike “ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee” and renumber subsequent paragraph.

Paragraph I.D.14 – strike “14. Resolutions Committee.” and renumber subsequent paragraph.

Paragraph II – Rename II. to “Reports, Presentations, Petitions, Proposals, and Consent Agenda”

Paragraph II.B – Strike II.B in whole and add

“II.B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Requests for inclusion of presentations for the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the Book of Reports. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the proposal.”

Paragraph II – Add a new sub-section “C” named Petitions to be read:

“II.C PETITIONS

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

Paragraph II – Add a new sub-section “D” named Proposals. Add current language for II.C,D, and F as sub-sections II.D.1,2,3.

Paragraph III.B.5.b - strike the “,” between “budgets, proposals” and add the word “or”.

Paragraph III.B.5.b - after “proposals” strike “, or resolutions”

Paragraph III.B.5.b - strike the “,” between “petitions, amendments” and add the word “or”.

Paragraph III.B.5.b – after “amendments” strike “,or resolutions”.

Paragraph III.C.2.b – strike all “Clergy Session Nominations....” and replace with

“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”.

Paragraph III.D.5 – strike all “Laity Session Nomination....” and replace with

“Lay Nominations from the Floor

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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 (III.D.3.) and the nominee must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Nominations from the floor shall be closed by the presiding Bishop.

Paragraph III.F.1 – strike “Jurisdictional Delegates” and replace with “jurisdictional delegates”

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the second paragraph, strike “nine (9)” and replace with “eight (8)”

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the second paragraph strike “Best Practices Group, the chair of Connecting Group” and replace with “Disciple Resource Team”.

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the third paragraph strike both places it states “Conference Awareness Team” and add “Disciple Resource Team”

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the third paragraph strike “12” and replace with “eight (8)”

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the third paragraph strike “divided among two working groups: (1) Best Practices Group and (b) connecting Group.” and replace with “four classes of two, one laity and one clergy per class.”

Paragraph V.A.4.c – In the third paragraph strike the rest of the third paragraph following, “elected by the Annual Conference.”

Paragraph VI.C – after “chairperson of the church council” strike “or its equivalent body” and add “*”

Paragraph VI.C – In the second paragraph after “district Council on Ministries” strike “or equivalent body” and add “*”

– *Joshua S. King, Chair*

CABINET

With the powerful leadership of Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the Cabinet has sought to equip and lead the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference for the vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners, influencing others to serve. The 16 District Superintendents are formed as chief missional strategists by our worshipping together each day we meet and through the community forged in our cluster covenant groups. Appointment-making, a core task of the bishop and cabinet, is wrapped in prayer, shaped by a careful consultative process, and focused on fruitfulness. Across our conference each district is engaging in contextual ministry and mission.

The **Alexandria District** is grateful for a year of growth in both professions of faith and average worship attendance in 2017. Three new multi-site congregations are off to good starts, including a digital campus that reaches around the world. Numerous other churches are experimenting with new ways to reach people outside of the church walls, including dinner church, restaurant church and house churches.

Three churches in the **Arlington District** competed their Next Level Innovations weekends, approving innovations for greater vitality by 84% or more in congregational voting; three additional churches began this three year process of revitalization. Two new church plants began: Floris Online and Arlington Commons, both designed to reach more people in nontraditional ways. Clergy peer learning groups focused on becoming spiritually vital leaders; all clergy were introduced to Tod Bolsinger's book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*.

The laity and clergy on the **Charlottesville District** are faithfully serving God in many different ways. Some of these ministries are to the poor; the homeless; speaking out against racism; those being released from prison; Central Virginia Mission HUB (Mission Central) and offering hope to the least of God's children. We had Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Clark as our guest preacher from Eastern Mennonite Seminary at District Conference. We also packaged 20,088 meals for Haiti at District Conference with Rise Against Hunger. The District still has a vision to have an apartment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We support camp ministry with children at Westview on the James and college students at the Wesley Foundation at UVA.

Danville District churches are learning to respond to changes in our local communities and our culture at large. Leaders are focused on support for flexible, creative experimentation in contextualized ministry. We continue to adapt in order to remain faithful to God's invitation to a spirit of "missional imagination", especially in the places of greatest pain and fear. We move forward in trust and with hope in our hearts.

Grants from the Ministry with the Poor Initiative on the **Eastern Shore District** have supported four ministries: the Agape Children's Christian Community Center's new summer program for low-income children, Epworth UMC's Meals for the Hungry, Una Familia—the district wide-program accompanying Latino families, and Manna Cafe—Christ UMC's community dinner program that feeds over 300 people each week. An ongoing capital campaign at beautiful Camp Occohannock on the Bay has resulted in upgraded bathhouses and cabin improvements to enhance a full summer program. A number of Eastern Shore churches have been working with coaching programs through

the Church Transformation Team and Focus 2020 to reorient their mission for a new day.

The **Elizabeth River District** is striving to equip both lay and clergy to make disciples who are lifelong learners. Phil Maynard has been leading monthly meeting with laity and clergy helping them understand the “Shifts” we need to focus on to move persons from members to disciples. Next Level Innovations is starting this fall in partnership with the Richmond District to help churches move from good to great.

The **Farmville District** continues to live into our vision of “being passionate about leading, listening and loving all people to build up the Kingdom.” We are slowly becoming more diverse in our church population. Our pastoral leadership includes one African American female, three Korean males, one Latino male, 15 Anglo females, and 43 Anglo males. One of our churches, Trinity, Amelia Charge, has a very diverse membership of Anglos and Latinos. We are committed to making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. We were blessed to have Paulo Lopez, conference director of Next Generation Ministries, speak to our District Conference on “Discipleship Making and Cross Cultural Challenges.

The **Harrisonburg District** is alive and well. We are completing a Mission Central Building which is 4,200 square feet to distribute clothing and diapers to children and medical equipment to the community. Our UMVIM Teams are in Florida, West Virginia, North Carolina and Virginia helping rebuild and get folks back into homes.

The vision of the **James River District** continues to be, “Disciples Making Disciples.” Through excellent clergy and lay leadership we have focused life-long learning and church vitality especially among our many small churches. We have seen four churches move from part-time to full time status and three churches have doubled in worship! Eight Branch Camp Meetings have brought our churches together for worship, mission and prayer through which 543 flood buckets were collected. We are blessed with the servant leadership of our staff, Tish Borden, Jim O’Quinn and Ronnika Davis. We are excited to welcome the Rev. Sylvia Meadows as our new District Superintendent.

The **Lynchburg District** has spent the past year discerning God’s call to align our congregations, clergy, lay leadership and financial resources around the mission of making lifelong learners who influence others to serve. This has led to a new ministry structure and financial plan which focuses on revitalization, leadership development, emerging ministries, ministry with young people, reconciliation and conflict transformation and ministry with the poor. We are grateful to welcome the Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor who brings a wide array of gifts and graces to the newly created district staff position of Revitalization Coordinator as she helps us see and cooperate with the new things God is doing among us.

The **Rappahannock River District** continues to focus on making disciples. We continue to strive for vibrancy in our local churches, in our two special non-traditional ministries and in our equipping of laity and clergy. We have embraced the conference vision and are using Discipleship Ministries resources like “See All the People” to equip and undergird our disciple making effort. We take seriously the Bishop’s challenge that every congregation will have an intentional disciple making process with detailed steps by 2020.

The **Richmond District** is celebrating another year of God's grace! From a freshly planted African American Church to the growing world of Hispanic ministry, God is doing many new things in Richmond. We are looking forward to several new opportunities in the coming year and are staying tuned for God's continuing work in our RVA community!

On the **Roanoke District** *Leading on the Edge* describes both a district event for clergy and laity focused on poverty and homelessness, faith and mental health, religion and race and human sexuality that grew out of holy conversations across several months at our District Common Table and visible witness in communities from Roanoke (*Reconciling Race: From Confession to Communion*) to Newport (*Giving Witness: Responding to Violation of Community and Creation*). The Board of Missions hosted its inaugural Ministry Accelerator for grant recipients to increase capacity and sustainability. The District Youth Retreat led by VT Wesley, the summer and winter camp programs at Alta Mons and COP's literacy program all showed fruitful increase.

The **Staunton District** took a prayerful approach to how we might "influence others to serve" Christ in our communities. For clergy, this focus included "Asset-Based Community Development" training, with an emphasis on developing missional relationships that are of mutual dignity and potential transformation for both parties. The Waynesboro Secret Boutique ministry, conceived to build relationships with lower-income families by providing a shopper-experience for teens who need fashionable clothing for school, is now bridging over to Staunton. We launched a youth Mission Team which served on the Eastern Shore and a Disaster Relief crew of adults who rebuilt homes in Florida. The faith communities of our District increased in apportionment giving again this year, with four churches attending to their full share for the first time in many years.

The **Winchester District** enhanced its partnership between clergy and laity by hosting Martha Stokes and the five associate district lay leaders at the annual August clergy retreat at Camp Overlook. The district continued its UMVIM work in Haiti by sending three teams as well as sending a disaster relief team to Texas. The district continued to offer local churches the opportunity to be lifelong learners by hosting training events designed to support various mission and ministry endeavors. To God be the glory.

The **York River District** continues to celebrate God's faithfulness and the exciting movement of the Holy Spirit. During Charge Conference season, each congregation shared a gift with other congregations by presenting "A New Thing" that God was doing or was about to do with them. In 2017, the people of the YRD welcomed 517 new members, including 195 by profession of faith, and gave over \$2.6 million for the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

The Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Treasurer, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence and the Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence serve as members of the **Extended Cabinet** to inform and provide a connection between the program and missional ministries of the annual conference and the work of the Cabinet.

REPORTS

We are exceedingly grateful to the Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, and Mrs. Terri Biggins, the Bishop's administrative assistant, for their dedicated support.

With thanksgiving for their strong leadership, we will say "farewell" to retiring colleagues the Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell, the Rev. Tommy Herndon and the Rev. Larry Thompson. We will warmly welcome the Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez, the Rev. Sylvia Meadows and the Rev. Dr. Steve Summers to the cabinet table.

Since the coming year is filled with both anticipated and unknown challenges and opportunities, we are blessed that the Cabinet Covenant shapes our life and leadership: *We, the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference, covenant with each other to be a Holy Table where Christ is our servant example and Lord; where we joyfully hold each other in disciplines of prayer, study, worship, service and physical self-care; where the truth is told and honored; where we support one another in the effort to maintain confidentiality, through words/action of grace and in the spirit of love; where trust is the rule, brokenness is received with mercy, pain is healed with grace and forgiveness is sought, given and accepted; where the health of the whole Body of Christ is desired over that of any one part; where we seek perfection in love for God and for each other.*

– Kathleen Overby Webster, Dean

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Beginning in 2019 and beyond, the Annual Conference will convene on Thursday and conclude on Saturday as set by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. The Site Selection Committee is charged with identifying the location for the Virginia Annual Conference to meet and shall recommend a location five (5) years in advance. By previous Annual Conference action, the following locations have been approved for the site of the Annual Conference:

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

The Site Selection Committee recommends for 2023, Annual Conference be held in:

Roanoke	June 15-17, 2023
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The Committee, along with the Chair of the Common Table and with the assistance of the Conference meeting planner, continues to review other locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. For your reference, we have the following requirements in evaluating potential Annual Conference sites:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

The Site Selection Committee recommends that the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference be held at the Berglund Center in Roanoke June 15-17.

— Neal E. Wise, Chair

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 \$175,506 was provided to 22 charges in 2017. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2017 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the *Journal*.

There were 11 charges receiving salary support in 2016 that did not require salary support in 2017. These are Blandford (James River), Brookneal (Lynchburg), Galloway (Arlington), Messiah (Alexandria), Montross (Rappahannock River), Oyler’s Chapel-Rehoboth Cooperative Parish (Danville), Petersburg Cooperative Parish (James River), Southview (Roanoke), St Paul (Roanoke), Twin Lakes (Lynchburg), and Nottoway-Lunenburg (Farmville). 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 2019 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 2019 is \$64,040, which is an increase of 1.3% percent from 2018. The Commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2019 and recommends the schedules remain the same as 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	2019 Proposed	2018 Approved
1. The Minimum Compensation Schedule:		
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$42,000	\$42,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$38,500	\$38,500
c. Local Pastors	\$36,000	\$36,000
3. The Floor Schedule:		
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$28,000	\$28,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$25,600	\$25,600
c. Local Pastors	\$24,000	\$24,000

REPORTS

The financial results 2015-2017 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided below:

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year Ending 2015	Year Ending 2016	Year Ending 2017
Apportioned	500,000	500,000	350,000
Uncollected Apportionment	76,908	61,170	36,432
Apportionment Income	423,092	438,830	313,568
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>84.62%</i>	<i>87.77%</i>	<i>89.59%</i>
Grants	222,495	193,646	175,506
Sustenance fund grant			6,513
Meeting Expense & Other	1,030	1,033	373
Total Expenses	223,526	194,679	182,391
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	199,566	244,151	131,176

– Joseph T. Carson III, 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 Wespeth Benefits and Investments (Wespeth), 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 Wespeth.

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference 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 Wespeth, develops and administers the various 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 Supplemental Life Voluntary Life Long Term Care Healthcare Flexible Spending Account Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account	<u>Wespeth 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)
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■ Report 2: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans for Active Clergy

VUMPI administers health benefit plans for full time clergy of the Virginia Conference. In addition to clergy appointed full time, the plans are made available to clergy appointed to certain leave statuses, and also to clergy on medical leave and surviving spouses and children of clergy.

In the current Conference-sponsored health benefits program there are four health benefit plans which include prescription drug coverage, and two dental insurance plans. Three of the health benefits plans are offered to active clergy, and the fourth is offered only to clergy on medical leave with Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy.

The primary objective of VUMPI’s health benefits program is to maintain sustainable health care plans that offer sufficient protection against the risk of financially catastrophic

health care costs, while ensuring that the program is affordable both to health plan participants and to Virginia Conference churches. The majority of the health plan costs are paid by churches through the health plan apportionment, and plan participants contribute to the total cost through participant contributions which are based on the health plan selections.

VUMPI administers the health benefits program within an environment of rapidly changing legislative and regulatory requirements. In particular, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law in 2010, has resulted in significant changes to the health insurance marketplace, including new requirements applicable to health plans sponsored by employers for the benefit of employees and retirees. One element of ACA that is expected to have a meaningful impact on employer-sponsored health plans is the excise tax on high cost health plans, popularly known as the “Cadillac tax.” This provision of ACA assesses a 40% excise tax on employer-sponsored plans that exceed specified cost thresholds for individuals and families enrolled in the plans. VUMPI, working with external actuarial consultants, has projected that the current Conference-sponsored health plans would likely exceed the Cadillac Tax thresholds either upon or soon after the tax’s implementation unless plan changes are made. In such a scenario, VUMPI would be required to obtain additional revenue either through apportionments or participant contributions in order to pay the tax penalty. Accordingly, VUMPI has developed a health plan strategy that is designed to avoid becoming subject to the tax. That strategy includes the two following elements: new health plans to be offered in 2019 and expanded dependent enrollment tiers.

New Health Plans

VUMPI currently administers three health plans for full time Virginia Conference clergy. Plans currently offered include the following:

- **PPO:** the most popular plan by enrollment, with a \$1,000 individual deductible and 20% coinsurance
- **HMO-POS:** a plan with a higher level of benefits, including a \$500 individual deductible and generally using a copay structure, with higher participant contributions than the PPO
- **Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP):** a plan with a \$1,750 individual deductible and Conference contributions to an embedded Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), with lower participant contributions than the PPO

While the above plans offer sufficient protection against the risk of catastrophic health care costs and a range of options to allow plan selection based on participants’ preferences, VUMPI has determined that a new set of health benefit plans can both preserve the desired protection against risks while also capitalizing on the opportunity to make improvements in the plans. As is noted in Recommendation 2 below, VUMPI is recommending the Virginia Conference’s approval of three new health benefit plans for full time Virginia Conference clergy.

The new benefit plans have been designed to have greater consistency across the plans in order to reduce the confusion that can occur when switching from one plan to another.

In addition, one of the plans has been designed to allow enrolled clergy to take advantage of the favorable tax treatment of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), which allow tax-free account contributions that can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses at any time with no federal tax liability. A high level summary of the health plans recommended for active clergy in 2019 follows:

- **PPO Core:** a plan designed to be similar to the current PPO plan, with a \$1,000 individual deductible and 20% coinsurance
- **PPO Buy-Up:** a plan offering a higher level of benefits, with a \$750 individual deductible and 20% coinsurance, with higher participant contributions than the PPO Core plan
- **HSA plan:** a plan with a higher deductible (\$2,250 individual deductible) as required by Internal Revenue Service rules for HSAs, a Conference contribution to the Health Savings Account (\$750 for individual tier enrollees), 20% coinsurance, and with lower participant contributions than the PPO Core plan

A fourth health plan which is currently offered, and which is made available only to clergy on medical leave with CPP disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy, is recommended to continue to be offered in 2019 with no plan design changes.

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI are also recommended to continue to be offered in 2019 with no plan design changes.

Expanded Dependent Enrollment Tiers

Under current Conference-sponsored health plan provisions clergy may enroll in the health plans either as individuals or in family coverage. The family coverage tier is applicable to anyone other than the clergyperson, including a spouse and/or children. VUMPI is recommending an expansion of the enrollment tiers for active clergy to include the following enrollment categories:

- Clergyperson only
- Clergyperson + Spouse
- Clergyperson + Children
- Family

The recommendation to expand the dependent tiers is based on several factors, but is primarily driven by the anticipated reduction in the calculated family tier “premium equivalent” for the Conference-sponsored plans that will be used to test against the Cadillac tax thresholds. By reducing the plans’ family tier premium equivalents, projections indicate that VUMPI will be better positioned to avoid becoming subject to the Cadillac tax penalties.

■ Report 3: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans for Retired Clergy

VUMPI administers health plans for eligible retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. The eligibility requirements are based on the retiree’s years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference, as determined by VUMPI at the time of retirement. Plans made

available to eligible retirees are coordinated with Medicare benefits, as 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 one of the self funded PPO plans administered by VUMPI. Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees may also enroll in the self funded dental insurance program made available to active clergy. Currently, pre-Medicare-eligible retirees who qualify for the Conference-sponsored health plan are able to enroll only in the PPO plan. Along with the adoption of the new health plans for 2019, VUMPI is recommending that Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees have the option of enrolling either in the PPO Core plan or the PPO Buy-Up plan. This provides an additional plan option for those retirees who would prefer a higher level of coverage. Both of the Conference-sponsored dental plans will continue to be made available to pre-Medicare-eligible retirees in 2019.

While VUMPI is recommending the expansion of the dependent enrollment tiers for active clergy in 2019, no such expansion is recommended for the Conference-sponsored retiree plans. Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees will continue to enroll either in individual or family coverage in 2019.

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 4.

The second option made available to eligible retirees who are enrolled in Medicare is the Connector option. Under the Connector option, Medicare-eligible retirees are able to select any Medicare Supplement plan or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. The Conference will provide funding through a Retiree Reimbursement Account ("RRA"), and those funds can be used to partially or fully offset the cost of the coverage elected through the Connector. The RRA funding made available to retirees who elect coverage through the Connector option is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the elected health plan coverage, if any, is paid by the retiree directly to United Healthcare. Qualifying Medicare-eligible retirees of the Virginia Conference will continue to enroll either in individual tier or family tier coverage in 2019.

■ Report 4: Pension Plan Structure

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

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

Wespath refers to plans A – C above as defined benefit (“DB”) pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement.

Wespath 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 in-turn bills and apportions our local churches for the cost of these plans.

Wespath has calculated the Virginia Conference’s 2019 required funding obligation associated with the Pre-82 pension program’s projected liability. That funding obligation is based on the Virginia Conference’s total projected liability and asset values as of January 1, 2017. With positive investment market returns that led to growth in the value of the Virginia Conference’s existing pension assets, the required 2019 Pre-82 funding obligation of \$1,796,790 is slightly lower than the 2018 Pre-82 funding obligation. As indicated in Recommendation 1 below, VUMPI is recommending a Pre-82 Pension Liability apportionment of \$750,000 in 2019. The difference between the apportionment and the actual funding obligation will be made up through Wespath’s Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) premium redirection program, which was implemented in 2018 and will terminate at the end of 2019. Any additional funding needed to meet the 2019 Pre-82 funding obligation will be made up with VUMPI reserve funds under the financial reserve strategy adopted by the VUMPI Board of Directors in 2014.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) remains in a fully funded status. Accordingly, there is no funding obligation associated with the MPP in 2019. The Clergy Retirement Security Program’s calculated funding obligation for the defined benefit component of the program is \$4,460,887 in 2019. VUMPI will obtain revenue to meet this funding obligation through the billing methodology detailed in Recommendation 7 below.

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 5: Welfare Plan Structure

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

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

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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.

VUMPI will obtain revenue to fund the above welfare plan benefits through the billing methodology detailed in Recommendation 7 below.

Report 6: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by Wespath, the DAC is projected to increase from 2018 to 2019 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2018	\$70,202
2019	\$71,361



Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

■ Recommendation 1: 2019 Pension and Health Plan Apportionment Recommendations

For 2019, VUMPI recommends total Clergy Benefit Apportionments of \$16,520,000. This is the fifth consecutive year in which VUMPI’s recommended apportionments are either unchanged from or less than the preceding year’s apportionments. The total clergy benefits apportionments 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), the Retired Clergy Health Plan and the Pre-82 pension. The apportionment total is allocated among these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2019	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 9,710,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,060,000
Pension Liability Assessment – Pre-82	750,000
TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 16,520,000

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

In 2019 VUMPI will continue to bill Conference-responsible salary-paying-units not subject to apportionments (such as Extension Ministries) for employed clergy enrolling in the Conference-sponsored health plans. The amount billed will be \$11,664 (\$972 per month) for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 4: 2019 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

VUMPI has developed strategies associated with the Pre-82 Pension Liability apportionment that are intended to reduce the burden of that apportionment on Virginia Conference churches and also to minimize volatility in the amount of the apportionment. Two fundamental strategies support these goals. First, VUMPI initially established a strategy in which the Pre-82 Liability apportionment would be maintained at \$1 million each year until the apportionment could either be permanently reduced or eliminated. A second strategy involves the commitment of funds from VUMPI's financial reserve to offset amounts that would otherwise need to be obtained from Virginia Conference churches through apportionments. Following a detailed analysis of the remaining Pre-82 liability and the evaluation of multiple potential future investment market scenarios, these two complementary strategies have led VUMPI to recommend a reduction in the Pre-82 Liability apportionment from \$1 million in 2018 to \$750,000 in 2019. VUMPI anticipates maintaining the Pre-82 Liability apportionment at or below this level until a fully-funded Pre-82 Pension status is achieved.

■ Recommendation 2: 2019 Health Plan Designs

Medical and Dental Plans

As was summarized in Report 2, three new health plan designs are recommended for 2019. The recommended plans have been designed to provide a PPO Core health plan option, which is designed to be similar to the current Conference-sponsored PPO plan. Also offered is a PPO Buy-Up plan that offers a lower deductible and out of pocket cost limit, and a Health Savings Account plan option that includes Conference contributions to the HSA. HSA contributions will be prorated for plan participants enrolling in the HSA plan within a calendar year. Any HSA funds remaining at the end of the calendar year will roll over to the subsequent year and will remain under the enrollee's ownership. The recommended 2019 health benefit plan highlights are as follows:

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	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA
Individual Deductible	\$1,000	\$750	\$2,250
Family Deductible	\$2,500	\$1,875	\$4,500
HSA Funding	n/a	n/a	\$750/\$1,500
OOP Max (Individual)	\$6,500	\$4,500	\$5,500
OOP Max (Family)	\$13,000	\$9,000	\$11,000
Coinsurance	20%	20%	20%
Rx Cost	\$15/\$30/\$50	\$15/\$30/\$50	20% coinsurance

Currently the only plan made available to pre-Medicare-eligible retirees is the PPO plan. VUMPI recommends that both the PPO Core and PPO Buy-Up plans be made available to those retirees in 2019.

The current medical plan made available to clergy on medical leave with CPP benefits, and to surviving spouses and children of clergy, will be unchanged in 2019.

The current dental plans will be unchanged in 2019. A Core Dental plan offering coverage for preventive and basic dental care will continue to be offered alongside a Major Dental plan that adds coverage for major restorative and orthodontic services.

Plans for Medicare-eligible Retirees

The plans for Medicare-eligible retirees, including the group Medicare Advantage plan and the individual Medicare Supplement plans offered through United Healthcare's Connector Option, will be unchanged in 2019.

■ Recommendation 3: New voluntary vision plan

VUMPI recommends the addition of a new fully-insured voluntary vision plan in 2019. This voluntary vision plan insured by Anthem provides coverage for a range of vision-related services and supplies. The plan utilizes Anthem's extensive EyeMed network, and annual in-network routine vision exams are covered with a \$10 copay. Standard plastic lenses are covered with a \$10 copay, and standard progressive lenses are covered with a \$50 copay. Benefits are also provided for lens options such as tinting, scratch-resistant coatings and polycarbonate lenses. The plan also offers a \$150 in-network allowance for eyeglass frames and elective contact lenses, with a discount for amounts over the \$150 allowance. Coverage is offered for one exam, and one set of eyeglass frames and eyeglass lenses (or contact lenses in lieu of eyeglass lenses) per year. As a voluntary insurance program, there will be no cost to the Virginia Conference or Conference churches in association with this plan. Participant premiums are detailed in Recommendation 4 below.

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■ Recommendation 4: 2019 Participant Contribution Recommendations

VUMPI is recommending the following monthly participant contribution rates for the three new health plans which are recommended for 2019:

Active Clergy:

	Medical Plans			Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA	Core	Major
Employee Only	\$102	\$120	\$85	\$13	\$34
Employee + Spouse	\$308	\$325	\$280	\$49	\$98
Employee + Child(ren)	\$312	\$331	\$286	\$51	\$100
Family	\$325	\$360	\$298	\$60	\$109

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

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	\$642	\$702	\$31	\$60
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$1,429	\$1,504	\$51	\$124
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$1,548	\$1,629	\$53	\$126
Family	\$1,994	\$2,099	\$64	\$137

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

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

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

Qualifying retirees and/or spouses who are not yet eligible for Medicare will continue to have access to the Conference-sponsored health plans Administered by Anthem. As is currently the case, the enrollment options will remain retiree only or family, with family tier coverage offering the ability to cover children up to age 26. Beginning in 2019 retirees are recommended to have access to two health plan options, including the PPO Core and the PPO Buy-Up plan. Due to IRS restrictions on HSA contributions, the HSA plan will not be made available to retired clergy.

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	PPO Core		PPO Buy-up	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$701	\$1,600	\$772	\$1,760
15-19	\$568	\$1,295	\$625	\$1,425
20-24	\$434	\$991	\$478	\$1,090
25-29	\$301	\$686	\$331	\$754
30+	\$167	\$381	\$184	\$419

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

Recommended monthly premium for the optional voluntary vision benefit plan described in Recommendation 3 above are as follows:

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

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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 2019 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

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

Connector Option: The Connector option allows qualifying clergy to select any available Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. Retirees electing coverage through this option receive Retiree Reimbursement Account (“RRA”) funding, which can be used to offset the cost of the selected coverage. VUMPI recommends 2019 monthly RRA funding, which is unchanged from 2018, 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, plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2018. **Because new health plans are being offered in**

2019, all eligible active and pre-Medicare-eligible retired clergy will be required to make plan selections during the open enrollment period. There will be no default plans for those who do not elect 2019 coverage options during the annual open enrollment period. VUMPI will send notifications regarding the open enrollment period to all active and retired clergy current participating in the Conference-sponsored health plans.

■ Recommendation 5: Retiree Health Plan Eligibility

Virginia Conference clergy members earn a year of service towards his or her Total Years of VAUMC Service as indicated in Recommendation 4 above for each year that Virginia Annual Conference health plan eligibility is met.

Eligibility for the Conference-sponsored retiree medical plans currently requires a minimum of 10 consecutive years of full-time ministry in the Virginia Conference *immediately prior to retirement*. As such, Virginia Conference clergy on leave or in an Extension Ministry appointment could incur an interruption of the consecutive years of full time ministry required for retiree health plan eligibility. Since 2004 Conference rules have allowed clergy on approved leave or taking an Extension Ministry appointment to “freeze” their years of service until they retire or until they return to an appointment within the Virginia Conference by paying a Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee, which is \$20 per month in 2018.

VUMPI has reviewed the current Conference-sponsored retiree health plan eligibility rules. In particular, the Retiree Health Plan Monthly Access Fee has been evaluated along with the requirement to have a minimum of ten consecutive years of full time ministry in the Virginia Conference immediately prior to retirement.

Following a detailed review, VUMPI has concluded that the retiree health plan eligibility rules can be modified to specify that the following years are to be counted towards determining eligibility for the Conference-sponsored retiree health plans for clergy retiring on or after January 1, 2019:

- All years of full-time ministry in Virginia Conference churches, plus
- All years of full-time ministry other than in appointment to Virginia Conference churches but with enrollment in the Virginia Conference-sponsored health plan

There will no longer be a requirement to have 10 consecutive years of full-time ministry immediately preceding retirement. With this change, the Retiree Health Plan Access Fee will no longer be required in 2019. VUMPI recommends the approval of these changes to the Conference-sponsored health plan eligibility rules, and notes that these changes are expected to result in much more clarity around the eligibility rules and no meaningful increase in the projected financial liability associated with the Conference-sponsored health plans.

■ Recommendation 6: 2019 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:

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- 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 2019, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$565 to \$570.

■ **Recommendation 7: 2019 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations**

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2019 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%.

VUMPI will bill local churches and salary-paying units for the required monthly CRSP payments.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The 2019 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible full time clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

VUMPI will bill local churches and salary-paying units for the required monthly CPP payments.

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 a 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 8: 2019 Comprehensive Funding Plan

The 2016 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2019 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the VUMPI office.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

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

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

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP DB) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2017, is \$(1,588,243,217), while total plan assets are \$1,700,835,563, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 107%. The Virginia Conference portion of the liability is 4.0763% and the 2019 contribution is \$4,460,887. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three quarter and/or half time clergy. The Virginia Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2019.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non matching contribution. Clergy can earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3% to CRSP DC. The 2019 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be \$1,510,671.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

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

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2017

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is \$(3,532,916,942), while total plan assets are \$3,701,460,997, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 105%. The required contribution for 2019 is \$0. The Virginia Conference's percentage of the total liability is 3.2953%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$3,689,292,322 and the Virginia Conference's portion of that balance is \$135,333,756 or 3.67% of the total.

PRE-82 PLAN

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

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

The 2019 PSR recommended to the Virginia Conference will be \$570, representing a 1% increase from the 2018 rate. The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 70% level.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Virginia Conference sponsors a self funded health benefit program for full-time active clergy. The cost of the program for 2019 is anticipated to be approximately \$13,400,000, which will be funded primarily by apportionments and health plan participant contributions.

POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

The Virginia Conference currently sponsors a self funded health benefit program for pre-Medicare-eligible retirees and a Group Medicare Advantage plan for Medicare-eligible retirees, with optional RRA funding for the purchase of individual supplemental plans through a retiree medical exchange. The projected annual plan benefit cost for 2019, including health plan premiums, Retiree Reimbursement Account contributions and other plan expenses, is approximately \$7,250,000, which will be funded primarily by apportionments and health plan participant contributions.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

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

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least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). For 2019, Wespeth will continue the CPP premium redirection program that was implemented in 2018.

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

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

OTHER DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) OBLIGATIONS

VUMPI currently offers a supplemental life insurance benefit that supplements the CPP life insurance benefit. The estimated cost of this supplemental benefit for 2019 is \$300,000.

CONCLUSION

The 2019 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and this summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, VUMPI's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference.

■ Recommendation 9: 2019 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, 2019 through December 31, 2019 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

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

— Ken Peterson, Chair

COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

Since the Annual Conference's approval of **All Things New: Fruitful and Multiplying – The Virginia Conference** in 2008, Common Table has been guided by the goal of leadership development that results in planting new faith communities and helping existing congregations to grow where they have been sown as part of God's kingdom. The alignment of conference resources for the foci of ministries accountable to Common Table currently include:

FORMATION OF NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES

- Formation of 25 Anglo and 22 ethnic minority faith communities (37 are currently active)
- Developed metric for formation, accountability and continuing support of new faith communities
- Created coaching model for new faith community planters and stakeholders

RENEWAL OF EXISTING CONGREGATIONS

- 5 Talent Academy – over 300 churches participating from 2009 - present
- Large Church Training Events – over 30 churches participating
- Midsize Church Training Events – over 75 churches participating
- Small Church Training Events – over 50 churches participating
- How To Reach New People Workshops (purpose is to create a ministry of invitation) – from 2011 to 2017 involved 23 workshops and 255 churches — purpose is to create a culture of invitation
- Church Leadership Institute (purpose is to move from a culture of maintenance to a culture of fruitfulness) - from 2004-2016 trained 290 pastors
- Virginia Focus 2020 – Designed to provide training and coaching for pastors of Virginia Conference African American congregations

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Certification and training of 1,762 Virginia Conference Lay Servants
- Lay Servant Academy
 - 2017 Lay Servant Academy – 160 students from 29 different churches
 - 2018 Lay Servant Academy to be held in August
- Online training for lay servants – 251 students from 157 different churches
- Courses held in the districts and reported by Lay Servants – 60 Students from 44 churches
- Bishop's Convocation on Prayer

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- Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation
- Goodson Academy for Preaching
- Conference Middle School Retreat
- Conference High School Retreat
- Regional training events for children's ministries
- Spiritual Leadership Inc. cohort for development of next generation ministries
- District Training Events

MISSION AND JUSTICE

- Initiatives of Hope:
 - Mozambique – focus on Lay Leadership Development
 - Brazil – Shade and Fresh Water at-risk children's ministry
 - Cambodia – church growth development; support for Methodist Mission in Cambodia to develop into an autonomous Methodist Church
- Native American Relations and Reconciliation: Supporting Native Peoples self-determination and tribal sustainability as well as building long term relationships between the UMC and native populations.
- Training for United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
- Two annual session of Camp Rainbow Connection
- Three annual sessions of All God's Children Camps
- Disaster Recovery – Training, credentialing, and support for Early Response Teams and long term Disaster response teams.
- Mission Encounter – Annual mission education event in cooperation with United Methodist Women.
- UM Day at the Virginia General Assembly – Annual event providing opportunities for Virginia United Methodists to lobby and advocate on social issues before the General Assembly. Cooperative event between United Methodist Women and Conference Board of Church and Society
- Missionary Support – Support for international, US and local missionaries including US-2s and Church and Community Workers.
- Immigration Outreach Team – Providing resources for support of immigrant population and faith communities engaged in ministry with immigrants as well as advocacy for immigration reform.
- Mission Opportunities Booklet – Annual production of resource for use by faith communities and individuals covering all aspects of first and second mile giving.
- Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation
- Ministry Accelerator Model for local church ministries receiving grants from the conference

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

- Seven Wesley Foundations, five ecumenical campus ministries, and six chaplains at United Methodist educational institutions in the Virginia Conference
- Campus Ministry Institute
- Model for evaluation and support of campus ministries
- Property assessment of Wesley Foundation properties
- Spiritual Leadership, Inc. cohort of campus ministers to strengthen current campus ministries and envision future campus ministries

COMMUNICATION

- Oversee various conference communication tools (e-Advocate, *Advocate* magazine, Sunday Advocate, *Journal*, *Book of Reports*, etc.)
- Maintain conference website and other online communications (i.e., LaityNet, ClergyNet, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Videography

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Developed and maintains Virginia Conference Vital Congregations reporting system
- Developed and maintains Virginia Conference Charge Conference reporting system
- Provides data link between General Council on Finance and Administration and the Virginia Conference
- Oversight and maintenance of conference IT hardware and software
- Online resourcing of 5 Talent Academy

For a fuller description of ministries made possible through the program agencies and commissions of the Virginia Conference, you are invited to review the reports that are included as part of the fuller report of Common Table. As Virginia Conference congregations respond to Bishop Lewis' call to develop an intentional discipleship plan by 2020, the ministries of agencies related to Common Table will seek to provide resources toward this goal.

During this conference year Pat Hickman retired, concluding 41 years of ministry as an administrative assistant for a variety of conference ministry areas. Common Table expresses appreciation for Pat's years of ministry and for the ministry of all Connectional Ministries staff who provide leadership and support for the program and mission ministries of the Virginia Conference.

As part of its report to the annual conference, Common Table is recommending that, effective with the 2019 annual conference, resolutions no longer be included as part of

the business of the Virginia Annual Conference. The rationale for this recommendation is that time spent on resolutions can be used more effectively to receive presentations and information on topics pertinent to the ministry and mission of The United Methodist Church, the annual conference or local church. These presentations may include differing opinions presented by persons who model holy conferencing. In setting the annual conference agenda, the bishop may consult with different conference agencies in determining the focus of the presentations. In place of resolutions, requests for inclusion of specific topics to be included in the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. In addition, an area designated by the annual conference planning committee shall be determined for receiving signatures for petitions.

There will still be opportunities for motions from the floor of the conference as part of annual conference sessions. The presentation of this motion will be included as part of the Rules Committee report during the Friday afternoon opening session.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Strike Conference Standing Rules Paragraph II.B.RESOLUTIONS in whole and replace with:

II.B. PRESENTATIONS

Requests for inclusion of presentations for the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the proposal.

- 2) Add a new sub-section II.C.PETITIONS:
“II.C PETITIONS

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

- 3) Approve the resolution by the Virginia Conference Commission on Archives and History regarding United Methodist Historic Site No. 7: William Watters Grave, McLean, Virginia, Heritage Landmark as found in the *Book of Reports*.
- 4) Approve the following recommendations by the following boards:
 - a) By the Board of Discipleship regarding the recommendation and endorsement of Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship
 - b) By the Board of Discipleship regarding changes in the Standing Rules related to the structure of its board
 - c) By Missional Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services of Virginia, and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.
 - d) By Missional Ministries that the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Missional Connections Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Pinnacle Living;

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Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued

— Marc Brown, VAUMC Director of Connectional Ministries



The following reports, from page 77 to page 113, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

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

We have organized our board to follow the issues raised by our United Methodist Bishop's letter: "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In this 2009 letter, UMC bishops raised virtually the same issues, as did Catholic Pope Francis in 2015, namely that the world is awash in 1. Violence, 2. Environmental Destruction, and 3. Poverty.

Following the need to address these three interconnected disasters, we have organized three work areas: 1. Peace and Non-Violence, 2. Caretakers of God's Creation, and 3. Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries.

Social Principles Hearing:

On May 12, the conference board will hold a hearings in two locations (Northern Virginia and South Central) to consider the draft of the **Social Principles** re-write developed by the General Board of Church and Society for submission to the 2020 General Conference.

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 2017, only about 100 of our churches gave to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2018 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.

We recently funded:

1. Scholarships for participants to join the Conference Board of Church and Society study trip to Israel and Palestine. We have now led two trips to Israel/Palestine to

study peacemaking in the Holy Land.

2. The Center for Spirituality in Nature to work with UM churches in the Virginia Conference to establish Spirituality in Nature Groups (SINGs). A SING meets regularly to explore spiritual formation and ecological understanding through outdoor meetings and worship in the group's home area. Participants are encouraged to broaden their understanding of community to include all of God's Creation and to partner with racial and ethnic groups to do this work.

To aid in the development of these groups, the Center is currently writing a comprehensive handbook — *A Field Guide to Establishing a Spirituality in Nature Group*.

Caretakers of God's Creation:

The Board's Caretakers of God's Creation work area has begun a program of district workshops to help churches become "Green Churches". The Caretakers are also working to help congregations divest of stocks of thermal coal companies as required by the resolution voted on at conference in 2015. They are promoting Fossil Free Funds, a project of *As You Sow*, a corporate responsibility program (<http://fossilfreefunds.org/>.) The fossilfreefunds.org tool makes it very easy to evaluate your portfolio for all kinds of fossil fuel investments. Caretakers also co-sponsored the National Caretakers of God's Creation Climate Justice Conference held at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington. Each year, Caretakers awards a conference church, the Green Church of the Year award. In the fall of 2018, Caretakers is implementing the conference resolution on fracking by holding hearings in the Northern Neck (Warsaw UMC-Sept.22), Giles County (Mt. Olivet UMC-Newport Nov. 10) and the Richmond Area (place and date to be determined).

Peace and Non-violence Work Area:

The Peace and Non-violence Work Area is giving continued leadership to persons interested in peace in the Middle East. The work area will again lead a trip to Palestine and Israel (November 2018). The Peace and Non-violence Work Area is also working to fight gun violence, care for immigrants and refugees and to promote care of veterans. The work area is proposing three resolutions to annual conference: 1. Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury, 2. Comprehensive Immigration Reform and 3. Study and Action on Gun Violence.

Eradicating Poverty:

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

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly:

This year was the 26th anniversary United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy to hold the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. We look forward to Bishop Lewis helping to lead the event in future years.

– Jaydee Hanson, Lay Co-Chair & James Page, Clergy Co-Chair.

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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

In 2018, after 75 years of incorporated status, the Virginia Conference Board of Communication has dissolved Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. seeing no need to maintain a separate incorporation apart from the Virginia Conference. This was not a decision that was taken lightly. The Board is very much committed to the future of Communications within the Conference and looks forward to the various ways we can grow our communication efforts in the coming months and years.

The Board of Communications continues to support the Virginia United Methodist *Advocate*, the official conference magazine published both in print and digital formats. The magazine strives to equip, connect and inform Virginia United Methodists by offering in-depth features on topics of interest to United Methodists, religious news from around the corner to around the world, weekly devotionals, tools to help equip congregations for ministry and much more. With the ever-changing communication climate, we acknowledge that we are not reaching as large of an audience with the *Virginia Advocate* as we would like. The Board, in conjunction with Conference Communication Staff and members of the VA Conference, will begin to examine how we can reach more people so that we can more effectively carry out our mandate from the *Discipline* to “meet the communication, publication, multimedia, public and media relations, interpretation, and promotional needs of the annual conference.” (§ 646)

The Board of Communications recognizes the growth of volunteers and staff dedicated to communication efforts within our local churches. We will continue to help resource these individuals through our Local Church Communicators’ Facebook page. Members of the Board and the Conference Communications staff are also available to hold special trainings at District Training Events or for individual churches. Please contact the Conference Communications office for more information.

Our board also enjoys being able to support the operations of Annual Conference. We help to provide camera operators with appropriate training, help on the tech desk, provide daily Conference news updates and photography and staff our VA Conference Communications display where conference attendees can access communication resources as well as order Conference DVDs.

As I conclude almost 15 years on the Board of Communications and four years as

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president, I am thankful for everyone who has come alongside of me (especially members of our Executive Committee), grateful for the paths God has provided and guided, and excited for the future of Communications in the Virginia Conference!

Please join me in welcoming Jill Gaynor, a lay member of our annual conference who will serve as the Board's next president.

—Keri L. B. Marston, outgoing President

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

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

We will contracting with Phil Maynard to develop coaches for Discipleship and Intentional Discipleship Planning in connection with the Alexandria and Arlington Districts in May. We also are continuing to work with the Cluster groups for the cabinet to discern and offer resources for church revitalization in cooperation with the Bishop's Collaboration Teams.

Each year the Board of Discipleship awards one youth, one laity and one Clergy the Denman Evangelism award. Beginning this year the Board will be awarding a local congregation the One Matters award for recognition of turn around success in growth, professions of faith and fruitfulness.

Each year we endorse candidates to be a General Evangelist in the United Methodist Church and this year with great acknowledgment of his work we endorse Greg West (Chaplain of Wesleyan College) as a General Evangelist. We also participate in the Christian Education Sunday and use those funds for scholarship and grant requests for Education in our local churches, districts and conference. We work closely with the Office of Bishop by facilitating conference wide activities like the Bishop's Convocation of Prayer and have offered assistance for the Conference Day of Prayer and Week of Prayer for the Praying Forward Campaign. Members of the Board continually work with the Conference Staff and Cabinet in areas of Discipleship and have participated in the Mid-Size and Small Church Initiatives.

—Donald Jamison, Chair

Conference Council On Youth Ministries (CCYM)

The past year for the Conference Council on Youth Ministries has been spent rebuilding, refocusing and relying on God's hand to guide us in the right direction. Instead of having our normal fall meeting in September, we worked with *Living Your Strengths* by Don Clifton. This allowed us to evaluate our individual strengths and discern the best way to use our them to build God's Kingdom. We conferenced over various types of electronic communication to discuss these strengths with youth and adults across our council. We also had the wonderful opportunity to partner with Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, through this process in order to receive his wisdom and guidance in making new intergenerational connections across the conference.

This year we have shifted our focus from event facilitation to leadership development and Youth Service Fund (YSF) opportunities. It is our hope that this will be continued in coming years to develop more young leaders of our youth and put to use the gifts that God has entrusted them with.

With the help of children, youth and adults across the conference, we have once again had a successful year of donations into the YSF (Youth Service Fund). We allocated \$13,000 in YSF grant money this year at our spring meeting in March, to benefit youth organizations working towards building disciples across the conference. We received over 15 applications and were extremely happy to distribute almost all of our funds. Our Conference was fortunate to gather money in a variety of ways through the support of local church initiatives, district fundraisers, collections at conference youth retreats and other opportunities.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries is pleased to announce the election of our new Co-Chairs, Lizzie Lawrence and Chris Ganoe. The two are very excited to have the opportunity to lead the Conference Council on Youth Ministry in the coming year. In conclusion, we are happy to say that our year was full of discipleship and refocusing. We look forward to growing our council membership and impact over the next year and also are optimistic of the future and plan to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ who WILL transform the world.

– Hannah Hale, Blake Mitchell, and Alison Malloy

Older Adult Council

The Older Adult Council is tasked with engaging and equipping local churches and districts with knowledge and skills for ministry to, for, by and with older adults within congregations and in the community at large. The Council works to provide growth in discipleship throughout life, appreciating the great resource our older adults are to the Body of Christ. The Council is currently working to increase intergenerational programing and hopes to encourage the sharing of the rich spiritual legacy of our older adults. As the tsunami of aging adults, now including the Baby Boomers, present churches with significantly changing physical, emotional and spiritual needs, the Council offers presentations on Spiritual Legacy, Liturgical Dance and Ways of Experiencing God. On a larger scale, Olde Time Revivals have been held regionally. Many older adults remember committing their lives to follow Jesus during a revival experience. In

response to numerous requests, the Olde Time Revival provides an opportunity to renew faith and refresh that commitment. In April the Council joined the Beard Center on Aging of Lynchburg College in sponsoring the second Faithful Aging Conference held at Williamsburg UMC for 2018. Faithful Aging is one of the first statewide, faith-based, non-denominational, conferences on aging. Speakers included healthcare providers, ministers, an elder law attorney and other experts on issues faced by the aging population.

— Suzanne Spencer, Chair

Goodson Academy of Preaching

In her book, *And God Spoke to Abraham*, Fleming Rutledge writes, “The incarnate Word of God is a mighty sword put into your hand. Those who hear it will feel their chains cut off, their prison unlocked, their lungs filled with oxygen...”

The Goodson Academy of Preaching (GAP) exists for the purpose of encouraging excellence in preaching. Through the best use of the Scripture, and the best practices from homiletics today, we want to help preachers unlock the prison in which the people in our congregations, and sometimes ourselves, are locked.

A brief history: On the retirement of Bishop Kenneth Goodson (1972-1980), substantial funds were given to honor his passion for quality preaching. For over 35 years that money has funded scholarships, gifts, workshops, books and awards of many sorts. From 1999-2008 the Goodson Academy of Preaching held four-day workshops that included lectures from notable homiletics and small group preaching with peer feedback. This event was held at Blackstone (VUMAC).

In 2015 the Bishops’ Foundation, by then the “parent organization” of the Academy, sponsored a new program that featured Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, author of *The Four Pages of the Sermon*. In fall 2017 GAP offered “Stir Up the Gift: Fan Into Flame the Gift of God,” a one-day preaching experience led by Dr. Teresa Fry Brown of Candler.

In 2018 we are taking a different approach by supporting with scholarships those who attend the Festival of Homiletics in Washington, D.C., May 21-25. This nationally recognized event celebrates the gift of preaching with best known preachers and is a good opportunity for our preachers.

We are open to new ways of sharing the Gospel and connecting with a world that needs The Word proclaimed in powerful and effective ways. We are considering live streaming, peer preaching groups, website resources and one-day events. If you are reading this and are passionate about worship and preaching, we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas of how we might more effectively connect the Word with the People of God for the sake of the Gospel.

We are indebted to the Bishops’ Foundation for the renewal of the GAP in 2015, which has been our place for funding and accountability. GAP has now been merged into the Board of Discipleship. We look forward to this new relationship and to future possibilities.

In 2019 we are working on plans for a preaching event with Rev. Donald Davis, UM Elder from North Carolina who is best known as storyteller par excellence. The dates are: March 26-28. Mark your calendars for what we believe will be an extraordinary event.

Currently, the members are: Larry Buxton, Amanda Newman, David Rash

(Chairperson), George Riggins and Tim Tate. We welcome as new members: Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, Marcia Huntsman, Jason Micheli, Derrick Parson and Greg West.

“May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in God’s sight.”

– *David A. Rash*

CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

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

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

Disaster Response – led by *Rev. Bob Philcrantz, CDRC* continues to address the needs in Virginia.

Initiatives of Hope (IOH) team continues its mission to increase awareness of and generate increased participation in long term partnership-in-mission opportunities developed internationally, locally and nationally. Our overseas connections continue to be Brazil, Cambodia, and Mozambique. In addition, IOH has continued to build relationships with the Native American community here in Virginia and promote mission connections with other native peoples across the U.S.

Rev. David Vaughn chairs the **Brazilian Initiative**, which continues its primary focus on support for the Shade and Fresh Water ministry of the Methodist Church of Brazil, which provides a unique ministry to at-risk Children in many locations across the country. They will celebrate their 19th year in October and a delegation from Virginia plans to attend. Juanita Csontos chairs the **Cambodia Initiative**. In January 2018 a team of three United Methodist Women led by Nancy Yarborough traveled to Cambodia for a month offering workshops on servanthood and discipleship with UMW groups in several locations in Cambodia as well as with clergywomen and clergy spouses. Plans are underway to send the first medical team to Cambodia in 2019. Our support for the Methodist Church in Cambodia and their move towards being a provisional conference of the UMC continues to be an inspiration for all Virginia United Methodists who experience God’s mission being lived out in Cambodia. **The Mozambique Initiative** continues to focus on providing support for lay leadership development as well as sending short-term mission teams to learn about “making disciples” from the rapidly growing UMC in Mozambique. Strengthening our support for Chicouque Hospital is also part of the plans for 2018-2019.

The IOH team congratulates and celebrates with the six Native tribes in Virginia! After a 30-year legal journey for state and federal recognition, the “Thomasina Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Bill” has become law! Recognizing the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. These tribes were among the first to welcome European

immigrants, and among the last to be recognized. Thank you for your prayers and support through the years!

Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) coordinated by **Forrest White**, offered six team leader trainings with 105 trained; and two team leader recertification trainings with 18 trained during 2017. In December, we reduced the cost of team leader training from \$35 per person to no cost as the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) UMVIM no longer charges for its team leader handbook. We now ask individuals to make a love offering to the host church to cover the cost of lunch and refreshments. Recertification training remains at no cost to participants. We had 104 UMVIM teams from Virginia Conference Churches as well as teams from Ferrum College, Shenandoah University and Randolph-Macon Academy (each with a VIM trained team leader) serve in one of the three areas affected by the February 2016 tornado outbreak or in the Hampton Roads area affected by Hurricane Matthew, where the Conference had Long Term Recovery ministry.

Thanks to funding through the Bishop's Offering at Annual Conference, we now offer scholarships to churches seeking to send UMVIM teams.

The Facebook page, (www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM) continues to be a place for inspiration, information and connection. Team leaders are invited to share the specifics about their trip: i.e. church or district sending the team, location and ministry project particulars by emailing the conference UMVIM Coordinator who will post to the Facebook page. Others are invited to pray for the team and those they will be serving. Teams looking for additional information are invited to recruit via the Facebook page.

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

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

Mrs. Anne Klotz, Missionary Itineration Coordinator, has facilitated connections and visits for many missionaries with their covenant churches during the past year.

Mission Encounter is a cooperative school offered by the Conference Missional Ministries Board and the United Methodist Women to help us understand God's work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. Mission Encounter 2018 will be offered July 27-29 at the 4H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP), chaired by **Kip Robinson**, guides and mentors interested persons through the application and discernment process for mission service. Applicants can access the Personnel Information Form (PIF—Application for Missionary Service) and other application materials from the Virginia Conference web site under Ministries - Center for Justice and Missional Excellence

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

Advance Specials 2018-2019

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique: Chicique Rural Hospital, Advance #09734A
Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning, Advance #08597A
Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Advance #15080N
Cambodia: Mission Initiative, Advance #00230A
Cambodia: Street Children Ministry, Advance #14921A
Macedonia: Macedonia in Mission Together, Advance #00220A
Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project, Advance #11580A
Israel: Bethlehem Bible College, Advance #12017A
Eurasia: Eurasia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova, Advance #14053A
Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program, Advance #14377A
Sudan: Sudan Development, Advance #184385
Global: Anti-Human Trafficking, Advance #333615
Global: Sustainable Agriculture, Advance #982188
Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat, Advance #07629A
Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry, Advance #181000
Vietnam Mission Initiative, Advance #14932A

NATIONAL

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

VIRGINIA

Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc, #5020
Caretakers of God's Creation, #5016
Crossroads Mission Center – New for 2017

REPORTS

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia, #5029
ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support, #5036
GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church, #5035
Heart Havens, #6442
Henry Fork Service Center, #5008
Highland Support Project – New for 2017
Journey Community Center – New for 2017
Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002
Park View Community Mission, #5019
Pathways Virginia Advance #5045
Proclaiming Grace Outreach – New for 2017
Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, #5043
Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS), #5010
Tuesday's Table, #5024
Una Familia – New for 2017
United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke, #5004
Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery, #5037
Wesley Community Center, #5025

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

– *Verónica Barrell, CMMB Chair*

Partnership Reports

Heart Havens

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

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

Heart Havens was born out of listening; it was listening to the needs and desires of people with a developmental disability and their families that led to each of our group homes. We've never stopped listening to our stakeholders, and what we're learning now is that families are looking for more individualized means of support. To this end, Heart Havens is in the process of establishing programs for in-home services and supported apartments. These programs are absolutely in keeping with our mission of empowerment; Heart Havens has always been about people, not houses.

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

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

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

– Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer

Pinnacle Living

As an organization, the year since the 2017 Annual Conference has been one of great change for Pinnacle Living including: our transition to the Pinnacle Living name from Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; updated community brands; new statements of Mission, Vision and Values; new Strategic Goals, Objectives and Actions Steps; and, most importantly, our continued evolution in culture from institution to home.

A few of our significant accomplishments during the past year include:

- Our first successful transitions from traditional health care models to resident centered neighborhoods at our Hermitage communities. The Hermitage Richmond, our oldest community, is leading the way in this work.
- Physical renovations which will add to the transformation to a household model at the Lydia Roper Home.
- Completion of construction and opening of our first Pinnacle Living memory support and health services households at WindsorMeade Williamsburg.
- Ongoing expansion and renovations at Cedarfield.

Pinnacle Living and our communities have also worked diligently to strengthen our community partnerships. Leaders in local churches from all of our Virginia Conference districts have been engaged in conversation as to how to enhance ministries and outreach to older adults. For the second year, Pinnacle Living worked in collaboration with the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College to sponsor the statewide Faithful Aging Conference. Our residents continue to benefit from the talents and gifts of volunteers who offer a variety of service from friendly visits to event coordination. Residents and team members have worked together to support activities to benefit the greater community, from opening their doors for meetings of local civic groups to providing internships and workforce training for students seeking to enter health care professions. Each community has an updated website and new Facebook presence.

Pinnacle Living is grateful for each local church that supports the Samaritan Program. This benevolent assistance has been given in Pinnacle Living communities since the year the organization was founded. During 2017, we were privileged to recognize the following *Samaritan Award Churches*, the congregations across the Virginia Annual Conference with the highest level of giving to the Samaritan Program.

- Reveille (Richmond District)
- Trinity (Richmond District)
- Beulah (Richmond District)
- Christ (Eastern Shore)
- Fairmount (Richmond District)
- Westover Hills (Richmond District)
- Community (Elizabeth River District)
- St. Luke's (York River District)
- Shady Grove – Mechanicsville (Richmond District)
- Beverly Hills (Alexandria District)
- Markham (Winchester District)
- Monumental (Elizabeth River District)

In 2017, Pinnacle Living was honored to recognize two local congregations with Innkeeper Awards. The award offers appreciation to congregations of the Annual Conference for exemplary support of the mission of Pinnacle Living with older adults. Local Community Guilds select the churches based upon both the financial stewardship and volunteer service of members of the congregation.

- Grace (Roanoke District)
- Chamberlayne Heights (Richmond District)

In September of 2018, we will recognize the 70th anniversary of the founding of Pinnacle Living. We invite all Virginia Conference United Methodists to join us on the afternoon of Sunday, September 30, between 1:00 – 4:00 PM as we celebrate our connection in mission and ministry with older adults at our Hermitage Richmond

community. This journey began with the purchase of 1600 Westwood Avenue, then known as the Methodist Home for the Aged, in 1948. It continues today with Pinnacle Living's seven outstanding communities focused on our shared mission: *Enriching Life's Journey*. This Mission Statement reflects everything Pinnacle Living achieves and strives for as we continuously work to improve the services we deliver to nearly 1,300 residents.

Rev. Dr. Bernard Via, our first administrator was consistent in ascribing the existence of the organization to "faith, hard work and prayer." Thank you.

– Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO

– Martha Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations

United Methodist Family Services of Virginia (UMFS)

For 118 years, United Methodist Family Services has had a legacy of empowering children and families. From the Virginia Conference Orphanage of 1900, to the Virginia Methodist Children's Home of the 1950's, to the present day state-wide agency bringing hope and healing to the whole family, UMFS has partnered with churches and church members to live out our mission. Today we are unwavering champions for high-risk children and families across Virginia, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential by providing foster care and adoption services, residential treatment services, and schools for kids with special needs.

In 2017 we served 3,368 high-risk children across the state through regional centers in Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Fredericksburg, South Hill, Farmville and Lynchburg; residential treatment centers in Richmond and Centreville; and schools in Richmond and Edinburg. While many of our programs are focused on children, we strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 16,034 high-risk children and families in 177 communities in Virginia. We are dedicated to creating a world where caring, opportunity and generosity are passed on from generation to generation, empowering all children to contribute to society as engaged citizens.

Since 1900, the churches of the Virginia Conference have partnered with us as advocates for high-risk children and families. Our most recent initiative in collaboration with local churches is a partnership with The Open Table. The Open Table is a national movement to transform poverty through community by bringing to other local church volunteers that make a year-long commitment to act - through relationship - as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates. The Table works together with an individual or family in poverty to set goals, foster accountability, and implement a plan to create change. Plans are underway to extend this partnership with The Open Table beyond Richmond in the coming year.

Churches across the state partner with us by recruiting and supporting foster and adoptive families, serving as mentors and tutors, providing transportation for children and families, providing much-needed financial support, and donating countless gifts-in-kind. Our church partners, Child Champion Councils and the UMFS Auxiliary are a critical resource to the children and families we serve. They are tireless advocates for

our ministry throughout the Conference. Our relationship with the United Methodist Church is vital for us to achieve our mission.

A 10-year master plan to replace buildings constructed in the 1950's will transform the Richmond campus on Broad Street to serve more children and families, and address the changing needs of the children and families in our communities.

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. It is because of your support that we are able to help children and families reach their full potential.

— Ken Huntsman, Chair, UMFS Board of Directors

— Greg Peters, President and CEO

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

The Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation is a covenant partner with the Virginia Annual Conference with the mission to offer affordable housing to the disabled, moderate income and senior population. The goal of VUMHDC is to build or purchase at least one new facility a year.

The Housing Corporation is the full owner of 18 projects and a partial owner of another 17 affordable housing efforts. In total, VUMHDC has over 2,400 apartment units across the conference with an approximate land value of \$80,000,000. This achievement was reached without receiving a dime from the annual conference for construction, maintenance, or ongoing support. VUMHDC is funded entirely through HUD grants, tax credits, community partnerships, and revitalization money. Annual financial records are filed with the Conference Treasurer's office.

We wish to honor one of our founding board members, the Honorable Willard Douglas. After his 42 years of active participation, Judge Douglas retired from the board this year. Judge Douglas served the board of directors in many capacities, as an officer, legal advisor, consultant and a consistent, faithful presence. His thoughtful insights and wise wisdom made it a privilege to serve with him. The board wishes to express our thanks to Judge Douglas for his many years of leadership and direction.

The Housing Development Corporation continues under the able leadership of Lawrence B. ("Larry") Dickenson, a lay member of Greene Memorial UMC in Roanoke. This year the board has been moving with gusto as VUMHDC enters into this new phase of service. We have seen a very productive 43rd year of service. We are also unclear what effects changes in the leadership in Washington, D.C. will bring to our relationship with federal funding sources. Though Larry's leadership, we are bringing in qualified consultants to help us prepare for upcoming changes in the tax code and federal regulations, and funding streams for building new projects.

In this conference year, we upgraded an existing facility, made plans for expansion of another project, refinanced two projects to lower interest rates, continued in a partnership with the James River District facility in construction of an affordable housing project which will hold a new church start and shepherd existing projects following the mission of VUMHDC and in our relationship with the Virginia Annual Conference.

— James G. O'Quinn, Vice President

Wesley Housing Development Corporation

Wesley Housing's mission is to preserve, develop, own and operate affordable housing and sustain quality communities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals who might otherwise face homelessness. Since 1974, for over four decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. We currently manage 21 properties (more than 2,450 residents) in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Fairfax County and the District of Columbia. We also manage four Community Resource Centers (CRCs) and five special needs Resident Services Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease as well as those with disabilities to regain their dignity and renew their lives.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Wexford Manor Apartments (Falls Church/Fairfax County): Critically needed renovations were made to this 74-unit community with Phase I interior renovations completed in January and Phase II in October. The exterior work finished completed in Fall of 2017, including the expansion of the on-site Community Resource Center (CRC) and tech lab.
- The Fallstead at Lewinsville Center, formerly Lewinsville Senior Residences (McLean): Wesley Housing is constructing 83 new units of affordable, independent housing for low-income seniors, replacing outdated units. Demolition is complete, and construction has begun. The new property is scheduled to be completed in July 2018.
- Culpepper Garden (Arlington): Wesley Housing was selected to lead the preservation and renovation of the 204 affordable unit senior community. The project includes upgrades to the community space, apartments, and extensive grounds. We will close the financing to acquire the property in April 2018 and start the renovation shortly thereafter.
- Brookland Place Apartments (Washington, D.C.): Wesley Housing acquired the 80-unit property last year and will close on the financing to being renovation in March 2018.
- American Red Cross Building/Trenton Street House (Arlington): Wesley Housing has accumulated land that will be developed into a mixed-income, mixed-tenure community featuring 19 market-rate townhomes and 115 affordable rental apartments. Construction of the project is pending the approval of AHIF funding.
- The Arden (Huntington/Fairfax County): The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) to make loans totaling \$7.4 million to Wesley Housing for the construction of two buildings consisting of a total of 126 units of affordable housing to be known collectively as "The Arden" in the Mount Vernon District.
- Fairlington (Alexandria): Fairlington Presbyterian Church approved the sale

of an excess parking lot to Wesley Housing for the development of 75-81 new affordable, high-quality units. We are currently in the beginning stages of planning with the City of Alexandria and community and securing financing.

RESIDENT SERVICES & VOLUNTEERS

- **Housing Stability Initiative:** Every month, adults take advantage of housing stability and eviction prevention programs such as crisis intervention, referrals to community resources, financial literacy, household budgeting, resume building and job search assistance, computer training, and certification courses. For the calendar year ending December 31, 2017, residents accessed our services more than 28,750 times, 2,450 residents accessed housing stability, 230 evictions were prevented, and 41 residents received new or better employment.
- **Volunteers:** Throughout 2017, we have had 180 volunteers help with food security initiatives, after school programs, adult education including ESOL, health and fitness, school supplies and summer camp.

– *Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO*

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Greetings from your campus ministries. Throughout this report you're invited to enjoy the glory sightings of mission and transformation taking place in our campus ministries. But first, I want to thank you and your congregations for your faithful support of the evangelism, care, mission and discipleship happening all the time on our campuses across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our process for ministry is very simply the three "E's." We invite students to **EXPLORE** through events like Virginia Tech's Life-Sized Game Night where students actually become the game pieces on the board. Next comes **ENGAGE**. After beginning the process of building relationships, our students are invited to engage through worship, Bible study and small groups. Finally, we **EMBODY**. To embody Christ to the world takes as many forms as there are followers, but some examples are the various ways our campus ministries facilitate students helping other students who wrestle with food insecurity like at Rise's Free Food Club as well as mission trips during Spring Break or hosting and staffing retreats for youth groups from local congregations.

Each year Virginia sends students to seminary out of our campus ministries. Each year we welcome back graduates committing themselves to God's work on the earth. We celebrate returning a host of faithful Christ followers, lay and clergy alike, to our local churches and into God's wide mission field. Brothers and sisters, these are the fruits of your faithfulness to God and of the Holy Spirit moving in and through our campuses.

Please join me in praying that God will continue to do the hard and holy work of campus ministry. Please join me in praying for our staff and students. And if you have a campus ministry nearby, pick up the phone or send an email. Ask how you can be part of the tremendous work God is doing in Higher Education across the Virginia Conference.

— Rob Lough, Chair

Longwood & Hampden-Sydney Wesley Foundation

The Wesley Foundation is a full-time campus ministry program, active in many ministry settings. Our weekly Tuesday Night Dinner and Worship is a very popular ministry and has grown considerably this year. Students are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by local churches and may stay for the Worship that follows. The worship time is designed to be contemporary and interactive. There is time in our Tuesday night schedule for small group discussion and prayer. Here are some of the feelings of students that attend the Wesley Campus Ministry. Just this year a second year approach the campus ministry after our weekly worship. It was her first visit to our ministry. Kayla said, "this was the community she had looking for." She was excited to make this a regular part of time a Longwood. Also this semester we had a student approach the campus minister that been attending our minister for her three years at Longwood. Madi, told the campus minister that "something has changed and her faith was now alive and real to her." These are just a few of the encounter that seem to take place on a regular bases. We also have weekly student-led Bible studies and men's and women's small groups that meet on campus. On Hampden-Sydney's campus we have a late-night men's bible study led by the campus minister. Praise and worship are important

parts of our community and come in a variety of forms and settings. There are many opportunities for service and mission work (Habitat for Humanity, annual mission trips, Faces Food bank, and other local outreach). Our Student Center is a comfortable, air-condition setting where one may pray & study, laugh & love, play & grow. The Wesley Foundation is a place for “good clean fun,” individual pastoral care, conversation and spiritual direction. Our students often provide “people resources” for local churches with their service, musical talents, and even their fellowship. They also assist with local District and Conference youth events as well as participate in worship in area churches when invited. All this is made possible by generous District support, a strong Local Board of Directors, a core of Student leaders and a vital partnership with the Campus Ministry Team at Farmville UMC.

The Wesley Foundation Student Center is a busy place! Along with regular Wesley events, various campus, church and community groups use our facilities for their meeting needs. For the last several years the Wesley Foundation student center has been the location of the AA/NA Christmas and New Year Marathon. Members of the AA/NA community gather over a 24-hour period on Christmas and New Year for mutual support and encouragement. We house the District Office, a Prayer Chapel, a game room, a great living room with big screen TV/DVD, and a large kitchen with plenty of coffee and other light refreshments. This year we have taken advantage of the several resources of Longwood University. The Longwood Design Lab has worked on the design of a new logo for our campus ministry. We have also been working with the Longwood Small Business Center to use our logo in the branding of our ministry to provide a consistent image across the board. Within the office, we have hired a part-time office assistant to help with financial accounts, data entry, social media and connections with students, and coordination of events. We also have a new venture with an internship through the Business Department. The internship will be focused mainly on property management. It will involve after-hours availability for residents, developing work orders for apartment maintenance, overview and work on the current leases, maintenance of a building use calendar, maintenance schedule for the facilities, and over-all knowledge of the property and its function. It is a great opportunity to build another bridge between Wesley and the local college campus.

All of these things exemplify the reasons students come each week excited about sharing the love of God and learning together. They are not only welcomed into our building, which certainly is “a place to belong,” but they are ready and capable of going out and spreading God’s love to those on campus and in the community around them.

We are opening a student food pantry this year. It will meet the needs of the growing population of food insecure college students. We also finish our 30,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. Wesley Campus ministry is “a place to belong” where students can “Live authentically, Grow spiritually, and Love fully.

Tidewater Wesley Foundation – IGNITE

Over the course of the last year, it feels like the moment finally arrived. In the last year, we have watched as God has used IGNITE to reach more people than ever before. Our food pantry, IGNITE Pantry, has distributed over 3,000 meals in the last 12 months.

Over 400 unique students have participated in our various volunteer opportunities. And we have officially become ODU's largest campus ministry, reaching more students than any other student organization at a school with over 25,000 students and 350 student organization. But these are all just numbers. Even more amazing has been the ways in which lives have been transformed, struggles overcome, and life courses redirected. Students struggling with anxiety and depression have found comfort and community. Individuals whose lives were consumed by alcohol have found a new purpose and direction. And those who did not know the gospel have become disciples of Jesus Christ. Perhaps, though, the best way to communicate such stories is to share one from a person who lived it:

I was feeling like I was failing at school and like I was being abandoned by my friends when I found IGNITE. Through my internship, and later my job, I found ways to connect with God when I hadn't ever had him in my life before. In my year working for IGNITE, I have been able to find friends that care about my wellbeing and have been able to develop meaningful relationships with them. I feel like I have improved as a person overall and I can see that in the way that I speak to others and treat myself. I started going to worship and bible study as work, but I soon found a community of people that genuinely wanted to be there and support each other. I have found peace in going to worship and I have learned to turn to God with my struggles and pain through bible study.

IGNITE has helped change my life in these ways, but I think the most important thing that it has done for me is to help me realize my own self-worth. I have struggled with feeling inadequate for as long as I can remember, but I feel encouraged every day that I come into work. My grades have gone up significantly, I've found better ways to deal with my problems, I've found ways to grow in my relationship with God, I am able to truly love who I am, and I credit that to IGNITE. (McKayla Winder, class of 2018)!"Working at IGNITE has changed my life in ways I never expected. When I first started working here, I was afraid to share many aspects of my personal life at work. However, one day, in the midst of extreme anxiety and depression, a co-worker at IGNITE asked me how I was doing. The simple fact that they cared enough to ask, especially when I was in such a dark place, compelled me to share. What I appreciated so much was that, instead of giving me advice on how to fix it, the person asked "what do you need from me to help you feel better?" This has always been a very difficult question to answer because I never truly knew what I needed. Over these past months, though, I have realized what I needed was a group of individuals that wanted to be there for me. I felt the love of being part of family that reminds me of home. IGNITE is a place where I can be around people my age who help me understand that the pain is temporary, as well as how vital is to have a relationship with God. (Karen Flores, class of 2018)

The University of Virginia Wesley Foundation

Last year, I told you our theme for the year could be expressed as Love Your Neighbor. This year, we decided to greet new students in August with treat bags and info on Wesley, as we usually do, and we added in some new Wesley stickers, including one with our website and #LoveYourNeighbor printed on it. When we made those plans and ordered our stickers, we had no idea that white supremacists and Nazis would be meeting

in the streets of Charlottesville to terrorize and intimidate us a mere two weeks before classes began in August. It was an ominous start to the academic year and this next year of loving our neighbors.

As it turns out, we had been working for more than two years to bring culinary anthropologist Michael Twitty to Charlottesville and the University grounds in March 2018 for a series of encounters and conversations called “An Open Table: Culinary Historian Michael Twitty on Southern Food and Race.” Twitty is an African American, gay, Jewish convert who uses food to focus on exploring and expanding the narrative (historical, cultural, religious) and reconciling, around the table. As Twitty writes in his book *The Cooking Gene*: “I dare to believe all Southerners are a family. We are not merely Native, European and African. We are Middle Eastern and South Asian and East Asian and Latin American, now. We are a dysfunctional family, but we are a family. We are unwitting inheritors of a story with many sins that bears the fruit of the possibility of tens times the redemption. One way is with reconnection with the culinary culture of the enslaved, our common ancestors, and restoring their names on the roots of the Southern tree and the table those roots support.” As Charlottesville attempts to heal and as UVA attempts to take fuller stock of its past use of slave labor and the uncomfortable contrasts between founder Thomas Jefferson’s beautiful ideals and his lived relationships, our invitation to Twitty seemed to fall in exactly the right time.

Part of that rightness is reflected in the grace of his invitation to see one another as family. These are the community and university co-sponsors we partnered with to host Twitty:

Black College Women at UVA
Black Student Alliance at UVA
LGBTQ Student Services at UVA
Minority Rights Coalition at UVA
Queer Student Union at UVA
St. Paul’s Memorial Church/Koinonia
The Brody Jewish Center – Hillel at UVA
The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies
The Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at UVA
The JUEL Project (Jefferson’s University—Early Life Project, 1819-1870)
The Virginia Festival of the Book
Trinity Episcopal Church
UKirk Presbyterian Campus Ministry
University Arboretum and Landscape Committee
UVA Department of Religious Studies
UVA Department of American Studies
UVA Office of African-American Affairs Luther P. Jackson Black Cultural Center
UVA Office of the Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Part of what we want to say – with the event and with our partnerships to support it – is that these groups and people belong together. These are our neighbors. If the list causes

you (or students here) to do a double-take, we've accomplished part of our goal. We want to say this – we belong to one another – not just with this timely event but with our whole ministry. We choose love over fear. We choose the Way of Jesus, especially when we are scared and when our neighbors are harassed and intimidated.

With your help and God's, we will keep making this choice and making disciples in the process. Especially at a place like UVA – and especially in this year – we recognize how much of the past is not past, how the Church must be vocal and engaged in the broader community, and how our lives must reflect (not avoid) the struggle.

It's been an extraordinary year so I haven't talked here about the ordinary weekly routines of campus ministry, but "like" us on Facebook to see what else we are up to throughout the year. We love sharing how God is moving in the lives of students and – through them – in the life of this university. Thank you for sending us to be in mission and ministry, to be disciples who feast at an open Table and offer to share the meal with our neighbors.

Virginia Commonwealth University Wesley Foundation – The Pace Center

This past year, as The Pace Center works to relaunch its ministry at Virginia Commonwealth University, we decided to focus our attention on listening to where God is already at work on campus. We didn't even get to the first day of school before we saw God's Glory at work in vibrant and exciting ways. On Move-In Day, we spoke with over 150 students about their dreams and perceived challenges for the upcoming school year. This experience, along with other interactions on campus, led Pace to develop a Food Collaboration Ministry comprised of students and campus leaders interested in increasing access to more diverse and healthy food on campus. After months of discernment, The Pace Center, RamPantry (the campus food pantry), and a group of seven student organizations representing West Africa, Bangladesh, Sudan, Japan, Guatemala, Alpha Fraternity, and the Student Government Association joined together to host a Multi-Cultural Thanksgiving. While over 60 attendees ate food from around the world, cooked by the students themselves, people stood up and shared what makes their culture unique and beautiful. Forty-five percent of students at VCU experience food insecurity. God's Glory was on full display as students worked to address the issue – not with an attitude of scarcity – but instead with an attitude of abundance and celebration. The Multi-Cultural Thanksgiving allowed students to celebrate who they were, where they came from, and not focus on what they didn't have. Thanks to the generous support of individuals, churches and the Board of Higher Education, Pace was able to provide a welcoming space, funds for food, and a spirit of openness and partnership.

Virginia State University Wesley Foundation – FLOW

Our Glory Sighting for the 2017-2018 year took place on January 15, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The FLOW Wesley Foundation partnered with the Ettrick United Methodist Church to continue volunteer work renovating the basement of the church. We were blessed to have 18 students present to volunteer on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, along

with members and friends of the church, to remove: two large refrigerators, two range units, ceiling debris from water damage, other refuse and paint from the floor. Participants gathered for a fellowship breakfast in the upper level of the church before giving two hours of dedication to the cause!

This project was the latest in a series of volunteer efforts offered by Virginia State (VSU) students over the past two and a half years. The partnership that exists amongst the church and the university has been a blessing in the restoration of space and has even secured the pro bono support of the GCA Services Group, the company contracted to maintain the building and grounds at Virginia State. The result of this connection has saved the Ettrick United Methodist Church and the James River District more than \$62,000, which was the amount of an estimate given to the church by a waterproofing company to complete the job. As of the date of this outreach initiative, we have nearly completed all phases of the total project and look forward to closing out this project within the next 12 months!

There were a number of special components of this project that added to the glory witnessed! The team captain for the day was Mr. James Barber, a Virginia State University graduate student and member of Ettrick UMC! The First Lady of Virginia State University, Dr. Ahkinyala Cobb-Addullah and her son, Mikaili were amongst the volunteers. Also in attendance was Mr. Charles Epps, owner of the local business Appomattox Drugs, affectionately known in the community as “the Mayor” of Ettrick. Pastor Bob Lamb, the pastor of Ettrick UMC, was also on hand to volunteer with the students and shared a powerful testimony about the progress that he has witnessed in America during his 80 years of life in the area of civil rights. He rejoiced in the multi-ethnic and intergenerational gathering and gave glory to God for all of us being able to work so harmoniously together to benefit the Kingdom of God!

Virginia Tech Wesley Foundation

This past year Wesley finished a long five to ten-year visioning process for the ministry of Wesley. Fundamentally we believe that what we have here at Wesley needs to be experienced by more of our campus. Our vision is one that will continue to be fluid and dynamic in order to be flexible to the needs of the community around us. However, as we move forward as a ministry we want to focus on these five main areas: **Spiritual Growth, Inclusivity, Outreach (Evangelism), Mission (Service), and Leadership Development.**

We understand that the top priority for the values of our ministry are Love, Grace, and Spiritual Growth, which will always guide and be reflected in our vision. We identified many attainable goals and strategies that will enable us to carry out our vision for Wesley. With that being said, Wesley continues to be a vital, authentic, and vibrant presence on the Virginia Tech campus. Our students live out their faith in such meaningful ways and are leaders throughout campus as well. Being student-led, it is always refreshing to see how dedicated they are to being followers of Jesus while living that out through leading our ministry in worship, fellowship, discipleship, missions and outreach.

Living into our new vision, students have already tripled our number of Communities of Grace, keeping a higher attendance in worship, and provide more opportunities for prayer and study. Two hundred and nine Manna Ministries (our food pantry for college

students) is open three days a week and we see about 10 students each day. We continue to tutor Middle School and High School students at Blacksburg UMC's Fun143 program at a local trailer park.

But one thing that has been such a glory sighting for us are the youth retreats we lead each year. Once again, we led the Roanoke District Youth Retreat held at Wesley for over 115 youth and the Fusion Youth Retreat Lynchburg, Danville and Farmville Districts) for over 175 youth held at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center. These retreats provide opportunities for our students to lead youth in worship, fellowship, and discipleship, while teaching youth about the benefits of campus ministry once they are in college. At each retreat this year we had youth come up to our students who gave testimonies in worship and tell them how much the students changed their lives knowing that they aren't alone in what they are feeling and struggling with and realizing God's transformative work in their lives. At the end of our retreats we took \$1000 (in ones and fives) that we received for the retreats and dumped it on the floor asking the youth to come get the money and go do God's justice in the world. The overwhelming response by the youth was, "why do you trust us with this?" Our response, "because you are trustworthy and we know that you will transform lives in the name of Jesus Christ." We have already heard many stories from youth leaders and youth of how they are going to use the money to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

William and Mary Wesley Foundation

This year has been another amazing year of mission and ministry at Wesley. The numbers of students, their passionate commitment to following Jesus, as well as our mission and ministry, are all strong. Our campus ministry community continues to lead the way, as our vision statement says, "Through following Jesus, we embrace God's radical hospitality towards all." As students have expressed it, "Wesley is a place where everyone is accepted, and everyone is celebrated." "The people at Wesley welcomed me in an honest and genuine way that I hadn't felt before, even in other religious settings."

Our new Leadership Team is Sarah Grace Frary, President; Lucia Butler, Devotions; Hannah Cooper, Communications; and Ailish Bova, Fellowship. This group of dedicated, passionate students leads the way in the focus and direction to our entire ministry. This spring semester, our theme is "Community and Calling," as we focus on who we are created to be, and how we partner together with God and one another to create a community that empowers us to live out our calling, individually and together. Our Bible Study, as well as our Faith and Fellowship events, has the same themes.

Students are coordinating our partnerships with local churches in mission and ministry, as our connections with Williamsburg UMC and Wellspring continue to be strong. Nothing exemplifies this better than the exam break that we have at the end of each semester, led by the Williamsburg UMC United Methodist Men. We have over 250 students coming to the Wesley House to share in over 450 cookies, hot chocolate, water, coffee, and lemonade. In addition, we have folks from the community bring eight to ten dogs to help relieve the stress of finals. We are continuing our partnership with Williamsburg UMC in their respite and homeless shelter ministries, as well as their community kitchen.

Wesley has also begun a new initiative this year. We are partnering with Williamsburg UMC, the William and Mary Office of Community Engagement, churches, and nonprofits to provide meals to local students during the summer who no longer benefit from the breakfast and lunch provided by the local schools during the school year.

Our partnerships with other campus ministries and student groups in events, service, mission, and ministry continue to grow. Already this year, Wesley has partnered with the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal campus ministries, as well as the Muslim Student Association. Furthermore, Wesley continues meet the very real needs of students in crisis on campus with regards to housing, food, counseling, and more. Wesley continues each semester to coordinate a service day at Shalom Farms, and this year we are volunteering at Occohannock on the Bay for a weekend of service as well.

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve with the students and board of The Wesley Foundation, as the students actively follow Jesus and embody God's radical hospitality for persons on campus, locally, regionally and beyond.

RISE-Harrisonburg

My name is Sarandon Smith, and I am the Director of College Outreach at RISE UMC Faith Community. I came to RISE when I moved to Harrisonburg in the fall of 2016, as a Junior transfer student to Bridgewater College. At RISE, I found a church atmosphere I had never experienced before. I discovered a community that is incredibly warm, welcoming, bold, authentic, unapologetically inclusive, joyful and engaged with their community. The true vulnerability I found at RISE kept me coming back, and I ultimately stepped into a leadership role in March of 2017. Over the past year or so, my efforts as Director of College Outreach have been focused on growth through relationship building with local college students.

We began hosting monthly dinner we call "Free Food Club" and have consistently seen new faces and growing numbers. On a regular basis, we also have gathered small to medium sized groups of students for events like taco nights, birthday celebrations, pumpkin parties, "friendsgiving" and more. We've gone hiking, have consumed countless cups of coffee and have shared the joys and sorrows of life. The *quality* of the relationships that have been formed through this and other groups has been remarkable. A true measure of success was when RISE students started connecting with each other outside of facilitated events, and forming their own relationships with each other. In short, we have grown in numbers, but most importantly, we've witnessed significant growth in the number of transformational relationships formed throughout the past year.

On a larger scale, RISE has had a presence in the Harrisonburg college community though events like the JMU Block Party, our Mac and Cheese Off, and our annual Rise Against Hunger event on JMU's campus in March, where we hope to attract over 300 students to pack 20,00 meals. The Mac and Cheese Off is an epic, community-wide mac and cheese cook off competition meant to benefit RISE's ministries, and it was awesome to see 300 college students come and participate in the fun! The event definitely enabled us to connect with new students in a positive, joyful way.

Our RISE Band continues to attract quite a few new students, and it has grown to the point where it has needed to split into two "sub-bands." Not only are they remarkable

musicians, this band has become a source of remarkable support for its members. We celebrate the fact that RISE students continue to attend worship regularly, and we see new faces almost every week. Students serve as worship leaders on an ongoing basis.

Finally, we must mention our beautiful newly-renovated mission center at 60 West Market Street. After seven years of living as nomads, we finally have a “home base,” and this newfound stability is enabling us to start dreaming and asking, “What’s next for RISE?” We have formed a Strategic Thinking Team that will meet for the next few months and develop a strategic growth plan for RISE as it begins its next chapter. Obviously, new and exciting ideas for College Ministry will be a part of this overarching conversation. We are extremely grateful for the support of the Virginia Annual Conference, which made our dream of a beautiful new space a reality. You are a gift, Virginia Annual Conference!

Over the past year I have found incredible enjoyment with my work with RISE. Being part of such a vibrant community of students and non-students alike has compelled me to work further to mend God’s creation together. I look forward to watching and participating in the future of RISE College Ministry!

Christopher Newport University – United Campus Ministries

This past year of 2017 has been one of growth for UCM. We have seen two new student leaders arise and both have taken on starting small groups. On a weekly basis now UCM generally reaches 10+ just through new small groups. We are especially proud of our new women’s group that is student run and growing rapidly. UCM’s focus for this past year has been outreach which is a part of the larger goal of reaching more students to impact their lives for Christ, whether it be by small group, or service. Our most fruitful way of reaching students has been our Coffee & Cocoa weekly event. This event happens every Tuesday and Wednesday in the middle of CNU’s campus where we give out freshly made coffee and hot chocolate to students for free. It is our way of building into the community and we have seen the Lord’s hand over it thus far with one student coming to the Lord through it and many more exploring faith with us.

Something we are very proud of has been the fruit that the Lord has blessed us with. We are seeing not just more student involvement but a diversity in our students which is starting to reflect more of our campus as a whole. Along with this we have seen firsthand the growth in our students from head knowledge of who Jesus is to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in them. UCM students have more than once gone onto their campus and openly prayed for their friends and classmates. We have seen miraculous things happen because of confidence and trust in the Lord. Students have been healed both physically and spiritually, others have become stronger and more outgoing in their faith. There is a true sense of community among our students in which you can clearly see the Spirit moving, it is powerful.

Service is something all Christians are called to and our students love to serve so we have been finding ways for them to help serve their local community. We have students participating in a shoe drive to help a local non-profit. We also have them coming out to large events like our Potato drop that will feed our local population in need. Overall we are just blessed by the Lord with what fruit he has given us, with students coming to know the

Lord for the first time to others growing exponentially in their faith, we are seeing great movement from the Lord on the campus of Christopher Newport.

Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

Community College Ministries is your campus ministry with community colleges in southwestern and central Virginia where over 50,000 students deal with faith, family, classes and careers every single day! Colleges in the Virginia Conference include Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Dabney Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Danville Community College in Danville, New River Community College in Dublin, and Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville. Denominational partners are the Presbyterian Church USA and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Community College Ministries sponsors Alliance for Excellence involving hundreds of students in a partnership of community colleges with African American congregations! Launched with support from the GBGM EMLC and the United Methodist Self-Development Fund in 1986, Alliance for Excellence (www.allianceforexcellence.org) sponsors fellowships, seminars, opportunities for students to participate in gospel choirs, and scholarships. Patrick Henry Community College has sponsored a virtual mission program in which students provide tutoring overseas via the Internet. For the ninth annual gathering in 2018, Community College Ministries (www.facebook.com/communitycollegeministries) will sponsor the “Rally in the Valley” bringing community college students of faith together from across the entire Commonwealth! The rally is organized in cooperation with the Blue Ridge Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Jim Wright and is held each year in April. CCM launched a global service program in 1989 called Peacework (www.peacework.org) where student groups serve overseas in poverty housing, education, gardens, health, and other community partnerships. 2018 brings a new challenge and opportunity, a joint effort with United Methodist Family Services and the Open Table (<http://umfstheopentableconference.org>) to provide a growing support network among community college students who come out of foster care and face sometimes overwhelming challenges in this transition. We urge you to join that network in many communities in Virginia. Your campus minister is the Rev. Steve Darr (steve@peacework.org). The office is at 620 N. Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060 and the phone is (540) 230-8581. Sandy Saunders of Danville Community College is board president. Alliance staff members are Jean Wilson in Martinsville, Cheryl Hilton in Roanoke, and Jamesia Harrison in Lynchburg. We welcome your involvement in this exciting ministry with community colleges!

George Mason University – Arise Campus Ministry

This past year Arise (United Campus Ministry of Northern Virginia) has experienced several glory sightings. Several students have felt called to stand up in worship and share transformational stories about God’s love. We celebrate the United Methodist churches and other ecumenical congregations who have supported Arise through their financial

resources and prayers in 2017. We also celebrate the close to 200 people who joined Arise and St. Matthews UMC for our Rise Against Hunger event during the university's Homelessness and Hunger Action Week. We also celebrated the work of our vision team and board members as they named the values for our ministry and helped rebrand our ministry. We also celebrate all the new students we have seen come and be a part of our Life-groups; it truly has been amazing.

One such story about one of our new students really has motivated our leadership team and myself. I did ask for her permission to share her story. I saw a flyer on campus for a new Bible Study trying to form. I reached out to the student to see who they were and learn more about the Bible Study. We agreed to meet for coffee and chat more. Upon meeting we began to discuss her story. She was a student who started a Bible Study because she didn't feel like there was any group on campus that would allow her to be authentic. After we were talking for a while, the student asked about our community. I took the opportunity to tell her about Arise. The fact that we believe in Jesus and thus welcome all, share God's universal love and want to live out our faith on campus and in the community. I shared that we value authenticity and that she can be who she is while exploring her faith. Through this conversation, and I am sure my stumbling over myself, the Holy Spirit spoke to both of us. The student became choked up and said she had been looking for a faith community like us since she arrived at George Mason. This was clearly a God moment. I felt emotional and knew that the Holy Spirit had invited us into this conversation. I believe she was called to become a part of our community, and the Spirit encouraged me by her story and the ways God was already calling her as a future leader to disciple others. It was an amazing moment where God reminded me that God was in charge of this ministry and would provide leaders for the vision the community discerned. It was a reminder of how much I owe our past students, ministry directors, board members and partners who had the same dream and reminded me how blessed I am to build on their foundation of faithful witness. I look forward to the ways God will continue to lead others into our community and the ways we respond to God's grace and the Holy Spirit's leading.

Norfolk State University – Wesley-Westminster Foundation

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

This year the students of WWF have participated in every school sponsored event for organizations including Homecoming, Spirit Fest, Open House, Faith Fairs, a Walk for Women, Freshman Convocation, the Community Breakfast, Bae Day and various other events too numerous to mention. As Director, I was asked to offer prayer at the 100th Commencement, Invocation at the Alumni Annual Recognition Dinner as well as

offer grace for the Community Breakfast where Bakari Sellars was our guest speaker. In addition, I was invited to participate and chair the speaker's bureau for the Faith Partners Network and was a sponsored player in this year's Charity Basketball Game for Clergy. As Director of WWF, I was requested to offer the prayer and closing for Freshman Convocation and to host worship for NSU's Labor Day Classic Weekend. Yearly, the school invites WWF to host the Annual Family Weekend Worship service and this year was no different. We provided the music, a guest preacher, welcomed the parents and introduced Campus Ministry to persons who joined us for worship. Worship is always concluded with a family Brunch on campus.

Our on-campus advisor, Ms. Wanda Boone has been a tremendous help in assuring that our planned activities are approved and hosted on campus. We have hosted several Open Mic Nights, Worship Services and a Black History Evening of Excellence. Our Annual Fundraiser was a success. We presented a Benefit Concert at Shiloh Baptist Church located directly across from the campus. Because of the grant from the Elizabeth River District Missions we were able to replace our upstairs windows at our Campus House. In addition, we had our house exterior painted and continued further renovations and repairs.

We have been busy offering various ministry opportunities for both students and those in the community. Missionaries from India spent seven days with us sharing with the students as well as sharing in different congregational contexts. An International Peacemaker from the Philippines was our guest and spoke to us about the many hardships experienced in his country. As always our Back to School Cookout was a huge success. Additionally, #Lunchbag where we fix bag lunches and distribute them in several locations where people hang out in the community was equally successful. Our Bible Studies, Small Groups, Choir and Game Nights are just a few other ways we seek to provide ministry opportunities. We continue to offer food, fellowship and friendship to our students. Many involved in campus ministry are strong academically but continue to struggle financially. It is our prayer that in the future we may be able to offer scholarships and or employment opportunities to some of our students to help alleviate the great strain of their financial burden to attend college.

University of Mary Washington – Campus Christian Community

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve with the Campus Christian Community this year and see all of the ways that God has been working in the students of Mary Washington. One place where I have seen this occur is in the student leadership team. They have come together and started to trust in their own leadership abilities taking on new tasks and developing new programs. Mental health has been a big struggle for students, in our ministry and for students across our university and others. Recognizing this and wanting to be better equipped to handle this struggle for themselves and their friends, our leadership team organized a wellness week. They found instructors for yoga/meditation, time for prayer, time to play with dogs, and brought in a mental health professional for our main program to discuss self-care and how suicide prevention. Throughout this larger moment of glory, there were many smaller moments. Advertising for time to play with the dogs we had partnered with the SPCA to bring to campus,

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one student who had never been involved with anything with our ministry before came running into the building. Through conversation with her, she shared some of her struggles and having a place offer something like this was exactly what she needed in the exact moment she needed it. During our larger program, the speaker encouraged students to participate in an interactive way. Students began to share different ways that they had struggled and others offered some things that they have found to be helpful. It was a beautiful moment of shared struggle and a moment of hope. The conversation then turned to how having a community like the CCC where struggles can be shared, hope gained, and prayers offered together was an important part of their self-care as well. The students shared how they needed to live into the idea that they are wonderfully made creations of God and truly see themselves as God's children. The week went so well that the students now want to repeat some of the activities during the stressful time of finals at the end of this semester.

BOARD OF LAITY

The Board of Laity continues in 2018 to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping and empowering laity to effectively partner with each other and our clergy to live out God's call upon our lives.

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

Equipping (Leadership Excellence): This team is responsible for developing and offering training to new District Lay Leaders overseeing Lay Servant/Speaking Ministries, developing resources for District and Local Church Lay Leaders and resourcing Local Church Leadership Development and Nominations Committees.

It is also responsible for empowering advocates for the laity and promoting Laity Sunday, encouraging the presence of the District Lay Leaders, Associate District Lay Leaders, or other laity involved in District ministries at all local church Charge Conferences and the assessment of needs of District and Local Church Lay Leaders in order to better support their service.

Lay Servant Ministries, led by David Bailey have had a year of fruitful ministry. New On Demand studies continue and are fruitful for hundreds of lay servants. We continue to expand our ministry with Certified Lay Ministers through the certification process as directed.

The Lay Servant Academy led by Beth Christian and her dedicated team created a weekend of learning and fellowship at 4H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Unfortunately an untimely winter storm knocked out power at the facility and the event was canceled for March 2018. We are struggling to reschedule in August 2018. This event will be advertised as we solidify arrangements.

We have celebrated the leadership of four District Lay Leaders whose terms have ended on the Board. Bob Forrest, Rodney Bussard, Debbie Dietrich and Brenda Brooks have greatly enhanced their respective district ministries. We thank them all. There are servants among us always. We are saying a formal goodbye to David Bailey who was our Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries. We also say goodbye one more time to Beth Christian who stayed on in 2017/18 to arrange our Lay Servant Academy. In addition we have celebrated new faces joining the board. We welcome Gary Morris, Roanoke Co-Lay Leader; Marquette Mitchell, Harrisonburg Co-Lay Leader; Terry Bain, Rappahannock River District Lay Leader; and Martha Murray, Charlottesville District Lay Leader.

We thank Rev. Danny Kesner, for being our Cabinet representative. We thank Rev. Mark Ogren our conference staff representative for guidance and support. Thanks to Cindy Ingroff, administrative assistant for invaluable assistance and gifted wisdom always.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis challenged us last June with a vision for our conference —

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A Disciple of Christ is a Lifelong learner who Influences others to Serve. We are just beginning to live into these words. The winter of 2018 saw Chat and Chew 2.0, in four unique settings for conversation and listening regarding the Commission on a Way Forward's shared information. We celebrate our conversations to the glory of God.

I continue to partner with Bishop Lewis as we lead together in our respective service to Christ our Lord.

– Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Virginia UM Men's key initiatives in 2017 were to move our annual spiritual weekend to Randolph-Macon College; embark on a Younger Men's Ministry along with the Southeast Jurisdiction and continue to accomplish the goals we established in 2016. In 2018 we will be emphasizing the importance of service and discipleship in fulfilling the Conference vision of disciples who are life-long learners influencing others to serve. A radically transformed spiritual weekend as well as increased efforts to boldly involve and mentor younger men will be our focus.

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

Values: Service, Excitement (passion), Teamwork

2018-2020 Goals (summary)

Prepare (disciple) men for service and leadership; Reach new men and their families; Connect with other Conference agencies and boards: Preventing Domestic Violence initiative jointly w/ UMW; Holy Spirit led Christian Fellowship: Wesleyan Transformational Small Groups (class meetings) at all fellowships (new goal for 2018-20), Bible studies, Men's Spiritual Weekend; Younger Men's Ministry: Mentoring new Christians

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Men's Spiritual Advance: A radically transformed spiritual weekend in the fall of 2018 will follow the model of the S.C. Conference. Our two-day family weekend (Oct 26, 27), will be in a vacation location hosted by Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach and will have multiple speakers and workshops (Bishop James Swanson and apologist Greg Koukl). Spouses are welcome with special rates for couples, pastors and early-birds.

Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB): Leadership training continues throughout Virginia and WBB graduates will be undertaking the task of developing mentors for both new and young Christians. Advocate David Bean and his team will be establishing mentor qualification criteria, developing training requirements, and conducting pilot mentor training at the fellowship level over the next two years, so we may address generational gaps in our churches.

Men's Ministry: Three certified Men's Ministry Specialists (Todd Hoar, Johnnie Draughon and David Bean) are engaged in training and support activities offering *Understanding Men's Ministry* and other courses around the Conference.

Young Men's Ministry: In coordination with the SEJ Conference we have

established this ministry to explore ways to integrate and grow participation by late Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials and Gen Zs.

Scouting: We serve over 16,000 youth with over 9,000 adult volunteer leaders. Scouting is a key element to our strategy to reach new people since half of scouting families do not have church homes. Since over half of our churches are small congregations with fewer than fifty members, our focus is on helping churches grow through scouting. 2017 was a banner year for Scouting in the Virginia Conference and all signs are for an even greater 2018. We had a significant presence at the 2017 Annual Conference in Hampton with five Scouts staffing a table in the exhibit hall and participating in the Laity session. Conference Ministry of Scouting Coordinator Bill Chaffin was selected to serve on the staff of the UMC Scouting presence at the 2017 National BSA Jamboree in West Virginia. Bishop Lewis will participate in a series of four Bishop's Dinners in 2018 to support Scouting Ministry throughout the Conference.

Cleaning Buckets to UMCOR: In 2017, under the leadership of Scott Dillard of the Harrisonburg District, we successfully integrated logistics support with District level emergency response volunteers for collecting and transporting buckets to UMCOR warehouses. With your help during last year's hurricane season, we provided relief to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Rebranding: We are developing a new icon and brand reflecting our values of service, excitement and teamwork in making disciples and building God's kingdom.

Prayer Advocacy: Our vision is to: *Pray Daily to God on behalf of the World Wide Church.* Our goal is to advocate prayer as Holy Dialog with God that needs to occur daily in each man's life leading to pursuit, engagement and faith in action. We have five District Prayer Advocates and one alternate. We continue to support the Upper Room monetarily and with distribution of materials for the Prayer Center through our Conference prayer Advocate, Todd Hoar.

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

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

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

Hunger Relief: Wade Mays with The Society of St. Andrew and the help of our UMM volunteers will have provided an estimated 1.2 million servings of food through July of 2018.

All God's Children: In 2018 Virginia will have three different summer camps with 30 kids each week. Bill Crosley is our advocate for this ministry which serves the children of incarcerated adults.

The Beacon: Our monthly e-newsletter has been awarded industry citations based on its strong readership from clergy, laity and subscribers outside the conference. The Beacon is the envy of other Conference UMM boards, providing insightful articles, timely news items and promoting UMM sponsored events. Our editor, Larry Burian, deserves the credit!

— *Andrew Kissell, President*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

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

"The Power of Bold" was the theme when over 80 Virginia UMW traveled to Columbus, OH for the UMW Assembly May 18-20, 2018. What a great time was had as thousands of United Methodist Women joined together to hear powerful speaker and workshop leaders and worship together. When women unite bold and courageous actions happen!

United Methodist Women offers several opportunities to grow spiritually to women by attending retreats. Each spring a UMW Spiritual Life Retreat is held that brings together 150-175 women from all over the conference. On April 20-22, 2018 the retreat theme was "Finding Peace through the Psalms" with the Rev. Dr. Teresa Smith as the retreat leader. The event was held at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg.

The second opportunity for spiritual growth is for the young women of our conference. Held in September each year is our Young Women's Retreat and is always a great opportunity for young women between the ages of 18-40 to come together for worship, music, sharing, and crafts around a theme. The event's date is September 14-15, 2018 at the Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook in the beautiful mountains of the Shenandoah Valley. The retreat leader will be Rev. Joanna Dietz, Minister of Mission at Braddock Street UMC on the Winchester District.

One of our Church's best kept secrets is its Mission Encounter Event held each summer. This is an event shared by Virginia United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women and is for everyone - clergy, laity, youth and children. The dates for the event for 2018 are July 27-29 at Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center. Our website www.vaumw.com has registration forms.

UMW Annual Meeting in October is always a time for celebration. It will be held at Chestnut Memorial UMC on October 27. Our national UMW President, Shannon Priddy, will be our speaker.

United Methodist Women around the Virginia Conference are always looking for

women to join us in our work and mission! If you are not a member, we would love to have you!

– Mary Jane Rawley, President

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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

The Five Talent Academy continues to offer training opportunities related to worship, financial stewardship, discipleship, evangelism and ministry with the poor. In March, Tom Berlin presented "Defying Gravity – Breaking Free of a Culture of More." In October, Jacob Armstrong presented "How to Structure Your Church for Evangelism." Both presentations were offered at 10 sites throughout the conference.

The Equipping Planter team directs the invitation, discernment and training of planters of new faith communities for the Virginia Conference. Those who are interested in planting engage in a process of discernment as to each person's gifts for this unique ministry. The first stage is the Church Leadership Institute, which is held annually each fall. We had 38 participants this past October. Some who attend this event decide that they wish to explore this call more deeply. These prepare a self-reflective paper and are interviewed by members of our Church Development Team. Summaries of these interviews are given to the cabinet, to help inform their appointment of planters of new faith communities. Once appointed, church planters attend a boot camp during the spring of their appointment and coaches are assigned to help guide their ministry.

The New Faith Community subgroup of the CDT continues to help create a culture of excellence, fruitfulness and vitality in the area of new faith community development in our conference. This year we have continued to resource and encourage recently initiated new faith communities, local churches, district Boards of Mission and their equivalents, the Cabinet and others in our conference to live out the "All Things New" strategy through the planting of new faith communities. In addition to resourcing our conference in the area of new faith community development, the New Faith Community subgroup also receives, reviews and makes recommendations to the CDT and the Common Table regarding funding for new faith community development proposals. This year we received multiple proposals that were reviewed and given careful consideration. We remain prayerful and excited about the future of new faith community development within our conference. In July of 2017, five new communities were started – Ghana Wesley (second site), Gainesville (second site), Arlington Commons, Christ Church On-line, Floris On-line. The CDT has partnered with Worship and Praise and Virginia 2020 in renewal projects.

To further support growth and renewal in existing churches, CDT has partnered with four districts to offer Next Level Innovations, a three and a half year investment in church change and leadership development.

The Church Development Team partners with the Large, Medium and Small Church leadership teams. These teams offer training events both for pastors who have just

moved (Just in Time trainings) as well as training for clergy and laity in order to increase vitality.

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

– Melissa Dunlap, Chair

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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

In 2017 we approved three grants totaling \$2,100 for churches and organizations to improve accessibility. This is an increase over previous years as we have promoted this opportunity more.

Annual Conference: As always, members of COD walked/rolled around prior to the start of the conference. We identified several areas of concern, the primary being the cable run in front of the stage that resulted in two falls during the conference. It was too late to correct this problem when it was identified. The AC Committee, particularly Bryan Siegle, has been all ears in hearing our concerns and appreciates our input. This year, we will walk/roll around on Thursday.

Our primary focus continues to be education and we continue to search for new ways to enlighten the members of the conference about accessibility and how to interact with disabled persons and incorporate them into the church community as equal partners. Improvements have been made to our literature and we are working on a video to increase awareness.

We requested the annual conference theme be “Inclusivity” and would encompass all aspects of being inclusive as Christian’s and the different organizations that work to ensure this. Understandably, the Bishop has chosen a different theme, so the video will wait for next year.

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

– Shaun Smith, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) has completed the second year of its restructuring process. As a commission, we decided that we would not just use our words, but be compelled to Christian action. Our commission serves to be the prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of all ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Conference. We are honored to have partnered with Bishop Lewis, the General Commission on Race and Religion (G CORR) as well as other Jurisdictional caucuses and conference agencies to accomplish our goals this year. This year our work focused on education, strategic planning, advocacy and accompaniment to hold into account God’s church at all levels (conference, district and local). We believe that our commission can stimulate individual and group agency that will move the Virginia Conference forward in more inclusive, ethnically-

diverse, and racially-just ways.

We represent the following constituencies at the conference level:

- African-American Ministries
- Hispanic-Latino Ministries/ VAUMC Hispanic Clergy Caucus
- Immigration Task Force/Work Group
- Asian-American Ministries
- Native American Ministries
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Inc.
- VA FOCUS 2020
- Methodists Associated for the Cause of the Hispanic-American (MARCHA), National/South-Eastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Hispanic-Latino Caucus

This year we saw many areas of growth in our constituencies and our commission. As a commission we finalized our logo and began updating our website to provide better resources, educational materials and constituent-focused information. We are utilizing social media with #CEMCAVAUMC and are exploring other media tools to more effectively communicate. We hope to partner with summer interns to continue to be more inclusive in this expansion of our work.

Upon request of Bishop Lewis, we partnered with GCORR to host the Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation in April at Annandale UMC. This convocation challenged all of us to open the conversation about racial positioning and individual bias in the wake of the events in Charlottesville and our country this past year. In addition, CEMCA leadership participated in GCORR's "Facing the Future 2018" and the National Council of Church's "Unite to End Racism" events.

In our annual conference the newly-formed VAUMC Hispanic Clergy Caucus began its work. The Hispanic Clergy Caucus has been developing new ministry models and has had its first member elected to the Cabinet. By partnering with the Bishop's Immigration Task force and the SEJ Hispanic-Latino Caucus, the Bishop's Convocation on Immigration was held in May. In addition, the SEJ H/L Caucus will host MARCHA's national gathering in Charlotte in August 2018.

At the national level, we celebrated with our Native American brothers and sisters the federal recognition of their tribes by the signing of the *Thomasiana Jordan Bill*. It recognizes the Chicahominy, Eastern Chicahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Monacan and Nansemond, while extending rights to Mataponi and the Pamunkey Tribes as well. Now, our work will begin to support these tribes and their efforts to strengthen their ministries throughout the United Methodist connection.

In the upcoming year, our CEMCA district representatives will be the point of contact as we take the learning from these events back to our local contexts. We will continue to partner with the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) for conference monitoring efforts at both annual conference and at district events.

With the help of each member of the annual conference, guidance by the Holy Spirit, and by the healing love that can only come from Christ our Savior, we look forward to continuing our partnerships in educating and resourcing our conference in each district

and through the local church, in this divine work of reknitting the fabric that racial injustices and prejudices have torn.

— *Lori Valentine de Segovia & Gary Miller, co-chairs*

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of women in the full life of The United Methodist church. To further this mission, COSROW collects data on the participation of women, minorities, youth and young adults and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. Data collection continues at Annual Conference 2018.

Data collection at Annual Conference 2017 continues to suggest women are encouraged to participate, yet we still have work to do. During the planned worship services, men and women are both involved at a relatively equal rate. This modeling of women in leadership has a massive impact, encouraging our congregants to recognize women have an important and active role in the church.

Further challenges remain in the plenary and business portions of the annual conference. Women's level of active participation continues to be lower than men's level of active participation. Likewise, the same pattern emerges for racial and ethnic minority participation compared to that of those of Caucasian descent, and youth and young adults relative to adults.

We who serve the Virginia Conference still have work to do. We encourage women, racial and ethnic minorities, young people and persons with disabilities to be active stakeholders in the life of the United Methodist church. Our churches must welcome all God's children in the leadership of their churches. This includes, but is not limited to, welcoming women as pastors in all churches in the Virginia Conference, encouraging women to be lead pastors in large membership churches, and encouraging women to serve as leaders in committees, such as Finance and Trustees. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, young people, and persons with disabilities have gifts and talents. They make significant contributions to the life of the church. Any artificial limits on these persons deny the church body the blessings that God has bestowed on this Conference.

Embrace 2018 is coming! COSROW is working with a task for to sponsor a two-day Transformational Event for all clergywomen in the Virginia Annual Conference. Embrace 2018 will be held September 25-26, 2018, at the Virginia Crossings Conference Center in Glen Allen. "Inspired by Ruth, embracing then journeying with Naomi in a foreign land, and envisioned by Bishop Lewis to gather all the clergywomen together to be encouraged and transformed, the retreat promises to be a place of inspiration, hope, and healing." Scholarships are available.

At Annual Conference 2017, COSROW held a "For Such a Time as This" listening post, which was attended by over 50 women. The purpose was to share women's experiences in the church in our current political climate. We also worked at Annual Conference to educate and raise awareness of the amendments to our constitution in favor of inclusivity.

Like us on Facebook for news, events, and updates at "Commission on the Status and Role of Women – VA United Methodist Conference."

— *Mary Dadisman, Clergy Chair*



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

GRACEINSIDE (FORMERLY CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA)

Grace is a gift you share over and over again. Within Virginia's prisons, your impact is more powerful than ever before! Your hand of grace is extending to our incarcerated brothers and sisters to help heal deeply broken lives. Through grace, we are fulfilling Jesus' mandate to *"visit those in prison"* by funding "prison pastors" or "missionaries" to this "mission field in our own back yards" – the state prisons. There is no ambiguity in Jesus Christ's perspective on prison ministry. As our Lord suffered on the cross, the thief at His side repented and asked, *"Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom! And He said to him, today you shall be with Me in paradise"* (Luke 23:39-43 NASB). From His great throne, the Risen Christ proclaims, *"I was in prison and you came to me,"* and declares that any believer who ministers to *"the least of these"* does so to the Lord Himself (Matthew 25:36c, 40 NASB). These words of cosmic significance are the foundation on which the ministry of GraceInside is built.

GraceInside (formerly Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc.) has been assigning chaplains to Virginia's state prisons since 1920. Only in Virginia (because of our state constitution's strong emphasis on the separation of church and state) are the prison chaplains not state employees. They are not compensated with taxpayer dollars and receive no state benefits (such as healthcare or retirement). We were founded 98 years ago by seven Protestant Christian denominations (including and led by the Virginia Conference of the The United Methodist Church) in order to pool their resources to hire and compensate chaplains for the state prisons – i.e. to become the "prison ministry arm" of each of these denominations. Our heart's desire – both then and now – is to lead incarcerated men and women to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our Mission Statement helps us to carry out this objective: *"To provide chaplains in all of Virginia's state adult and juvenile prison facilities."* We are the only official agency that is set up to provide these "prison pastors," and we continue to rely on our founders and denominational partners, like the VAUMC, in order to accomplish this challenging mission to this immense mission field. Currently we minister to a population of 30,000 offenders with 32 chaplains serving in 35 state prisons. As members of our GraceInside family, you ensure that those in prison have the opportunity to attend worship, participate in spiritually-based classes (Bible studies, grief groups, baptism classes, etc.) and spend one-on-one time with a chaplain. In the words of one ex-offender: *"I survived because of you. You brought me to Jesus. You brought me a new and REAL life."*

Because of your generosity, GraceInside increased our impact by adding more ministry service hours for the chaplains. Consequently, more men and women moved toward healing. We've come to see that the more grace you give away, the more grace there is! Thousands of incarcerated men and women had the opportunity to interact with a chaplain because of YOUR support and care. As many as 14,000 inmates are released each year back into our communities. You make the prisons and our Commonwealth a

safer place in which to live and work.

The American Correctional Association says that there should be a full-time chaplain for every 500 inmates, warranting almost THREE full-time chaplains for the larger prisons!) Our goal is to find support for our chaplains to minister *full-time* so that more lives can experience the gift of grace. Currently, six major facilities need full-time chaplains - right now! Men and women are waiting to hear that they matter to God.

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

Together, lives are changed forever – every single day. THANK YOU!

– J. Randy Myers, President

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Over the last 39 years, the Virginia Conference has been a critical partner in the work of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). 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 2017, 340 congregations of the Virginia Conference provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. 53 congregations and more than 2,700 Virginia United Methodists took part in “crop drops” or field gleaning. A potato drop, partially funded by a grant from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, engaged Annual Conference attendees from every district in service to feed hungry people in the Hampton Roads area.

Through the Virginia Gleaning Network, the Potato & Produce Project, and SoSA's Harvest of Hope mission work-camp program in 2017, 275 feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, emergency food assistance programs, food pantries, and large food banks) across the state received more than 3,710,400 pounds of nourishing food to share with their clients—providing more than 11.1 million servings of health and hope to our hungry brothers and sisters. The Seed Potato Project (a “hand up” endeavor that provides seed potatoes to poor, land-owning Appalachian families) shared an additional 4 million servings of good food with hungry Virginians. All this is work made possible because you care.

Nationwide, 28.5 million pounds of food (85.5 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2017 through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 900 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 36,850+ individuals. The Board of Directors has instituted an ambitious strategic plan, calling for nearly doubling that quantity of food shared over the next three years. We are actively working to build the capacity in both funding and partnerships with farmers and feeding agencies, to expand into new areas over the next few years. United Methodist congregations across the United States will be integral to SoSA's growth, and the Virginia Conference has paved the way for relationships that now extend across the continent.

We're grateful for all the Virginia Conference congregations that join with SoSA through its spiritual life programs, including seasonal devotional materials, Vacation Bible School curriculum, and Bible studies. In 2017, 24 VAUMC congregations participated in SoSA's "Abundance Orchard" VBS; 254 congregations used SoSA's Advent devotional resources and 267 congregations utilized SoSA's Lenten devotions or Good Friday Fast programs.

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

— Lynette Johnson, Executive Director

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Peace and Grace to you on the occasion of the 2018 gathering of the Virginia Annual Conference UMC. May God bless you and guide you as you gather together.

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

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

These words of **Rev. Henry Robison** seem even more prophetic today as we face challenges on all fronts. The year 2016 was dominated by a very rancorous political campaign and election. With the nation evenly split and passion running high it has created a very tumultuous season that continues after tragic events in Charlottesville in 2017. Your Council has been visible since the very beginning in seeking reconciliation between, people of all walks of like, all faith traditions as we are all children of God.

We continue to face difficult economic times as we adjust to the significant drop in funding of recent years. The council remains strong, albeit on very fragile financial footing, and is seeking ways to respond during these exciting yet chaotic times.

At our Annual Meeting in 2016 our council president, the **Rev. Dr. John Myers**, of the Eastern Association, Southern Conference, UCC called for a strategic planning retreat in September of 2017 to articulate the mission and vision of the Council in this new century and to prepare for a transition of leadership in 2018. Dr. John Vest led the council leadership in a two day gathering and preparation for our time of transition. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Barton, our sixth general minister, will be retiring June 1, 2018, after faithfully guiding the council for 18 years to the day. The Rev. Larry Thompson chairs the search committee looking for our seventh person to lead the council forward in our 75th Anniversary year.

The Council continues to work closely with our **Armenian Orthodox** brothers and sister assisting in the introduction of their new priest Rev. Fr. Tatev Terteryan. Over the course of the year we have worked with the **Virginia Synod ELCA** and **Bishop Mauney** in efforts to reduce childhood hunger within the Commonwealth. Recently we participated in the installation of **Bishop Robert Humphrey** in the Virginia Synod who follows in the footsteps of Bishop Mauney. The Council continues to support **LARCUM**, the **National**

Workshop on Christian Unity, and The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as well as other expressions of ecumenism within the Commonwealth. We have also begun work on a legacy project with the 2019 Commission and Virginia Union University regarding the evolution of the faith of African Americans 1619-2019, with the anticipation of a conference in March 2019 and the publication of a book shortly thereafter. We also play an enlarging role in **Interfaith Dialogues**, including our long-standing dialogue in Richmond involving five of our judicatory executives, and includes, three Rabbis, and two Imams.

We continue to stand with our **Native American** brothers and sisters of the six Virginia Tribes and celebrate the culmination of our twenty year journey seeking federal recognition. Our partnership with the **VICPP** and the **Virginia Catholic Conference** helps give voice to our shared concerns for justice on the floor of the General Assembly. Our **Rural Family Development Program** continues to serve children in Caroline County through the Head Start Program.

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

– Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (VICPP)

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) continues to be blessed by its partnership with the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. VICPP works to bring people of all faiths together to be a witness to the General Assembly and advocate economic and racial justice throughout the Commonwealth. Highlights of our work during the past year include:

- **Advocating healthcare expansion.** VICPP continues to be Virginia’s leading faith-based grassroots advocacy organization supporting healthcare expansion. The results of the November election put Medicaid expansion back on the table, and the Center worked hard to amplify religious voices in support of those who are “in the coverage gap,” low-wage workers who don’t qualify for Medicaid or afford coverage on the open market. We want Virginia’s General Assembly to develop a plan for expanding healthcare access to these 400,000 Virginians by tapping the federal dollars that are already available and have been working hard to make that happen, creating toolkits, bulletin inserts and other congregational resources.
- **Stopping and deterring wage theft.** VICPP worked throughout 2017 to develop a platform of simple reforms to stop and deter wage theft in Virginia. Strong patrons were identified and encouraged to introduce wage theft reform bills. Sen. Wagner (R-Virginia Beach), Del. Habeeb (R-Salem) and Del. Krizek (D-Alexandria) introduced the reform bills. All three bills are still “in process” as this report is being written. If approved, the bills would remove some of the Jim Crow-era language excluding every category of work that was historically held by African

Americans (“ticket-takers”, “shoe-shine boys” and so forth), require employers to provide a paystub, protect workers against retaliation for filing a complaint and allow the state Department of Labor and Industries to investigate and recover wages for all workers in a workplace, not just the one person who filed a complaint.

- **Creating a Living Wage Certification program.** Our Richmond chapter is partnering the Mayor’s Office of Community Wealth Building to develop a “Living Wage Certification” program, which was officially launched on March 22. The program identifies, honors and promotes business that pay living wages to their employees. Affiliates in Charlottesville and Alexandria are creating programs as well.
- **Standing with and protecting immigrants and minority religions.** VICPP expanded its work to create circles of protection for immigrants, Muslims and Jews, and continues to oppose legislation that would make Virginia less welcoming to all marginalized people. VICPP supported the creation of Rapid Response Networks and helped organize the Central Virginia Sanctuary Network. (VICPP encourages people in northern Virginia to support the DMV Sanctuary Network.)
- **Reforming Virginia’s criminal justice system.** During the 2017 General Assembly, VICPP was one of the leading organizations advocating a reform measure to allow people who had lost their drivers’ licenses because they owed court fines or fees (essentially poor people) to get on a payment plan or do community service to pay off the fines and keep their licenses during the process. This year, during the 2018 General Assembly, VICPP is supporting and even better bill to stop suspensions altogether for non-driving related fines and fees. VICPP is also advocating raising the felony threshold from \$200 to at least \$500.
- **Responding to hate.** VICPP played an important role in getting religious leaders to Charlottesville on Aug. 11-12 to counter the white supremacy rallies. The religious community played many important roles during this tragic weekend and learned some hard lessons. VICPP was most grateful for the hospitality and refuge provided by First United Methodist Church of Charlottesville.
- **Deepening ties with congregations through Faith Advocacy Partners.** VICPP has created a “Faith Advocacy Partners” program to strengthen ties with congregations. Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church (Richmond) and Mount Olivet United Methodist Church (Arlington) became Faith Advocacy Partners in 2017. If you feel your church would like to more fully partner with the work of the Virginia Interfaith Center, visit www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/partners.
- **Tapping volunteers “witnesses” at the Capitol.** VICPP had a team of volunteers to be Witnesses at the Capitol during the 2017 legislative season and is using volunteers again in 2018. These volunteers, including United Methodists, meet with legislators, speak in committee hearings and offer a presence from the faith community.

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- **Expanding chapters and affiliates.** VICPP now has eight chapter or affiliates around the Commonwealth, including new groups in Harrisonburg and Charlottesville.
- **Celebrating the work.** In December VICPP held its annual awards gala. Among the honorees was retired State Sen. Henry Marsh III, with a life achievement award, and young DACA organizer Rodrigo Velasquez from George Mason University. Consider coming to the event, tentatively set for Dec. 13, 2018, sponsoring the event or having your congregation buy a table.
- **Drawing in new advocates.** VICPP's Day for All People annual lobby day on Jan. 23 attracted record numbers, in part because Virginia's new Governor, Dr. Ralph Northam, was one of our speakers. Plan to come to next year's Day for All People during the General Assembly session.
- **Supporting UMC advocacy.** VICPP has helped staff the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly for many years. In addition, VICPP staff have spoken at United Methodist Women programs and local United Methodist congregations about the work and advocacy. The Executive Director spoke at a Church and Society gathering during 2017 Annual Conference and also the MFSA dinner.

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

– Kim Bobo, Executive Director



CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Chairpersons:

Marc Brown, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Warren Harper, *Conference Lay Leader*

Monitors:

R. Shaun Smith, *Commission on Disabilities*

Mary Dadisman, *COSROW*

Gary Miller, *CEMCA*

District Representatives:

Alexandria – Burton Robinson
Arlington – Ellen LaCroix Fillette
Charlottesville – Charles Winner
Danville – *vacant*
Eastern Shore – Tampa Miller
Elizabeth River – Jamie Beck
Farmville – Joan Tipton
Harrisonburg – Sandy Biller

James River – Jim O'Quinn
Lynchburg – Jennifer Moore
Rappahannock River – Brad Phillips
Richmond – Lisa Sykes
Roanoke – N.L. Bishop
Staunton – Beth Christian
Winchester – Andy Brock
York River District – Angie Hoe

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NOMINATIONS

Director of Connectional Ministries

Marc Brown

Common Table for Church Vitality

CLDDT Nominee:

Ashley Roth

Bishop's Nominee:

Sandi Blackwell

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:

Eduardo Carrillo

Shayne Estes

Jung Pyo Hong

Deborah Porras

Jason Stanley

Lay:

Emma Samson

Church Development Team

Randy Duncan

Rachel Gilmore

Board of Discipleship

Lisa Ann Barbery

Robin BeMiller

Don Jamison

Kathy Gochenour

Youth Council

Juli Odell

Young Adult Council

Jacob Montague

Older Adult Council

Louise Miller

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Rob Lough

Bill Pike

John Wright

Missional Ministries Board

Clergy:

Robert Gochenour

Kendra Grimes

Lay:

Ann Klotz

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Commission on Archives and History

Clergy:

W. James Athearn,

Paul A. Beigley, Jr.

Michael Browder

Carlton D. Casey

Robert T. Casey

Raymond H. Edmonds, Jr.

William R. Freeman

H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.

James M. John

Alexander B. Joyner

Margaret T. Kutz

Barbara D. Lewis

John T. Martin, Jr.

Samuel E. NeSmith

John C. Price

C. Edward Pruitt

Lee B. Sheaffer

James Sprouse

Elizabeth W. Taylor

Rudolph E. Tucker, Jr.

Walter A. Whitehurst

J. Brooke Willson

Elizabeth A.S. Wright

Gary A. Ziegler

Laity:

Mary Ashton Athearn

Thelma Crowder

Grace Deane

Betty Duley

Jesse Fanshaw, III

Nina Frederick

Queen Green

Ann Keeling

Audrey Lewis

Myra P. Lindsey

Stephen Mansfield

Marianne Martin

David Meyer

Margaret Mock

Catherine Morgan

Brenda NeSmith

William A. Olson

Laurie Preston

Leona Salter

JoEllen Fulk Smith

William Stead

Craig Swain

Betty Whitehurst

Kathi Hughes Wise

[Italics – new to position]

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

Clergy:

Larry Davies

Eileen Gilmer

Lay:

Helen Smith

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy:

Margaret Packard

Young Sung Ryu

Barry Throckmorton

Lay:

Judy Diggs

Cheryl Nester

Equitable Compensation Commission

Clergy:

Wilhelmina Sumpter

Lay:

Bernard Carpenter

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy:

James Harrison

Maggie Hasselbach

Garland Hines

Seungsun Joo

Steven Snodgrass

Lay:

Lori Valentine de Segovia

Tianna Durbin

Carol Ann Redmon

At Large:

Karen Bragg

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Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:
Linda Lowe

Lay:
Jim Cole
Malcolm White

United Methodist Foundation

Brandon Gilmore
Bobbie Henley
Pat McGucking
Hal Miller
Justin White

Board of Ordained Ministry

Charles Bates
Lyndsie Blakely
JaeHaeng Choi

Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Clergy:
Mary Dadisman

Conference Trustees

Clergy:
Clyde Nelson

Lay:
Walter Beals
Kathleen Lutman

Society of St. Andrew

Cooper Davidson
Shawn Kiger
Cliff Steger

Randolph College

Kathleen S. Graves
Robert S. Roberson
Henry George White

Randolph-Macon College

Sabra L. Klein
Hunter Leemon
Thomas Millner
D. Calloway Whitehead, III

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Virginia Wesleyan University
J. Tim Bailey
William W. Granger III
Ronald M. Kramer
Robin D. Ray
Louis R. Ryan
Alan H. Shaw



REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

			Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
05	Alexandria District		36,739	608	51	106	314	110	275	36,805	66	0.18%	22,974	391
10	Arlington District		28,418	438	17	104	740	57	143	28,037	-381	-1.34%	12,314	272
15	Charlottesville District		12,688	87	35	27	516	10	161	12,150	-538	-4.24%	4,308	86
20	Danville District		10,751	79	5	-12	41	90	191	10,501	-250	-2.33%	3,454	64
25	Eastern Shore District		6,759	24	-103	-16	23	11	117	6,513	-246	-3.64%	2,114	38
28	Elizabeth River District		30,474	411	32	82	1,090	56	297	29,556	-918	-3.01%	9,099	203
30	Farmville District		12,286	108	27	16	432	50	197	11,758	-528	-4.3%	3,840	72
33	Harrisonburg District		17,328	135	70	49	100	7	230	17,245	-83	-0.48%	5,341	101
34	James River District		17,738	157	20	41	-1	12	222	17,723	-15	-0.08%	4,844	119
35	Lynchburg District		16,000	146	73	53	68	48	225	15,931	-69	-0.43%	5,689	94
36	Rappahannock River District		18,141	266	17	18	57	45	164	18,176	35	0.19%	5,856	187
65	Richmond District		39,916	417	105	42	375	82	354	39,669	-247	-0.62%	10,455	264
70	Roanoke District		20,047	137	49	57	235	23	226	19,806	-241	-1.2%	5,825	92
80	Staunton District		12,652	86	-93	-1	91	17	191	12,345	-307	-2.43%	3,920	68
85	Winchester District		17,587	280	-79	67	30	13	170	17,642	55	0.31%	6,139	160
88	York River District		26,884	204	45	-10	848	90	315	25,870	-1,014	-3.77%	7,259	137
Totals for 2017			324,408	3,583	271	623	4,959	721	3,478	319,727	-4,681	-1.44%	113,431	2,348

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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT

December 31, 2017

Virginia Conference

Apportioned Funds	YTD 12/31/2017	YTD 12/31/2016	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Pd 2017	Pct. Pd 2016
Conference Apportionments					
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	2,908,999	2,866,287	42,712	89.51%	86.26%
402 Conference Services	1,816,371	1,759,897	56,474	91.14%	88.35%
403 District Superintendents	1,858,815	1,859,587	(772)	90.45%	90.49%
404 Equitable Compensation	313,568	438,830	(125,262)	89.59%	87.77%
405 Church Extension & Development	585,481	554,763	30,718	86.74%	82.19%
406 Virginia Education Fund	773,492	803,769	(30,277)	85.94%	80.38%
Subtotal	8,256,726	8,283,133	(26,407)	89.52%	86.78%
Clergy Benefit Apportionments					
407 Active Clergy Health Benefits	8,873,775	8,659,914	213,861	91.39%	89.19%
408 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,522,557	5,367,830	154,727	91.13%	88.58%
409 Pension Liability Assessment-Pre 82	903,594	883,456	20,138	90.36%	88.35%
Subtotal	15,299,926	14,911,200	388,726	91.23%	88.92%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments					
410 Episcopal	801,560	815,005	(13,445)	89.06%	85.34%
411 World Service	2,631,580	2,434,207	197,373	86.71%	82.38%
412 General Connectional	416,046	404,919	11,127	86.32%	81.15%
413 Ministerial Education	876,805	813,838	62,967	85.54%	80.18%
414 Black College	352,688	328,981	23,707	86.02%	81.23%
415 Africa University	80,393	74,405	5,988	87.38%	81.76%
416 Interdenominational Coop.	70,794	64,012	6,782	87.40%	80.02%
Subtotal	5,229,866	4,935,367	294,499	86.80%	82.26%
Total Apportioned Funds	28,786,518	28,129,700	656,818	89.91%	87.05%
Non-Apportionment Receipts					
Advance Specials				Year	Year End
GBGM				2017	89.91%
Va. Conference Advance Specials				2016	87.05%
				2015	85.85%
				2014	87.70%
				2013	88.57%
Special Days				2012	87.26%
Human Relations				2011	86.83%
One Great Hour of Sharing				2010	84.40%
Native American Ministries				2009	85.92%
Peace with Justice				2008	90.08%
World Communion				2007	92.03%
UM Student				2006	93.16%
				2005	93.87%
Other Funds				2004	94.79%
Youth Service				2003	95.58%
Samaritan Fund - Pinnacle Living				2002	97.08%
UMFS				2001	96.33%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow				2000	96.43%
Annual Conference Offering				1999	94.92%
Other				1998	93.51%
Total Non-Apportioned Funds	2,554,873	1,629,445	925,428	1997	90.64%
Total Church Receipts	31,341,391	29,759,145	1,582,246	1996	89.20%

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Balance Sheets

	<u>12/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets:</i>		
Cash	1,427,041	1,819,691
Investments	6,446,710	5,586,582
Receivables	3,316,160	2,917,167
Prepaid expenses	57,302	66,624
Total Current Assets	<u>11,247,213</u>	<u>10,390,064</u>
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>		
Land	793,019	780,000
Buildings	5,017,597	4,987,658
Furniture & fixtures	225,566	236,187
Equipment and vehicles	662,000	733,002
Software	21,735	11,985
Accumulated depreciation	(2,348,776)	(2,332,912)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>4,371,141</u>	<u>4,415,920</u>
<i>Other Assets:</i>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	897,080	890,355
Loans receivable	420,510	407,720
Total Other Assets	<u>1,317,590</u>	<u>1,298,075</u>
	<u>16,935,944</u>	<u>16,104,059</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	4,559,650	3,985,094
Accrued expenses	30,918	28,116
Unearned revenue	43,514	39,513
Total Liabilities	<u>4,634,082</u>	<u>4,052,723</u>
<i>Net Assets:</i>		
Unrestricted conference reserves	3,378,880	2,822,901
Emerging funds	16,743	-
Board designated reserves	917,685	992,319
Property and Equipment fund	4,371,142	3,765,226
Church Extension Fund	1,467,632	1,915,776
Donor restricted and miscellaneous	2,149,780	2,555,113
Total Net Assets	<u>12,301,862</u>	<u>12,051,335</u>
	<u>16,935,944</u>	<u>16,104,058</u>

REPORTS

Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Statement of Changes in Unrestricted Conference Reserves

For the Year Ending December 31, 2017

Income directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	515,043
Dividends and interest	69,304
Total Income	584,347

Expenses directly attributed to Conference Reserves:

Special funding - Bishop's Vision	35,000
Special funding - debt retirement	341,911
Bank service charges	10,452
Total Expenses	387,363

Income Over/(Under) Expenses	196,984
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Apportionment Closeouts:

401 - Conference Mission and Ministries	226,222
402 - Conference Services	14,453
403 - District Superintendents' Fund	(12,856)
404 - Equitable Compensation Fund	131,176

Total Apportionment Closeouts	358,995
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Net increase/(decrease) in Conference Reserves	555,979
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Beginning balance	2,822,901
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Ending Balance	3,378,880
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REPORTS



401 - Conference Mission & Ministry Financial Summary

12/31/2017

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
3500	Conference Benevolence Grants	193,157.50	-	-	193,157.50	193,157.50	-	-	-	-
3510	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	67,197.86	-	30,000.00	97,197.86	72,150.00	25,047.86	(25,047.86)	-	-
5605	Emerging Funds	80,288.36	(19,200.00)	120,824.94	181,913.30	165,169.90	16,743.40	-	-	16,743.40
3600	Campus Ministry	840,118.79	(10,000.00)	-	830,118.79	817,769.55	12,349.24	(12,349.24)	-	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,728,236.05	(200,493.39)	9,788.74	1,537,531.40	1,348,706.90	188,824.50	(188,824.50)	-	-
		2,908,998.56	(229,693.39)	160,613.68	2,839,918.85	2,596,953.85	242,965.00	(226,221.60)	-	16,743.40

Schedule 1 - Program & Board Administrative

3100	Common Table	3,490.80	-	-	3,490.80	2,203.32	1,287.48	(1,287.48)	-	-
Sch 2	Departmental Administration	57,307.26	-	-	57,307.26	50,915.55	6,391.71	(6,391.71)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	73,888.58	7,500.00	931.81	82,320.39	67,101.98	15,218.41	(15,218.41)	-	-
3000	Personnel Costs - Common Table	1,336,975.74	-	-	1,336,975.74	1,182,618.22	154,357.52	(154,357.52)	-	-
3210	CT Information Technologies	29,962.67	(29,962.67)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3240	Outsourced Graphic Design Serv	33,453.49	-	-	33,453.49	32,160.00	1,293.49	(1,293.49)	-	-
3200	Video Production	4,945.29	-	8,856.93	13,802.22	8,701.43	5,100.79	(5,100.79)	-	-
3220	Common Table Rent	167,849.22	(167,849.22)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3230	CT Postage, Printing & Phone	10,181.50	(10,181.50)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3090	CT Contingencies	10,181.50	-	-	10,181.50	5,006.40	5,175.10	(5,175.10)	-	-
		1,728,236.05	(200,493.39)	9,788.74	1,537,531.40	1,348,706.90	188,824.50	(188,824.50)	-	-

Supporting Schedule 2 - Departmental Administration

3010	Connectional Ministries Office	7,854.30	-	-	7,854.30	7,330.43	523.87	(523.87)	-	-
3020	Communications Office	7,563.40	-	-	7,563.40	4,693.32	2,870.08	(2,870.08)	-	-
3030	Congregational Excel	11,054.19	-	-	11,054.19	10,491.03	563.16	(563.16)	-	-
3040	Higher Ed & Next Gen Office	12,799.60	-	-	12,799.60	14,925.64	(2,126.04)	2,126.04	-	-
3050	Inclusivity and Lay Ldrshp Exc	4,945.29	-	-	4,945.29	3,506.10	1,439.19	(1,439.19)	-	-
3060	Justice and Missional Excel	13,090.48	-	-	13,090.48	9,969.03	3,121.45	(3,121.45)	-	-
		57,307.26	-	-	57,307.26	50,915.55	6,391.71	(6,391.71)	-	-

Supporting Schedule 3 - Board & Agency Administration

3105	Board of Church & Society	6,108.90	-	-	6,108.90	5,669.60	439.30	(439.30)	-	-
3110	Missional Ministries Board	9,017.91	-	931.81	9,949.72	3,704.08	6,245.64	(6,245.64)	-	-
3115	Board of Communications	6,108.90	-	-	6,108.90	4,875.02	1,233.88	(1,233.88)	-	-
3120	Board of Higher Education	2,909.00	-	-	2,909.00	3,842.30	(933.30)	933.30	-	-
3125	Board of Discipleship	8,727.00	-	-	8,727.00	6,290.57	2,436.43	(2,436.43)	-	-
3130	Church Development Team	1,745.40	-	-	1,745.40	1,442.21	303.19	(303.19)	-	-
3135	Board of Laity	8,145.20	-	-	8,145.20	10,431.85	(2,286.65)	2,286.65	-	-
3140	CEMCA	1,745.40	-	-	1,745.40	2,049.09	(303.69)	303.69	-	-
3145	COSROW	872.68	-	-	872.68	272.54	600.14	(600.14)	-	-
3150	Commission on Disabilities	1,454.50	-	-	1,454.50	1,530.81	(76.31)	76.31	-	-
3155	Connections 21 Interns	-	7,500.00	-	7,500.00	7,471.93	28.07	(28.07)	-	-
3160	Committee on Mission Personnel	27,053.69	-	-	27,053.69	19,521.98	7,531.71	(7,531.71)	-	-
		73,888.58	7,500.00	931.81	82,320.39	67,101.98	15,218.41	(15,218.41)	-	-

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402 - Conference Services Financial Summary

December 31, 2017

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Funds that Close to Reserves:										
2100	Treasurer's Office	380,166.49	-	66,075.00	446,241.49	457,407.09	(11,165.60)	11,165.60	-	-
2110	Computer Services	81,010.16	29,962.67	87.90	111,060.73	129,569.26	(18,508.53)	18,508.53	-	-
2120	Annual Conference Session	246,299.94	-	3,798.93	250,098.87	231,923.37	18,175.50	(18,175.50)	-	-
2130	Conf Publications Committee	7,628.77	-	1,313.43	8,942.20	17,279.18	(8,336.98)	8,336.98	-	-
2140	Council on Finance & Admin	2,542.91	-	-	2,542.91	2,903.15	(360.24)	360.24	-	-
2150	Board of Trustees	1,453.09	-	-	1,453.09	734.24	718.85	(718.85)	-	-
2160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,998.01	-	-	1,998.01	1,255.63	742.38	(742.38)	-	-
2170	Historical Society	8,173.65	-	-	8,173.65	2,749.73	5,423.92	(5,423.92)	-	-
2180	Assistant to Bishop	78,103.96	-	-	78,103.96	83,702.02	(5,598.06)	5,598.06	-	-
2190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	15,257.52	-	-	15,257.52	5,961.75	9,295.77	(9,295.77)	-	-
2200	Pastor Relocation Transition	17,255.51	-	-	17,255.51	9,718.13	7,537.38	(7,537.38)	-	-
2210	Episcopal Residence	3,087.91	-	20,000.00	23,087.91	123,146.62	(100,058.71)	100,058.71	-	-
2220	Episcopal Budget Support	26,882.27	-	-	26,882.27	26,499.96	382.31	(382.31)	-	-
2230	Conference Liability Insurance	15,257.52	-	-	15,257.52	13,887.00	1,370.52	(1,370.52)	-	-
2270	General Conference Delegation	2,542.91	-	-	2,542.91	-	2,542.91	(2,542.91)	-	-
2290	Contingencies	10,171.68	-	29,593.53	39,765.21	-	39,765.21	(39,765.21)	-	-
2300	BOM Personnel Costs	248,297.92	-	-	248,297.92	224,658.91	23,639.01	(23,639.01)	-	-
2310	Clergy Excellence Admin.	15,257.52	-	-	15,257.52	11,812.84	3,444.68	(3,444.68)	-	-
2320	Board of Ordained Ministry	76,105.92	-	-	76,105.92	63,037.83	13,068.09	(13,068.09)	-	-
2330	BOM - Ministerial Support	37,235.60	-	4,425.00	41,660.60	35,566.97	6,093.63	(6,093.63)	-	-
2400	Postage, Printing & Phone	40,686.72	10,181.50	9,327.13	60,195.35	65,416.77	(5,221.42)	5,221.42	-	-
2450	Mortgage Debt Service	308,783.10	(308,783.10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1,624,199.08	(268,638.93)	134,620.92	1,490,181.07	1,507,230.45	(17,049.38)	17,049.38	-	-
CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances:										
4000	United Methodist Center	25,429.20	167,849.22	131,907.00	325,185.42	333,268.84	(8,083.42)	-	52,872.05	44,788.63
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	200,000.00
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	76,105.92	-	-	76,105.92	146,756.85	(70,650.93)	-	68,706.10	(1,944.83)
4030	Legal Expenses	30,333.39	-	-	30,333.39	101,174.29	(70,840.90)	-	126,594.26	55,753.36
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(34,203.04)	34,203.04	-
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,272.50	6,272.50
4070	Archives	9,626.75	-	1,520.00	11,146.75	17,558.95	(6,412.20)	-	2,567.11	(3,845.09)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	6,512.68	-	6,512.68	-	6,512.68	-	13,487.32	20,000.00
4090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	-	35,000.00	-	35,000.00	31,962.24	3,037.76	-	-	3,037.76
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	24,103.19	24,103.19	68,881.02	(44,777.83)	-	4,415,919.90	4,371,142.07
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	650,694.27	-	650,694.27	-	650,694.27	-	(650,694.27)	-
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	50,676.76	-	-	50,676.76	996.50	49,680.26	-	105,640.07	155,320.33
		192,172.02	960,056.17	157,530.19	1,309,758.38	700,598.69	609,159.69	(34,203.04)	4,275,568.08	4,850,524.73

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CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances Financial Summary

December 31, 2017

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
CFA										
4000	United Methodist Center	25,429.20	167,849.22	131,907.00	325,185.42	333,268.84	(8,083.42)	-	52,872.05	44,788.63
4010	Building Maintenance Fund	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	200,000.00
4020	Wesley Foundation Inc.	76,105.92	-	-	76,105.92	146,756.85	(70,650.93)	-	68,706.10	(1,944.83)
4030	Legal Expenses	30,333.39	-	-	30,333.39	101,174.29	(70,840.90)	-	126,594.26	55,753.36
4040	Conference Auto Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(34,203.04)	34,203.04	-
4060	Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,272.50	6,272.50
4070	Archives	9,626.75	-	1,520.00	11,146.75	17,558.95	(6,412.20)	-	2,567.11	(3,845.09)
4080	Sustentation Fund	-	6,512.68	-	6,512.68	-	6,512.68	-	13,487.32	20,000.00
4090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	-	35,000.00	-	35,000.00	31,962.24	3,037.76	-	-	3,037.76
		141,495.26	309,361.90	133,427.00	584,284.16	630,721.17	(46,437.01)	(34,203.04)	404,702.38	324,062.33
Common Table										
6100	Advocate Publication	-	-	57,656.93	57,656.93	78,643.96	(20,987.03)	-	193,630.00	172,642.97
6200	Lay Servant Ministries	-	-	22,037.92	22,037.92	22,248.98	(211.06)	-	1,412.77	1,201.71
6210	Board of Laity Special Project	-	-	6,851.51	6,851.51	7,938.75	(1,087.24)	-	5,974.69	4,887.45
6220	CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	400.00	400.00	353.68	46.32	-	114.31	160.63
6225	Campus Ministry Team	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	18,071.25	11,928.75	-	-	11,928.75
6230	Camp Rainbow	-	-	65,448.00	65,448.00	70,244.90	(4,796.90)	-	38,003.59	33,206.69
6240	Commission on Disabilities	-	-	2,043.00	2,043.00	3,489.56	(1,446.56)	-	12,486.36	11,039.80
6310	UMVIM	-	-	22,337.00	22,337.00	3,986.84	18,350.16	-	14,049.22	32,399.38
6311	UMVIM - Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,762.72	3,762.72
6340	Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233.22	1,233.22
6400	All God's Children Camp	-	-	58,431.45	58,431.45	82,319.51	(23,888.06)	-	64,392.60	40,504.54
6420	Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,051.75	2,051.75
6440	Church Staff Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,612.51	6,612.51
6505	Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	20,286.69	20,286.69	18,108.98	2,177.71	-	10,290.63	12,468.34
6560	CDT Training Events	-	-	11,096.17	11,096.17	11,096.17	-	-	-	-
6565	Small Church Pastors	-	-	2,665.45	2,665.45	2,805.54	(140.09)	-	6,407.73	6,267.64
6570	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	-	144.55	144.55	1,439.29	(1,294.74)	-	4,060.53	2,765.79
6580	Large Church Lead Pastors	-	-	120.45	120.45	4,699.23	(4,578.78)	-	997.12	(3,581.66)
		-	30,000.00	269,519.12	299,519.12	325,446.64	(25,927.52)	-	365,479.75	339,552.23
Board of Ordained Ministry										
4610	Welcome Dinner at AC	-	-	2,250.00	2,250.00	4,405.50	(2,155.50)	-	4,437.26	2,281.76
4620	Order of Deacons	-	-	3,894.02	3,894.02	3,390.63	503.39	-	2,169.70	2,673.09
4630	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	1,249.00	1,249.00	1,091.36	157.64	-	1,082.61	1,240.25
4640	Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,276.90	9,276.90
4650	Spouse Retreat	-	-	1,071.21	1,071.21	1,239.40	(168.19)	-	1,280.77	1,112.58
4660	Seminary Scholarships	-	-	22,695.16	22,695.16	28,246.23	(5,551.07)	-	11,250.31	5,699.24
4690	BOM Training Events	-	-	3,391.00	3,391.00	2,541.09	849.91	-	323.51	1,173.42
4700	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	-	62,500.00	62,500.00	67,200.00	(4,700.00)	-	6,000.00	1,300.00
4710	Calling 21	-	-	23,000.00	23,000.00	23,802.39	(802.39)	-	18,252.41	17,450.02
4730	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,752.44	2,752.44
4740	Ministers' Convocation	-	-	65,277.38	65,277.38	71,078.65	(5,801.27)	-	54,965.23	49,163.96
4780	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,667.25	2,667.25
4790	VA Clergy Leadership Program	50,676.76	-	-	50,676.76	996.50	49,680.26	-	105,640.07	155,320.33
4800	Candidacy Summit	-	-	7,204.27	7,204.27	7,282.88	(78.61)	-	2,038.23	1,959.62
4810	Extension Ministry	-	-	750.00	750.00	750.00	-	-	-	-
4820	Licensing School	-	-	30,791.50	30,791.50	30,791.50	-	-	-	-
		50,676.76	-	224,073.54	274,750.30	242,816.13	31,934.17	-	222,136.69	254,070.86
Total										
		192,172.02	339,361.90	627,019.66	1,158,553.58	1,198,983.94	(40,430.36)	(34,203.04)	992,318.82	917,685.42

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Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds Financial Summary

December 31, 2017

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses	Closeout to Conference Reserves	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Property & Equipment										
4500	Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	24,103.19	24,103.19	68,881.02	(44,777.83)	-	4,415,919.90	4,371,142.07
4503	Intra-Conference Debt	-	650,694.27	-	650,694.27	-	650,694.27	-	(650,694.27)	-
		-	650,694.27	24,103.19	674,797.46	68,881.02	605,916.44	-	3,765,225.63	4,371,142.07
Church Extension Fund										
6500	Church Extension Fund	585,481.02	(18,000.00)	32,509.99	599,991.01	1,048,135.13	(448,144.12)	-	1,915,776.29	1,467,632.17
		585,481.02	(18,000.00)	32,509.99	599,991.01	1,048,135.13	(448,144.12)	-	1,915,776.29	1,467,632.17
Ministerial Education Fund										
4600	Ministerial Education Funds	219,201.34	-	5,132.64	224,333.98	173,626.24	50,707.74	-	561,000.89	611,708.63
		219,201.34	-	5,132.64	224,333.98	173,626.24	50,707.74	-	561,000.89	611,708.63
Donor restricted										
8000	All Things New	-	(20,000.00)	1,581.53	(18,418.47)	196,367.56	(214,786.03)	-	214,786.03	-
8010	Discipleship Circles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,615.40	21,615.40
8050	Francis Asbury Education Fund	-	-	6,750.35	6,750.35	25.00	6,725.35	-	893,612.42	900,337.77
8100	Initiatives of Hope	-	-	1,530.00	1,530.00	3,434.37	(1,904.37)	-	17,856.63	15,952.26
8110	IOH - Mozambique	-	-	21,983.95	21,983.95	33,884.53	(11,900.58)	-	32,313.76	20,413.18
8111	IOH - Brazil	-	-	21,983.95	21,983.95	20,948.32	1,035.63	-	23,544.58	24,580.21
8113	Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	2,821.16	(2,821.16)	-	4,106.34	1,285.18
8114	IOH - Cambodia	-	-	53,461.12	53,461.12	35,977.07	17,484.05	-	11,476.56	28,960.61
8120	Russian Initiative	-	-	250.00	250.00	-	-	-	9,644.18	9,894.18
8150	Imagine No Malaria	-	-	9.48	9.48	188.18	(178.70)	-	178.70	-
8160	CEMCA-Hispanic Aid Fund	-	-	9,616.78	9,616.78	9,616.78	-	-	-	9,616.78
8200	Bishops' Foundation	-	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,213.08	(3,213.08)	-	6,915.43	3,702.35
8300	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	(25,000.00)	-	(25,000.00)	-	(25,000.00)	-	200,040.26	175,040.26
8305	Disaster Relief Fund	-	(322,869.02)	218,179.30	(104,689.72)	42,343.17	(147,032.89)	-	198,382.43	51,349.54
8308	UMCOR#3 - Tornado Recovery	-	152,829.09	341,267.35	494,096.44	519,521.99	(25,425.55)	-	25,425.55	-
8310	Youth Service Fund	-	-	14,031.87	14,031.87	23,103.72	(9,071.85)	-	22,189.14	13,117.29
8315	Peace with Justice	-	-	4,480.00	4,480.00	5,000.00	(520.00)	-	14,524.28	14,004.28
8320	Native American Awareness Sun.	-	-	2,881.82	2,881.82	5,000.00	(2,118.18)	-	13,556.79	11,438.61
8325	Christian Education Special Fd	-	-	-	-	11,000.00	(11,000.00)	-	19,842.20	8,842.20
8330	Merit Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	324.63	324.63
8400	Treasurer's Discretion	-	0.72	-	0.72	(400.33)	401.05	-	2,500.00	2,901.05
8410	Matthew Emergency Relief Grant	-	38.81	-	38.81	6,327.35	(6,288.54)	-	6,288.54	-
8411	Matthew Recovery Grant	-	130,000.00	112,097.93	242,097.93	262,132.54	(20,034.61)	-	152,969.71	132,935.10
8412	UMCOR Tornado Salary Grant	-	30,001.12	75,404.00	105,405.12	105,405.12	-	-	-	-
8413	UMCOR 2nd Matthew Recov Grant	-	10,000.00	50,000.00	60,000.00	44,562.34	15,437.66	-	-	15,437.66
		-	(44,999.28)	937,509.43	892,510.15	1,322,855.17	(430,345.02)	-	1,892,093.56	1,461,748.54
Miscellaneous Connectional Funds										
8500	VUMAC Mgmt Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8506	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	38,000.00	18,791.87	56,791.87	35,856.11	20,935.76	-	1,000.00	21,935.76
8507	2018 SEJ Historical Soc Mtg	-	-	5,700.00	5,700.00	771.50	4,928.50	-	-	4,928.50
8508	Natl Net of UM Cong Developers	-	-	3,003.55	3,003.55	-	3,003.55	-	-	3,003.55
8509	Clergy Women's Retreat	-	-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	-	-	2,500.00
8510	Heritage	-	-	1,610.84	1,610.84	1,421.06	189.78	-	6,062.03	6,251.81
8520	Scouting Camporee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,906.58	8,906.58
8530	Voices of Youth	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-	2,000.69	3,000.69
8540	ARMS	-	-	8,540.00	8,540.00	7,450.22	1,089.78	-	18,735.23	19,825.01
8555	Acad. for Spiritual Formation	-	-	31,147.17	31,147.17	47,488.26	(16,341.09)	-	16,341.09	-
8560	Caretakers of God's Creation	-	-	536.76	536.76	1,000.00	(463.24)	-	4,557.70	4,094.46
8565	Bishop's Convocation - Prayer	-	-	5,263.99	5,263.99	5,376.68	(112.69)	-	1,937.09	1,824.40
8566	Bishop's Conv - Race & Recon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8570	Conference Data Initiative	-	-	-	-	10,339.56	(10,339.56)	2,700.91	7,638.65	-
8575	Social Committee	-	18.28	602.72	621.00	588.53	32.47	-	(32.47)	-
8580	Cabinet Dues	-	-	870.00	870.00	700.00	170.00	-	(117.72)	52.28
8585	Holy Land Trip - VIM	-	(19.00)	470.00	451.00	35,441.00	(34,990.00)	-	34,990.00	-
		-	37,999.28	80,036.90	118,036.18	146,432.92	(28,396.74)	2,700.91	102,018.87	76,323.04

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COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Summary of Preliminary Conference Budget for 2019

	Sch.	2018	2019	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
Conference Apportionments						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,230,000	3,225,000	10.19%	(5,000)	-0.15%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,646,000	1,875,000	5.94%	229,000	13.91%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,025,000	2,005,000	6.34%	(20,000)	-0.99%
404 - Equitable Compensation		350,000	300,000	0.95%	(50,000)	-14.29%
405 - Church Extension & Development		1,000,000	1,125,000	3.56%	125,000	12.50%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		800,000	700,000	2.21%	(100,000)	-12.50%
Total Conference Apportionments		9,051,000	9,230,000	29.19%	179,000	1.98%
Clergy Benefits Apportionments						
407 - Active Clergy Health		9,710,000	9,710,000	30.72%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,060,000	6,060,000	19.17%	-	0.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		1,000,000	750,000	2.37%	(250,000)	-25.00%
Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments		16,770,000	16,520,000	52.26%	(250,000)	-1.49%
General & Jurisdictional Apportionments						
410 - Episcopal Fund		900,000	875,000	2.77%	(25,000)	-2.78%
411 - World Service		3,040,000	3,000,000	9.49%	(40,000)	-1.32%
412 - General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund		426,000	420,000	1.33%	(6,000)	-1.41%
413 - Ministerial Education		1,030,000	1,000,000	3.16%	(30,000)	-2.91%
414 - Black College Fund		410,000	400,000	1.27%	(10,000)	-2.44%
415 - Africa University Fund		92,000	90,000	0.28%	(2,000)	-2.17%
416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		81,000	80,000	0.25%	(1,000)	-1.23%
Total General & Jurisdictional Apportionments		5,979,000	5,865,000	18.55%	(114,000)	-5.63%
Total Apportionments		31,800,000	31,615,000	100.00%	(185,000)	-0.58%

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Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries

	2018	2019	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Graceland (Chaplain Service of Va.)	134,500	167,000	0.53%	32,500	24.16%
2. Virginia Council of Churches	50,000	10,000	0.03%	(40,000)	-80.00%
3. Virginia Interfaith Center	7,500	15,000	0.05%	7,500	100.00%
4. Society of St. Andrew	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
	200,000	200,000	0.64%	-	0.00%
Special & Sustaining Grants	66,000	66,000	0.21%	-	0.00%
Conference Programs	90,000	90,000	0.28%	-	0.00%
Campus Ministries					
1. Campus Ministries	850,000	850,000	2.69%	-	0.00%
2. Wesley Foundation Capital Improvements	-	250,000	0.79%	250,000	
3. Wesley Foundation Maintenance	-	60,000	0.19%	60,000	
	850,000	1,160,000	3.67%	310,000	36.47%
Program & Board Administrative Expenses					
1. Common Table	3,500	3,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration (See below)	56,600	59,400	0.17%	2,800	4.95%
3. Agency Administration (See below)	73,400	70,800	0.23%	(2,600)	-3.54%
4. Personnel Costs	1,325,000	1,330,000	4.21%	5,000	0.38%
5. Information Technologies	30,000	-	0.00%	(30,000)	-100.00%
6. Outsourced Graphic Design Services	38,000	38,000	0.12%	-	0.00%
7. Video Production & Documentation	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. Building Operations & Services	165,000	-	0.00%	(165,000)	-100.00%
9. Connections 21 Internships	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
10. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	-	30,000	0.09%	30,000	-100.00%
11. Contingency	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
	1,721,500	1,561,700	4.92%	(159,800)	-9.28%
Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	302,500	147,300	0.47%	(155,200)	-51.31%
	3,230,000	3,225,000	10.19%	(5,000)	-0.15%
Supporting Schedule, Line 2 - Departmental Administration					
1. Connectional Ministries	7,800	7,800	0.02%	-	0.00%
2. Communications	7,300	7,300	0.02%	-	0.00%
3. Congregational Excellence	11,000	11,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
4. Ministries with Young People	12,500	12,500	0.04%	-	0.00%
5. Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence	5,000	7,500	0.02%	2,500	50.00%
6. Justice and Missional Excellence	13,000	13,300	0.04%	300	2.31%
	56,600	59,400	0.17%	2,800	4.95%
Supporting Schedule, Line 3 - Agency Administration					
1. Church & Society	6,000	6,250	0.02%	250	4.17%
2. Discipleship	8,600	8,600	0.03%	-	0.00%
3. Missional Ministries	9,000	6,150	0.02%	(2,850)	-31.67%
4. Committee on Mission Personnel	26,500	25,000	0.08%	(1,500)	-5.66%
5. Communications	6,300	7,800	0.02%	1,500	23.81%
6. Higher Education	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
7. Laity	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. CEMCA	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
9. COSROW	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-	0.00%
10. Commission on Disabilities	1,400	1,400	0.00%	-	0.00%
11. Church Development Team	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
	73,400	70,800	0.23%	(2,600)	-3.54%

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Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services

	2018	2019	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	428,500	427,000	1.36%	(1,500)	-0.35%
2. Bishop's Assistant	85,000	85,000	0.27%	-	0.00%
3. Annual Conference Session	243,000	260,000	0.82%	17,000	7.00%
4. Mortgage Payments	-	-	0.00%	-	-100.00%
5. Treasurer's Office	385,000	395,000	1.25%	10,000	2.60%
6. Computer Services	80,000	130,000	0.41%	50,000	62.50%
7. Wesley Foundation Property Maint	60,000	-	0.00%	(60,000)	-100.00%
8. Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.08%	-	0.00%
9. Pastor Relocation & Transition	17,000	17,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
10. Archives	9,500	16,000	0.05%	6,500	68.42%
11. Council on Finance and Administration	2,500	2,500	0.01%	-	0.00%
12. Historical Society	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
13. Board of Trustees	1,500	1,500	0.00%	-	0.00%
14. Telephone Service	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
15. Insurance	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
16. Postage & Printing	33,000	33,000	0.10%	-	0.00%
17. Building Operations & Services	25,000	190,000	0.60%	165,000	660.00%
18. Conference Publications	12,000	12,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
19. Bishop's auto allowance\residence	-	-	0.00%	-	-100.00%
20. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	25,000	25,000	0.08%	-	0.00%
21. Legal	30,000	100,000	0.32%	70,000	233.33%
22. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
23. General Conference	2,500	10,000	0.03%	7,500	300.00%
24. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	140,000	104,500	0.33%	(35,500)	-25.36%
	1,646,000	1,875,000	5.94%	229,000	13.91%

Board of Ordained Ministry

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	21,000	21,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	15,500	16,000	0.05%	500	3.23%
6. Personnel Costs	250,000	250,000	0.79%	-	0.00%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	75,000	73,000	0.23%	(2,000)	-2.67%
	428,500	427,000	1.36%	(1,500)	-0.35%

Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund

	2018	2019	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Salaries & Pension	1,670,000	1,685,000	5.33%	15,000	0.90%
2. Travel & Meetings	140,000	140,000	0.44%	-	0.00%
3. Continuing Education & Other	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	165,000	130,000	0.41%	(35,000)	-21.21%
	2,025,000	2,005,000	6.34%	(20,000)	-0.99%

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:

2019 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	3,225,000
402-Conference Services	1,875,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	2,005,000
404-Equitable Compensation	300,000
405-Church Extension & Development	1,125,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	700,000
407-Active Clergy Health	9,710,000
408-Retired Clergy Health	6,060,000
409-Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82	750,000
410-Episcopal Fund	875,000
411-World Service	3,000,000
412-General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund	420,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	1,000,000
414-Black College Fund	400,000
415-Africa University Fund	90,000
416-Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	80,000
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\$ 31,615,000	

B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:

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

401-Conference Mission & Ministries

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

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402-Conference Services

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

403-District Superintendents Fund

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

404-Equitable Compensation

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

405-Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)

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

406-Virginia Education Fund

This apportionment is apportioned to the districts at \$700,000 for 2019. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2019:

Virginia Education Fund Allocation

v Ferrum College	19.5%	\$136,500
v Randolph-Macon College	18.5%	\$129,500
v Randolph College	16.0%	\$112,000
v Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0%	\$70,000
v Shenandoah University	18.0%	\$126,000
v Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0%	\$126,000
		<hr/>
		\$700,000

Report on 2017

As set out in the Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in the Apportionments that impact Conference Reserves. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy. Below are the stated Apportionments for 2017.

	Shortfall
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	341,001
402 Conference Services	176,629
403 District Superintendents	196,185
404 Equitable Compensation	36,432
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	750,247

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. 2019 apportionments are calculated using 2017 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:
Individual Church Net Paid/Total of all Conference Churches Net Paid = Church Decimal
- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**
The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,000) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2018 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 (2017 for 2019 apportionments).
- The district then passes the apportionments on to the local church according to recommendations developed by the district superintendents and the district stewards.
- The Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Church Development Team and Cabinet, has the authority to set a policy for apportioning newly chartered churches, legacy churches, and second sites of chartered churches.
 - Effective January 1, 2016, the policy will be to phase in the apportionments for new chartered churches over a five year period with the first year beginning at 20% and increasing 20% for each subsequent year until the church is at 100%.
 - Effective January 1, 2016, for a legacy church as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the district superintendent may present a projected budget of expenses to be used in the legacy church's apportionment calculation for the first 18 months of its classification as a legacy church.
 - Effective January 1, 2016 second site (satellite & multi-site) locations that are recognized as new faith communities by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church may exclude direct expenses of the second site from the apportionment calculation based upon the following schedule:

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

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- Effective January 1, 2017, for a renewal church location as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church will be treated in the same manner as a newly chartered church.

B. REPORTING GUIDELINES:

- District superintendents will report the apportioned amounts for each church to the Conference treasurer and the apportioned amounts will be shown on the monthly Treasurer's report sent to each church.
- Apportionments are to be calculated and distributed annually rather than on a quadrennial basis.
- The Annual Conference will raise World Service funds only through contributions from the local churches. CFA urges that district superintendents, pastors, and local church leaders seek to fully implement Section 812 of the 2016 *Discipline*.

C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:

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

SECTION IV — Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2019:

- **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.
- **Annual Conference Offering.** CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

SECTION V — Policies

A. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S FUND

Overall Policies for the Fund:

- In compliance with the *Book of Discipline*, the current salaries and expenses for district superintendents (DS), and those under special appointment, will be published in the Conference *Journal* with each DS's salary individually calculated and assigned each year as part of the appointive process, using the following criteria:
 - Each District Superintendent's salary shall be \$90,000.
 - 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.
 - The total cost of salaries and related expenses apportioned to Districts are to be based on the current approved decimal system (upon recommendation of CFA).
 - All other District Superintendent's costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES

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

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

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.

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

D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

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

REPORTS

- The Council has set the following target for Conference Reserve Funds:

Core Reserves:

A. 20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,450,200
a. 401 – Conference Mission and Ministries	
b. 402 – Conference Services	
c. 403 – District Superintendents' Fund	
d. 404 – Equitable Compensation Fund	
B. 15% of Invested Assets	<u>967,000</u>
	\$ 2,417,000

At December 31, 2017 the Annual Conference had reserves greater than the target amount.

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

E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND:

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by full-time clergy appointed to their charge as pastor may request reimbursement on the following schedule for an incoming pastor, if the previous pastor served two years or less in the appointment to their charge:
 - One-year appointment – Seventy-five percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 reimbursement.
 - Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a 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 *2018 Journal* is to be made available by posting on the Virginia Conference website (www.vaumc.org) as a PDF file. It will be available as a CD or printed copy upon request at a cost of \$10 for the CD and \$25 for the print version. Requests for printed copies must be made by August 1 of the calendar year, and payment must be made at the time the order is placed. Only a small quantity of *Journals* will be printed and distributed in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* (606.2), to district offices, Conference staff, and those purchasing copies before the August 1 deadline.

G. CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

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

H. CLERGY DIRECTORY:

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

I. AUDIT REPORTS:

The Council on Finance and Administration reminds all district offices, agencies, institutions and organizations receiving any financial support from conference funds or from any authorized conference-wide appeal to be in compliance with the *2016 Book of Discipline* 617.2 and 617.3 to submit audited financial statements to the Conference Treasurer no later than six months after the end of the organization's fiscal year.

J. IRS REGULATIONS:

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

K. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING:

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

SECTION VI — A Church in Mission

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

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

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

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

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

— Betty Forbes, President

Recommendation

CFA requests the Bishop to appoint a task force to determine the feasibility of maintaining and improving the existing Wesley Foundation properties currently used for the purpose of Campus Ministry. The study shall include an independent appraisal and analysis of the buildings. The task force shall submit a report of their findings to CFA by January 15, 2019. The costs of this task force shall be funded by CFA. CFA shall give a report of its findings at the 2019 Annual Conference in Roanoke.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Virginia Conference of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) continues to function as the credentialing group for persons responding to God's call as pastors, and deacons. These disciples of Jesus Christ attend interviews in late January for full membership as an elder, deacon, or associate member, and in late February for a three-year provisional member journey on the elder or deacon tracks. These interview sessions are probably the most visible and conferred aspects of the BOM. Also, various workgroups within the BOM, perform other essential responsibilities that enable these persons to become effective clergy and certified lay professionals in the areas of call, development and collegial support.

Here are just a few glimpses into some of the other workgroups and their significant efforts:

The Grants and Loans Committee, in 2017, awarded \$10,000 through the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry), \$4,000 in Service Loans, \$55,900 in Pell Grants, \$20,530 in Individual Scholarship Funds, and \$2,600 in Clinical Pastoral Education Funds for a total of \$93,029.

The Provisional Membership Team walked with clergy who are on the way toward ordination and full membership by providing mentors and mentoring groups. Two residency events presented speakers who excel in fields of theology, the practice of ministry and spiritual development, and opportunities to explore innovative and faithful expressions of the church.

The Licensing School met at the end of May with valuable instruction from teachers and leaders over the long Memorial Day weekend at Virginia Wesleyan University to train local pastors and provisional members for licensed ministry commencing July 1. A Facebook group page was created a few years ago where Licensing School classes, each session, stay in touch with one another for support and encouragement. The dean and other conference staff members attended semi-quadrennial conferences for Licensing School deans.

The Clergy Effectiveness Team focused on work for clergy that increases effectiveness, and well-being through funding for intensive continuing educational work. This past year, the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program was re-imagined through the launch of the third cohort guiding participants to the transformational power of God in their lives and the practice of ministry. Under a 2016 General Conference directive, the eight-year cycle of assessment for those who are members in full connection should launch in spring 2019. The Aldersgate Experience in Virginia will invite clergy, in phases, to engage in a spiritual discernment process every eight years to keep their ministry and souls refreshed and vital.

The Ethics Committee, for the 2016-2020 quadrennium, introduced a new clergy ethics training event called "The Minister as Moral Theologian," led by Dr. Sondra Wheeler, longtime professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary. This event goes beyond the mere "good behavior" of clergy by examining deeper ethical aspects of the role of a ministry leader in a changing world.

The Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Committee chair and BOM registrar

attended The General Commission on Religion and Race's third national conference, "Facing the Future 2018 – In the Midst of the Storm," in May. It featured biblical and theological frameworks, peer-to-peer learning, and networking to minister to the cultural divisions in our nation and churches.

What else occurred through the BOM? Encouraging and funding for the Orders of Elders, Deacons, and the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors; interviewing United Methodists and persons from other denominations who desire to transfer and serve in the Virginia Conference; supporting clergy seeking retirement; giving assistance to clergy on medical leave; examining requests of individuals for appointments beyond the church; visiting Virginia students and others interested in serving in Virginia at eight seminaries; promoting this summer the Calling 21 Intern Program by connecting college students with local church ministries, and the Youth Theology Institutes for high school students exploring who they are and what they are called to do in the world through Shennadoah University and Randolph-Macon College.

I want to thank each BOM board member for their diligent commitment to the ministry and principles of the BOM, and to the Center for Clergy Excellence (Meredith McNabb, Director, Lindsey Baynham, Associate Director, and Kristen Dowdy Seibert, Executive Assistant) for their tireless efforts and support of the clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference.

– John R. Hall Sr., Chair

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Book of Discipline*. A process for this review has been created by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy and is used in every episcopal area in our Jurisdiction. We meet with the bishop three to four times a year to engage in conversation around this process and to hear Bishop Lewis reflect on issues in the Annual Conference and the larger connection. Bishop Lewis continues to broadly engage the Annual Conference through a variety of settings where she is able to interact with clergy and laity. We are grateful for her leadership and her work with the cabinet for the good of the conference. We are also grateful for the approval of delegates to the Virginia Annual Conference Session that enabled the Episcopal Residence Committee and Conference Board of Trustees to secure a new residence that is closer to the conference office in a more populated area convenient to essential services.

– Tom Berlin, Chair

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly scheduled meetings in September and March. In addition, further communication via conference calls during the Conference year were also held to follow-up on other issues, including the new Episcopal residence and VUMAC.

In addition to our normal work dealing with the real property of closed and abandoned churches, the Board continued its involvement with the VUMAC property by having three members of the Trustees on the VUMAC Board. That process has involved

extended meetings and conference calls throughout the year to assist in the handling and resolution of VUMAC issues, as well as, the review and study of multiple proposals received during the past year. It is our sincere hope that, as of this year's Annual Conference, the sale of the Blackstone property will be complete.

The Board was also involved with issues pertaining to the Episcopal residence. Kathy Lutman served as the Board's representative to the Episcopal Residence Committee (ERC) for the search and approval of a new bishop residence. This action followed a recommendation to the 2017 Annual Conference by ERC for the acquisition of a new bishop residence and the sale of the existing residence. Following concurrence by the Conference, significant time was spent by the ERC implementing the approved recommendation. The ERC, with representation of Board of Trustees, reviewed several houses in the area that met Committee requirements and settled on the new residence for the Bishop. It was purchased for \$480,000, an amount that was below the authorization level approved by the 2017 Annual Conference. The existing residence was sold for \$475,000. All actions and approvals on the sale and purchase of both residences were completed in September 2017 and the Bishop moved into the new residence in October.

As reported at last year's Annual Conference, Benham Black, our attorney and counsel on both Board of Trustees and Annual Conference matters, retired after many years of support for the Board, and a new firm, LeClair Ryan, was selected to represent the Board of Trustees going forward. The firm, and, in particular, Andrew White and Katja Hill, has integrated well into the total work of the Board, providing expert counsel to us in our current and ongoing work. We again thank Benham for his long-time service to the Board.

During the past year, we were very saddened by the sudden loss of one of our Board members, Leigh Drewry. Leigh served the Board well for a number of years. He was a unique individual, who married his legal expertise with a sincere devotion to his church. He will be greatly missed. I am thankful for the dedication of all the members of our Board as we work to meet the important tasks set out for the Board by the Conference and the *Discipline*. I am especially thankful for the continued leadership of our Vice President, Kathy Lutman, who has stepped in many times over the past year, when I was unavailable, to help me in the many tasks of our Board.

— Carl Moravitz, President

THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Bishops' Foundation provides for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism, spiritual formation, preaching and congregational leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit. The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the Cabinet. Endowment funds are invested with the Virginia UM Foundation. In 2014, the foundation was dissolved as a corporation and now a board reporting to the annual conference.

During the past year, the foundation endorsed the move of the Goodson Preaching Academy to be an entity of the Board of Discipleship and the Common Table.

As an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring organization that supports the training of both laity and clergy, the foundation supported the Goodson Preaching Academy in 2017 and remains interested in supporting conference ministry programming that

fosters opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching all generations. Grant application forms can be found on the conference website under the “The Bishops’ Foundation” tab on the Connectional Ministries page.

— Kevin W. Bruny, Co-Chair

UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

Ferrum College

Since my arrival on January 1, 2018, as the 12th President of Ferrum College, I have been delighted to experience firsthand the warmth and hospitality of the Ferrum campus community. There is no place I would rather be than with our talented faculty, dedicated staff, and energetic and curious students. I have enjoyed walking across our beautiful campus imagining the courage and faith of the Methodist women who brought educational opportunities to students in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We are grateful for their dedication to this work and for their continued support and devotion to Ferrum College.

The best education happens in colleges like Ferrum where faculty ask hard questions and address important social issues, where students are creative and passionate about making a difference, and where faith teaches us how to invest our lives — heart, soul, mind and strength — in healing the world. We want our students, from all walks of life, to be empowered to discover their potential, achieve their goals and make a difference in their communities.

If you follow me on social media (@Ferrum_Prez), you know I am having a great time learning all I can about Ferrum College and our region. My explorations include visiting with our Panther family at home and across the Commonwealth, attending academic and athletic events, and spending time with our students.

The Ferrum College experience is rich with opportunities for internships, experiential learning, international and domestic travel, scholars programs, personal growth, and service to the community. We have many co-curricular activities ranging from student clubs and organizations to NCAA Division III athletic teams for men and women (including women’s wrestling, an equestrian program, and cheerleading). Our *Ferrum Outdoors* program allows students to explore our mountains and parks, lakes, and rivers. We have popular national franchises such as Papa John’s, Subway, and Starbucks, and our on-campus YMCA welcomes both the College and the community, with membership available at no cost to our students. Ferrum College is blessed in many ways, and we are grateful for the support we receive from our alumni, friends, foundations, The United Methodist Church, and the Virginia Annual Conference.

Over Spring Break Rev. Dr. Jan C. Nicholson Angle, Dean of the Chapel, offered a study abroad opportunity for religion majors. Ms. Alexis Hatcher, a junior, and Rev. Dr. Nicholson Angle traveled to Israel joining Bishop Sharma D. Lewis and a group from The Virginia Conference for an Educational Opportunity tour. Participants experienced a different culture while exploring the rich historical, cultural, and theological heritage that has impacted the Abrahamic faiths. Ms. Hatcher offered a PowerPoint presentation both pre- and post tour to interested students and faculty.

Also during Spring Break, Mr. Chris Burnley, Vice President for Business and

Finance, accompanied a group of 15 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, to the Texas Gulf Coast to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Students worked to install insulation, drywall, flooring, finish carpentry, cabinetry, and painting. While rebuilding homes, the most important aspect of what they did was provide emotional and spiritual support and to share the love of Christ through their service.

This year's Wright Lecture featured Dr. Charles Page, formerly of the Jerusalem Institute. Dr. Page was a personal friend of Buddy Wright and traveled together with him on archeological digs in Israel. Dr. Page offered a lecture in Vaughn Chapel on archeological excavation in the Holy Land. The lecture was well attended by students, faculty, staff and guests. A luncheon and discussion followed allowing students to further engage Dr. Page on a more personal level regarding his life's work.

Please join us when you are in the area and take a walk with me across our beautiful campus. Ferrum College is a dynamic institution with a mission that will continue to guide our efforts as we press forward into an exciting new future.

— David L. Johns, President

Randolph College

With a liberal arts education as the foundation and through strong programs in the creative arts, the sciences, and sustainability, among others, Randolph College students leave our community ready to make a difference in the world. At the core of this educational experience is our outstanding faculty, who have been hard at work developing ways to enhance the educational experience we provide our students. In the last year, the faculty has introduced a new general education curriculum, re-instated a computer science minor, and developed our second graduate program, a low-residency M.F.A. in creative writing. Additionally, the College has created exciting new programs in career development and new support initiatives for students who find the rigor of our curriculum challenging.

2017 was another strong year for the College. Enrollment remained approximately 700 students. After 10 years of co-education and our name change, the College is starting to develop name recognition in the marketplace demonstrated by inquiries and applications to the College growing by more than double.

We continue to make improvements to our campus. We now have an updated electrical grid and have completed year two of a three year project to add two satellite boilers to each building in order to eventually close our central boiler. Generous donors have contributed over \$7 million to these \$7.59 million infrastructure improvements. We opened our new admission welcome center, located in a renovated historic home just outside the main campus. It is a beautiful combination of historic elements with modern décor that sets exactly the right tone as we welcome prospective students and their families to campus. Finally, we are in the initial stages of developing plans for a renovation and potential addition to our Martin Science Building. Science education has always been strong at the College, and to remain at the forefront, we know we need to have first-class facilities.

U.S. News and World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review, and The Washington Monthly, among other ranking guides, continue to name Randolph a “best college.”

We are delighted to provide this quality education at an affordable cost, many times lower than the cost of a public university. This is made possible through the generous institutional grants the College provides to students, totaling over \$15.3 million last year. Randolph remains steadfast in its desire to provide an outstanding, affordable education.

We are grateful for the work our college chaplain, Rev. Jennifer Moore, is doing to strengthen the opportunities for spiritual development of our students, which is only made possible through your support. Our weekly campus worship service is beginning to blossom, in addition to a number of other successful programs. We remain thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the College and the Conference. We value greatly the leadership of Rev. John Peters and the connection he provides between Randolph and the Conference. Most of all, we thank the members of the Conference for their ongoing support of Randolph College. Your contributions help us to fulfill our mission of preparing students to engage the world critically and creatively, live and work honorably, and experience life abundantly.

—Bradley W. Bateman, President

Randolph-Macon Academy

There are times in life when you must take a step back and pause, so that you can adequately reflect on your blessings and the amazing work God has done. We are in such a place at Randolph-Macon Academy. During our 125th Anniversary year, we have experienced exciting growth while honoring our heritage as a college-prep school, our traditions as a military school, and our roots in The United Methodist Church.

We have developed a new brand identity, with a tagline that summarizes all we are and all we aspire to be: The Power of Rise. This tagline speaks to the history of R-MA, as God continuously guided us through financial challenges, difficult decisions, and social changes over the past 125 years. It speaks to the desire of our current faculty and staff to rise up and continuously work to become better educators, better coaches, and better mentors. It speaks to our students, who are navigating a new world where technology changes daily and we must teach them to think critically, collaboratively and creatively, not just memorize information, and to rise to each new challenge. And it speaks to our future, as we embrace new teaching philosophies, grow our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and flight programs, and challenge our students in new ways.

We have already made great leaps forward in our academic program. We added a drone component to our flight program, and built a new innovation lab at our Middle School. It is a classroom that is always active, promoting cross-curriculum projects, and we plan to add one to our Upper School within the next year. Science teacher Nick Bongio received a grant from Toshiba to apply towards his new Biotechnology class, and one of our Air Force Junior ROTC instructors, MSgt Stephen Pederson, recently obtained his ham radio license, enabling him to bring a ham radio club back to R-MA. We welcomed Tess Hegedus, Ph.D., from High Point University, as our new Dean, Instructional Leadership and Innovation, and our former Academic Dean, Jonathan Ezell, is now our Vice President. I expect these leadership changes to help propel our Academy forward.

Throughout this year, we have continued to support our students' spiritual growth. Weekly chapel continues to be a requirement, and many have chosen to take advantage of voluntary small group opportunities as well. Now in the third year of offering confirmation classes, we have 14 enrolled in the UMC class and another six in the Catholic classes. We have 40 students engaged in small group studies and more than a dozen involved in leadership roles and praise team. We also have seven staff members faithfully participating in a Bible study.

Our students are actively engaged in the community; in fact, on September 11th, in honor of our 125th Anniversary, our entire student body went into Warren and Frederick Counties, cleaning gardens, painting, raking, weeding, clearing trails, writing letters to our soldiers overseas—it was an amazing day. The students enjoyed it so much that they are planning a similar event for this spring. On top of this, in October, 11 students and three adults participated in a mission trip in conjunction with the Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Disaster Recovery. They traveled to Virginia Beach, where they worked on two houses that had been damaged by Hurricane Matthew.

I am blessed to be at a place where God is at work. And all of us at Randolph-Macon Academy are blessed by your continued support and prayers. Thank you, and may God bless you all.

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

Randolph-Macon College

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

Now in our 188th year, the college is larger and more diverse than at any time in history, having experienced a significant growth in our student body in recent years. The 2017-2018 academic year opened with more than 1,440 students from 24 states and 19 countries. Of these students, 45.9% are male and 54.1% are female. In addition, 20% are minorities, and many are Presidential Scholars, R-MC's signature scholarship that recognizes students who demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement and leadership.

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

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

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

R-MC’s January Term (J-term) is a four-week session in which students can study abroad and immerse themselves in other cultures, conduct a regional, national or international internship, or take an on-campus course in a specific area of interest. In January 2018, 1323 students participated in J-term. January Term internships provide unique opportunities, and this year, 127 students interned across the country and around the world. Our students experienced internships at organizations as diverse as hospitals, churches, a naval station, non-profits, the General Assembly, and the Sierra Club.

In addition, 162 students participated in study/travel courses during J-term 2018, traveling to a variety of locations including Spain, Austria, Tanzania, Cuba, England, Guatemala, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Israel.

One of the flagship programs at Randolph-Macon is the Schapiro Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF), an endowment to support scholarly undergraduate research by students in all disciplines. SURF allows students the opportunity to conduct original research, under the guidance of a faculty member, and to be paid a stipend. Many students present their findings at academic and professional conferences both nationally and internationally. Now in its 22nd year, SURF has funded research opportunities for over 630 students.

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

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

In 2015, R-MC completed its enormously successful *Building Extraordinary* campaign with over \$125 million raised from 12,129 alumni and friends. In 2017, 37.5% of our alumni gave back to the college, making us 16th in the country in alumni loyalty. The college has experienced a campus renaissance, with over \$80 million spent on new and renovated facilities in recent years.

In 2017, R-MC’s new science building, Macon F. Brock, Jr. Hall, was completed. This three-story, 30,000-square-foot facility, with state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, plus classrooms and faculty offices, houses the biology, environmental science/geology, and chemistry departments. Additionally, a new Keeble Observatory was constructed in 2017.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program was established in 2004 to support students who express an interest in ordained ministry in the Christian tradition. Students awarded this scholarship receive half-tuition for the first two years

and full tuition for the junior and senior years. Fourteen students were awarded this highly competitive scholarship in 2017-18. The program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. R-MC recently received a grant to create a Leadership in Ministry experience much like our existing Career Boot Camp program. Pre-ministerial students will have four experiences off campus (including visits to Candler School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, and Wesley Theological Seminary) to help in their professional development as they prepare for ministry.

Summer 2017 marked the beginning of two new summer programs for high school students offered at Randolph-Macon. *Pathways to Science* invited rising sophomore Hispanic girls to campus July 23-28 to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities. *Convergence* was an 11-day event (June 22-July 2) in which high school students explored the many ways that faith and science come together. *Convergence* also included faculty lectures and hands-on experiences on the James River and at Shalom Farms.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of a Randolph-Macon College education. In 2016-17, R-MC students collectively amassed more than 17,000 volunteer hours and donated \$47,075 to various causes. Students in Fraternity and Sorority Life contributed more than 10,049 hours of collective service to the community and donated nearly \$27,683 to various organizations and philanthropies. In addition, \$14,000 was raised and donated to the American Cancer Society from the annual Relay for Life. The Students Engaged in Responsible Volunteer Experiences (SERVE) program, in the Office of Student Life, is an integral part of Randolph-Macon College.

R-MC coordinates dynamic opportunities for service and service-learning to help students explore the root causes and contexts of social needs through connections with the greater community. Students are actively engaged with groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. There are two signature events each year, The Big Event in the fall and Macon a Difference Day in April. These campus-wide community-service initiatives bring together the college's clubs, organizations and academic and administrative departments to volunteer their time and energy for environmental projects and other needs in the surrounding communities.

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

— Alan B. Rashkind, Chairman

Shenandoah University

Shenandoah University's mission is to educate and inspire individuals to be critical, reflective thinkers; lifelong learners; and ethical, compassionate citizens who are committed to making responsible contributions within a community, nation and the world. This year, through our first session of the Youth Theology Institute, we have reached high school students from Virginia, the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern parts of our nation. Additionally, we have extended our hands into multiple countries as we have provided medical needs, natural disaster relief, and will even provide music lessons! We

are committed to our community, our nation and the world.

This time last year, we had accepted twenty students into our first ever Youth Theology Institute. The students spent a week at Shenandoah University and a week studying at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C while earning three college credits for their academic work and their congregational justice projects. Shenandoah's institute is funded through a \$600,000 four-year grant from the Lilly Endowment. The students explored what it means to be a Christian in a pluralistic world and explored God's call to the urban and rural settings. If you would like to nominate a dedicated high school student, or you are a dedicated high school student that would like to apply, please do so at su.edu/youththeology.

Shenandoah University and Wesley Theological Seminary have continued to establish their relationship, not only through the Youth Theology Institute, but in initiating a 3+3 Program that benefits our students and our churches. The 3+3 program is a fast-track agreement that will allow Shenandoah University undergraduate students to forgo their senior year and pursue their Master of Divinity degree one year sooner and one year with less tuition debt. This program offers a streamlined approach for those who feel a call to leading the church and faith-based non-profits from both a clergy and lay perspective, and will begin this fall.

This year has also been a significant year for our students serving on mission trips. During Spring Break 2017, a team of Nursing students, faculty, and a Spiritual Life staff member traveled to Brazil to learn and serve people living in the Amazon River Basin on the John Wesley Medical Boat. Through the trip, students, with the assistance of Brazilian doctors, offered underserved communities basic medical care, while learning about a new culture and way of living. This was our fourth time taking a group of Nursing students to Brazil in partnership with the United Methodist Church. We are currently planning our fifth trip for March 2019.

During its annual May trip to Leon, Nicaragua, the Shenandoah University Medical Mission Team served under-resourced families living in the mountains of Leon and Matagalpa. Graduate students and faculty in Physician Assistant studies, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Pharmacy serve in one of three rural clinics run by El Ayudante, a Christian mission organization. They gained clinical experience by providing medical care for people who are typically underserved. This is our largest mission trip every year with nearly 50 people in service.

Over winter break, Spiritual Life took students for a week of serving and rebuilding the Virginia Beach area that has been affected by Hurricane Matthew. We worked with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) doing various construction projects. Prior to this trip, Shenandoah also put together over 30 flood buckets for the United Methodist Committee on Relief to go to places like Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other locations that were greatly affected by hurricanes this year.

This March, the Office of Spiritual Life is partnering with the Conservatory to offer a Global Experiential Learning (GEL) trip for Music Therapy students to Xela, Guatemala. During this time, students will teach music lessons to Mayan children in Guatemalan Highlands. This trip is done in partnership with the Highland Support Project, which works to empower and support local indigenous communities.

This summer, four Shenandoah University graduates will begin their seminary

education, all at United Methodist seminaries (Wesley, Drew, and Candler). Three of them will be on full-tuition scholarships. These four strong, creative women will help lead our Church into a new environment in the world.

In January, Shenandoah University opened a brand new facility called the James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletics and Events Center. With a capacity of nearly 5,000 people, we are exploring opportunities to engage our community through large-scale regional events. As we continue to value our relationship with the Virginia Annual Conference, I hope you will dream about what events we can hold on our campus in Winchester that might reach others as we “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” and share those ideas with our Dean of Spiritual Life, Rev. Dr. Justin Allen.

Finally, we are sad to see Rev. Tommy Herndon and Rev. Larry Thompson rotate off of the Board of Trustees, but wish them well in retirement. We are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez, a Shenandoah University alum, and Rev. Dr. Steven Summers to our Board of Trustees as the new district superintendents for the Harrisonburg and Winchester districts.

It is our privilege to work with the Virginia Annual Conference and our seminary colleagues to educate and inspire leaders for tomorrow’s church and world.

— Tracy Fitzsimmons, *President*

Virginia Wesleyan College

Virginia Wesleyan University is experiencing an exciting period of transformation and growth. In fact, in a recent editorial piece, higher education consultants from Chicago-based Dwyer Education Strategies described the last two years at Virginia Wesleyan as the most amazing transformational story they’ve seen in American higher education in the past 13 years.

In summer 2017, Virginia Wesleyan transitioned from a college to a university. As part of that, two new graduate programs were added—an online Master of Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Education—as well as new online degree-completion programs at the undergraduate level.

The academic year began with two prominent additions that have created a “national niche” for Virginia Wesleyan in the natural sciences. First, the University opened its new Greer Environmental Sciences Center, a 44,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility featuring indoor and outdoor classrooms and teaching and research laboratories. The center was LEED Gold Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council this winter, an impressive honor that accompanies Virginia Wesleyan’s “2018 Conservationist of the Year” award from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its advancement to the top-tier Model Level in the Elizabeth River Project’s River Star Business program.

Launched in coordination with the GESC, the Batten Honors College of Virginia Wesleyan University aims to educate impactful global citizens through an environmental focus, an international study-away experience, and leadership training and development. This highly selective program annually offers 20 full-tuition scholarships and 20 two-thirds tuition scholarships.

Virginia Wesleyan formed the new Wesleyan Engaged: Center for Civic Leadership and Service Learning in December 2017 and welcomed Dr. Brian Kurisky as its director.

The new center builds on the University's strong foundation of student volunteerism and shapes, expands, and directs service learning opportunities, neighborhood partnerships, and interfaith dialogue. These efforts are supported by the Birdsong Community Services Endowment Fund, established in 1995 to provide support for Virginia Wesleyan's acclaimed community services program.

The Westminster/Wesleyan Lifelong Learning Institute was also established this academic year, bringing courses taught by Virginia Wesleyan faculty to the senior-living campus of Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay. Several courses are taught each semester, with roughly half on faith-related topics. The partnership allows Westminster-Canterbury's members to stay challenged and energized as they continue their path of education and growth, and it gives Virginia Wesleyan opportunities to share the talents and leadership of its faculty, students and community.

The University raised funds to offer full scholarships for two visiting students from the University of Puerto Rico-Humacao for the spring 2018 semester. The partnership "promises to aid the recovery in Puerto Rico, to build new and durable alliances between our two regions, and, most importantly, to ensure that young people in Puerto Rico have the opportunity to continue their education," said Mavel Velasco, Professor of Hispanic Studies at VWU.

Each spring, in partnership with the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Virginia Wesleyan University hosts a workshop for UMC pastors that yields continuing education units. The 2018 Robert F. Boyd Institute will feature Dr. Tod Bolsinger, Vice President and Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary, who will share insight and lessons on leadership in a changing world. The Boyd Institute complements a variety of programs offered by the University's Center for Sacred Music, Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, and Marlin Ministries.

Construction is underway for Virginia Wesleyan's new Susan S. Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center, scheduled for completion in early 2019. This new facility, coupled with planned expansion of the existing Fine Arts Building, will enhance Virginia Wesleyan's fine and performing arts offerings and showcase the prominence of its arts program to the community.

A new addition to campus is the Frank Blocker Youth Center, a cooperative facility functioning as a laboratory school for VWU's teacher-education students and Tidewater Collegiate Academy during the academic year, and in the summer months by the local YMCA Camp Red Feather.

Construction was also completed last fall on the new 400-meter, eight-lane Betty S. Rogers Track and Field Center, and men's and women's swimming took to the pool for their first season in the Natatorium in the Jane P. Batten Student Center. The Marlins baseball team is playing on the newly-renovated Kenneth R. Perry Field, and, as a result of a recent gift to athletics, Virginia Wesleyan's 2017 NCAA Division III National Softball Championship team will be playing next season's games at Broyles Field in TowneBank Park on campus.

Before us are some of the most promising years in our story. We look outward, yes, and also inward—to the liberal arts, the foundation of our mission, and to our United Methodist heritage, the inspiration for our founding. We look into the minds and hearts of our students, who in turn look to us for guidance and assurance. As we prepare to educate

these coming generations who will take their place in a world quite different from that Virginia Wesleyan's origins in 1961, we invite your continued faith in our plans and your active support of our progress. There is much to celebrate!

— *Scott D. Miller, President*

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND SPOUSES (ARMS)

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

The ARMS Board meets four times a year to plan events for our members. Four times a year we publish our newsletter, TO ARMS. Through our newsletter and the conference Retiree Net, we seek to keep our membership informed subjects that impact retired clergy and their family. We have a close working relationship with VUMPI that allows us to get information about health insurance and retirement issues. Together we also plan the annual Retirees Banquet that welcomes that year's new retirees and spouses to ARMS.

The main ARMS event has traditionally been an annual fall retreat. The keynote speaker for our 2017 retreat was Rev. Larry Jent. His stories and witness were enjoyed by everyone. Rev. James Lavender also shared some wonderfully amusing stories with us. The last two years out retreat has been held at Eagle Eryie and they have been wonderful. Our fall retreat this year will be held on October 10-11 and is the process of being planned. We want to invite you to put it on your calendar now. We will send out more information as it is available.

We look forward to another great year serving the members of ARMS

— *Paul & Martha Phillips, Co-presidents*

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

In the 148 years since it was first chartered the Preachers' Relief Society has sought to aid clergy families facing fiscal emergencies by providing them with financial grants. While we have not made a thorough search of all the records from past years, we believe that it is unlikely that a year has gone by when the Society has not had multiple requests for assistance and made multiple grants until 2017. This was a year when no requests were made and no grants given. We congratulate the clergy and their families on their money management skills and rejoice in their good fortune.

In spite of the 2017 record we expect there will be calls for assistance in the future. If in need, clergy, retired and active, their widows and widowers should apply for help through their district superintendents. The Preachers' Relief Society gives each requests careful consideration and does what it feels appropriate to ameliorate the crisis. As far as the Preachers' Relief Society is concerned the grants are confidential. The recipients, of course, are free to disclose whatever they wish.

Our current financial advisor is Ben Riggan of Scott and Stringfellow. Anyone wishing to contribute to the work of the Society may contact him at briggan@bbtscotstringfellow.com or may contact our treasurer, the Reverend Robert F. Cofield, Jr.

at bcofield1@hotmail.com.

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

– Robert T. Casey, President

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

In 2017, the Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) marked 85 years of serving the Virginia Annual Conference clergy who need support with housing following retirement. Wow, what a history and legacy of help and assistance!!

Currently, RCHC owns 20 properties located across our conference – Hampton, Mechanicsville, Chesterfield, Danville, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Raphine, Staunton, Winchester, Bridgewater, and Prince George. All of our homes are occupied. In the past year, two properties, in Raphine and Edinburg were sold.

Since June 2015, we have engaged Pinnacle Living, formerly known as Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., to assist with the financial and day-to-day management of our corporation. This has gone very smoothly. The Admissions Committee has been actively working on guidelines for admission and has endorsed the use of HUD financial criteria for qualification. This means that someone who's annual income is less than \$52,700 a year can apply for admission. The committee is also looking at other qualifications of the term "needy" as is currently used in our by-laws, broadening our opportunity to serve our retirees beyond financial consideration.

For the past few years, we have not received adequate funds to cover the cost of our expenses and have had to draw from savings. The Board of Directors has endorsed a sliding scale payment program which will affect future residents. The Board will be exploring other avenues to strengthen our financial position so that we can serve our retired clergy in need well into the future.

The annual Covenant of Gratitude drive is one way we help support our budget. We ask individuals to donate \$1 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon. Please consider joining our Covenant of Gratitude family! Your donation helps subsidize basic operations and unexpected repairs. On an average, our yearly budget is approximately \$175,000, and the payments we receive from our residents does not meet the financial need. **We receive no funds from the conference for the important work we do.** Please, consider joining us in supporting our retired clergy.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you in advance for any assistance you are able to give this wonderful ministry. What an honor and privilege it is to talk with the families we serve and hear comments like: "You will never know what this opportunity means to us. Without RCHC, we just don't know what we would have done!" Our clergy have given themselves to the service of God and what an honor to now help support them with housing.

– Charles Wickham, Chairperson

THE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

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

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

Our church loan program helps conference churches with the refinance of current loans, loans for parsonages, renovations, and vans and buses. We also offer project loans (up to \$50,000 unsecured) and Visa rewards credit cards for church business.

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist movement and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 a group of Virginia pastors pooled their resources to help each other and established our credit union. As we celebrate 66 years of service in 2018, our membership has grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies and institutions in the conferences of North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Baltimore-Washington(*churches and organizations only*).

– Alvin J. Horton, *Chair of the Board*

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CONNECTIONAL STRUCTURE (PAUMCS)

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

Legislation was adopted at the 1988 General Conference which states that the General

Conference of Finance and Administration (GCFA) has the authority and responsibility to provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of professional standards, training and certification programs and to provide assistance to PAUMCS (*2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶807.18).

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS sponsors two meetings during the year: a one-day fall training event and an all-day spring retreat event. Members are persons presently or previously, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, engaged in administrative work in any local church or agency of The United Methodist Church.

Highlights of Virginia PAUMCS activities in 2017-2018 include a six-page mailing sent to the administrative staff of the 1,200 charges of the Virginia Conference and the fall “Experience Your Conference Connection” event held in October. This gathering featured David Domnisse, Conference Treasurer and Statistician, who led our workshop covering the annual statistical data required by the General Church.

Our spring training/retreat event, “Get Away From It All,” will be held at the W.E.Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center in mid-May. Our presenter is Martha Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations for Pinnacle Living, formerly Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. Martha will share her reflections on the experience of the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and expectations for the called General Conference, February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Attendees also value the networking and spiritual component of this time together.

If you have administrative staff in your church, either paid or volunteer, we encourage you to help them become a part of Virginia PAUMCS for their professional growth, to the benefit of your church!

** Name change made during 2016 PAUMCS National Conference.*

— Sandra S. Fulcher, President

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Much of the time and energy of the Conference Historical Society during the past year has been directed toward preparations for hosting the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society (SEJHS) for their annual meeting, which will take place at the Williamsburg UMC, July 17-20. The theme for the event is “Religious Liberty in the Historic Advance of Virginia Methodism”. Video messages from Bishop Sharma D.Lewis, lectures, panels, and tours will provide an overview of the advance of Methodism from Colonial times to the present, including a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Uniting Conference of 1968, which brought the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Central Jurisdiction and the Methodist Church into a union known as The United Methodist Church. The highlight of that evening will be remarks from retired Bishop Peter Weaver, followed by a concert featuring a quartet from The Brethren, a professional men’s chorus from northern Virginia.

An outstanding group of lecturers and panelists will tell the story of Methodism’s growth in the Commonwealth of Virginia over the course of nearly 250 years, with emphasis on the Colonial era, the Shenandoah Valley, the Chesapeake Islands and the union which formed the UMC. There will be tours of the churches of Colonial Williamsburg, including ringing the *Freedom Bell* at the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg (recently rung by President Obama at the opening of the Smithsonian’s

National Museum of African-American History and Culture), Historic Jamestowne, and encounters with historical interpreters, designed to help experience an earlier era. One unit of continuing education credit is being offered to those who attend the entire event.

The VCHS extends its deep condolences to the family of the late Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher, who as a Trustee of the Conference Historical Society served as Chair of the 2018 SEJHS Annual Meeting Steering Committee. Her love, guidance and commitment to this effort will be remembered through the dedication of this gathering to her memory.

Other significant accomplishments of the VCHS include:

- Approval of a resolution from the William Watters Foundation, seeking Conference and General Commission on Archives and History certification of the William Watters burial site as a “Registered Methodist Historical Site”.
- Installment of a historical marker at Mt. Zion Church in Leesburg, recognizing the church as the oldest continuing African-American congregation in Virginia, tracing its origins to Old Stone Church, founded in 1766.
- Growth of the Patti Russell Endowment, which supports the salary of the Conference Archivist, to over \$335,000.00.
- Recognition of the importance of increasing and maintaining Conference and Endowment financial support for the Archives to meet the demands of both present and future in properly maintaining Conference records and to provide resources to local churches in maintaining and further developing local church histories and assisting other institutions or individuals in the work of historical preservation and interpretation.
- Publication of *Heritage*, now in its 45th year, telling the stories of Virginia United Methodist history. The Fall 2017 issue celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mt. Zion UMC, the African-American descendent of the Old Stone Church in Leesburg, and it discussed the 1963 integration of Fredericksburg Methodist Church, the first all-white Methodist church in the VA Conference to desegregate. The Spring 2018 issue features the Rev. Lee Sheaffer’s remembrances of his time in the clergy of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the 1968 merger, as well as an article about Joseph Mastin and his advocating of eugenics.
- Coming events: The Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, July 17-20, 2018; registration information can be found on the Conference website under the Conference Historical Society. The Fall meeting of the VCHS will take place at Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, 10 a.m., October 6. The speaker will be Dr. Dale Patterson from the General Commission on Archives and History.

The following person is presented to the Annual Conference for election as clergy and lay trustees of the Conference Historical Society, 2018-19:

— *John T. Martin Jr., President*

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

Over the past year, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation (OBCF) has further developed its strategic plans for two of the properties entrusted its care. The first is the old Randolph-Macon College/Boydton Institute site in Boydton. Our focus is two-fold, including preservation of the property and acquiring necessary funding and sources to accomplish the project within the next several years. We are seeking to determine what part(s) of the main building, which served as a dormitory, classrooms, and administrative offices, can or should be preserved, and we are seeking to restore the adjacent headmaster's house, a structure that could be used for a learning center/library and/or caretaker residence. Our leadership team for this project is in the process of developing relationships with granting organizations, foundations, and major donors. A plan is being developed for the utilization of the physical property with consideration of how best to interpret the significant history of both the original site of R-MC, the oldest Methodist College in America, and the Boydton Institute, which later occupied these same facilities, serving African-American students for half a century in the years following the Civil War. These two schools had a significant impact on the education of whites and blacks for over 100 critical years in our nation's history, providing leaders in many fields, including higher education and the civil rights movement.

The second project is "Canaan," the name given by the Rev. Edward Dromgoole to his home, which served as a meeting place for early Methodists, including Bishop Francis Asbury, for many years. The Board of Supervisors of Brunswick County approved our "concept" for a retreat center and gave us a conditional permit to move forward with a plan to develop a rustic campground and assembly building that would accommodate about forty people for educational purposes. A leadership team for this project is in place. Steps are being taken to shore up the foundation of the home and to prevent further deterioration. An archeological dig was conducted by the College of William and Mary, assisting in the identification of structures on the site and the recovery of artifacts. One such structure is a "spinning house," which with restoration could become a museum and visitor orientation center.

The third project is maintenance and interpretation of the Ebenezer Academy site, the first Methodist school in America, located near Warfield. The site is complete and open to the public. Signage along Boydton Plank Road, Route 1, marks the entrance.

We are grateful for the progress being made by the OBCF, but much help is needed from United Methodists across the Conference. Financial gifts, on-site volunteers, and researchers are welcome to join in these efforts to preserve and interpret these vital aspects of the origins of Methodism in Virginia.

– Jim Mott, President

The Old Stone Church Foundation

The Old Stone Church Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1974 to be responsible for the care and preservation of Methodism's Old Stone Church Site in Leesburg, the first Methodist owned property in America. Members of the foundation help support this mission and we continue to be grateful for

those who maintain their membership in the foundation year after year.

Our pillar church (Mt Zion UMC) celebrated its 150th anniversary in October and installed a “Historical Marker” in early March 2018 citing it as the oldest continuing black congregation in the state of Virginia.

– *Charles Williams, President*

William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1996 to protect and preserve the small Adams-Wren-Watters cemetery in McLean, Virginia. William Watters, the first American-born itinerant Methodist minister and his wife are buried there. The cemetery, a circular plot, 90 feet in diameter and one-quarter acre in area, is located at 6430 Linway Terrace (off Old Dominion Drive), McLean, Virginia. It has been registered as the United Methodist Historic Site No. 7 since 1970.

Myra Lindsey prepared a resolution, which was approved by the executive committee of the Virginia Conference Historical Society (also known as the Virginia Commission on Archives and History, or VCAH), and submitted to Common Table seeking Annual Conference endorsement that the United Methodist Historic Site No. 7: William Watters Grave, McLean, Virginia be designated a Heritage Landmark.

According to the *Book of Discipline* (2016, Paragraph 1712.b), “Heritage Landmarks of the United Methodist Church are buildings, locations, or structures that are specifically related to significant events, developments, or personalities in the overall history of The United Methodist Church or its antecedents. They must have distinctive historic interest and value for the denomination as a whole, as contrasted with local or regional historic significance.”

We feel the William Watters gravesite qualifies for this status because the Rev. Mr. Watters, the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher, went to great lengths to keep the American Methodist movement alive and operational during the Revolutionary War, a time when Methodist ministers were often suspected of being British loyalists. Without his efforts, it is possible the United Methodist Church would not exist today. Myra is currently preparing the application and supporting documents necessary for requesting Heritage Landmark status, which must be submitted to the General Commission on Archives and History by June 30, 2018, for General Conference action in 2020.

We are presently assembling a display table for the 2018 SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting, being held in Williamsburg, Virginia, July 17-20, and sponsored by the Virginia Conference Historical Society. The table will tell, in word, artifacts and photos, about William Watters’ life and of the mission of the William Watters Foundation.

For additional information write to:

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

– *E. Jean Balcom, President*

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;
whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if
we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
-Galatians 6:8-10

Seeds sitting by themselves in a bag produce nothing. Seeds held in a pod or cased in their native wrapper produce nothing. Seeds will never flower or be fruitful on their own. The purpose for seeds is not ornamental.

Seeds need to be sown in soil or in a field – where they can germinate and multiply to grow new crops. Sowing took the form of scattering in Bible times. Today we have big equipment that can be deliberate to sow seeds evenly and efficiently across a field.

If you sow a little seed, you will reap a little harvest – because it has to be there in seed form before it can show up in harvest form. Any farmer knows that.

Being generous in sowing gives us an opportunity to have a generous harvest that can bless others. Living. Giving. Sharing. Saving. Stewarding. These are all ways that we can sow the seeds of our lives – to prepare for a harvest that can impact others. Our perspective is never neutral, and often shaped by events around us.

- Giving back to the community can extend the hands of Christ and edify believers by ‘adding nutrients to the soil of our community.’
- Building an endowment can sow seeds from one generation’s generosity to impact coming generations by planning and connecting our lives with eternity.
- Creating a scholarship fund can sow seeds to provide training in equipping next generations to carry forth the message of Christ.
- Allocating excess funds to create grants to resource strategic ministry initiatives, or to serve the needy and feed the hungry both now and later ... to minister hope and healing as a lasting legacy!

Over the past year, the Virginia United Methodist Foundation served more than 350 churches across the Conference in creating ministries for the future. Seeds have been sown selflessly to fulfill our mission statement: **Stewarding Potential to build His kingdom!** Our vision is focused on an eternal harvest while we create lasting ministries through strategic planning, gifts and grants to support ministry expansion, continuing education to equip leaders as stewards, capital campaigns and effective stewardship to energize generosity. Our commitment is to live out our Core Values with a vision for relevant ministry that leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

I am grateful for each fund – large and small – and each church relationship – urban or rural – where we serve as a fiduciary and assist in fulfilling their mission and vision. Sow seeds widely and expect God to bring the harvest! Capture the potential for an eternal impact!

REPORTS

Current Foundation Relationships	Number	Value
Local church-related accounts	231	\$44,919,603
Individual Endowments	89	8,311,438
District and Agency funds	65	11,967,422
Charitable Gift Annuities	45	805,629
Foundation-controlled Funds	5	636,019
Total	435	\$66,640,111

– Board of Directors, Virginia United Methodist Foundation

Virginia United Methodist Development Company, LLC

Stewarding Potential to Build His Kingdom

Seeds sown can grow and multiply! Churches planted and ministries expanded can also grow and multiply.

Helping church leadership discern how to manage short-term assets and prepare for long-term loans is like sowing seeds for a future harvest. At the core of managing time-based deposits is the need for liquidity and often an aversion to risk and volatility. By contrast, a church loan for a major capital expansion is often a long-term commitment based on envisioning its mission and ministry 10-20 years into the future. Both require clear vision on potential and purpose for both investment and expansion. It's all about balancing perspective!

Over the past year, the Virginia United Methodist Development Company, LLC, has expanded its reach with loans to more than 35 churches across the Conference and impacted more than 26,000 Methodists. Thanks to 512 churches, agencies and individuals who have become investors in the Development Company, we have been able to make a difference by helping them with church extension loan financing. These churches are now saving more than \$650,000 in debt service and, thereby, increasing their operational cash flow to enable them to expand their local ministry outreach!

Our impact can be seen with:

- Helping a church think and plan through a capital campaign for a major renovation and building expansion.
- A re-finance loan for a church whose loan interest rate was the highest in the conference and was impeding their ability to maintain their budget or pay apportionments.

- Equipping a church in the Alexandria District to launch a comprehensive strategy for donor engagement to cover expanded ministry and reduce debt on their new building.
- Three different churches who needed a combo loan to re-finance a previous loan while planning for facility expansion or capital upgrades.
- Assisting a church in the Richmond District with financing their building expansion after initiating a capital campaign to reach their growing community

These are just a few of the examples of how your investments enable the Development Company to fulfill its mission: **Stewarding Potential to build His kingdom!** As a connectional ministry, our goal is to help local churches become effective stewards of the resources entrusted – both building and budget – and re-envision their impact in mission and ministry in their local community. Each loan has a unique story of connecting with their community and impacting lives as the hands and feet of Christ.

The Development Fund is a registered Offering with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Although investments are not insured, they are safeguarded through strict investment and lending policies, healthy collateral coverage on its loans and strong oversight by its board and competent staff. The Development Company offers construction loans with terms up to one year. Permanent loans with terms of five years and amortization up to 30 years are also available. Our purpose is to enable United Methodist investors to fund church capital improvement loans. Deposits continue to grow though not sufficient to meet the loan demand. Our continuing prayer for the coming year is increased participation in the deposits to help meet the loan demand! Thereby, our motto: **United Methodists Investing to Impact Virginia!**

In 2017, the Development Company realized another year of significant growth in investments and loans. As of December 31:

Total Assets	\$30,448,563
Total Outstanding Loans	\$27,344,310
Loan Commitments for future	\$12,750,000
Loan to Collateral Value	33.52%

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

– Board of Directors, Virginia United Methodist Foundation

RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLUTION 1

Affirm Unity in Christ

WHEREAS, the 2019 called General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be considering proposed changes to the *Book of Discipline* to address United Methodists' differing understandings regarding sexual identity and practice,

WHEREAS, unity of the followers of Jesus is a value of our Lord Jesus Christ, (John 17:20-21)

WHEREAS, our unity is found, not in common ground on a particular issue, but in our baptism and relationship with God through Jesus Christ, (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

WHEREAS, the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, encouraged Christians to "be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion" (John Wesley's sermon, "Catholic Spirit")

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the 2019 General Conference to affirm unity in Christ in the midst of our diversity, to challenge in love all that divides, and to offer to all people God's saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world. We urge and we pray that the 2019 General Conference will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice. We urge all faithful United Methodists to pray for a way forward that nurtures an inclusive, evangelical, and faithful Church.

– Submitted by

*Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer, Rev. Mochel Morris, Rev. Beth Givens, Rev. Kirk Nave,
Rev. Tim Ward, Shirley Cauffman, Rev. Denise Honeycutt, Carolyn Woodrum,
Angie Williams, Rev. Sarah Locke*



RESOLUTION 2

Commendation and Encouragement post Charlottesville August 2017

WHEREAS, the experience of terrorism at the hands of white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the KKK during a rally in Charlottesville in 2017 has prompted many persons to want to join in the efforts to fight racism;

WHEREAS, the sin of racism is not only a problem in Charlottesville; it is in our own communities;

WHEREAS, our Social Principles state "we recognize racism as sin and affirm ultimate and temporal worth of all persons."

WHEREAS, the United States continues to become more ethnically and racially diverse;

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, our General Commission on Religion and Race offers excellent resources for ministry and education;

THEREFORE, *be it resolved* that the Virginia Annual Conference commends the clergy, spiritual leaders and faith communities of the Charlottesville area for their ministry in combating racism and white supremacy through their advocacy, educational efforts direct action and the offering of safe space for marchers during the events of August 2017 by sending a copy of this resolution to the Clergy Collective of Charlottesville, Congregate Charlottesville, and First United Methodist Church of Charlottesville;

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference encourage each local congregation to engage in the work of personal repentance, social transformation and embracing the other over the coming year through study and action regarding racism and white supremacy, and join with other community groups (like the NAACP) to advance racial justice and reconciliation;

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference encourages the Virginia Conference Historical Society and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy to educate the Virginia Conference about the history of racism in the Conference, as well as efforts to aimed at racial justice and reconciliation, through the Virginia Advocate and other publications of the Conference.

– Submitted by Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society



RESOLUTION 3

Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church acknowledges; “When persons choose to serve in the armed forces, we support their right to adequate care for injuries suffered, and advocate for sufficient resources to meet their physical and mental health needs, both during and after their service. We are aware that we can become guilty both by military action and by conscientious objection, and that we all are dependent on God’s forgiveness.” (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 164 I) and

Those who have served in the armed forces, particularly those who have served in combat and their families, have experienced degrees of alienation due to well-meaning or unwitting actions of congregations and clergy, separating them from connection with the faith community, and

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church profess the struggles for human dignity and social reform are in response to “God’s demand for love, mercy, and justice in the light of the Kingdom.” (¶ 102), as well as, the Nurture and Mission of the Church, emphasizes “the nurturing and serving function of Christian fellowship in the Church” through a personal experience of conviction, nourished by a community faith. (¶ 102) and

RESOLUTIONS

We believe that suicide is not the way a human life should end, furthermore, a Christian perspective on suicide begins with an affirmation of faith that nothing, including suicide, separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). Therefore, we deplore the condemnation of people who complete suicide, and we consider unjust the stigma that so often falls on surviving family and friends. (¶ 161 N) and

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, in January of 2014, estimated that, at that time, 22 US veterans per day were taking their own lives. Jan Kemp, Veterans Affairs' National Mental Health Director for Suicide Prevention concluded that the rate of veteran's suicides "are astronomically high and climbing". and

In recent years there has been a spike among service members and veterans in the occurrence of Post-Traumatic Stress, in the past referred to as shell shock, battle fatigue or combat stress, stemming from experiences of severe trauma or life-threatening events. Understanding that, it is normal for the mind and body to react after such events, but this normal response becomes harmful when individuals feel trapped in a cycle of anxiety, anger or shame, disconnecting from relationships of family and community, and

Moral injuries which may stem from direct participation in acts of combat, such as killing or harming others, or indirect acts, such as witnessing death or dying, failing to prevent immoral acts of others, or giving or receiving orders that are perceived as gross moral violations, it is important to consider mental health symptoms and moral injury as separate manifestations of combat trauma. Furthermore, moral injury is not explicitly addressed in the evidence-based treatments for PTSD currently supported by the Veterans Administration, and

It is the responsibility of all who seek the Reign and Kinship of Christ to preserve the dignity of all persons without regard to religion, race, nationality, or gender, and seek to enhance the quality of life in the entire community of humankind thus fulfilling an obligation to God (Matthew 25:31-40).

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church will appoint a core group, of six to eight individuals, who shall network with established veterans organizations in order to discern the requirements and resources for implementing training courses to teach qualified lay and clergy in techniques of engaging service members, veterans and their families in an atmosphere of compassionate and productive dialogue. Furthermore, this core group will be tasked with securing any further funding necessary to produce training materials.

Be it further resolved, that the Virginia Conference, encourage, endorse and strive to provide/identify and/or develop resources to encourage local congregations in providing open, safe and welcoming spaces for active duty service members, veterans and their families, to share their stories and find sanctuary within the faith community, without condemnation, judgment or the obligation of contribution or confession of faith.

Be it further resolved, that the Virginia Conference commits itself to strengthening clergy and spiritual leaders in their pastoral ministry to members of the armed forces, veterans and their families, by providing additional training for clergy and lay leadership in cultivating and inaugurating care groups focused on spiritual formation and healing for those suffering with post-traumatic stress and moral injury, through God's forgiving grace.

– Submitted by Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society



RESOLUTION 4

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The United Methodist Social Principles (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 162.H III. Social Community) state that we recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and the struggles of those who are immigrants and refugees, and to advocate for justice for all; and

The Kingdom of God is made up of persons from every tribe, tongue, nation, and language (Revelation 7:9); and

Our ancestors in faith were sojourners and aliens in the land of Egypt (Exodus 1:1-14; 1 Chronicles 16:19; Acts 7:6); and

Our Immigrant and Refugee ancestors were welcomed to this land by many of the Natives already dwelling in the land; and

Our Lord Jesus Christ lived His childhood years as an immigrant and refugee (Matthew 2:13-23); and

The Scriptures call us to show compassion and justice for the sojourner and alien among us (Exodus 22:21; Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Psalm 94:6; Jeremiah 7:6; Ezekiel 22:29; Zechariah 7:10); and

The Great Commission compels us to take the Gospel to the nations (Matthew 28:18-20), and the Great Commandment compels us to love our neighbor as self (Mark 12:30-31); and

The Gospel reminds us that our response to the most vulnerable among us is a response to Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:40); and

The Bible denounces the exploitation of workers and the mistreatment of the poor (Isaiah 3:15; Amos 4:1; James 5:4); and

Approximately 12 to 15 million undocumented immigrants live and work within our borders; and

War, conflict and persecution have displaced more than 65 million people worldwide, the highest number ever recorded, and forced 22.5 million of these people to flee to other countries as refugees, and

Individuals and hard-working families are being separated, and thus detrimental to society, and as Christians we highly value the importance of families being together; and

The relative invisibility of the immigrant and refugee population can lead to detrimental consequences in terms of health, education, and well-being, especially of children; and

Many of these persons, desiring a better future for themselves and their families, are fleeing brutal economic and political situations; and

Recent government actions are reducing the scope and effectiveness of federal immigration and refugee programs,

RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the U.S. Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Be it further resolved, that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the Administration and U.S. Congress to recognize our Nation's historic leadership in welcoming and supporting refugees, restore refugee admissions to previous levels, and strengthen the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Be it further resolved, that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages congregations to engage in educational efforts on issues of immigration and refugees, and engage in advocacy with Federal, and State, and local Legislators.

*Be it further resolved, that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges congregations to become Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming Communities. **

Be it further resolved, that we pray for our churches to demonstrate the reconciliation of the Kingdom both in the verbal witness of our Gospel and in the visible character of our congregations.

**“Immigrant Welcoming Communities” from the General Board of Church of Society provides guidance to congregations. Available at: www.umcjustice.org/documents/38.*

– Submitted by the Board of Church and Society



RESOLUTION 5

Endorse and Commend Cville2Jtown: A Pilgrimage of Transformation

WHEREAS, scripture teaches us “God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them” (Gen. 1:27, CEB); and

WHEREAS, the core identity of God’s Chosen People lay recognition of their deliverance by God’s merciful hand, as Moses exhorted them to “Remember... that you came out of Egypt, out of the place you were slaves,” (Ex. 13:33, CEB); and

WHEREAS, Christ’s Church continues to live into its identity as the people of God, delivered from sin into the truth that “There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal.5:26-28, CEB); and

WHEREAS, our Social Principles teach us “Racism is the combination of the power to dominate by one race over other races and a value system that assumes that the dominant race is innately superior to the others;”¹ and exhort us not only to recognize “racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons,” but to “commit

1 *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* 2017-2020, ¶162 (Kindle Locations 567-568). The United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access;² and

WHEREAS, racism as prejudice sanctioned by institutional power upholding structures of white supremacy first decimated the indigenous American Indians, then enslaved people of African descent, and continues to this day, ingrained in our political, economic, and judicial systems and our culture; and

WHEREAS, the *2016 Book of Resolutions* recognizes how “the concepts of race and racism were created explicitly to ensure the subjugation of peoples the Europeans believed to be inferior” and how “the myth of European superiority persisted—and persists—in every institution in American life.” (Resolution #3371, *2016 Book of Resolutions*, (adopted 1980 and readopted 2000, 2008, 2016)); and

WHEREAS, the *2016 Book of Resolutions* challenges “all persons, whatever their racial or ethnic heritage, to work together to restore the broken body of Christ” (Resolution #3376, *2016 Book of Resolutions*, (adopted 2000, amended and readopted 2008, 2016))³; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the white supremacy that continues to poison our national life erupted in Charlottesville, Virginia in a series of public statements, blog posts, podcasts, press releases, rallies, torch-lit demonstrations, and acts of violent intimidation and aggression by ardent racists, anti-Semites, and white nationalists who collectively identified their efforts as “Unite the Right;”⁴ and

WHEREAS, this campaign of white supremacist intimidation began with a nighttime tiki-torch rally in Emancipation Park on May 13th, included a KKK rally in Justice Park on July 8th, culminated in a sustained assault on Charlottesville over the weekend of August 11-12th, and has continued with sporadic protests, demonstrations, acts of vandalism, and threats of violence to the present day⁵; and

WHEREAS, the toxic climate of white supremacy is not localized to the city of Charlottesville but has been focused and become visible there as a symptom of the sin that clings close to our entire nation; and

WHEREAS, leaders and people of faith in Charlottesville offered an instrumental witness of opposition to white supremacy by organizing community conversations, prayer meetings, marches, services of worship, training for non-violent direct action, representation at city meetings, first aid, pastoral care, financial assistance, support of local anti-racist activists, and other acts of prophetic resistance to white supremacy noted within their community, across the country, and around the world;⁶ and

2 *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* 2017-2020 (Kindle Locations 574-576). The United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

3 United Methodist Church. *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016* (Kindle Locations 6500-6503). The United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

4 Andrew Katz, ed, “Unrest In Virginia: Clashes Over A Show Of White Nationalism In Charlottesville Turn Deadly.” Photo Essay, *TIME Magazine*, August 2017, accessed 02 March 2018, <http://time.com/charlottesville-white-nationalist-rally-clashes/>

5 Hunton & Williams, “Independent Review of the 2017 Protest Events in Charlottesville, Virginia,” accessed 01 Dec 2017, https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c869fb_a573de9ad4f04b0491b927ca9d48252c.pdf

6 Jonathan Blitzer, “How Church Leaders in Charlottesville Prepared for White Supremacists,” *The New Yorker*, 15 Aug 2017, accessed 20 Aug 2017, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-church->

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the theme of this 236th Annual Conference Session, “Servant Leaders Making a Difference,” invites us to be faithful stewards of God’s grace by employing our gifts in acts of humble service and loving witness (1 Peter 4:10); *and*,

WHEREAS, the Bishop’s Convocation on Race and Reconciliation has sought to empower Virginia United Methodists to become “life-long learning disciples,” able to “conduct difficult conversations... related to issues of racial division, justice, and God’s call to ministries of reconciliation and peace;” *and*,

WHEREAS, United Methodist clergy together with others in the Charlottesville Clergy Collective are organizing *Cville2Jamestown: A Pilgrimage of Transformation* under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Jan Rivero, with the purpose of understanding and bearing witness to the history of our country’s racial and ethnic injustice, building partnerships of reconciliation, and beginning to envision a healed and just future; *and*

WHEREAS, this interfaith pilgrimage will span October 6th - 14th, 2018 and offer opportunities for education, reflection, prayer, and community building amongst all people; *and*

WHEREAS, the pilgrimage will begin at the Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center in Charlottesville with walk to Monticello to visit the African American burial grounds and receive the names of the 607 persons enslaved on the Monticello plantation; *and*

WHEREAS, the week following will be framed by cultural and educational events held in and around Charlottesville celebrating African-American contributions to our shared national heritage; *and*

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 13th, a bus will deliver participants to Richmond to walk the Slave Trail and close the day in worship; *and*

WHEREAS, Sunday, October 14th, the walk will proceed to Jamestown, carrying the names received at Monticello, passing plantations on the way to the site of the arrival of the first ship carrying enslaved people, and hearing stories of lives defined by the injustice of racism and the legacy of the betrayal of indigenous people; *and*

WHEREAS, along the way sacred texts will call participants to repentance and they will pray for reconciliation;

THEREFORE, *be it resolved* by this 236th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church endorse the witness of *Cville2Jtown: A Pilgrimage of Transformation* (www.cville2jtown.com) and commend local churches and individuals to observe this pilgrimage physically or symbolically with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

—Submitted by Robert Lewis on behalf of Methodist Federation for Social Action



leaders-in-charlottesville-prepared-for-white-supremacists

RESOLUTION 6

Gracious Accommodation Virginia Annual Conference

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has experienced increasing polarization over theological and ethical issues, leading to parts of the church no longer finding themselves able to comply with United Methodist polity and discipline; *and*,

WHEREAS, persons of sincere faith and Christian commitment within the church are led by the convictions of conscience to significantly divergent beliefs and actions regarding the church's ministry to and with LGBTQ persons and their families; *and*,

WHEREAS, these divergent beliefs and actions appear to be irreconcilable with each other, to the point that the 2016 General Conference requested the Council of Bishops to appoint a Commission on a Way Forward to develop proposals to end the conflict within our church and provide a way forward that would refocus the church on discipleship and mission; *and*,

WHEREAS, any plan that is proposed by the Commission and the Council is likely to have provisions that offend the deeply held beliefs of some of our members, meaning that such plans need to provide for a fair and gracious accommodation for conscience; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Commission and the Council have both urged the church to act out of a "heart of peace" rather than a "heart of war," giving grace and exercising Christ-like humility in the way that we engage with one another; *and*,

WHEREAS, a significant part of giving grace is to offer fair treatment to our church's congregations and members, treating others as we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12), not coercing their consciences or penalizing them for sincerely and deeply held Christian understandings on either side of the divide over LGBTQ ministry; *and*,

WHEREAS, "all properties of United Methodist local churches ... are held, in trust, for the benefit of the entire denomination, and ownership and usage of church property is subject to the *Discipline*" (§ 2501.1); *and*,

WHEREAS, it is patently unfair to require congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the decision of the 2019 General Conference to compromise their consciences in order to remain in The United Methodist Church or surrender their buildings in order to be faithful to their Christian understanding, nor is it fair to expect members who have invested decades of loving gifts of time, service, and finances to build their local congregation to walk away from that building or pay a high cost in order to remain true to their consciences;

THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that the Virginia Annual Conference strongly urges that any plan passed by the 2019 General Conference have within it the provision of a fair and gracious exit path for congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the stance of the church regarding LGBTQ ministry, as determined by the 2019 General Conference. Such an exit path should allow congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings and assets, assuming their own liabilities, but without demanding payments to the conference that could impact the congregations' ministry. "Though we can't think alike, may we not love alike?" said John Wesley. Can we not bless one another in pursuing the various paths of ministry we believe God is laying before us?

RESOLUTIONS

The secretary of the annual conference shall send this resolution to all of the active bishops of the church and each of the heads of General Conference delegations, to be shared with the members of their delegations.

– *Submitted by Rev. Thomas R. Barnard, Karen Bossieux, Rev. John A. Bright, Brenda Hudson, Rev. R. Bruce Johnson, Mary Jones, Becky Livermon, Rev. Norman L. Ramsey, III, Rev. Dr. H. O. Tom Thomas*



RESOLUTION 7

Study and Action on Gun Violence

In 2016 the General Conference of the United Methodist passed a resolution (§ 162) titled “Our Call to End Gun Violence.” It began with this theological rationale

Jesus’ call to his followers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) is tied to intimate relationship with God, and echoes God’s dreams for peace for all of creation as expressed in Micah 4:1-4:

“In days to come, / the mountain of the LORD’s house / shall be established as the highest of the mountains, / and shall be raised up above the hills. / Peoples shall stream to it, / and many nations shall come and say: / ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, / to the house of the God of Jacob; / that he may teach us his ways / and that we may walk in his paths.’ / For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, / and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. / He shall judge between many peoples, / and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; / they shall beat their swords into plowshares, / and their spears into pruning hooks; / nation shall not lift up sword against nation, / neither shall they learn war any more; / but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, / and no one shall make them afraid; / for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken” (NRSV).

Micah’s prophetic dream points to a time when all peoples will journey to God’s presence so God “may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths” (4:2). Micah describes God as the final judge and the nations will travel to God’s presence out of their desire to live in peace without violence and bloodshed.

The stunning imagery of Micah’s dream is the transformation of weapons into instruments of harvesting food that occurs after the judgments are handed down to the nations. The transformation is not complete until the nations participate in their own transformation. The work that went into creating the weapons will be matched by the human effort it will take to transform those weapons into peaceful instruments. God does not collect or hide the weapons from the nations, nor does God transform the weapons outside of human effort. The text states that the nations themselves, “shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.”¹

The resolution, “Our Call to End Gun Violence,” provides informative links, offers guidance for congregations and for pastoral care, and calls for specific legislation to prevent or reduce gun violence. Furthermore, the resolution encourages United Methodist churches to frame conversations theologically by utilizing resources such as the three session study “Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities: Reflections on Gun Violence from Micah 4:1-4”² produced by the General Board of Church and Society.

The state of Virginia has been the site of many incidents of gun violence, including the 2007 shooting (or massacre) at Virginia Tech that took 32 lives and wounded 17. Despite this history of gun violence, Virginia “generally has some of the [most permissive] gun restriction laws in the country.”³

Presently, the laws of Virginia only permit the cities of: Alexandria, Chesapeake, Fairfax, Falls Church, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond, and Virginia Beach and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Henrico, Loudoun, and Prince William and to ban guns at permitted events. Other cities and counties do not have this right making them vulnerable to the same kind of dangerous confrontations that occurred in Charlottesville in August of 2017. The same protections should be an option for every city and county.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages and invites congregations, Sunday schools, small groups, UMW and UMM groups, and districts to use the 2016 resolution, “Our Call to End Gun Violence,” as a basis for study, reflection, and action in response to the gun violence that plagues our commonwealth and nation.

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church supports legislation that would allow localities in Virginia to decide whether or not to ban guns from permitted events on public property.

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church opposes efforts to repeal the state ban on guns and other dangerous weapons in places of worship. This is consistent with General Conference resolution adopted in 2000 and readopted in 2008 that resolves: “Therefore, every United Methodist church is officially declared a weapon-free zone.”

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society work with Bishop Sharma D. Lewis to send letters to each Virginia delegate, senator, the Lt. Governor and the Governor reflecting the convictions expressed in the two preceding paragraphs.

– Submitted by the Board of Church and Society

- 1 *Book of Resolutions: Our Call to End Gun Violence.* <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence> (Accessed February 21, 2018)
- 2 “Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities: Reflections on Gun Violence from Micah 4:1-4” <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/resource-kingdom-dreams-violent-realities-bible-study> (Accessed February 21, 2018)
- 3 Leslie Shapiro, Sahil Chinoy, and Aaron Williams. “How strictly are guns regulated where you live?” https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/assault-weapons-laws/?utm_ updated Feb. 20, 2018, (Accessed Feb. 21, 2018)

RESOLUTIONS



RESOLUTION 8

United Methodist Historic Site No. 7: William Watters Grave, McLean, Virginia, Heritage Landmark

WHEREAS, William “Billy” Watters was born in Maryland in October 16, 1751, converted to Methodism in 1771, and began his ministry in 1772 when he accompanied Robert Williams on a preaching journey to Norfolk, Virginia.

WHEREAS, Watters became the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher when he was appointed to the New Jersey Circuit at the first American Methodist Conference in Philadelphia in 1773. The Rev. Mr. Watters served circuits in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey during his career in the Methodist itineracy.

WHEREAS, William Watters took an oath of allegiance to America at a time when most Methodist preachers were suspected of having British loyalties.

WHEREAS, The Rev. Mr. Watters performed a pivotal role in keeping the rapidly-growing Methodist movement together during the Revolutionary War. Because all British-born itinerants had left the country or stopped preaching, with Frances Asbury having gone into seclusion in Delaware, Watters presided at the 1778 conference in Leesburg, Virginia, the first American Methodist preacher to do so. Furthermore, he became an effective mediator between Francis Asbury and the American preachers during the war, helping to avert a schism over unordained preachers performing the sacraments of communion and baptism, and developing a case for Asbury’s authority in the beginnings of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

WHEREAS, Watters located to a farm in current-day McLean, Virginia in 1783, taking appointments again 1801-1806 in Alexandria, Georgetown and Washington, DC, then locating a final time. He served as a local preacher until his death on March 29, 1827. He was buried in the Adams-Watters-Wren Cemetery in McLean.

WHEREAS, The General Commission on Archives and History designated William Watters’ gravesite as Historic Site No. 7 on June 11, 1969.

Rationale: William Watters remained faithful to God, faithful to the Methodist movement and faithful to his country. It is clear the Rev. Mr. Watters’ efforts helped preserve American Methodism during the Revolutionary War; his good works are one reason the United Methodist Church exists today. We are all direct heirs of all that the Rev. Mr. William Watters worked so devotedly to preserve and to help perpetuate through his ministry during the early years of our country.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the United Methodist Historic Site No. 7: William Watters Grave, McLean, Virginia, endorsed by the Virginia Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History and named a United Methodist Historic Site by the Virginia Annual Conference and the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church on June 11, 1969, is worthy to be designated a United Methodist Heritage Landmark (Paragraph 1712.b *United Methodist Book of Discipline*, 2016), and by the adoption of this resolution is endorsed by the Virginia Annual Conference as such and will therefore be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church for consideration as a Heritage Landmark pursuant to the 2020 General Conference.

– Submitted by the Virginia Conference Historical Society

A REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE 2018 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 15-17, 2018

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, presiding

Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader

All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.
— *Ministry of the Laity*

The Purpose of Annual Conference

The *2016 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶601, Section IX, THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The *2016 Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, ¶131, Section II, THE UNITY OF MINISTRY IN CHRIST. There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God's grace in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.

Dear Lay Member of the Virginia Annual Conference:

Welcome to the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference. In The United Methodist Church we often speak of the church's “connectional system.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your church/district/agency to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your church/district/agency.

AS A LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE YOU SHALL:

Attend all sessions and participate in all sessions of the Annual Conference: “The lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures..” ¶602.6 *2016 Book of Discipline*

“Connect” with your local church when you return: “...The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.” ¶251.2 *2016 Book of Discipline*

THIS GUIDE IS PRINTED TO:

- aid lay members in recording their experiences and feelings about the events of this Annual Conference session;
- encourage lay members to interpret the mission and ministry we have together through our Annual Conference;
- assist lay members in preparing their report and interpretation of the actions and business of the 2018 Annual Conference session for sharing back in their local church.

You make a difference by your attendance and participation in the Annual Conference session, and by reporting back to your local church or agency represented!

SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

You have the right to speak and vote on all issues except those that have to do with clergy and ministerial orders. If you wish to speak: Take a few moments to think about what you want to say. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point. Stand and raise the assigned color sheet from your *Book of Reports* so that the bishop can recognize you. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Lewis, I am your name, a lay member from (*name of your local church and district.*)

State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point! If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. When action is complete, write the motion on the approved form and take it to the conference secretary. The blank forms can be found near the secretary’s desk on the stage.

REMEMBER:

There is an equal number of lay and clergy making the decisions;

Standing Rules govern the session (see Order and Procedure and Standing Rules starting on page 8 of this *Book of Reports*);

Items to be voted on come from this *Book of Reports* and from issues raised by members of the conference.

GENERAL INFORMATION

To help you while at Annual Conference, please follow the agenda as printed in this *Book of Reports*. Be on time for all scheduled events, including Singing Our Faith and worship.

You are representing the approximately 330,000 United Methodists in almost 1,169 churches which are divided into 16 districts across the conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
- Director of Connectional Ministries: the Rev. Marc Brown
- Conference Secretary: Rev. Susan Reaves
- Conference Lay Leader: Warren R. Harper
- Conference President of United Methodist Women: Mary Jane Rawley
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Andrew Kissell
- Student Chairperson of Conference Youth Council: Adult Chair, Alison Malloy
- Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries: Richard Speirs

SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER while at Annual Conference. A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” “feelings” and “flavors.” We suggest that you:

- Select significant happenings and impressions, and then make notes.
- Observe the diversity and unity of our conference and identify some of the challenges this creates and some of the benefits this brings.
- Consider the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

HOW, WHEN, WHAT will you share of the Annual Conference session?

HOW:

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

WHEN:

- Sunday morning during worship.
- Administrative Board/Church Council meeting.
- United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings.
- Adult church school.
- Conversation with others.
- Special all-church dinner, picnic, etc.

WHAT:

- Write notes in the margins of your *Book of Reports*
- Materials received both online and in your packet, as well as handouts.
- Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials).
- Information obtained from display areas. Be certain to visit the displays and the Cokesbury book store during free time.

LAITY SESSION: In addition to the regular agenda, all lay members of Annual

REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS

Conference shall gather at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 15th, in the Hampton Convention Center for prayer, testimony, and information related to Annual Conference and General Conference issues requiring vote.

This guide is prepared for you by the Board of Laity, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Any comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to Virginia Conference Lay Leader Warren R. Harper, 200 Ladybank, Williamsburg, Va. 23188. For more information, email **wrscharper@gmail.com** or **warrenharper@vaumc.org**; or call **(757)784-3631**.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSION OFFERING 2018

The Annual Conference Mission Offering will be taken during the Saturday morning mission focused worship service. Local churches are encouraged by the bishop to participate in this second mile offering as an expression of support for mission projects and programs locally, nationally and globally. The pastor or lay representative of each faith community will bring this offering to Annual Conference. Of course, individual gifts are also welcome!

Checks may be made payable to “Virginia Conference of the UMC” with “**Conference Mission Offering**” in the memo line.

This year Bishop Lewis has set our total offering goal to be \$200,000. The recipients of the 2018 offering represent a mixture of long-term mission partnership commitments as well as new mission opportunities. In addition, this year is a response to international disaster recovery in three Caribbean countries:

\$50,000 Cambodia – For continued support for our partnership with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia supporting Church Growth and Development as well as Community Health & Agricultural Development

\$25,000 Brazil – Continued long term support for at risk children through the Shade and Fresh Water ministry of the Methodist Church in Brazil

\$25,000 Mozambique – Our partnership with the United Methodist Church in Mozambique focuses on lay leadership development. Added this year is support for the Chicupe Rural Hospital that is a joint project of the Mozambique UMC and the Mozambican government.

\$10,000 Native American Outreach and Ministry – Our growing support for mission teams and outreach to Native peoples here in Virginia and in Arizona through of Conference Native American Ministries Team

\$25,000 Cuba Recovery – These funds are designated to help rebuild churches in Cuba after hurricane damage from Hurricane Irma.

\$25,000 – To support our conference VIM teams involved in long-term missional outreach to the Methodist Church in Haiti

\$25,000 – To support hurricane recovery for churches in Puerto Rico following hurricane Maria

\$15,000 – To support student scholarship needs at the Methodist Seminary in Moscow as the church continues to grow in Russia

THE GREAT DAY OF SERVICE - 2018

Led by the Holy Spirit, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis has asked the Virginia Annual Conference to be the Church (Body of Christ) in active and faithful service to the community of Hampton, Virginia when we gather in June 2018, for Annual Conference. She is setting aside three hours on Saturday, June 16, 2018, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and is asking all clergy and lay members to go out and to be active in faithful service to with community.

The Great Day of Service will be broken into three sections – (1) ministry outside of the Convention Center; (2) UMCOR Kit building in the Convention Center; and (3) presentations on Social Justice Issues at the Convention Center. Each clergy and lay member is encouraged to sign up for one of these three activities.

1. Ministry Outside the Convention Center – There will be two primary areas of work to accomplish outside of the Convention Center; Clean Up & Block Walks.

A. Clean Up: This area involves the physical labor of pruning, digging, and the removal of debris from historical cemeteries and children's parks. The removal of debris from several alleyways in the Hampton community, around some of the schools and a youth community center is included. (In the event of bad weather – extreme heat or thunderstorms – the area schools and youth center need painting and other clean up duties inside.)

B. Block Walks: Working with several departments within the City of Hampton, volunteers will be handed a distribution packet to be delivered to the residents in targeted neighborhoods within the city. The purpose is three-fold. First, have a face-to-face interaction with people in the neighborhood in order to offer prayers for that particular person or some other need the person may identify. Secondly, to distribute information that may be helpful to each resident; packets will be provided by the City of Hampton. Thirdly, to briefly assess the person's general wellbeing and then report back to the contact person from the City.

2. UMCOR Kit building in the Convention Center – There will be three stations set up in the Convention Center that will be used to build hygiene kits for UMCOR. Each station will hold 8-12 people per shift and all of the material will be at the station for the people to compile each kit. The kits will then be packed, taped, and put on shipping pallets and loaded onto a truck at the Convention Center. Each shift of people will take breaks after 15-30 minutes. Our goal is to build 3,000 kits.

3. Presentations on Social Justice Issues at the Convention Center – There will be three separate issues that will be addressed in the main hall of the Convention Center. Each will last for 45 minutes. After each presentation (with a question and answer period to follow) there will be a break preceding the next speaker. Each person signed up for this activity may attend all three talks.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Participants must register online at <https://www.vaumc.org/GreatDayofService> to participate in the Great Day of Service. Participant donation is \$10. Donations will also be accepted at the same site to assist with the cost of this mission opportunity for those who are unable to participate.

UMCOR KITS FOR CONFERENCE

As your church begins preparation for collecting items for kits, there is currently an appeal from UMCOR for Cleaning Buckets, Hygiene Kits and School Kits. The complete list of items and instructions on packing each kit are included.

The times for collection of the kits are Thursday, June 14, from noon until 8p.m. and Friday, June 15, from 7a.m.-7p.m. If anyone has questions about the kits, you can contact the Kit Collection Coordinator, the Rev. David Magruder at Zion UMC in Seaford (York River District) at 757-898-7417.



Hygiene Kit

Value: \$12.00 per kit

Hygiene Kit Materials:

- **1 hand towel** - 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches. Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 toothbrush** - adult size only. Do not remove from original packaging
- **6 adhesive bandages** - ¾ inch to 1 inch-size, common household Band-Aids
- **1 bath-size soap** - 3 oz. and larger sizes only. No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content. Do not remove from original packaging
- **1 comb** - needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long. No pocket combs or picks, please. Rattail combs and combs without handle are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth
- **1 metal nail file or nail clippers** - No emery boards, please
- **1 plastic bag** - one-gallon size sealable bag only
- **\$1 to purchase toothpaste**

Assembly Directions:

Set the \$1 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Important Notice:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified above.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the request items-NOTHING MORE.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all monies for toothpaste and shipping place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.

Packing and Shipping Kits Instructions

- Box weight: each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.
- Complete 2 packing lists: one for your records and one to put on the shipping box.
- Paste the shipping label / packing list on the outside of each box you send. The shipping list helps the depot to quickly process kits.
- Processing & Shipping Costs: Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent to areas in need



School Kit - 2018

Value: \$11.00 per kit

School Kit Materials:

- **1 14x16 inch cloth bag** - Homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable; Heavy-duty fabric only, such as denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc.; no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols; closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps, or Velcro sewn in middle of opening, if used.
- **3 pads of paper** - Spiral- or top-bound pads; 100-150 sheets of loose leaf can be substituted for one pad; combination of spiral, top bound, side bound, or 1 subject notebook are acceptable; no composition books; no 3 or 5 subject notebook.
- **1 24-count box of crayons** - Only 24-count boxes
- **1 pair blunt scissors** - Rounded tip only; no plastic scissors
- **1 2-inch or larger size eraser** - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **6 unsharpened pencils** - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable.
- **1 hand-held pencil sharpener** - Must be at least one-inch long; remove from packaging
- **1 30-centimeter ruler** - Hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable; No advertisements

Assembly Directions:

Place all loose items on top of paper. Turn items sideways and slide into the cloth bag. Fold over the top of the bag so loose items don't fall out.

Important Notes:

- All patterns for the bag can be found on the Internet at www.umcor.org. Go to "Relief Supplies" at the top of the page and click. Scroll down until you find the "School bag pattern" at the bottom of the page.
- All items must be new.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – Nothing More.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Packing and Shipping Kits

- Packing kits Box weight: Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.
- Complete two packing lists: One for your records and one to put on the shipping box.
- Paste the shipping label / packing list on the outside of each box you send. The shipping list helps the depot to quickly process kits.
- Processing & shipping costs: Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent to areas in need.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

'4 CANS 4 CONFERENCE'

Members of Annual Conference are encouraged to bring at least four cans of food or boxes of dry food to the session in Hampton for "4 Cans 4 Conference." Requested items are: one can of vegetables or fruit, one can of meat or fish, one can of soup or stew and one can with a pop-top.

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

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

Cash or checks made out to "cash" will be used 100% in food purchases. ALL gifts benefit the local ministries' services to those in need in the Hampton Roads Convention Center area.

4 boxes or even 400 cans will help! Our 2018 Annual Conference Goal is to surpass 10,000 pounds of canned and dry/staple foods. Bring your gifts to the 24' U-Haul truck parked near the Kits Collection trucks — not inside the Hampton Roads Convention Center. (And yes, there will be plenty of opportunities to serve at the collection point.) For any questions, concerns or issues, contact **Jim Earley at revsrus@cox.net**.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2018

- 15-17 Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton
- 17-22 All God's Children Camp, Camp Chanco on the James, Richmond
- 23-29 Camp Rainbow Connection, Richard Bland College, Petersburg
- 20-21 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, St. Paul's UMC, Staunton
- 24-29 All God's Children Came, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
- 28-29 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke

JULY 2018

- 1 Application available for Provisional, Full and Associate Membership and Professional Certification from Center for Clergy Excellence
- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application Deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 3 UM Center closes at 1:00 pm, Independence Day holiday
- 4 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- 6-7 Candidacy Summit, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 10 Clergywomen's Collective, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 17-20 SEJ Historical Society Meeting, Williamsburg
- 21-27 Camp Rainbow Connection, Richard Bland College, Petersburg
- 27-29 Mission Encounter, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
- 29-Aug.3 All God's Children Camp, Cmp Occohannock onthe Bay, Belle Haven

AUGUST 2018

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
- 1-4 MARCHA National Gathering, Charlotte, NC
- 2-3 Helping Hands Children's Mission Experience, Deep Creek UMC, Chesapeake
- 9 CEMCA meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Indigenous Peoples Day
- 15-18 School of Congregational Development (Simulcast in Spanish), Location TBA
- 17-18 Lay Supply Minister Orientation, Roslyn Retreat Center
- 21 Mentorpalooza, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 31 UM Center closes at 1 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2018

- 1 Provisional, Full, Associate and Certification Application deadline
- 3 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 8 Board of Laity, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 UMMen Cabinet, UM center, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Conference Board of Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Reveille UMC, Richmond
- 14-15 UMW Young Women's Retreat, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
- 14-15 Board of Church and Society, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Commission on Disabilities, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Cooperative Parish Ministry event, Good Shepherd UMC, Richmond, 10:00 a.m.
- 22 BCS Hearing on Fracking in Northern Neck, Warsaw UMC, Warsaw
- 25-26 Clergywomen's Retreat, Va. Crossings Conference Center, Glen Allen

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2018

- 1 Seminary Student Grants & Loans Application deadline
- 1 Clergy Development Application deadline
- 2 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 3 Church Development Team, UM Center 9:30 a.m.
- 4-6 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College
- 6 UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Clergywomen's Collective, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Bishops' Foundation, UM Center, 11:00 a.m.
- 11 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Missional Ministries Board, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 14-19 Virginia Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 17 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Five Talent Academy, Floris UMC, Herndon. Livestreamed at other locations
- 18-19 BMCR Gathering, Atlanta, GA
- 19-20 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon College, 9:00 a.m.
- 25-26 UMW Mission Team & Exec. Comm Meeting, Chestnut Memorial UMC,
Newport News
- 26-28 UMMen Spiritual Advance, Baylake UMC, Virginia Beach
- 27 UMW 46th Annual Meeting, Chestnut Memorial UMC, Newport News
- 27 Folklife Festival, Ferrum College

NOVEMBER 2018

- 2 Ferrum Board of Trustees Meeting, Ferrum College
- 5-6 BCS/UMVIM trip to Holy Land
- 7 VAPAUMCS "Explore Your Connection" event, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, 10 a.m.
- 9-11 Middle School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 9-11 SEJ UMMen meeting, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 10 BCS Hearing on Fracking and Gas Pipelines, Mt. Olivet UMC, Newport
- 13 Ethics 101: Sexual Ethics Training (for newly appointed clergy and
interested church professionals), UM Center
- 13 Preachers' Relief Society Annual Meeting, Eliz. River District Office, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 VUMDHC Annual Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 14 VUMPI, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
- 22-23 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance
- 28 Church Development Team, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Equitable Compensation Commission, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 30-Dec. 2 High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

DECEMBER 2018

- 7 Full and Associate Membership Paper deadline
- 8 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center, Glen Allen, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas observance
- 24-26 UM Center Closed for Christmas observance

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JANUARY 2019

- 1 UM Center closed New Years Day
- 8 Clergywomen's Collective meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Provisional Membership and Certification Paper deadline
- 11-12 Candidacy Summit, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 12 UMW Mission Team Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 19 CEMCA, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 UM Center closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 27-30 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 30 Council on Finance and Administration, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2019

- 1 Deadline for Conference Benevolence Grants
- 1 Calling 21 Intern Application Deadline
- 7 UM Day at the General Assembly, Bon Air UMC, Richmond
- 7-8 Board of Church and Society, UM Center
- 7-9 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 9 Missional Ministries Board, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, Glen Allen, 9:30 a.m.
- 13 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Clergy Retirement Request deadline
- 15 Transfer and Minister of Another Denomination Application deadline
- 15-16 Randolph-Macon College Trustees, Randolph-Macon College, 9 a.m.
- 17-20 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Roslyn Retreat Center, Ric
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 23-26 Called General Conference
- 27 Conference Rules Committee, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- date TBD National Assoc. of UMMen Conference Presidents, Nashville

MARCH 2019

- 4 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 4 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, Glen Allen, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Deadline for *Book of Reports*
- 9 Board of Laity, UM Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Ferrum Board of Trustees, Ferrum College
- 11 Ferrum College Commencement
- 14 CEMCA, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality Meeting, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 VUMPI, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 23 Ethics 101: Sexual Ehtics Training (for newly appointed clergy and interested church professionals), UM Center
- 28 UMW Mission Team Meeting, location TBD
- 29-30 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, location TBD

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

APRIL 2019

- 1 Clergy Development Application deadline
- 9 Clergy Women's Collective, UM Center, Glen Allen, 11:00 a.m.
- 18 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m.
- 19 UM Center closed, Good Friday Observance

MAY 2019

- 2-4 Randolph College Board of Trustees Mtg., Randolph College
- 3-4 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
- 10 Ferrum College Board of Trustees Mtg., Ferrum College
- 11 Ferrum College Commencement, Ferrum College
- 12 Randolph College Commencement
- 23-31 Licensing School, Virginia Wesleyan College
- 24 UM Center Closes at 1 p.m. for Memorial Day Observance
- 27 UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance
- date TBD UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, location TBD

JUNE 2019

- 1 Randolph-Macon College commencement, 10:00 a.m.
- 1 UMW Day at Ferrum College
- 16 Peace with Justice Sunday
- 21 UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Roanoke
- 20-22 Annual Conference, Roanoke

JULY 2019

- 3 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m. for Independence Day observance
- 4 UM Center Closed, Independence Day observance
- 28-30 Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, location TBD

AUGUST 2019

- 1 Deadline for Special/Sustaining Grant applications
- 30 UM Center closes at 1:00 p.m., Labor Day Observance

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 2 UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 9 Conference Trustees, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 13-14 UMW Young Women's Retreat, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
- 19 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 2019

- 3-5 Randolph College Board of Trustees, Randolph College
- 5 UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
- 10 CLDDT, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Missional Ministries Board meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 17 Conference Board Chair Meeting, UM Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 11-12 Randolph-Macon College Trustees Mtg., Randolph-Macon, 9:00 a.m.
- 24-25 UMW Mission Team & Executive Committees, location TBD
- 26 UMW 47th Annual Meeting, location TBD

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2019

- 5-16 BCS Sponsored UMVIM Trip to the Holy Land
- 14 Common Table for Church Vitality, UM Center, Glen Allen, 10:00 a.m.
- 27 UM Center Closes 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance
- 28-29 UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving Observance

DECEMBER 2019

- 23 UM Center Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Observance
- 24-26 UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

- BCS Board of Church and Society
- BMCR Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- CEMCA Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
- CLDDT Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team
- MARCHA Metodistas Representando la Causa de los Hispanos Americanos
- TBD To Be Determined
- UM Center Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen
- UMC United Methodist Church
- UMMen United Methodist Men
- UMVIM United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
- UMW United Methodist Women
- VUMDHC Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation, Inc.
- VUMPI Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.

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ORDER FORM FOR JOURNAL AND DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY

Name _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

2018 DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY ORDERS

One free copy of the *2018 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 *2018 Directory of the Ministry*. Anyone wishing to purchase a directory in addition to what is automatically sent should fill out this form, detach it from the booklet and drop the completed form off at the Virginia United Methodist Communications display at Annual Conference. Or mail it to the Communications Office at: P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA, 23058. Payment is requested at the time of purchase. Make checks payable to: "Virginia Conference United Methodist Church" (earmark for "*2018 Directory of the Ministry*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like _____ copy(ies) of the *2018 Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

Widow/Widower of Clergy: Check here to request a free printed copy of the *2018 Directory of the Ministry*: _____

2018 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The *2018 Journal* will be made available in the following ways:

- Posted on the Virginia Conference website, www.vaumc.org, in pdf format.
- Provided as a printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25. Requests for printed copies must be made by Aug. 1. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.
- Provided as a CD upon request at a cost of \$10. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.

To order a *2018 Journal*, fill out this form, detach it from the booklet and drop the completed form off at the Virginia United Methodist Communications display at Annual Conference. Or mail it to the Communications Office at: P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA, 23058. Make checks payable to: Virginia Conference United Methodist Church (earmark for "*2018 Journal*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like _____ regular-bound printed *2018 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

I would like _____ spiral-bound printed *2018 Journal(s)* at \$25 each (includes shipping).

I would like _____ *2018 Journal(s)* on CD at \$10 each (includes shipping).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION HOURS:

Thursday, June 14: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration
Friday, June 15: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Laity and Clergy Registration
Saturday, June 16: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Laity and Clergy Registration

NEWS MEDIA PHONE NUMBER: (804) 248-1380 (Director of Communications mobile).
No emergency calls can be taken at this number.

PER DIEM: By conference action, retirees, persons receiving their first appointment and selected others (see page 138 of this *Book of Reports* for the list) are authorized to receive reimbursement for expenses to attend Annual Conference. This reimbursement is not to exceed \$170 per night (\$340 maximum reimbursement, receipts required,) and is subject to the limitations of conference approved rates. For retired clergy, vouchers are included in the *Book of Reports* mailing (also available online at www.vaumc.org/AC2018) and should be submitted to the Conference Treasurer's Office with appropriate receipts. The Conference Treasurer encourages all reimbursements to be made by direct deposit. Instructions will be attached to the vouchers to make provisions for direct deposit. Vouchers will not be accepted after July 31st.

MESSAGE BOARD RULES: Persons needing to page someone at the conference must go to the pages' desk. The pages will see that the name of the person being paged is put on the electronic message board. *This message will run twice only; however, they will not be shown during worship or major program presentations.* The individual will be asked to come to the pages' desk for his or her message. If the message is not retrieved from the pages' desk during that session, the message will be placed on a bulletin board at the information booth. The bulletin board will be cleared of unclaimed messages at the end of each day.

BANQUETS: A list of banquets is included with the mailing of this *Book of Reports*. Updates to the list will be available on the conference website at www.vaumc.org/AC2018. Other information may be obtained from the banquet host or from the information desk at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

FOOD SERVICE: The Convention Center Food and Beverage Services will provide several concession stands with menu options that will include items healthy items for snack and meal options as well as a variety of beverages.

CHILDCARE: Childcare at Annual Conference will be provided for children ages 0-12 years old at Wesley UMC, 2510 N Armistead Ave., in Hampton. Registration is now open if you wish to register your child(ren). The deadline for registrations is May 31. Due to safety concerns, we cannot accommodate walk-ins or children over the age of 12. Please access the link www.eiseverywhere.com/330714 for times and costs and to register, and register early as your registration will help us have an appropriate number of childcare staff and ample resources for the weekend. Childcare staff are professionally trained. For questions regarding childcare please contact Evonne Dickey, York River District Administrator, at 757-759- 3476 or YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

WHEELCHAIR SEATING SECTIONS: Each section of seating within and outside the bar of the conference will have wheelchair/scooter-accessible spaces with accessible viewing angles. These spaces will not be marked; however, they will be clearly visible at the ends of rows throughout the Convention Center floor space.