

**Registration Packet**  
**Virginia Youth Retreat**  
**10:00am-5:00pm—Saturday, December 4, 2021**



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## **Event Schedule**

10:00am Registration Opens and Games

10:30am Opening Worship (John 15:1-17, Philippians 2:1-11)

*Make it Matter Together: That a life of real impact is empowered by a Gospel-centered friendship.*

11:30am Small Groups

12:30pm Lunch Group A

12:50pm Lunch Group B

1:30pm Workshops

3:30pm Closing Worship (Luke 16:19-31, Romans 12:9-20)

*Make it Matter - The Christian Way of Life: That a life of real impact is found through living out God's call for our lives.*

5:00pm Depart

## **Event Details**

### **Small Groups**

From 11:30-12:30 your church group will spend some time in reflection on the message and conversation using the small group materials attached in Appendix II. We also encourage you to use this time to explore the campus, have a pool noodle fight, or play some cornhole. The small group time will take 30-45 mins and there is no preparation necessary for youth leaders! These small groups will take place in classrooms in Haley Hall (#41 on the campus map). Your classroom will be labeled with your church's name on it.

### **Lunch**

Lunch will be provided on campus by Randolph-Macon College. We will eat at the Estes Dining Hall (#34 on the campus map). Dining at the college provides a wide array of food options and will cover all allergens and food sensitivities. Lunch will be broken up into two groups. Your church will be assigned Group A or Group B for lunch. This will be confirmed when you check-in on Saturday morning.

### **Workshops**

There will be six, one hour workshops. Youth and adults will have the opportunity to attend two. Three of the workshops will include opportunities for small service projects. When your group check-ins at registration there will be six sign up sheets for your group members to sign up for their workshop. The workshops are:

Souls for Souls and Blessing Bags

Caring for our Elders and Card/Ornament Making

Afghan Refugee Crisis and Stocking Stuffers

Care for Our Creation

Discerning Your Call

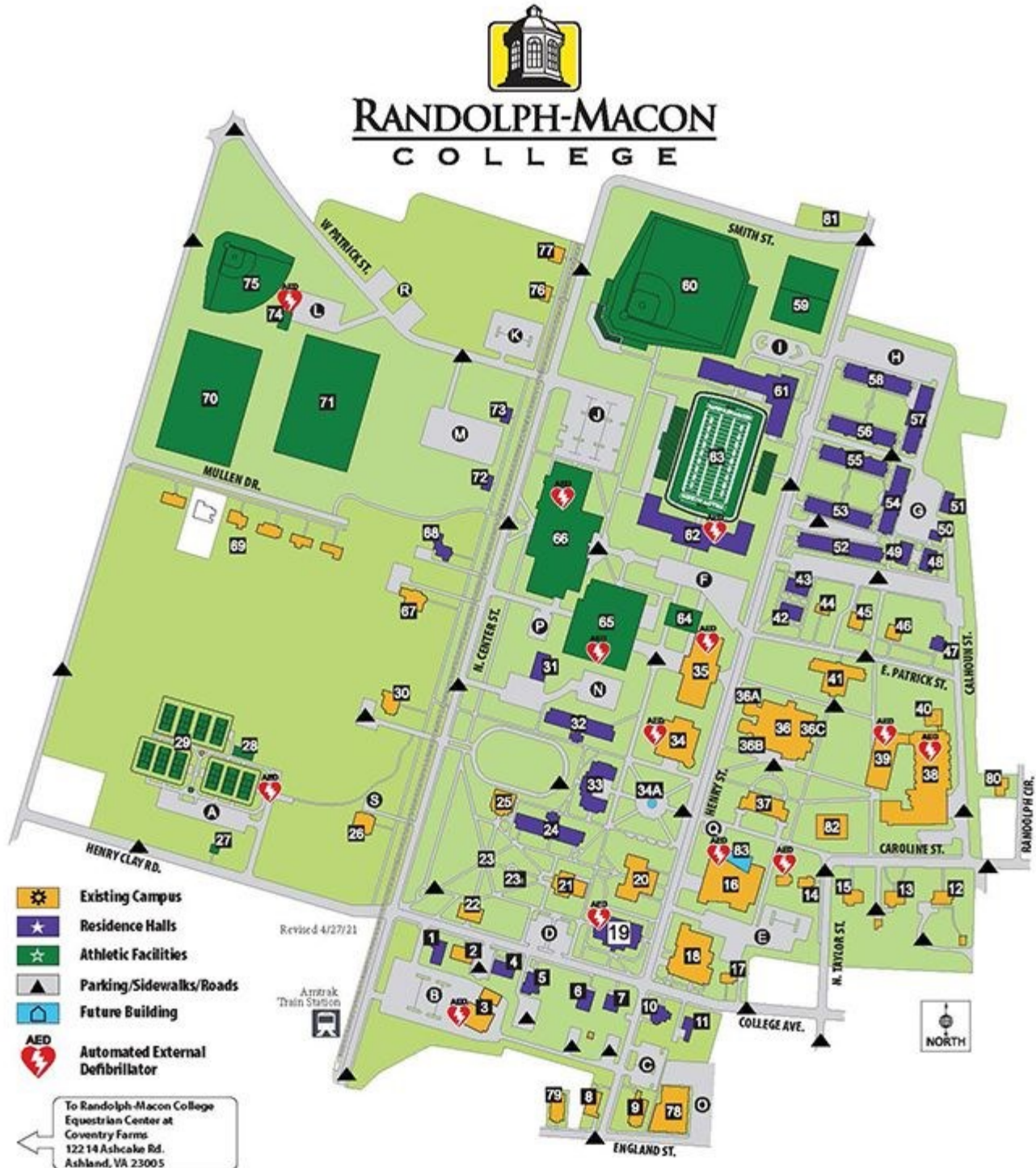
Youth Leadership/CCYM

## Location Breakdown

**Duncan Memorial UMC (#18)** 201 Henry St., Ashland, VA 23005 —  
Parking, Registration, Opening Games, Worship

**Haley Hall (#41)** 205 E. Patrick St. — Small groups and Workshops

**Estes Dining Hall (#35)** 306 Henry St. — Lunch



## **TikTok Challenge 2021**

Join our TikTok challenge! Create your own video with your youth group about our theme "Make it Matter" and use Romans 12:19. The video can be in any style you choose (tutorial or dance, serious or silly). Just use the hashtags, *#makeitmatter #rom1219 #vaumcyouth*. Top videos will be shared after the rally and promoted through VAUMC social media.

## **Guidelines on Local Church Adult Chaperones with The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church**

Each participating chaperone from each local church should ensure that:

- 1) No adult chaperone has been convicted of any illegal conduct involving a minor. It is recommended that each church obtain a national criminal background check on all adult chaperones.
- 2) All adult chaperones have been a member or active constituent of The United Methodist Church for at least six months prior to serving as a chaperone.
- 3) Adults are a minimum of 21 years of age when chaperoning minors.
- 4) All drivers must be over the age of 21 to drive children/youth/at-risk adults. Churches should be aware of and abide by their own individual church insurance policies (whereas some policies require a minimum driving age of 25 and a maximum driving age of 70).
- 5) A minimum of two adults per group are present as chaperones throughout any event.
- 6) Any one-on-one mentoring or consultation between an adult chaperone and a child/youth/at-risk adult is conducted in a room or area that is in plain view of others.
- 7) Adult chaperones receive orientation on the policies and procedures of their local church related to reducing the risk of abuse and the reporting of any such incident.
- 8) We recommend that all participants have completed a signed Waiver and Medical Release.
- 9) The parents and legal guardians of each participant have been informed of the scope and nature of the event or program and its related activities.

Questions about these guidelines should be directed to the Conference program staff member working with the Board/Agency.

Staff Member: Rev. Nickie Moreno Howard  
Phone: 804.521.1139  
E-mail: [learning@vaumc.org](mailto:learning@vaumc.org)

## **Covenant of Conduct**

*(We recommend that all youth leaders review this with their youth before participation in a conference event.)*

During the meetings and events under the sponsorship and guidance of **the Virginia Conference**, I recognize that I am a representative of the Christian Community and I am responsible for my actions. I understand that by signing this Covenant, I agree to abide by the following guidelines:

### **I Will:**

- Recognize that everyone in the group is a part of the body of Christ. I will embrace inclusiveness by making sure that everyone feels welcome and important.
- Respect the physical and emotional well-being of others. This includes refraining from harsh play or violence, refraining from harmful jokes, respecting the need for sleep, etc.
- Respect the health of my own body by refraining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. I understand that the use of these substances is absolutely prohibited.
- Respect the things I use and the property of places I visit. The areas used for all events, including transportation, will be left clean.
- Participate fully in ALL scheduled group activities and abide by additional group guidelines made at the retreat.
- Act appropriately with other participants. This means no couples alone at any time, and no public displays of affection.
- Follow all instructions given by group leaders and chaperones.
- Stay within the group or assigned sub-group at all times. I will not wander off alone or leave the activity site unless granted permission by an adult, and I will report for all designated check-in times.
- Hold safety in the highest regard and refrain from compromising my own safety or another's safety.
- While I will work to provide a safe and trusting environment for my peers, I recognize that if a peer shares concerns about physical or emotional harm to themselves or others I will notify an adult.

### **Guidelines for Consequences:**

Consequences will focus on restoring peace with reconciliation among the parties involved. The goal of resolving each problem will be growth and learning through repentance and forgiveness. Any problems encountered will be handled within the group and by the adult leaders to the extent that this is possible. However, should a situation persist or become uncontrollable, the parent/guardian will be contacted and informed of the problem. Should the situation be urgent, the parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and will be responsible for picking up the youth from an event or providing for his/her transportation home.

## **COVID-19 Protocol**

Participants will abide by all COVID-19 Protocols to include but not limited to:

- Mandatory mask wearing at all group events and activities during the 2021 Youth Rally. Masks will be allowed to be removed while eating.
- Members of your group agree to not attend if they are experiencing or exhibiting any COVID-19 related symptoms as outlined by the Federal and State Center for Disease Control and Prevention such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body ache, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting.
- Please understand that persons may be asked to leave the event should they exhibit behavior in direct contrast to the event guidelines and safety measures.



## **Appendix I—Small Group Materials**

In the following pages we've provided a 30-45 minute small group time. Following the small group time we encourage your group to explore the campus, play games and use this time as free time. If your group has not signed up for workshops, please sign up for workshops before leaving for small groups.

## **Appendix I—Small Group Materials**

In the following pages we've provided a 30-45 minute small group time. Following the small group time we encourage your group to explore the campus, play games and use this time as free time. If your group has not signed up for workshops, please sign up for workshops before leaving for small groups. Materials for your small groups will be located in your classroom. There will be student pages and a hard copy of the leader materials.

## Make it Matter Small Group—The Way of God

**What We Want Students to Learn:** That a life of real impact is empowered by Gospel-centered friendships.

**Scripture:** Supporting Passages: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and John 15:12-14

### Bible Background

*The Bible Background is a focused, brief overview of some of the background info for the main passage you will be teaching.*

#### Ecclesiastes

**Author:** Though there has been considerable debate over Ecclesiastes' authorship over the centuries, the traditional view is that Solomon is its author.

**Time frame:** If Solomon is held to be the author, then dating its writing to Solomon's reign, 971-931 BC, puts it mid-10th century BC.

**Purpose:** The purpose of [Ecclesiastes](#) is to call people to fear God in a world that has abandoned a pursuit of God. When we don't seek God, we despair because there is no wisdom or truth apart from God.

#### John

**Author:** The Gospel of John was written by John the Apostle, son of Zebedee. A fisherman who left his trade to follow Jesus, John also penned the Book of Revelation, as well as the three letters in the New Testament that bear his name.

**Time frame:** The Gospel of John was probably written between 85 and 95 AD. John most likely wrote his gospel in Ephesus before he was exiled to Patmos.

**Purpose:** John's stated purpose for writing this book can be found in John 20:30-31, the last two verses in his gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John's goal seems to have been to communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

#### The Takeaway

The takeaway here is for students to understand that the call to live a life that matters isn't the call to do it alone. God's plan was for His people to come alongside each other and impact the world together. We were never meant to go alone. This session will highlight this truth and call students to embrace this reality.

## Lesson Plan

*The Lesson Plan contains three elements: an introductory activity called Getting Started; the Bible study section called Digging In; and an application-focused segment called Wrapping Up.*

### Getting Started

FIRST, have students turn to page 2 of their handouts. Direct their attention to the questions on the page and say something like this:

*Friends are awesome, aren't they? Take a moment and look at these questions. Think about your best friend or maybe your group of friends. Answer as many of these as you want in the next couple of minutes. Have fun. We're going to share some of our responses when you're done.*

NEXT, allow them time to answer the questions. Remind them they don't have to answer all, and they don't have to share. But once they've had a chance to answer, allow anyone to share a chance to do so. Have fun with this. Let it breathe for a bit. Laugh at funny stories. Respond in shock to the friend who has still not given back the two pairs of lululemon leggings.

Let your group have their moment. The questions are listed here as well as in the book:

*What is the craziest thing you've ever done with a friend?*

*Write down a time when you really needed a friend, and they were there.*

*What is the best gift a friend has ever given you?*

*Write down a time when a friend kept you from making a fool of yourself.*

*What is the most scared you've ever been with a friend?*

*Write down that one thing a friend borrowed from you that they still haven't given back.*

*Write down the best meal you've ever eaten with a friend.*

*Write down the worst meal you've ever eaten with a friend.*

*What is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you with a friend?*

*What is the hardest you've ever laughed with a friend?*

## Lesson Plan Cont'd.

NEXT, when you've had your fun, have a student turn over the page and read the introduction out loud. When they've finished, say something like:

*We're about to read a really cool passage from the apostle Paul where we see the role that friends played in his life and ministry. As we do, I want you to take a step back and think, maybe for the first time, the role that your friends could play in your life of impact. It's a powerful concept. Let's jump in.*

If there are no more comments or questions, transition to the Digging In section of your lesson.

### Digging In

Student Book Pages

This activity will utilize pages 3-4 of their packet.

Read the following verses and discuss them with your group.

*"9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."* - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

#### 1. Overall, what are these verses trying to say?

Answers will vary. But this ancient, Old Testament wisdom literature sums up what Paul knew in the 1st Century and what we know today: life is more meaningful with friends. We are able to make a greater impact when we move forward with likeminded people at our sides.

#### 2. Can you think of some examples of how a 21st century teenager may "fall." What about some examples of how a friend can lift them up when they fall?

Answers will vary. Allow your students time to really consider this question because of how relevant it is to their daily lives.

#### 3. In your own words, what does it mean that "a threefold cord is not quickly broken?"

Answers will vary. But help them understand that the analogy is how strong we are together (a rope made of three strands) as opposed to how weak we can be alone (a rope of one strand).

## Lesson Plan Cont'd.

*Jesus said, 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you." - John 15:12-14*

### **1. How did Jesus love us? Give some examples.**

Answers will vary, but help students see that Jesus' love for us was selfless, sacrificial, trustworthy, honest, and so on.

### **2. What does it look like to love your friends in the same way Jesus loved us?**

Answers will vary. Allow your students to share their responses and to really think about what this looks like in their context.

### **3. You likely will not ever be called to literally give up your own life for your friend's life. But what does it look like to sacrifice your own needs or wants to put others first?**

Answers will vary.

FINALLY, when you've finished, say:

*It should be abundantly clear to us at this point: we were meant to do life alongside friends. We can live a life that matters apart from our friends. But when we link arms with others who are on the same journey as us, we increase our impact. We multiply it. We hold each other accountable. We pick each other up. And let's be honest, we have a lot more fun. Let's wrap up by seeing exactly how we can practically apply this in our lives.*

Ask if anyone has any thoughts or questions, then transition to the Wrapping Up portion of your lesson.

## Lesson Plan Cont'd.

### Wrapping Up

FIRST, explain to students that you're going to take a few minutes and have students think about the role their friends have played in their lives, and specifically, how committed they are to these friends. Start by having students look at the prompt at the top of the last page. Have them take a few minutes and think about the friends who have been helpful to them in living out their faith. Instruct them to write these friends' first names or initials in the space provided. When you've finished, consider asking students to share some examples of how these friends have helped. Then, transition to the next part of this activity.

NEXT, explain that it's easy to be friends. But it takes more to be friends who are committed to living a life of impact together. Instruct students to look at the two additional prompts on the last page. Say something like:

*I want to challenge you as we wrap up our time in this session to consider two specific commitments. The first is that you would be more committed to lifting others up. That you would be an encourager. That you would be someone who can be counted on to pick other people up and help them on their journeys. In the space provided, I want you to take a few minutes to write down what this looks like. How can you do this practically?*

Allow a few minutes for brainstorming, then allow students to share.

THEN, do the same for the second commitment. Say something like:

*Here's the truth: we don't like to tell people we need help. We don't like to look weak or like we don't have it all together. But the truth is that we need to be lifted up in the same way that we need to lift up others. So how do we communicate to others that we need help? What are some ways? Think about that for a second, and then let's share some of your thoughts.*

After giving students time to process and write down their responses, allow some time for discussion. Close by challenging them to commit to being better friends, and to let others be better friends to them. Remind them it's a vital part of living a life that matters.

FINALLY, ask students if they have any questions or additional comments.

If there are no more questions, close in prayer for your group.

## Appendix II

- 1) Adult Liability and Medical Form
- 2) Parent Consent, Liability and Medical Form (for Minors)

\*These are sample forms for your use. We recommend that every local church complete these forms and maintain them for their records annually. While at the Virginia Conference Youth Rally the adult chaperones from each church are responsible for the care and supervision of the youth from their church.

\*The Virginia Conference also recommends that every adult (*anyone over the age of 18, including High School seniors*) be background checked. To access Virginia Conference background check resources you may visit this site: <https://vaumc.org/next-gen-childrens-ministries/>.



# Adult Liability and Medical Form

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

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

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

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Medical insurance carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of insured person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth for insured person: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Insured person's place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic/recurring illness/allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **WAIVER, RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK**

I acknowledge that my participation in Virginia Conference activities is voluntary and may require traveling, or physical exertion. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: outings, athletic games, physical labor, and other physically demanding or hazardous activities. I acknowledge that my participation in a Virginia Conference activity presents risks that I may suffer including, but not limited to, damage to personal property, financial damage, emotional injury, illness, bodily injury, or death. I hereby assume those risks. I waive, release, and discharge the Virginia Conference, its directors, employees, volunteers and agents from any and all claims or demands which may be incurred while involved in youth ministry activities; including but not limited financial losses, damages or theft of personal belongings, and personal injury or death.

Participation in this event may include photography or videography for the purpose of communicating the mission and ministry of the Virginia Conference. By signing below, you are giving the Virginia Conference permission to be included in photos or videos for the reasons stated above.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION**

I authorize the Virginia Conference, or it's designated leaders and volunteers, who will be supervising activities, to consent to emergency care on my behalf. The authority granted by this authorization includes consent to any emergency x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis or treatment and hospital care, to be rendered under the general or special supervision and on the advice of any physician or dentist licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of a licensed hospital or emergency care facility. The undersigned shall be liable and agrees to pay all costs and expenses incurred in connection with such medical and dental services rendered pursuant to this authorization.

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOL AUTHORIZATION**

I will abide by all COVID-19 Protocols to include but not limited to:

- Mandatory mask wearing at all group events and activities during the 2021 Combined Youth Retreat.
- COVID-19 vaccination in full or a negative PCR COVID-19 test 3-5 days prior to the retreat.

I will not attend if I am experiencing or exhibiting any COVID-19 related symptoms as outlined by the Federal and State Center for Disease Control and Prevention such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body ache, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent/Guardian Consent, Liability and Medical Form

## PARTICIPANT BASIC INFORMATION

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

Participant cell phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY CONTACT

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

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

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Medical insurance carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of insured person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth for insured person: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Insured person's place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic/recurring illness/allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The undersigned do(es) hereby give permission for our (my ) child(ren):

\_\_\_\_\_ ("Participant"), to attend and participate in **YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS** sponsored by the **Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church**.

**LIABILITY RELEASE**

In consideration of The Virginia Conference allowing the Participant to participate in children or youth ministry activities, we (I), the undersigned, do hereby release, forever discharge and agree to hold harmless The Virginia Conference, its directors, employees, volunteers and agents (collectively herein the "Church") from any and all liability, claims or demands for accidental personal injury, sickness or death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by the undersigned and the Participant while involved in the children/youth activities. We (I) the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of this Participant hereby grant our (my) permission for the Participant to participate fully in youth ministry activities, including trips away from the church premises.

Furthermore, we (I) [and on behalf of our (my) minor Participant(s)] hereby assume all risk of accidental personal injury, sickness, death, damage and expense as a result of participation in recreation and work activities involved therein.

Further, authorization and permission are hereby given to said Church to furnish any necessary transportation (within the limitations of church insurance and the law), food and lodging for this Participant. The undersigned further hereby agrees to hold harmless and indemnify said Church for any liability sustained by said Church as the result of the negligent, willful or intentional acts of said Participant, including expenses incurred attendant thereto.

Participation in this event may include photography or videography for the purpose of communicating the mission and ministry of the Virginia Conference. By signing below, you are giving the Virginia Conference permission to be included in photos or videos for the reasons stated above.

**MEDICAL TREATMENT PERMISSION**

We (I) authorize an adult, in whose care the minor has been entrusted, to consent to any emergency x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis or treatment and hospital care, to be rendered to the minor under the general or special supervision and on the advice of any physician or dentist licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of a licensed hospital or emergency care facility. The undersigned shall be liable and agree(s) to pay all costs and expenses incurred in connection with such medical and dental services rendered to the aforementioned child or youth pursuant to this authorization.

**EARLY RETURN HOME POLICY**

Should it be necessary for our (my) child or youth to return home due to medical reasons, disciplinary action or otherwise, the undersigned shall assume all transportation costs and responsibility.

**TRANSPORTATION PERMISSION**

The undersigned does also hereby give permission for our (my) youth to ride in any vehicle driven by an approved ADULT chaperone while attending and participating in activities sponsored by **The Virginia Conference**. My child/youth and I understand that SEAT BELTS SHALL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES during transportation.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_