

## VIII. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

## COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference met several times since the 2021 Annual Conference. We welcomed two new members and addressed numerous questions and issues presented to us from the Cabinet, other boards and committees. We have reviewed the Virginia Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, and this year's proposed amendments and the rationale for each amendment follow:

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

**Rule 1.A.: Rule I.B.3.m and I.B.3.n :** Strike the words “young person” as referenced in these subsections and in its place insert the words “youth” and “young adult” as appropriate for the referenced age groups. As amended, these subsections would read:

- m. one youth between the ages of 12 and 18 and one young adult between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected as set forth in 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.4;
- n. one additional youth between the ages of 12 and 18 and one additional young adult between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries or equivalent body.

**Rationale:** It was brought to our attention that the use of “young person” was repetitive and, perhaps, confusing given the different age categories covered. Our committee concurred with this assessment and further noted that the *Book of Discipline* at the cited paragraph uses the clarifying terms “youth” and “young adult.”

**Rule I.B.3:** beginning at “And by annual conference formula ...” to end – reorganize the end section of this rule for clarity. Move current Rule I.B.x and insert it in the opening clause of Rule I.B.3 so that it reads, “Lay Membership. The lay membership of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* in ¶ 602.4, and consist of the following (or designated alternate), if lay persons:”

Then, reorganize the remainder of current Rule I.B.u to I.B.w. As amended, the end of this section would read:

- u. conference scouting coordinator
- v. the president or chairperson of the following annual conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Missional Ministries Board; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; and Virginia Conference Board of Communications and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.
- w. And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference (¶ 32, 2016 *Book of Discipline*), additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding annual conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the Bishop by September 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.

**Rationale:** To be clear, with this proposed reorganization, the Rules Committee has not removed any categories of lay membership from this section of our Standing Rules. It was felt that clarity was needed after several past amendments and additions were simply added to the end of this rule. As a result, we believe it is best to move existing Rule I.B.x to the opening paragraph of this rule as it is a defining requirement for all text that follows regarding lay membership. Next, the statement, “And by annual conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference (¶ 32, 2016 *Book of Discipline*), the following: ...” should not be a standalone statement but belongs with the text that is currently at Rule I.B.3.v regarding additional lay members in order to ensure the proper conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership.

**Rule I.B.5.a.i and I.B.5.a.ii:** Strike the word “young persons” and in its place insert the words “youth” and “young adult” as appropriate for the referenced age groups. As amended, these subsections would read:

- i. two youth between the ages of 12 and 18;
- ii. two young adults between the ages of 18 and 30;

**Rationale:** This change is recommended for the same reasons as noted in the rationale for changes to Rule I.B.3.m and I.B.3.n, above.

**Rule V.B.4.e:** Strike from the sentence concerning ex officio members the words “an additional District Superintendent” from the roll as such a member.

**Rationale:** After conferring with the leadership of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries it was agreed that the one “Liaison District Superintendent” was sufficient for this ex officio role.

**Rule V.C.14:** In the first sentence strike the text “ ... this has been ... “ as unnecessary. In the second sentence, insert after “*Book of Discipline*”, the following cite (2016 BOD ¶635.2). Revise the third sentence to include new text as underlined, “The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have no more than sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop, (2016 BOD ¶635.1a) in consultation with the Board Chair and Cabinet, and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. Insert a new fourth sentence as follows: “The Board shall elect from its membership officers deemed necessary to fulfill its duties (2016 BOD ¶635 1c).” In the next sentence, after the word “serve” insert “as members of” and continue the sentence. Revise the next sentence to strike the word “should” and include new text as underlined, “If during the course of the quadrennium a district loses its representation on the Board, an additional person shall be appointed ad interim to the Board by the bishop in consultation with the Board Chair and the Cabinet, ensuring inclusive representation from each district. Add the following concluding sentence, “ Ad interim members will be voted on at the next annual conference.”

As amended, Rule V.C.14 would read: Ordained Ministry – The Board of Ordained Ministry in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches in preparing and aiding persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ as historically understood by United Methodism. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall perform all the duties and functions as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* (2016 BOD ¶635.2) and shall be directly amenable to the annual conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have no more than sixty-seven (67) persons nominated by the bishop, (2016 BOD ¶635.1a) in consultation with the Board Chair and Cabinet, and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. The Board shall elect from its membership officers deemed necessary to fulfill its duties (2016 BOD ¶635 1c). The annual conference registrar and at least one District Superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve as members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. At least one person from each district shall be included on the Board. If during the course of the quadrennium a district loses its representation on the Board, an additional person shall be appointed ad interim to the Board by the bishop in consultation with the Board Chair and the Cabinet, ensuring inclusive representation from each district. Ad interim members will be voted on at the next annual conference.

**Rationale:** The Board of Ordained Ministry requested these changes in order to provide clarity to this rule.

**Rule V.C.20:** In the second sentence strike “one representative” and insert “up to two representatives.” As amended, this sentence would read “The membership shall consist of up to two representatives from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference.”

**Rationale:** The Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the Church requested this change to allow more flexibility in its membership.

**Rule VI.B:** Pertaining to the term of the district lay leader, strike the phrase “for a term of not less than four years and not more than six years” and replace it with “to serve a four-year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms.” As amended, this sentence would read: “Members of the district conference shall elect the district lay leader (¶660.2) to serve a four-year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms.”

**Rationale:** It was brought to our attention by the conference lay leader that this term of service in our Standing Rules is inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Board of Laity regarding terms of service for district lay leaders. It was agreed that this inadvertent oversight has likely been in place since action of the 2012 General Conference when that body changed the term

of service of the conference lay leader from a three-year term to a four-year term. The Virginia Conference's terms of service for district lay leaders mirrors the term of the conference lay leader. While the length of possible service of the conference lay leader was changed in our Standing Rules at Rule V.B.4.f, there was no change made to the statement of election and service of the district lay leaders at Rule VI.B to reflect the change from a three-year to four-year term. This recommended change addresses this inconsistency.

–Scott Diamond, Chair

## CABINET REPORT

### Alexandria

The Alexandria District continues to partner with and equip local churches as they seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The first half of the year we focused on a smooth transition for clergy and laity to a new District Superintendent while the second half of the year we focused on how to create a new, agile, visionary district out of the Alexandria and Arlington District. The Board of Missions offered Digital Evangelism grants to encourage experimentation and innovation in reaching and engaging new people online and the Do No Harm Initiative was rolled out focusing on issues around Race, Culture and Ethnicity.

### Arlington

The Arlington District continues to partner with and equip local churches as they seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Arlington District Trustees have worked tirelessly to assist local churches who decided to close and to assist with the sale of District property. The Board of Missions offered Digital Evangelism grants to encourage experimentation and innovation in reaching and engaging new people online and the Do No Harm Initiative was rolled out focusing on issues around Race, Culture and Ethnicity.

#### *District Initiative*

A team made up of leaders from both the Alexandria and Arlington Districts have spent the last year listening to our laity and clergy about their needs from the District and from that work, they have created something new - The Northern Virginia District. After years of partnering with each other, the area that encompasses the two Districts will now form one brand new District, with the same vision - to partner with and equip the local churches of The Northern Virginia District as they seek to make disciples and transform the world. This new district will have a totally new structure built around three key areas—Administration, Strategy, and Leadership Development. You will see some new staff around to help with this as well—a District Director of Operations, and a team of two Administrators (both of whom are already in place!). We will also be innovating in each of the four geographic regions of the new district with a new position— District Connectors —elders who will be helping with communication, chaplaincy, and connecting to district resources.

### Danville

The churches of the Danville District continue to faithfully serve their communities even amidst the challenges of the pandemic. Examples of this commitment are found throughout the district, including at the Henry Fork Service Center as staff continues its work to provide excellent care in a Christian setting, in ways that safeguard the health of the children, staff and community; the partnership at Redwood with Lake Christian Ministries to offer a warming shelter for Franklin County, along with the partnership of churches supporting the warming shelter in Martinsville/Henry County. The Danville District churches are blessed to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ in our communities.

### Lynchburg

Lynchburg District churches have continued their deep caring commitment to those on the margins throughout this challenging time of pandemic. Parkview Community Mission provides life-saving, life-transforming ministry that engages the churches of our district in both financial and hands-on support. Church and community partnerships are at work to bring food, housing, clothing and care to our neighbors, sharing the love of Christ in all that we do.

#### *District Initiative*

Our districts have and will continue to be blessed as we work together on the “new wineskin” that God is creating through the District Initiative. Our Bi-District Lightning team, comprised of 6 laity and clergy leaders from each district and our district staff set about prayerful discernment, discussion and design centered on the overarching purpose for district initiative: *To create a framework for the new district that would best support and resource our churches and communities to share the love of Christ in real, tangible and transformative ways.* We worked together from October 26 through December 7, sharing about each district, clarifying our contexts,

and discovering the pathway forward for our new Mountain View District (pending Annual Conference approval of 8 districts). The purpose of the Mountain View District is to *joyfully bringing people and gifts together to see all as neighbors and share God's abundant love in tangible and transformative ways*. We look forward to the design continuing as we structure to support and resource local churches (laity and clergy) to share the love of Christ in tangible and transformative ways with their community, by building relationships, seeing and caring for the needs of our neighbors, both near and far.

## Eastern Shore

The Eastern Shore District has been blessed by the shared ministry of clergy and laity amid ongoing multilayered challenges. In partnership with other districts, several churches participated in various learning opportunities including virtual district trainings, Ministry in a Digital Age, Both/And: Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences for in-person and online engagement, and How to Launch a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative. During the Charge Conference season, people celebrated God's faithfulness in their personal life and congregational life by sharing stories in various forms of art. To God be the glory!

## Elizabeth River

The Elizabeth River District was deeply grateful for clergy and laity who embraced challenges and opportunities presented in various forms and committed to the call that God has placed in their life. Ongoing focused trainings offered them encouragement and resources to address their personal needs and to stay engaged in ministry to make disciples: virtual district trainings, Ministry in a Digital Age, Both/And: Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences for in-person and online engagement, Post-Pandemic Church, Anxiety as Opportunity (for Clergy), Healing Past and Present Trauma (Clergy webinar), and How to Launch a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative. In life together with Jesus the Christ, we bear witness on God's unfailing love. Great is God's faithfulness!

### *District Initiative*

The District Initiative Team (DIT), composed of seven clergy, seven laity, and the District Superintendent of the Eastern Shore and Elizabeth River Districts, proposes to create a new district from the current two districts to increase missional opportunities in making disciples of Jesus Christ. A major concern raised from district-wide conversations is how the new district might foster a sense of cohesion when separated through the middle by a 17.6-mile barrier, and solutions under consideration include investments in technology that will facilitate hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, hosting of broadcast events at centralized locations, etc. Recognizing that local United Methodist churches are on the front lines of making disciples, reaching out to all with the love of Jesus Christ, the newly created district will equip, empower, and bridge our Christian faith communities. Significant focus will be placed on initiatives of Lay Servant development and on Children and Youth Ministries. The proposed structure of the new district includes a new District Board of Ministries to oversee a new Board of Laity along with the other various ministries across the region; also newly created are two part-time district staff to further resource clergy and laity, and to increase vitality in mission and ministry of local churches.

## Harrisonburg

Mission Central is a ministry of the Harrisonburg District that provides clothing, diapers and medical supplies to those in need in the community. The ministry continues to grow as well as the need. We also have a partnership with Just Neighbors, providing legal assistance to those who qualify in adjusting their immigration status. In addition, since last year, the District moved from a Council of Ministries to a Common Table format, and now making the transition to a Simplified Accountable Structure. May we continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Winchester

We have a partnership with Just Neighbors, providing legal assistance to those who qualify in adjusting their immigration status. During the winter months, several churches participated with the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter, which provides a safe, temporary, overnight, cold-weather shelter for the homeless, in addition two of our churches also provided shelter during the summer months by providing a place to stay cool. May we continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

### *District Initiative*

In the Fall of 2021, the Harrisonburg and Winchester Districts created a Workteam of 10 individuals plus the District Superintendent, which included clergy and laity, with equal representation from both districts, to create a plan for the District Initiative. The Workteam invited both Districts to be in intentional fasting and prayer as The Workteam met several times in open meetings for anyone to attend and offer feedback and suggestions. It came up with the Shenandoah River District that is alive in Christ through ministries of connection, empowerment and transformation. In the plan, the Workteam came up with an Administrative Board and a Discipleship Board to take care of the work and ministry of the Shenandoah River District. A new position was identified that will assist, especially small and mid-size churches to develop plans to offer streaming worship services, the use of Zoom, internet access, etc. May God continue to lead us as we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Farmville

The churches of the Farmville District have been able to maintain worship, ministry and mission outreach in many ways throughout the past Conference year in spite of the ever-changing pandemic. Most all churches have determined safe procedures to hold worship, meetings and other ministry gatherings. Food pantry ministries have been started or expanded in almost every corner of the District and there is a sense of renewal in most of our churches/charges that are revealed through increased giving, ministry renewal and worship gatherings.

## James River

The churches of the James River District have been resilient in offering ministry in many different forms: worship, mission and outreach during the pandemic. We celebrate the work of The Gathering in Petersburg as it began its new journey in ministry. Food pantry ministries, care packages, backpack ministries in schools and other outreach continues in local churches and within the various geographical “branches” where community needs are being met with grace and hope.

### *District Initiative*

The Living Waters District name is based on how water is prevalent throughout this district and flows into, and out of, every county - and like the living waters that flow into us all through faith in Jesus, we too are called to “flow out” into our community and world sharing the love and grace of Christ. The Living Waters District Initiative team has been meeting regularly to identify and design ways these two districts will be in ministry together that will empower geographically connected local churches to be “the church in ministry, mission and worship together” in their communities where lives are changed, needs are addressed and met and new revival emerges! The 15 geographic groups of churches in this new district will be known as “streams” that will have clergy and lay leadership working side-by-side together in their communities. There is a self-identified call for revival, and a need for renewed teaching of how to be disciples in each community so that the church can live into our Conference Vision to be Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world who are life-long learners who influence others to serve.

## Rappahannock River District

The irony about the unavoidable disruptions of everyday life due to COVID-19 is that it created opportunities to be connected and remain committed to the Spiritual disciplines. Even though the year was plagued by one of the greatest challenges (the pandemic), 2021 will be remembered as a year that offered some of the greatest opportunities to worship and be in a relationship. Overall, there is an excitement and eagerness from pastors and laity alike about getting back to a “normal” in-person worship.

## York River District

Our churches were hit hard with the pandemic, but pastors spent numerous hours providing pastoral care and wonderful worship experiences. Even though they were tired, they were committed to servant leadership, while the laity offered adaptive, innovative, and creative support. One noticeable factor is that we continue to be excited about the increase in the number of online worshippers. God is working in disguise because a new way of doing church has emerged and has birthed wonderful opportunities. We now have new ways of reaching the unchurched through various platforms.

### *District Initiative*

Our goal is to create a new district that is infused by the Holy Spirit and empowered by our laity and clergy in a shared ministry context. The laity must return as a major catalyst in this future endeavor through fervent prayer, support, partnership, collaboration, and innovation, that enrich our methods, ministry, and mission. The capacity and bandwidth to handle a steady flow of conversation with divergent opinions, theological and biblical persuasions, is an understatement, and are gifts to the Rappahannock and York River Districts in particular, and to the Virginia Annual Conference in general. Our proposed new district will be one that reconnects our communities to our churches, promote collaborative learning and training opportunities through the well-established Lay Servant Ministries program to BETTER prepare us as followers of Jesus Christ that lead others to Him.

## Richmond

The Richmond District has been working together to bring revitalization and new expressions of faith to our churches that faithfully serve their communities. We have strategically implemented coaching for simplified accountable structure, break through prayer, shift, NLI, and other revitalization tools. We have also begun the work of Fresh Expressions both in teaching and implementation.

## Charlottesville

In 2021 Charlottesville District said farewell to our beloved DS Rev. Danny Kesner and his wife Barbara and welcomed our new DS



Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee and his wife Kay. Since then, we have been working closely in the Richmond District in offering training for clergy and ministry resources for local churches. In doing so, we continue to be focused on providing Christ and Christ's love to the world needing hope and healing.

#### *District Initiative*

Charlottesville and Richmond District came together and worked on new ways of doing ministry. To be nimble and relevant to the needs of our local church and community, first, we plan on simplifying our district-level administrative committees. This simplification will free us to engage in actual ministry and mission on the ground rather than sitting at many meetings. Second, we plan on exploring collaborative ways of doing ministry by piloting cluster groups. The cluster groups will learn together, support one another, and pray and execute ministry together in their local churches and communities to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

### **Staunton**

In 2021, the Staunton District bid farewell to our District Superintendent, the Rev. Jay Carey, as well as Beth Christian, our Director of Congregational Vitality. However, we welcomed our new DS, the Rev. Douglas Forrester and our new Director of Congregational Excellence, the Rev. Dr. Dale White. Doug and Dale have spent the last year forming relationships with our staff, our congregations' laity and their clergy, all while seeking to build upon all of the wonderful existing work done before their arrival.

### **Roanoke**

The Roanoke District continued its work forming "lifelong learners who influence others to serve" through working with the Staunton District to develop bi-district ministries, such as our bi-district training with Bishop William H. Willimon as our keynote speaker, and creating bi-district communications plans and ministries, including a new website for both districts and new ways to be present on social media. All of this has transpired while learning new ways of working as we share our district superintendent with the Staunton District and realigning our district staff with the retirement of our office assistant, Jan Failes.

#### *District Initiative*

And yet, no reflection on the last Conference year would be complete without celebrating the work of our District Initiative workgroups. These two teams have done exciting work envisioning what a new Valley Ridge district could look like, one that encompasses what is now the Roanoke and Staunton District. We have met, made plans, debated great ideas, asked good questions, and thought in great depth about all ministry can be in our unique context at the western edge of our Conference. We have also partnered with Kay Kotan and the Rev. Blake Bradford to design a new simplified structure for our new district, one that balances administrative tasks with visioning and thinking strategically about the work of our 144 congregations. All in all, we celebrate all that has come before us, give thanks for all God is doing in our midst today, and look to the future with eager anticipation for all God will do in and through us in the years to come.

*–Rev. Denise P. Bates, Dean*

**RECOMMENDATION:** In order to create a framework for the new districts that would best support and resource our churches and communities to share the love of Christ in real, tangible and transformative ways; and, to address the need for nimble and efficient district structures that faithfully resource and support the ministry and mission of the laity and clergy through their local churches, to and in their community context, the Cabinet makes the following recommendation:  
That there be 8 districts beginning July 1, 2022.

## **SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

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

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

<b>Roanoke</b>	<b>June 15-17, 2023</b>
<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 20-22, 2024</b>

The Site Selection Committee recommends the 2025 Virginia Annual Conference be held in:

<b>Roanoke</b>	<b>June 12-14, 2025</b>
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The Committee, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Annual Conference meeting planner, continues to review other locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. For your reference, we have the following requirements in evaluating potential Annual Conference sites:

- ❖ Venue to accommodate 3,500 people
- ❖ 1,500 hotel rooms in the area
- ❖ Headquarters hotel in close proximity to Conference site
- ❖ 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 2025 Virginia Annual Conference be held at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, VA, June 12-14, 2025.

*-Neal E. Wise, Site Selection Committee*

## EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The Equitable Compensation Commission continues to provide financial aid to those churches requiring supplementation to strengthen their ministries in the communities in which they are located and to provide minimum salary or salary supplementation for the pastors. Equitable Compensation support in the amount of \$172,133 was provided to 28 charges in 2021. A schedule of salary supplementation appropriations for 2021 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the Journal.

There were 13 charges receiving salary support in 2020 that did not require salary support in 2021. These are Asbury Church Hill (Richmond), Brucetown (Winchester), Cedar Grove (Winchester), Christ Chincoteague (Eastern Shore), Colonial Beach (Rappahannock River), Essex King & Queen (Rappahannock River), Evangelical Elkton (Harrisonburg), Fairview-New Bethel Cooperative Parish (Lynchburg), Grace Memorial (James River), Mead Memorial (Lynchburg), Monumental (James River), Philadelphia (James River), and Rising Hope (Alexandria). 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 2023 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 2023 is \$66,344, which is an increase of 0.5% percent from 2022. The Commission recommends the Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2023 be approved as outlined below:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1.	<b>The Minimum Compensation Schedule: 2023 Proposed 2022 Approved</b>	
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$45,000	\$42,000
b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$40,500	\$38,500
c. Local Pastors	\$38,000	\$36,000
2.	<b>The Floor Schedule:</b>	
a. Full Connection Pastors	\$30,000	\$28,000

b. Provisional and Associate Members	\$27,000	\$25,600
c. Local Pastors	\$35,000	\$24,000

The Equitable Compensation Financial Report for 2020-2021 is provided below:

### EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year Ending 2020	Year Ending 2021
Apportioned	250,000	200,000
Uncollected Apportionment	(29,920)	(42,200)
<b>Apportionment Income</b>	<b>220,080</b>	<b>157,800</b>
<i>Percent Collected</i>	<i>88.03%</i>	<i>78.90%</i>
Grants	163,652	172,133
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>163,652</b>	<b>172,133</b>
<b>Receipts Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>56,429</b>	<b>(14,333)</b>

-Rev. Tom Durrance, Chair

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

### Section I: Reports

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

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

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference (VAUMC) established and incorporated the Virginia Methodist Pensions, Incorporation, (subsequently renamed on February 2, 1971 to Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., or “VUMPI,”) as its conference board of pension.

VUMPI, in conjunction with Wespath, develops and administers the numerous employee pension and benefit plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference. Some plans are employer-paid, while others are voluntary and 100 percent participant-paid:

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

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

#### ■ Report 2: Virginia Conference-Sponsored Health Plans

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



**Active Clergy Health Plans**

Health plans recommended to be made available in 2023 are unchanged from the plans offered in 2022. Health plans available to clergy serving in full time appointments in the Virginia Conference include the following:

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

A fourth PPO health plan with a \$500 deductible, which is made available only to clergy on medical leave with CPP disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy, will continue to be offered in 2023 with no plan design changes.

The vision plan will continue to be offered in 2023, with no changes in the plan design.

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI will also continue to be offered in 2023 with no plan design changes.

The majority of the cost of the health plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

**Retired Clergy Health Plans**

VUMPI administers health plans for eligible retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. The eligibility requirements include a minimum of ten years of full time ministry in either Virginia Conference church appointments or Extension Ministry appointments with enrollment in the Conference-sponsored health plans.

Plans made available to eligible retirees are coordinated with Medicare eligibility. Specific plans for retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare and the program for Medicare-eligible clergy are described below:

**Conference-sponsored health plan for pre-Medicare-eligible retirees:** retirees who are eligible to enroll in the Conference-sponsored retired clergy health plan but who are not yet eligible to enroll in Medicare may enroll in the self funded PPO Core or PPO Buy-Up plans administered by VUMPI. Pre-Medicare-eligible retirees may also enroll in the self funded dental insurance program and the fully insured vision program made available to active clergy. The majority of the cost of the health plans made available to Virginia Conference clergy is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

**Conference-sponsored health plan for Medicare-eligible retirees:** retirees who are eligible to enroll in the Conference-sponsored retired clergy health plan and who are also enrolled in Medicare have two options for retiree medical coverage.

The first option is the Group Plan, which is a group Medicare Advantage plan created specifically for Virginia Conference retirees. The Group Plan integrates the retiree's Medicare benefit and includes prescription drug coverage. The majority of the cost of the Group Plan is funded through a Conference apportionment, as described in Recommendation 1. The remainder of the cost of the plans is funded by participant contributions, as described in Recommendation 2.

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

**■ Report 3: Pension Plan Structure**

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

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

Wespath refers to plans A – C above as defined benefit ("DB") pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member

of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement. Hence, the term “defined benefit.” Defined benefit plans do not maintain participant account balances since the employer, or in our case, Wespath, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

Simultaneous to Wespath calculating each participant’s defined benefit, it calculates each annual conference’s cost to provide these defined benefits. Wespath bills each annual conference the amount due. Each annual conference, or in our case, VUMPI, then bills our local churches for the cost of these plans.

In addition to these defined benefit plans, annual conferences provide their clergy pension benefits from the CRSP-DC, a defined contribution (“DC”) plan. Each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference serves and receives pension credit, the Virginia Conference determines how much pension contribution each clergy participant will receive in his/her pension account. VUMPI bills local churches for the required amount of pension contribution, then makes monthly contributions into the clergy CRSP-DC accounts.

#### ■ Report 4: Welfare Plans Structure

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

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plan Provision	Clergy Who Retired Before Jan. 1, 2013	Clergy Who Retire Jan. 1, 2013 or Later
Death of retired participant	30% of DAC in the year of death	\$20,808
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in the year of death	\$15,606
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in the year of death	\$10,404
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in the year of death	\$8,323
Annual surviving child benefit, payable in 12 monthly installments	10% of DAC	10% of DAC
Annual surviving child educational benefit, payable in installments	20% of DAC	20% of DAC

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

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

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

### Gift Benefit

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

### ■ Report 5: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by Wespath, the DAC is projected to increase from 2022 to 2023 as follows:

Denominational Average Compensation	
2022	2023
\$75,570	\$76,221



## Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

### ■ Recommendation 1: 2023 Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations

For 2023, VUMPI recommends total Clergy Benefits Apportionments of \$16,000,000. This represents no change from the 2022 clergy benefits apportionments. The total benefits apportionment amount includes funding for the Active Clergy Health Plan (which includes health care coverage for eligible clergy on medical leave and widowed spouses of active clergy) and the Retired Clergy Health Plan. The apportionment total is allocated between these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2023	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 10,000,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
<b>TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 16,000,000</b>

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

VUMPI makes the Conference-sponsored health plans available to clergy serving in Conference-related extension ministries that do not pay apportionments. For clergy appointed to such extension ministries who are enrolled in the health plans in 2023, VUMPI will bill the Conference Health Plan Fee. The amount billed will be \$988 per month for each enrolled clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2023 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

### ■ Recommendation 2: 2023 Health Plan Participant Contribution Recommendations

In administering the Conference-sponsored self-insured health plans, an element of VUMPI's strategy is to maintain plans that are similar to national average employer-sponsored health plans. In addition, VUMPI recommends participant contributions that are similar, as a percentage of the total health plan cost, to national employer-sponsored plan averages. As overall health care costs tend to increase each year, and as the actual cost trends among each of the health plans can change year-to-year, VUMPI periodically recommends changes in the recommended participant contributions. For 2023, VUMPI is recommending no change in the participant contributions the Conference-sponsored health plans.

Following are the 2023 participant contribution recommendations for the Conference-sponsored health plans:

#### Active Clergy:

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

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

#### Clergy on Voluntary Leave, Sabbatical, or Retired Under ¶358.2.a (With Twenty Years of Service) or ¶358.3 (Prior to Age 62 With Fewer Than Thirty Years of Service):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Group Plan Option:** The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2023 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 2023 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

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

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

### **General Virginia Conference Health Plan Information**

For participants enrolled in the Anthem health plans, either as active clergy or as a retiree not yet eligible for Medicare, 2023 health plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2022. If an eligible clergyperson does not elect coverage options during the annual open enrollment period, the default enrollment option is the prior year’s plan selections (except for Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Spending Account contributions), and enrollees will be subject to the associated individual personal contribution rates.

If not selected during the open enrollment period, no Flexible Spending Account contributions can be made during 2023, in accordance with federal laws.

All who are eligible to enroll in a Virginia Conference health plan are strongly encouraged to participate in online open enrollment in the fall of 2022. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

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

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

### **■ Recommendation 3: 2023 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate**

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

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

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR each year. For 2023, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$585 to \$600.

### **■ Recommendation 4: 2023 CRSP/PPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations**

#### **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)**

The 2023 CRSP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under

episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

- For the Defined Contribution component of CRSP: Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service), times 3%.
- For the Defined Benefit component of CRSP: Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to 135% of the Denominational Average Compensation (“DAC”)) times 9%

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

### **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**

The 2023 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage factor, up to 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation) times 4.4%.

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

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

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

### **■ Recommendation 5: 2023 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 Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 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 Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath 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.

## COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

This past Conference year has been an active and fruitful season for the Common Table for Church Vitality. Our Annual Conference Standing Rules state our charge, *“The Common Table for Church Vitality (“Common Table”) exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance.”* (Rule V.A)

We continue to do all that we can, in the power of the Holy Spirit and through the grace of God, to fulfill the objectives of this bold Godly purpose.

**To that end, the Common Table spent a significant amount of time in the last conference year working on:**

**1....our continued spiritual formation and organizational refinement as a team.** Our meetings are full of creative energy, a willingness to speak the truth in a positive spirit of love, and a yearning for the fulfillment of God’s realm on earth through ministry on behalf of the Annual Conference. We are thankful to Bishop Sharma D. Lewis for her ongoing presence with, and episcopal guidance to, the Common Table as we endeavor to incarnationally embody the vision of the Virginia Annual Conference within all God’s children *“to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.”*

**2....resourcing.** Through a variety of communications and other channels, technical and strategic resources are provided to Boards, Agencies, and the larger body of the Virginia Annual Conference through our Connectional Ministries staff and other partners in ministry. Such resourcing is shaped by resources ranging from the economic (such as \$240,000 in grant funding) to the relational (expressions of learning, influencing, and serving).

**3....being nimble and calibrating for effective ministry systems that address new realities.** The Common Table is acutely aware that the combined consequences of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the current denominational strife surrounding questions around full inclusion of persons in the LGBTQ community are creating significant levels of ministry disorientation within our conference and denomination. Often our conversations and decisions are undergirded by a desire to honor a set of axioms often attributed to John Wesley, *“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, so long as ever you can.”*

**4....seeking fundamental ways to effectively serve the holistic needs of the clergy, laity, and churches of the Virginia Annual Conference in collaborative ways with all ministry partners.**

We are especially thankful for the entire 13-member Connectional Ministries staff who serve under the leadership umbrella of the Common Table. Our Connectional Ministries staff are hardworking faithful servants of Christ. They seek to work with passion, efficiency, and excellence without sacrificing the relational joy of what it means to be on a journey together on the same path. We lament the coming retirements of Brenda Capen, Bryan Compton, and Bev Myers, but we also rejoice that their ministries will be expressed in new ways in retirement; they have served the Virginia Annual Conference a combined total of more than 81 years! Please join Common Table in expressing thanks to them.

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

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **On behalf of the Missional Ministries Board:**

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

#### **On behalf of the Board of Discipleship:**

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

*The following reports, from page 57 to page 92, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality.*

## BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

*The United Methodist Book of Discipline* (1629) specifies the purpose of the Conference Board of Church and Society. The Conference Board is to help the conference, districts and congregations employ our Social Principles to connect our faith communities to the world around us. This work is both individual and societal. We are called to invite faithful disciples of Christ to lead the church prayerfully into the world.

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

The following also need to be addressed these three interconnected disasters, we have organized three work areas: Peace and Non-Violence, Caretakers of God's Creation, and Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries.

After the 2020 self-evaluation on our relevance in the conference, we concluded that we were not as relevant as we had been in the past. So, we have intentionally started seeking ways to include ways of listening to the needs of the conference. By teaming up with other groups that are involved in the same mission we are we can do a better job in advocating for our basic principles.

### **Peace with Justice Sunday:**

The Conference Board promotes the Peace with Justice Sunday Special Offering, one of the six church-wide offerings that The United Methodist General Conference asks of each local church. In 2020, because of the pandemic, we did not do well with our churches giving to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2021 total will show more churches taking the offering. One half of the offering stays in the annual conference, the other half is used by the General Board.

### **Caretakers of God's Creation:**

- ❖ The Board's Caretakers of God's Creation developed a partnership with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light to help educate and provide advocacy opportunities to the Annual Conference in support of climate and environmental justice efforts
- ❖ Revised the Green Church Initiative to GCI 3.0 <https://doc.vaumc.org/ChurchSociety/GreenChurchInitiative.pdf>
- ❖ Prompted the Green Church Initiative and recognized Monumental UMC, Portsmouth for the Green Church Award <https://youtu.be/B0w0ueZLQZY>
- ❖ Virginian Methodist also participated in learning and networking opportunities with the UMC Creation Justice Movements UMC Annual Conference Organizing Workshops. <https://umcreationjustice.org/annual-conference-organizing-workshops/>

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

Blessed are the peacemakers. The Peace & Non-Violence (PNV) work group supports the Virginia Conference and its congregations in learning about and acting to foster peace in our world and address the causes and impacts of violence. Activities include raising awareness and providing learning resources, advocating for legislation and public policies, and PNV-related initiatives across the Conference. In 2021, we supported the end of the death penalty in Virginia, advocated for equitable support of immigrants and refugees, advocated for the end of predatory payday lending, and supported an initiative for compassionate care of veterans and their families dealing with the impacts of PTSD. In 2022, the PNV work group is continuing advocacy for immigrants and refugees, including support of the VAUMC response to assisting Afghan allies being resettled in Virginia. The work group is exploring new focus areas, especially as international tensions and the threat of war increase, as Taliban leadership in Afghanistan heighten oppression of women, and as black history and diversity/equity/inclusion programs are being challenged in our state. We encourage others to join us in this important work.

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

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

We are also exploring opportunities to partner with groups that are focused on poverty in our communities.

### **United Methodist Day at the General Assembly:**

This year was the 30th anniversary of United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. We partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy to hold the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Each year, United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is held on the first Thursday in February. We hold this event jointly with the United Methodist Women and the Conference Legislative Network. With emphasis this year on ending solitary confinement and a bill to better utilize refugee talent to strengthen our education system. We look forward to Bishop Lewis helping to lead the event in future years.

– James Page, Clergy Co-Chair

## THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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

During the Annual Conference of 2008 members voted to begin 250 new faith communities in 30 years. While we are not on track to establish 250 new faith communities by 2036, to date we have begun 56, and two new communities will launch July 1, 2022. Of these 73 percent are still open. This is above the overall denominational average. Additionally, 25 of these are ethnic new faith communities that have a robust record of vitality and growth in the Virginia Conference.

For the next Annual Conference year, the two new faith communities planned are: multisites from Sydenstricker and Ghana Wesley. This will be Ghana Wesley's second multisite.

I want to thank the talented and gifted clergy and laity who serve on CDT. Their experiences and passion for church development will continue to bear fruit in the Virginia Conference. Additionally, I want to thank our Conference staff person, Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influence Ministries. Dwayne's abilities, passion and creative thinking continues to serve CDT well. Finally, I want to thank all the local churches in the Conference. Apportionments paid through the sacrifices of local United Methodists provides the funding that makes great things happen with Church Development in Virginia.

– David J. Bonney, Chair

## THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

The pandemic helped create dramatic changes in communications and related technology needs for local churches. In 2021 the Board of Communications conducted an updated communications survey to help us better understand the areas that are most important and most challenging for local churches in the Virginia Conference. The survey revealed that the three most challenging areas are live streaming, video production, and social media.

To help equip local churches, the board created several how-to guides on key topics identified in the communications survey. The guides are part of the helpful communications resources available on the conference website at [VAUMC.org/digitalhub](http://VAUMC.org/digitalhub).

To help further equip local churches, the board developed a virtual training day focused on digital communications ministry in March 2022. We invested the majority of our board's budget to cover the expenses so the training could be provided free of charge. We selected Phil Bowdle as the keynote speaker. Phil is a leading national voice in the area of church communications and author of "Rethink Communication: A Playbook to Clarify and Communicate Everything in Your Church." The training included breakout sessions on building a social media plan and moving from reactive to proactive communications.

We will utilize feedback from the March training event to help develop our plans for the coming year. The board is committed to identifying additional ways we can equip local churches to continue to improve their communications ministries.

– Jill W. Gaynor, President

## BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Board of Discipleship desires to be a resource for all congregations of the conference to become better at making disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This challenge may be met as each congregation identifies their discipleship system.

For the last two years the Discipleship Ministries Operational Team (a sub-team of the Board of Discipleship) has been on a journey that has been first and foremost a relational journey. Zooming together for over 8 hours per month the team has been busy discovering new directions, as well as, a renewed purpose for the Board of Discipleship. Together this team grew in relationship with God and with each other by:

- ❖ Building trust and developing a covenant
- ❖ Engaging in Spiritual Formation
- ❖ And spending time in worship.

Our Operational Team began the journey with studying works by Patrick Lencioni on organizational health. We explored our context (the "where are we now – really") through three lenses: 3rd Place Visits (observing how other organizations work), Virginia Conference Demographics, Internal/External Factors related directly to the Board of Discipleship.

In so doing, we unearthed the following discoveries:

1. Observed from 3rd Place Visits



- a. Relational, walk-along-side leadership development models seem to work better than teacher/student.
  - b. Developing multiple levels of engagement so that new leaders could “level-up” as they go.
  - c. Creating space for relationship building in the context of leadership development is important.
  - d. And clarity of “pathways” helps leaders know what to look forward to.
2. By examining our demographics
    - a. A large number of small churches demand unique solutions and resources.
    - b. High, and rising, number of Licensed Local Pastors offers challenge and opportunities for resourcing and development in the area of disciple making.
    - c. And different cultural contexts have differing resource needs.
  3. By studying our Internal and External factors that have bearing upon the work of the Board of Discipleship
    - a. Currently our resources/programs are not sought out by leaders
    - b. Re-districting offers new opportunity to engage with district developers and lay leaders
    - c. Potential UMC split creates enormous distractions away from the mission
    - d. 70%+ of Virginians are Christians. We believe lack of participation signals a gap in discipleship. Our own churches are a mission field
    - e. Our churches are, generally speaking, not making DLIS’s [Disciples who are Life-ling learners Influencing others to Serve.]
    - f. There is a “new program phobia” among local church leaders. If it smells like a new program, they run!

After we had completed our findings, we then began to define the problem by identifying the roots of outcomes. The chart on the next page best illustrates the process we took in defining those problems:

Root 1	Root 2	Root 3	Outcome
We don't have firm sense of identity in Christ	Communities aren't being transformed	Well-worn, easier paths	We are not forming DLISs
Leaders are not engaged in relational accountability	Systems are unhealthy	Major in the minors	Gifted and called leaders who have not been disciplined
Leaders personally disengaged from disciple making	We don't "have" to change	Internal congregation conflicts	Members, not disciples
Leaders missing out on fullness of Christ-led life	Low trust among leaders to handle big questions that require vulnerability		Content, not formation

Upon our completion of naming the problems we then proceeded to discern a vision; a vision that would include, but not be limited to, the following points of clarity:

1. A realization that we are part of the problem.
2. A vision that supports the conference vision.
3. A vision that supports the board's overall purpose.
4. The Board would be charged with the responsibility of communicating the vision.

By September of 2021 we had given birth to the vision: ***“Deeply formed spiritual leaders, in community, holding each other accountable for spiritual and missional growth.”***

What is a deeply formed spiritual leader?

- ❖ Deeply formed spiritual leaders are both clergy and laity.
- ❖ Deeply formed spiritual leaders can be identified by the people in each congregation with questions like: Who do you call to pray with you, if the pastor is not available? When you have a question about Scripture, who do you call, if the pastor is not available? There may be many names given in responses.
- ❖ Deeply formed spiritual leaders are experienced in facing adversity with faith as well as doubts.
- ❖ Deeply formed spiritual leaders understand that we wrestle with principalities and powers,
- ❖ Deeply formed spiritual leaders regularly practice the Wesleyan Means of Grace.

Our work was not yet complete. Once the vision had been planted within our hearts the Board of Discipleship chose to use a garden metaphor as an organizational health model based on the Parable of the Sower found in the Gospels. The Operational Team; as well as a newly created team, called the Educational Team; has been working with this metaphor, in order to create an understandable framework for developing disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve. Even though much work remains to be done our metaphor looks something like this:

***Sow, Grow, Show!***

***The goal is a fruitful garden - disciples of Jesus Christ making disciples.***

- ❖ Tending the Garden
- ❖ Balancing the Garden Soil
- ❖ Growing the Garden
- ❖ Nourishing the Garden
- ❖ Maintaining the Garden

Coaches are available to work with churches as they learn how to navigate from a membership focus to a discipleship focus. Along with the three Denman awards, the Board of Discipleship endorses candidates for the work of evangelism in the United Methodist Church. The General Conference of the UMC offers the One Church Matters Award to each annual conference in recognition of a congregation's turn around success in growth, professions of faith and fruitfulness. We want to remember that the One Church Matters award celebrates the effectiveness a congregation's intentional discipleship system. We work closely with the Office of Bishop by facilitating conference wide activities like the Bishop's Convocation of Prayer. Members of the Board continually work with the Conference Staff and Cabinet in the area of Learning.

I want to thank all the team members for their time and willingness to share their gifts in our work. It has been my honor to serve as Chair this year as we focus on being disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve.

– Kathy Bennett Gochenour, Chair

## Older Adult Council

Twenty twenty-one presented the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, especially impacting older adults in difficult and harmful ways. Isolation, separation from church families, and decreased accessibility to medical, community and spiritual support contributed to declines in mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health for all ages, but especially those advanced in years. The pandemic required the Council to change how we serve both older adults and those, who serve them. The physical restrictions of the pandemic foreclosed our ability to have in-person gatherings such as regional Olde Time Revivals and the interdenominational Faithful Aging Conferences cosponsored with the Beard Center on Aging at the University of Lynchburg. Instead, we utilized technology to provide education and training for ministry. Sacred Circle Dance, a multigenerational instruction program continued by Zoom. With the assistance of Conference staff and again with the use of Zoom, we were able to offer our first recorded worship service for Older Adult Recognition Sunday and to make that service available for any Sunday through the Conference website. We provided for the first time a video on Grief Ministry, which is available for local churches to encourage outreach to those, who are grieving whether from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or relationship, the loss of the church and community as we have known it, or any of the myriad of losses experienced over a lifetime. The Council continues the efforts to raise awareness of the enormous negative impact of ageism within our churches and the world at large. We encourage and promote the "Dementia Friendly" program for our churches and communities through which people can receive training and certification on how best to welcome those afflicted with dementia-related problems and those who provide care.

There is no retirement from Discipleship. For this reason, the Council continues its efforts to make our contribution to the Conference website an effective resource for ministry to, for, by and with older adults.

–Suzanne Spencer, Chair

## CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

*"Engaging, Connecting and Equipping Clergy and Laity of the Virginia Conference for God's mission."*

The Missional Ministries Board is living into our new structure with three subcommittees: Missional Discipleship and Engagement, Missional Connection, and Partnerships of Hope. It is our hope to connect more effectively at the District level by having a designated person in each District whose role is to communicate missional needs to the MMB and Office of Serving Ministries AND to share missional discipleship opportunities to churches across their district. Reports from our areas of ministry follow:

## Partnerships of Hope

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! As I write this, I give thanks to God for the continuing commitment of the Virginia Annual Conference to the initiative we took some years ago to be in partnership with those who serve our neighbors in faraway places. The relationships we have developed and maintained over the years have blessed thousands of men, women and especially children in Mozambique, Brazil, Cambodia, and at home with our Native American brothers and sisters. This work continues to bear great fruit and draws people to Christ.

As we reported last year, our engagement with our friends around the world has been greatly impeded by the constrictions of the pandemic. Mission teams have had to be cancelled. Efforts on the ground have been hampered because of quarantining. That notwithstanding, our work has continued.

This year we have supported the efforts of enhancing church leadership through undergirding the teaching of pastors in Mozambique; we have enabled women in Cambodia to develop means of self-sustaining through leadership development and training; children at risk are being protected, educated, and served through the Brazilian Shade and Fresh Water program; and our Native American friends had an outstanding virtual “Nitapewak” (FRIENDS) Family Camp.

Of course, we acknowledge that there are great needs across the globe. We also acknowledge that COVID restrictions currently prohibit our being able to send mission teams to those places. But we rejoice in the fact that through partnership with the church in those places, we can make a difference. This year, the Partnerships of Hope group is recommending and placing before the Annual Conference the request to add two more partners: Haiti and Viet Nam. We for years have been engaged in mission with Haiti, and their needs have escalated due to the recent catastrophe. We also have engaged in mission opportunities with the Methodist Church of Korea in reaching out to young adult populations in Viet Nam. And that, perhaps, is the appeal of this annual report. In this day of declining revenues, the thing that is needed more than anything else is the transformation of lives into fuller discipleship. And I know of nothing more transformative than meeting Jesus as we serve others. The relationships developed, the satisfaction of helping the kingdom come into fuller view, the extension of generosity, the extending and receipt of hospitality fostered by missional engagement may indeed be the place that invites a disbelieving world into life-saving relationships with Christ.

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

In closing, the Partnerships of Hope committee would like to thank you for partnering with Christ in this endeavor. We also thank our conference staff person, Rev. Seungsoo ‘RJ’ Jun for his great work and constant encouragement. Partner with us, my Friends, as we go beyond borders and boundaries in becoming learners and influencers, serving our brothers and sisters around the globe.

—Clarence Brown, Chair

## Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team has spent the majority of the year upgrading and maintaining Disaster Response and Recovery Equipment. The Conference Disaster Response Team (CDRT) did provide logistical support to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) with the deployment of our 30’ Shower and Laundry Unit 2 to Blackstone VA during the re-settlement of Afghan refugees. There were not any deployments of ERT Teams in support of disaster response missions. This is of concern in that our ERT Teams are needed to support other conferences, through our UMC connection, in their time of need. As pandemic restrictions decrease I hope and pray that our wonderful, dedicated and trained ERT personnel will once again feel comfortable in answering God’s call to serve. Early Response Team Training has once again started. We have the ability to provide basic ERT and recertification classes via zoom or in person. Churches desiring this training should contact the CDRC Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz at [vacdrt1@gmail.com](mailto:vacdrt1@gmail.com). Our 6 UMCOR certified ERT Trainers are up to date on their certifications and are all chomping at the bit to get back into a training cycle once it is safe to do so.

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

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

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

—Bob Pihlcrantz, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

## Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

There were no formally declared UMVIM teams from Virginia during the first three quarters of 2021. At least four small construction teams (3-4 people each) traveled to Guatemala and Honduras during the winter of 2021-22, along with one full medical mission team in March 2022.

2021 became a period of preparing for teams to return to the field. Our first focus was training and recertification of team leaders.

In Summer 2021, all five Team Leader Trainers from the VAUMC participated in 3 weekends of online “Train the Trainer” event hosted by the Jurisdictional UMVIM Directors. Each participant took a section of our team leader manual and made a video or power point presentation online.

Team Leader Training events were held:

July 31, 2021 Williamsburg UMC

March 12, 2022 Harmony UMC, Hamilton

April 2, 2022 St. John’s UMC, Buena Vista

June 4, 2022 Ebenezer UMC, Stafford

There has been a massive surge in interest since the western Kentucky tornadoes of December 2021. Several construction teams are organizing for Kentucky and North Carolina this summer. An event is the planning stages for a training class in Glen Allen, to focus specifically on international mission. Any district or charge interested in hosting an UMVIM Team Leader Training event should contact Terri Morgan at [tlynmorgan@icloud.com](mailto:tlynmorgan@icloud.com) or (757) 902-2967.

## Mission Itineration

Missionaries sent out by Global Ministries “from everywhere to everywhere” thrive in Covenant relationships with congregations and individuals. Whereas generally a missionary would visit their supporting congregations every three years, with the limitations in travel from the global pandemic, Global Ministries have provided #StillInMission virtual visits every month. In these programs, a selection of 4 missionaries share with participants about how God’s mission is expressed in their site: their joys, needs and prayers. Most of these virtual contacts have been recorded and can be viewed to continue to build relationships between missionaries and congregations.

Some of the missionaries that participated in #StillInMission in 2021 that are related to churches in the Virginia Conference are: Andrew Lee (serving in Cambodia), Helen Camarce (Cambodia), Elizabeth “Lisa” Nichols (Jubilee Project, TN), Tendai Manyeza (Sierra Leone) and others. John Elmore (Chile) will be completing his term of service with Global Ministries in 2022. Scheduled presenters in 2022 are John Nday (Mozambique) on June 2 at noon, and Jennifer Moore (North Macedonia) on Nov. 3. Watch conference notices for the registration links to these presentations.

You can view most of these missionaries’ videos at the Global Ministries Vimeo Channel: <https://vimeo.com/gbgm>

The Serving Office can help a congregation initiate or renew a missionary Covenant Relationship which helps build understanding of the role of missionaries in God’s mission across the globe. The benefit of a Missionary Covenant is not only to provide financial support for Global Ministry Missionaries, but also to grow a church’s partnership in God’s mission with individual missionaries by sharing prayer concerns, increasing mutual communication, and perhaps enabling visitation of mission sites. <https://umcmission.org/covenantrelationships/>

## Mission Encounter

Mission Encounter prepares United Methodists for faithful living and action by participating in a transformative educational program based on biblically grounded curricula in order to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world—locally and globally. Mission Encounter lives out the Virginia Conference vision, “to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.” This conference annual event is supported by the VA Conference United Methodist Women and the VA Conference Office on Serving. It is provided for the laity and clergy throughout the conference. Until 2016, it was the Conference School of Mission and was usually held at Blackstone Assembly Center.

For 2022-2023, there are two virtual events with the theme being Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy, a study of Luke 13, curriculum provided by the National United Methodist Women. Eight adult classes are offered in English, Korean and Spanish. Through the Serving Office, there are an additional three classes: Serving 101, Caring Communities and Doing Theology are being offer. CEU credits are given for fulfillment of course requirements for Clergy, Lay Servant participants and other conference leaders requiring credit. A youth course, Community in the Midst of Changing Times and a children’s course, The Growing Tree, both based on Luke 13 will be offered in the spring of 2023. These courses promote learning through intergenerational practice to reinforce respect, individual competences, a more inclusive society and active citizenship.

In Luke 13:18, Jesus said, “How Can I picture God’s kingdom for you?” (The Message) Studying and worshipping together, taking communion together, leads us as Virginia United Methodists to better view the Kingdom of God.

–Phyllis Geoghegan, Dean for the VA Conference Mission Encounter 2022-2023

**Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP)**

The Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) reviewed no applications for full time mission service during the past year. CCMP is seeking communication of a wider audience of folks who may wish to consider full time mission service in cooperation with the needs of the General Board of Global Ministries.

**ADVANCE SPECIALS**

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

**INTERNATIONAL****Africa**

Umcor Sustainable Agriculture And Development - #982188  
 Mozambique: Chicuque Rural Hospital - #09734A  
 Mozambique: Bungane Secondary School And Women's Training Center - #3021656  
 Sierra Leone KISSY GENERAL HOSPITAL #14536A  
 Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center - #14377A

**Latin America**

Brazil: Shade And Freshwater - #11580a  
 Brazil: John Wesley Medical Boat - #14753a  
 Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat - #07629a  
 Guatemala: Mission Guatemala - #3019214  
 Haiti: Education Program - #3021649

**Southeast Asia**

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

**NATIONAL**

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

**VIRGINIA****Children Outreach**

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

**Immigration**

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

**Community Outreach**



Alexandria: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) - #5043

Elizabeth River: Wesley Community Service Center <https://sites.google.com/view/wesleyportsmouthva/home> - #5025

Richmond: Belmont Community Resource Services [www.bcrsva.org](http://www.bcrsva.org) - #5039

James River: Pathways [www.pathways-va.org](http://www.pathways-va.org) - #5045

Farmville: Journey Community Center [www.jccenter.org](http://www.jccenter.org) - #5009

Embrace -- A Center for Community [embracewaynesboro.org](http://embracewaynesboro.org) - #5034

### Disability

Virginia: Heart Havens [www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org) - #6442

Camp Rainbow <https://vaumc.org/crc/> #6443

### Prison Ministry

All God's Children's Camp [www.vaumc.org/agcc/](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc/) #5301

Hope Beyond Bars <https://hopebeyondthebars.org/> #5040

### Disaster

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

**Retired Clergy Housing Corporation:** <https://vaumc.org/retired-clergy-housing/> - #5030

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

### New Virginia United Methodist Advance Specials

Virginia UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) - Funding local church UMVIM team trips

[www.vaumc.org/umvim](http://www.vaumc.org/umvim)

The Open Table - Creating a group and friends to assist individuals to overcome poverty [www.theopentable.org](http://www.theopentable.org)

## PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

### Heart Havens

Heart Havens continues its mission of empowering people with a developmental disability to live and thrive in their community. This year we continued to follow CDC guidelines and found ways to successfully empower people to live their best life.

We continue to operate group homes across the Conference. This past year, we contracted for many upgrades in our homes including two new roofs and three new floors. We also started a robust volunteer program, holding a day for each home in the spring and fall. Many UMCs, some neighbors and a few companies participated. With this work, our homes have a new shine inside and out! This program will be carried forward and we already have some commitments planned.

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

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

*–Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer*

### Pinnacle Living

As the last two years of living through a pandemic have altered the programs and outreach of local churches, Pinnacle Living has faced the same changing landscape. COVID-19 has brought many changes to operations, but one priority that will not change is our commitment to meeting the shifting needs of older adults through innovation and mission-driven services.

Residents and team members of our five communities have navigated another year of living and working with the pandemic with resilience. Team members have worked diligently to offer excellent support considering ever-changing federal and state guidance related to variants of the coronavirus and global workforce challenges. Hermitage Community Guild and other volunteers have provided hours of service, engaging with residents and team members in creative and inventive ways given restrictions for onsite activities and visitation. We are especially grateful for the dedication of volunteers from local United Methodist churches.

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

- ❖ We were honored to be recognized as the 1st Place Recipient of the Large Company 2021 Best Place to Work Award in the Richmond Region. Given by the Richmond Times Dispatch Top Workplaces program, this award for our Richmond communities – Cedarfield and Hermitage Richmond - along with the Innsbrook corporate office was especially meaningful following the stress our team has been under due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Pinnacle Living entered a joint venture agreement with LifeSpire of Virginia, formerly Virginia Baptist Homes, Inc., to provide home health and other support services. through Senior Living Partners of Virginia, LLC (SLP). The newly formed

organization will allow both organizations to formally collaborate and expand their mission-focused growth to serve those who currently do not reside inside the walls of a retirement community. The home health company, operating as Affirmation Home Health, is initially providing home health services in the greater Richmond area and will be expanding to Newport News and Williamsburg soon.

- ❖ Our communities (residents, community volunteers, team members) in partnership with seventy-eight local organizations continued to do amazing work which impacted the broader community. From recording books for a local elementary school to collecting food for area food banks and pantries, from hosting neighborhood events on the lawn to packing UMCOR kits, our residents and team members positively impacted citizens of all ages in their localities.
- ❖ Efforts continue to enhance support for those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias through partnership with Dementia Friendly Community efforts, Dementia Friends Virginia, and the Alzheimer's Association.
- ❖ Pinnacle Living is committed to offering opportunities for education and training in professional and vocational fields of all levels related to aging services and health care leadership. These workforce and leadership development initiatives are purposeful: to meet both current needs and to secure the future of aging services. On-site internships and training, partnerships with local higher education programs, and our Pinnacle Scholars program which provides scholarship assistance for team member continuing education and training are examples of this commitment.
- ❖ Emphasis continues to be placed on respecting and honoring diversity. Each community named three Ambassadors to serve on an organization-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Team. The Team is tasked with helping to further develop our DEI programming and education at each community.

The generosity of churches and individual donors has been overwhelming amid the pandemic. Individual gifts, bequests and other ways of giving have provided support for the Samaritan Program, resident engagement, and community-specific initiatives. We offer our deepest appreciation to all the local churches that included the Samaritan Program in your second mile giving. This benevolent assistance has been offered in Pinnacle Living communities since the organization was founded in 1948. The following Samaritan Award Churches were recognized for the highest level of giving among congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference during FY2021.

- ❖ Trinity (Richmond District)
- ❖ Fairfax (Alexandria)
- ❖ Markham (Winchester)
- ❖ Fairmount (Richmond)
- ❖ Walker Chapel (Arlington)
- ❖ Rocky Mount (Danville)
- ❖ Clarendon (Arlington)
- ❖ Gainesboro (Winchester)
- ❖ Westover Hills (Richmond)
- ❖ Annandale (Arlington)

Thank you to all the local churches that maintain connections with our residents, volunteer to make our communities stronger and continue to support the Samaritan Program. As we look to the future, Pinnacle Living is enthusiastic about new, market-driven opportunities to continue to enrich life's journey for older adults. We look forward to our work together as relational partners in the mission outreach of the Virginia Conference.

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

## UMFS - United Methodist Family Services of Virginia

In 2021, UMFS continued to live out our mission as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. We serve children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges through foster and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and residential treatment programs. In 2021 we served 1,912 children and teens. We strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 8,710 high-risk children and family members in 132 communities across Virginia.

Since our founding in 1900, the churches of the Virginia Conference have partnered with us as advocates for high-risk children and families. Churches help recruit and support foster and adoptive families, serve as volunteers in UMFS programs, provide much-needed financial support, and donate countless gifts-in-kind. Church partners and the UMFS Auxiliary are critical resources

for the children and families we serve.

We continue to invest to upgrade our facilities and technologies to build capacity for our programs to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities today. The Be a Champion Capital Campaign is our first comprehensive effort to revitalize our 33-acre Richmond campus since the 1950s. We are funding this project through charitable gifts, a long-term land lease on the front of our property, and internal refinancing and debt reduction.

We are excited to share that Phase 1 of the Be a Champion Capital Campaign was concluded in December 2021 with the completion of the new UMFS Child & Family Healing Center building. This beautiful new facility serves youth ages 11 - 18 who are struggling with acute mental health challenges. Youth from across Virginia live on our campus for 3 - 18 months while participating in customized therapeutic treatment to help them heal. This state-of-the-art facility provides many meaningful upgrades to both the living space and therapy space. Each child has a private room which includes a private bathroom. Group and family therapy spaces are dramatically expanded, and all spaces have modern, soothing décor.

We will break ground on Phase 2 of the campaign in spring 2022 to build an expansion for the UMFS Charterhouse School building. The addition includes 10 new classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen for our new dining program and a recreational therapy room for students. We are grateful for the generous support of the Be a Champion Campaign donors who have helped make this possible.

In April 2021, Greg Peters retired as President and CEO after 40 years of service. I am grateful to Greg for his leadership. It is an honor and a privilege to have been appointed by the Board as the new President and CEO, after 15 years of service to the agency. The values of UMFS mirror my own, and I look forward to building on the firm foundation Greg created for us.

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

– Nancy Toscano, President and CEO

## Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

The Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation (“VUMHDC”) is an affiliated entity with the Virginia Annual Conference, having a mission to expand the supply of affordable housing to the disabled, low-income and senior populations in Virginia. VAUMHDC has an annual goal of developing, renovating, partnering in, and/or refinancing at least one new facility a year.

VUMHDC currently owns and operates sixteen (16) apartment properties and is the non-profit minority partner of an additional seventeen (17) properties. Totaling these 33 properties, VUMHDC has approximately 2000 apartment units across the conference. These apartment properties serve over 3000 residents, equally mixed between seniors and families. All of the apartments are classified as “affordable”, meaning that all receive some form of subsidization through HUD or Virginia Housing.

Since our founding in 1975, VUMHDC’s program has been accomplished without operating support or allocations from the Virginia Annual Conference. Our projects and operating costs are funded entirely through governmental grants, low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), community partnerships, and income/distributions from our project operations.

VUMHDC is led by President Larry Dickenson, a lay member of Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. He is assisted by the corporate officers making up the Executive Committee, and the other eight (8) Directors.

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

During the period 2018-2021 we completed a series of transactions, including renovations, & expansions of existing properties and sale of targeted assets. Those transactions significantly strengthened our balance sheet, preparing VUMHDC for the next stage in its evolution. In 2021, we received approval from the IRS for our affiliated entity, Momentum Housing Corp, a 501.C (3) non-profit, enabling us to receive donations of property and/or contributions and extend a tax deduction to the donors. We also initiated a series of eleven transactions to refinance and renovate much of our portfolio over the next five (5) years. We see our best years are still ahead of us!

– Larry Dickenson, President

## Wesley Housing

Wesley Housing’s vision is that everyone in the greater Washington, DC region has a safe, quality, affordable home, serving as a foundation to thrive, and has a place of value in the community. This guides our mission of building up the lives of our most vulnerable community members by creating and operating healthy, inclusive, stable, affordable housing communities and providing supportive resident services. For nearly five decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 22 properties (3,300+ residents) in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Falls Church, Fairfax County, and the District. We also manage nine Community Resource/Support Service Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease, and those with disabilities to regain their dignity and

renew their lives.

### Real Estate Development

Wesley Housing is continuing to deliver our mission by building up our community:

- ❖ Knightsbridge Apartments (37 units, Arlington, VA) completed renovations in June 2021.
- ❖ Cedar Street Apartments (30 units, Washington, DC) completed renovations in November 2021.

By fall 2022, 367 new affordable units, housing an estimated 1,000 new residents, will be coming online, and two existing communities totaling 124 units, will complete renovation.

#### **New Construction:**

- ❖ The Arden (126 units, Alexandria [Fairfax County], VA) – mixed-use, multifamily housing which will also be home to Wesley Housing’s new office headquarters
- ❖ The Cadence (97 units, Arlington, VA) – multifamily housing
- ❖ The Waypoint (81 units, Alexandria, VA) – multifamily housing
- ❖ Senseny Place (63 units, Winchester, VA) – senior housing

#### **Renovation:**

- ❖ Whitefield Commons (68 units, Arlington, VA) – multifamily housing
- ❖ The Hampshire (56 units, Washington, DC) – multifamily housing

Additionally, our real estate team has nearly 900 affordable units in its development pipeline to be produced by 2025, including new construction and renovations. Recent pipeline updates include:

- ❖ In January 2022, Wesley Housing acquired Parc Square Apartments (66 units, Alexandria, VA). In the short term, Wesley will take immediate steps to address life safety issues and improve habitability for existing residents. In the long term, Wesley plans to redevelop the property, as well as properties owned by Community Lodgings.
- ❖ In February 2022, the Alexandria City Council voted in favor of The Planning Commission’s proposal to rezone three parcels of land to develop ParcView II (200 units, Alexandria, VA), Wesley Housing’s proposed redevelopment of its existing ParcView Apartments. The community engagement process continues.
- ❖ Quarry Station Seniors Apartments (80 units, Manassas, VA) is expected to close and begin renovations in spring 2022.
- ❖ 1 Hawaii Ave (70 units, Washington, DC) is expected to close and begin renovations in fall 2022.

### Resident Services

- ❖ Housing Stability Initiative: In 2021, more than 800 of our residents experienced an instability that caused uncertainty in their future. 2,244 eviction prevention referrals were received due to households’ non-payment of rent (between 156 to 282 households monthly, many duplicated each month). 100% found payment solutions and maintained housing, regardless of eviction moratoria. 250 individuals participated in workforce development activities (job skills classes, one-on-one coaching) and attained new job skills. 37 residents secured new or more gainful employment, while others continue to work on their career plans. 365 families (700+ residents) received material assistance such as food and hygiene items, and nearly 400 residents participated in health and wellness offerings, including on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- ❖ Seasonal Campaigns: In response to increasing need and with the help of community partners, our resident services team implemented priority programs in the areas of housing stability, job stability, and material assistance. Additionally, 400 K-12 students received new backpacks filled with supplies through our annual school supply drive (Supplies for Success), 365 households/727 individuals received food assistance boxes during the holy season of Ramadan through our partnership with Islamic Relief USA, and more than 600 residents received holiday assistance through our annual Holiday Help campaign, to name a few.

### Organization and Administrative

Wesley Housing was recently recognized for the following awards: 2021 – Top 50 Affordable Housing Developers of 2020 by Affordable Housing Finance magazine; Novogradac Journal of Tax Credits Development of Distinction Award for the preservation of Culpepper Garden I; 2022 – National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) Communities of Quality® National Awards Program Exemplary Family Development for the renovation of historic Knightsbridge Apartments; Arlington County COVID-19 Hero Award Recipient.

– Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO

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

I continue to be amazed at the resilience of our campus ministers, chaplains, and students in what have been 2 years of insurmountable challenge. It goes without saying that campus restrictions affected student morale, but it would be a mistake to overlook the many other lamentable matters that have taken place during this time; many of our campus buildings have had damage due to flooding, students have been increasingly in need of resources surrounding mental health, several of our ministries have been the targets of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, some have lost board members to COVID-19 and students to tragedy, others have experienced gun violence, and the sins of racism and white supremacy continue to permeate in various facets of student life and academia.

And yet, there is never a more opportune time to celebrate God's faithfulness as these ministries continue to be vessels for justice and prophetic witness in response to the powers and principalities of this world. Our students have brought the community together through vigils, prayer walks, daily encouragement, and community action. They have launched mentor programs, support groups to speak to the various needs of our students, partnered with local schools, participated in ministry with Afghan refugees, and supported on-campus efforts to meet students who are living with food insecurity. Beyond our regular allocation of salary and property grants contingent upon the fruit-bearing work of our ministries, we have also begun reimagining the nature of local church partnerships as we reignite the work of our local boards.

At the start of the year, our board voted to honor the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Justin Allen for his ministry with the students at Shenandoah University, presenting him with the Francis Asbury Award, given to individuals who have contributed significantly to higher education ministry. We additionally made the exciting decision to reinstate funding to United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University as it continues to rebuild and renew under the leadership of Rev. Michael Burnett.

It is no secret that our denomination is in a precarious position with all that is ahead of us, but I believe this liminal space is an invitation to reshape what I have perceived to be a narrative surrounding campus ministry as simply a "youth group" for young adults. Our Conference has the responsibility to change that story! We are a Conference that places tremendous support, both financially and formationally, toward our campus ministries. If you were to survey our Annual Conference body, you would witness just how many of our clergy and laity first responded to a call to serve in the local church, as lay leaders, as youth directors, worship leaders, General Conference delegates and more because of their campus ministry experience. One of the ways we have been emphasizing this vital missional pulse beyond the local church is through consulting work with the United Methodist Commission, a coaching model based out of the North and South Georgia Conferences.

As I complete my first year as chair, I extend my gratitude to the ministry of our recent board chair, John Dunning, as well as our outgoing property chair, Bill Pike, both of who have poured their hearts into not only ensuring the vitality of our campus ministry spaces, but more importantly, the Conference's commitment to this invaluable mission of the church universal. Our team is indebted to the incredible staff support we have in Becky Tate and Rev. Nickie Moreno Howard, both having handled transitions and the changing Conference landscape with grace and patience.

– Ryan LaRock, President

## WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

### The Wesley Foundation at Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College

The Wesley Foundation at Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, VA has spent the past year working to provide a place where college students feel safe, valued, and loved. We have seen great need to give students a space to not just explore faith but also rest their bodies and minds.

Covid-19 has been a challenge (for everyone) and we continue to provide Ministry to our college students. We have enjoyed our worship times together as well as our small group times during the week. We have spent more time not only on campus with our students but out in the community as well. We have also been able to safely provide dinner for our students this past year and are also excited to bring back our spring break mission trip. We are partnering with Farmville UMC and the Episcopal Campus Ministry to work here in Farmville together. We are excited to serve where we are. This has been a piece of our ministry that took a break during the pandemic and we are all excited to see it back.

We thank the Annual Conference for their support and prayers for Campus Ministry and the work that is being done here in Farmville and around the state on our college campuses to provide a place for students to explore their faith.

– Justin A. Hicks, Director

### Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University

This past year has been one of preparation, change, and building relationships as we launch the newest campus ministry in the Virginia Conference. The Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University will launch this coming fall to be in ministry with the students,



faculty, and staff of ODU.

Since the last Annual Conference, our focus has been to build the foundations of the ministry in order to ensure a successful launch. This has included establishing a strong local board that has been hard at work building the structure of the ministry. The ministry has been blessed by their leadership and hard work. We inherited a building with an incredible location to campus but one that's needed lots of love and attention to get ready for students. While it's been a lot of work to prepare the space it has offered us several opportunities to build relationships with local churches, community members, and our district youth who spent a day painting most of the building.

While we have not launched yet, we have already been engaging the community on campus by partnering with other campus ministries and connecting with students in common spaces. We are full of hope and excitement as we get closer to fall and the return of students to campus. If you are unfamiliar with Old Dominion University it is a campus full of potential. ODU is home to over 24,000 students and is one of the most diverse college campuses in the US.

As we launch we are hopeful that we will find ourselves with the bulk of the pandemic behind us, giving us greater opportunities to connect with these students and build a ministry that reflects the incredible diversity found on campus. We look forward to the ways we will continue to partner with local churches and community members. Thank you Virginia Conference for your continued prayers and partnership as we launch this new ministry on the campus of ODU.

*—Rev. Joshua McCauley, Director and Campus Minister*

## The Wesley Foundation at UVA

Wesley has a long tradition of gathering for weekly Communion. Over the decades, this has happened in different ways, from short services held on UVA grounds in between classes, to our more recent practice of Sunday evening worship with preaching, singing, prayers, and the sacrament. Many alumni name our practice of weekly Communion – and especially serving one another around the circle – as one of the most formative parts of their time in the Wesley community.

As I write this, it's almost exactly two years to the day since the university sent students home in March for the rest of the 2020 spring semester. Since then, we have continued to worship together weekly, but the format, location, and liturgy have changed four times and counting. We have worshipped entirely online, we have gathered outside, and, once we could safely bring back student dinners last fall, we moved to a dinner church model. We have been on a “temporary” pause in weekly Communion for the past two years, celebrating the sacrament sporadically in person (outside) and even online a couple of times.

Now, only the fourth-year students have experienced an entire “normal” academic year. They graduate in May, and the current third-year students will be the only students left who are able to remember a time when Wesley gathered in person every week to receive bread for the journey, handling the elements, and serving them to one another in a close circle.

As I prepare to leave this appointment after 17 years serving as Campus Minister, what I will miss most is celebrating and receiving weekly Communion. Even though I haven't been able to do so for two years already. That practice has formed me into the Christian and the pastor I am. Just as it has formed many generations of students. It has fed us, challenged us, nurtured us, and changed us. Thanks be to God!

My hope for Wesley as we all emerge from the pandemic, is that this community will be able to recover this central and formative weekly practice. I will be praying for the next campus minister and the many new generations of students who will find their home and their calling within this circle. And I will be praying for our Conference, who once had the vision to begin campus ministries where none existed, and whose leaders are very often those who were formed in and called from campus ministries like this one. Lives are changed—transformed for Christ—here, by simple things like bread and wine, water and cups of coffee, retreats and spring break service trips. May this Church and our Conference continue to see, fund, and bless these students and this vital mission field.

*—Deborah Lewis, Campus Minister & Director*

## Wesley Foundation at Virginia Commonwealth University | PACE

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

What does this look like on the ground? In 2021, Pace worked with more than 40 student leaders who learned servant leadership principles. They learn to identify their own gifts, to listen deeply to the ideas, passions, and gifts of those on VCU's campus, and then work with others to bring those assets to life. In 2021, these students led an average of 18 weekly events and almost 2,000 unique students walked through Pace's doors to experience community and a place where they felt valued.

Deeply listening and responding lovingly takes on many shapes at Pace. At the weekly Community Café, students learned about the culture and food of the weekly student chef. At Open Mic Night, students share their stories through music and poetry. At weekly Stories and Lunch, students share heartbreaking challenges and funny anecdotes over a homemade meal provided by a church or

community member. At Walk-A-Dog, students share ways they are homesick and meet others looking for community. At Mindfulness, students share practices that give them rest from the hectic rhythm of life. At Belmont Community Resource Services, students share their time and energy to help feed nearly 400 families a week alongside members of Belmont United Methodist Church. And at Scripture and Conversation students share how they see God's story intersect with theirs and the story of their community, as well as the doubts and fears they have in their faith-journey.

In addition to student-led programs, Pace is focused on caring for our students. Pace has begun to partner with VCU's Presbyterian and Episcopalian campus ministers which has significantly increased our capacity to offer worship service, bible study, and pastoral care to students who are struggling with increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and uncertainty. Pace's Mentorship Program helps students explore their desired career path, by connecting them with professionals in the Richmond community and especially to United Methodist Church Members. And our new Student Circles ministry provides an intentional space for holistic care and an opportunity for students to develop a relationship with a non-student adult who they can rely upon for guidance and support as they navigate college life, often a local-church pastor or counselor.

VCU is incredibly diverse racially, culturally, and economically. More than 30% of VCU students are the first in their families to attend post-secondary education, 32% qualified for Pell Grant funding, and more than 25% of VCU students identify as queer. 40% of VCU students experience food insecurity at some point while on campus. VCU is a majority-minority campus. The students at Pace reflect VCU's diverse community. This community is filled with needs and gifts. It is rich in culture and experience. It has students from all over the world, including refugees and affluent international students. It has students from more than a dozen faiths and world views, including the most predominant of "none." At Pace, diversity is not something to overcome but something that makes us all stronger, richer – more reflective of the Kingdom of God.

In all that Pace does, it seeks to be a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. Pace is humbled to have been able to provide deep intentional community and a sense of value and worth to nearly 2,000 students during a pandemic that has had a devastating impact on their mental and spiritual health. Pace has only able to reach so many students in such profound ways because of the power of the Holy Spirit and the support of the Virginia United Methodist Church. Thank you.

*–Katherine Gooch, Campus Minister*

## The Wesley Foundation at Virginia State (FLOW)

F.L.O.W. has been thriving in spite of the pandemic, as each of you all know the pandemic has had its ups and downs, and its effects on all of us. I am elated to report that F.L.O.W. has been still moving strongly in our mission of Fellowship, Love, Outreach, and Worship. We have been able to continue our work with each other and in the community throughout these past few months. One of our biggest projects that we participated in this semester has been our annual freshmen move in day. During this time F.L.O.W. along with students who are currently a part of the ministry, we move freshmen into their dorms and help them get registered and make sure that everything is well with them as some of them are away from their families, guardians, friends, and loved ones. We let them know who we are, and we give away prizes to them, and inform them of how they can become involved in Campus Ministries. During this time we have had the opportunity to ease the fears of students who are just moving away from home.

Another ministry opportunity has been F.L.O.W. partnering with the St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Virginia NAACP, various different Virginia State Organizations in packing boxes to feed the surrounding communities who are facing food insecurities. During this time we all meet at Good Shepherd Baptist Church along with organizations and we pack down boxes of food to give to the community. Each month the 1st Wednesday the ministry in conjunction with other organizations give away over 150 boxes to the community. We as a ministry have been able to live out our mission of outreach to those who are facing food insecurity. We understand and know that our mission in this world is in conjunction with Matthew 25:34-40.

In conclusion, as we continue to make disciples in ministry we are growing in numbers and our intentions for this upcoming year is to celebrate more marginalized groups within our own community and we are excited to work with our Rainbow Organization at Virginia State University to show the love of Christ to those who are apart of LGBTQIA+ community.

*–Jasmyn C. Graham, Campus Minister*

## The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech

Wesley helped me stay connected during the time of COVID while in school. Being in my apartment all day everyday was not good for my mental health and going to Wesley or seeing my friends that are a part of Wesley was a breath of fresh air! Wesley made me feel like I was doing something important and not forgotten during this time of COVID! - Justin Davies (Sr.)

“Wesley created an atmosphere of community during COVID that we were not able to find in any other clubs or organizations. It took away the feelings of isolation and allowed me to create meaningful relationship in time that not many others were.” – Abby Michaelson (Sr.)

“Wesley has been a rock for me in an otherwise uncertain time. At Wesley I know I can always find people who will support me unconditionally and are supportive of any struggle large or small. I love the community here and having these connections was essential at a time when we were forced, by COVID, to physically distance.” – Kevin Cover (Sr.)

Over this past year I am extremely proud of our students' ability to adapt and maintain a positive sense of community in the

midst of a challenging time for people on campuses. As you can see from the quotes above, Wesley continues to be a safe place where students find community, live into their faith, and provide a sense of normalcy in an arduous context. In a time where it would have been easy to shut down and say it was just too hard to do ministry, the students at Wesley continued to provide meaningful and safe space for students to grow in their faith, thrive in fellowship, and lead through adversity.

By no means was this easy, but it is a tribute to our team-based model of leadership that our students figured out ways to do Youth Retreats virtually, mission projects on days they had off from school (they did not have a true Spring Break Week this past year), worship virtually and outside in person, run a food pantry (209 Marketplace) for college students who are food insecure, tutor/mentor middle and high school students, hang out in our building, have small groups (Communities of Grace), and even reach out to new students to get them connected.

Our Outreach Ministry had to look incredibly different than in years past. Our community still was able to connect with new students and get them involved in the ministry through tabling on campus (providing “Cake in a Mug”) and being a place that students felt comfortable due to our COVID safe atmosphere. To start this year, we were able to do some of the same events as before, but we added a few more; Water Wars after the first day of classes to let students toss water balloons and shoot water cannons at each other, a Tie-dyed night where students made t-shirts, socks, and bandanas, and lots of outreach to the new dorm across the street were several of the more than 12 events in 20 days to start the semester!

Being a community that ALL PEOPLE feel affirmed and welcomed is a hallmark of our ministry on campus. New students are continually sharing how Wesley makes them feel loved and how it is a witness to the love of Christ. As we seek to “Love Out Loud” in all that we do, Wesley will not let any hate or intimidation (like what happened in August as our Pride flags were torn down and replaced with Confederate flags) stop us from sharing the abundant love of God to all we meet. We will continue to live into our Vision “to be an affirming, grace-filled community that develops and sends out disciples rooted in faith.”

What a blessing it is to be in ministry on this campus and we are grateful for the ways our Annual Conference partners with us in this ministry by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service! We could not do this without you and thank you for being a blessing to so many students through our connection!

– Bret Gresham, Campus Minister

## The Wesley Foundation at William & Mary

When I look back over 2021, I could not be prouder of our students, our board, and our community. Because of the amazing support and commitment of so many, we lived out God’s call just as powerfully, as any previous year. All of this is possible because we are clear on who God is calling us to be, and we continue to follow God’s vision for us.

Wesley continues to be a vital ministry and lifeline for so many students during the pandemic. with online and in-person ministry, all focused on meeting students where they are, and keeping them as safe as possible. With all our ministries, Wesley continues to have hundreds of interactions with students, as well as faculty and staff each year.

Since January 2020, the Wesley House has continuously been providing housing for students. When the campus is open, we are housing the students who have applied, interviewed, and been accepted to live at Wesley. When campus is closed to residents, we are full of students who do not have a safe place to live with the dorms shut down. With these students, we are not only providing housing, but groceries, transportation, and vital community for folks who do not have a network of support. When there were more students than we could house, we networked with trusted folks in the community to find them housing. In 2021 we provided housing and support to those students for a total of 18 weeks.

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

We are so grateful for the continuing support of the annual conference, Williamsburg UMC, Wellspring UMC, and so many groups throughout the York River District. We continue to grow into a community as our vision statement says, “Through following Jesus, we embrace God’s radical hospitality for all.”

–Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister

## Rise U/Rise United Methodist Faith Community

Much like the first year of this pandemic, this year with RISE U has been marked by great resilience. Through Zoom meetings, delivering distanced pick-me-ups, and eventual in-person gatherings, RISE U has been guided by the Holy Spirit to find a way through this time as a community when it often felt there was no way through. We came into the year with a lot of hope for new programs and in-person festivities, and while we were able to do quite a bit, some stuff just couldn’t come to fruition due to the nature of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we were resilient in revisioning, revitalizing, and relaunching the college ministry. When the College

Outreach Coordinator Abby stepped into this role, she often referred back to and thought back on her time with Arise Campus Ministry in her college days. The intentional community and constant showing up for people who needed it was a big influence in what she hoped to accomplish with RISE U.

Like most communities in 2021, we spent the first part of 2021 virtual. RISE U, our college ministry, spent many months meeting over Zoom. Even though students already had most of their classes online and felt Zoom Fatigue, they still made time and consistently showed up for one another through conversations on vulnerability, reading a spiritual book together, and discussing hard topics like racism together.

In the spring of 2021, our College Outreach Coordinator Abby Butler-Cefalo realized that students really needed a pick-me-up after a rather gloomy winter. With the help of community volunteers, Bags of Sunshine filled with sweets, mini pots, soil, and spring flowers were made to deliver love to students that were otherwise having to stay alone in their dorms. This was a beautiful way to usher in a new season of hope. In the same vein, in the fall of 2021 James Madison University allowed professors to have Saturday classes despite dining halls not opening until mid-morning. To combat frustration around this, Abby along with a student leader and community volunteer made breakfast for multiple students and hand delivered breakfast to students before they had to go to class.

As the hard winter melted away into a hopeful spring, RISE U finally had its first in-person event. At the end of the spring semester, we had a Senior Celebration at a local park where we celebrated and honored our graduating seniors. Despite the fact we spent most of our time only knowing each other from the chest up through a computer screen, students still showed up and already felt deeply rooted within the community. Through masks, we could still feel and see the love that students already had for one another.

Moving into the fall semester of 2021, the College Outreach Coordinator really wanted to focus on what set RISE U apart - thus, our fall campaign of #LoveHitsDifferent was born. Abby spent the entire semester doing intentional outreach and sharing how our love “hits different” - a Gen Z term that means “better than average.” We focused hard on being a vibrant and healthy community and celebrating our diverse identities and life experiences. This drew a lot of interest, and RISE U bloomed. Our numbers significantly increased, as did the energy and joy within RISEU. Indeed, a message rooted in God’s unconditional love can change lives!

Throughout this challenging year, one consistent silver lining in an otherwise grim world has continued to be a program called Love Packs. Love Packs partners with local elementary schools to provide families with meals intended to provide nutrition throughout the weekend. Without Love Packs, many community members and children could go to bed hungry. This program has continually connected with different aspects of the JMU community, including the gymnastics team, the softball team, and various other sports teams. This has been one way we have been able to mix our college communities with the greater RISE Community. We are excited about the potential to keep growing Love Packs.

We also celebrate that we went on our first college student retreat in several years. We took a group of students, all of whom came from different faith backgrounds and experiences, and spent the weekend at Camp Alta Mons unplugging from technology and connecting with creation and our Creator. At the end of the retreat, multiple students asked to be baptized because of how impactful the weekend away with RISE U was to them. After how successful our first retreat was, we look forward to turning this into a regular event.

RISE celebrates a year of growth, tenacity, and resilience! We are indescribably grateful for the ongoing support of our friends at the Annual Conference level and beyond. We joyfully anticipate whatever the next year may bring, and we trust that our ministry partners and the Holy Spirit will encourage and sustain us in and through it all.

*—Abby Butler-Cefalo, Campus Outreach Coordinator*

## ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES

### ARISE at George Mason University

The past academic year, 2021 – 2022 has been a year of rebuilding and resilience at Arise Campus Ministry. Three quarters of our students had not completed a full academic year on campus, and we were unsure what this year would hold for us. We prepared our hearts and minds for another rebuilding effort, focusing on prayer, discerning what the Holy Spirit wanted from us, readying our hearts to meet students where they are, and committing ourselves to continue to be the inclusive and affirming Christian campus ministry at George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. Unsurprisingly, God showed up and so did our amazing students, board members, donors, partner churches and staff. We have more students than we thought want to come out and be a part of our beautiful Arise Campus Ministry faith community.

This year we have met more new students and continued our campus ministry and the Life-groups that have characterized our ministry. We currently have Life-groups that study the Bible, reach out to the community, focus on racial and social justice, and a thriving worship podcast which is seeing hundreds of listens and downloads a month. These groups and programs continue to help form a community at GMU and NOVA CC that is focused on our values of loving Jesus, inclusivity, diversity, compassion, equity, and authenticity. Our student leaders and staff members continue to make a difference on campus and in the community to advocate for justice and inclusion of all persons.

We are so thankful for our partnership with members and churches in the Virginia Annual Conference and for the love we have received. We continue to be a place that see a great number of LGBTQ+ students and their aspiring allies who want to come to experience God’s love and we then connect them to our partner churches. We are so thankful for our partners who say yes to our stu-



dents' lives and affirm their calling and value to God. We continue to live into the agreement we have with the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, the National Capital Presbytery, the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, and the Mid-Atlantic region of the Disciples of Christ and live into all their religious expressions and traditions which include striving to be anti-racist, celebrating same-gender weddings, journeying with LGBTQ+ members and others as they discern their call onward to ordination.

We will continue to be and refuse to be anything less than the campus ministry that will welcome all, share God's universal love, and compassionately live out our faith on campus, and in the community. We could not do so without the members of this Annual Conference that inspire, embolden, and spur us forward to love fiercely and boldly all persons, just as Jesus calls us to do. So, thank you to all the amazing volunteers, donors, supporters, local churches, pastors, board members and Virginia Conference partners. Without the Virginia Conference and the many faithful and loving persons who care about young adults throughout our Conference, we would not be doing God's work on campus. On behalf of myself, our staff, volunteers, students, and others thank you for assisting us to build God's family, God's Kingdom at George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community Colleges.

*–Drew Ensz, Ministry Director*

## Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington

This year at the CCC has been one to remember! While we still had to balance the surges of COVID variants and various guidelines we still were able to meet and continue to grow in faith. Flexibility was key when it comes to programming, but thankfully we handled that well! This year we met lots of new students and were able to grow our community! We are thankful that we can still meet new people during chaotic times. We have several things to celebrate this year including the baptism of a student who is on our student ministry team and creating deeper connections with faculty and staff of the University of Mary Washington. We've continued to meet and worship together, have conversations, practice def care, and so much more. We are thankful for the support of the VAUMC and many local churches. We were able to have two retreats where we stayed local and got to know our community better. We are continuing to see how God continues to call us as a campus ministry and how we can better love our neighbors.

*–Elizabeth J. Snader, Campus Minister*

## Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

Fifty years ago, a pastor in Little Rock asked me to help build pig pens for Heifer International in rural Arkansas. I was 15. All it took was a simple invitation and I've been answering that call ever since. I serve as your campus minister with community colleges, a vibrant witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ sponsored by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Presbytery of the Peaks, PCUSA. If we made a movie, here are a few excerpts.

Angie lives in Danville. She told me not long ago, "It just breaks my heart to go to so many funerals" so she organized an after-school basketball program for youth at risk of gang violence. Games begin with a prayer circle and a hundred young people come every weekday. One day at Green Street Park, intervention specialist Jeff May ask the group, "How many will go home tonight and be the ones to take care of your younger brothers and sisters?" Two out of three young people raised their hands, because more likely than not the parent is working a second or third job to pay the rent. Later, a young man begged Jeff to help him stay out of the gangs. Danville Community College counselors, students, and local pastors stood by to help. I discovered something that day. At-risk youth are not just at-risk for violence or dropping out of school. They are also at-risk of hunger, yes hunger. Many don't get food at home and they are ostracized if they get a free school lunch, so they don't eat. A local vendor gives us \$3 pizzas and churches bring sandwiches to the games. Do you want to hear more? Angie and I will come to your church.

Peggy is a community college counselor. Peggy and I were chatting one morning when I noticed her desk and filing cabinet were open but nary a file in sight. The drawers were full of bread. Peggy explained, "Students don't have enough money for both school and food. Food is the best help I can provide." We put together a proposal and the General Board of Global Ministries sent Community College Ministries \$25,000 for food and fuel assistance to students. Today, many community colleges have fully stocked food pantries. You'll find them near the counseling office!

Felicia was a student at Virginia Western Community College. A single parent, Felicia helped us launch a partnership with the Black Church called Alliance for Excellence in 1986. Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Columbia the Reverend Dr. James Cone gave the inaugural address. Alliance for Excellence is still going strong and has involved more than 22,000 students in awards, service, motivational seminars, tutoring, mentoring, strategies to expand opportunities in higher education and, in 2018, a new partnership with the Office of Racial Healing & Transformation at Duke University. In 2016, 22 students visited the Obama White House. In 2022, a dozen of our students will serve as Duke-Danville Fellows and share their story at the Racial Healing Institute in Atlanta. One young graduate is now an executive at the National Institute of Health and another student is a lifetime, full-ride Gates Scholar. Community college and church partnerships plant seeds of hope and bear fruits of the Spirit!

Our campuses have about 50,000 students – Virginia Western, Central Virginia, Danville, Patrick & Henry, Dabney Lancaster, New River, Blue Ridge, Wytheville, Virginia Highlands, Southwest Virginia, and Mountain Empire. The student you meet in the courtyard will likely be 30 years old, a single parent, working two jobs, service club president, and taking classes to qualify for a new job. Some will work in health care, some engineering. Some come from foster care. Some are victims of domestic violence. Some need care for their children. Some need care for their parents. Others are moving on to advanced degrees. All have a unique and compelling story to share. Whenever I walk on campus, I look around and think, "All it takes is a simple invitation."



–Steve Darr, Campus Minister  
–Sandy Saunders, Board President

## United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University

### Weekly Events

#### “Lydia’s Table” Encouragement Ministry (*engages ~55 students weekly*)

Two days a week from 11 AM – 2 PM, our students and campus minister maintain a table in the Student Union. At the table, we offer information about our ministry and a sign-up sheet for our email distribution list, prayer cards and devotionals, and wearables such as stickers and buttons bearing messaging consistent with our Christian values. There is also a box for students to write anonymous prayer requests, and another box where students can take and/or leave small written messages of encouragement and affirmation for one another. Of course, we are on hand if anyone needs in-person prayer or just wants to talk. In the past, we have also offered complementary beverages at the table – tea and lemonade in warm weather, coffee and cocoa in cold weather. We hope to resume beverage service once COVID subsides and we can resume safely.

#### Weekly Worship Gatherings (*attended by ~6 students*)

Each Thursday evening we gather in the campus Chapel for a little over an hour for a liturgical, prayer-oriented worship service including Holy Communion. Rather than having a sermon preached at these gatherings, there is a time set aside for open discussion and sharing whatever the Spirit moves in our students’ hearts and minds. Last semester we were blessed with a new student who has the gifts and graces for leading praise music, and by the end of this semester we hope to have a student-led worship team providing music for these gatherings.

#### Group Study (*attended by ~5 students*)

Each semester (and occasionally over the Summer) we take on a new group study. Examples of previous studies include but are not limited to the following:

- ❖ Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven by Amy-Jill Levine 1 Corinthians by N.T. Wright
- ❖ Embracing an Adult Faith by Marcus Borg
- ❖ Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer by Rowan Williams This semester we plan to take on Parables of Jesus by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

### Semesterly Events

#### Exam Snacks Ministry (*engages ~300 students daily over the course of a week*)

During Finals week, we partner with volunteers from several local churches to provide a three-table- long spread of snacks, drinks, and exam materials (“scantron” bubble sheets and “blue book” examination books) for 4-6 hours each day (broken into 2-hour “shifts”). During a stressful week in which it’s easy for students to forget to eat, hydrate, and rest, this ministry provides a crucial outreach at a crucial time. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for members of local congregations to meet and interact with students on campus.

#### Service Projects (*engagement varies*)

In the past, we have partnered with THRIVE Peninsula to help participate in a campus-wide shoe drive, with the Society of St. Andrew to facilitate a “potato drop” on campus, RISE Against Hunger to help package food for hungry people, and others. COVID has made arranging and executing service projects a little tricky, but we hope to resume these as soon as possible.

### Past and Future Events

#### Prayer Walks (*Engaged ~4 students weekly*)

Pre-COVID, we would meet weekly in a public place to read scripture rooted in a certain current event/issue or theme, discuss it, and walk around the Great Lawn once or twice in silent walking/breath prayer before returning to our starting point to share our experiences during the prayer walk. This seemed to be very fruitful for our students and we look forward to bringing it back in future semesters.

#### Movie Nights (*Engaged ~2 students every other week*)

During virtual-only learning, when students were at home, we offered screenings of “The Chosen” on alternating Fridays over Zoom. The engagement was never high, and it is questionable whether or not we will try to revive this particular activity.

#### Traveling Supper Church (*Engaged ~4 students and ~4 local church members weekly*)

Pre-COVID, we partnered with a handful of local churches so that each Sunday evening our students were invited to a different local church to prepare and share a meal with a contingent of that church’s members (and clergy) in the spirit of the Early Church. The churches were encouraged to offer some sort of program, which took varying forms, from a brief presentation on the church’s denomination, history, and polity, to Communion, to a full-on Taize Vespers service. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect our students with the members of local churches on a more personal level than simply showing up on a Sunday morning, and a great opportunity for our local congregations to meet our students. We look forward to reviving this program once we can do so safely.

–Michael D. Burnett, Campus Minister

## Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University

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.

The last two years have been tumultuous trying to provide exceptional ministry, support, and love as well as staying safe and healthy. While much of this safe space has been relegated to zoom, one to one telephone and Facetime calls, and small group meetings, we continue to prevail. It is our goal to reach as many students as possible and therefore we participate in all school sponsored events. Some of our regular events on campus have been cancelled or postponed due to Covid. This has negatively impacted our ability to meet and to attract students. Many of the classes are being taught online and not in person. Therefore, some students suffer from zoom fatigue. These students who do not attend our Bible Study via zoom receive email or texted copies of the Bible Study manuscript.

This year has been laden with bomb threats on our university and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities further exacerbating the feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression that many campus ministry students have expressed. I have tried to keep students encouraged by offering telephone calls, encouraging texts, check ins and when possible, face to face meetings. We continue to provide Bible Study with limited meals and or take out. Small groups meet, we worship together, and we have corporate prayer.

We have established several partnerships. One provides a Food Pantry for our students. Another offers fresh food for distribution, and supplies such as sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. We participated in Food Share Distribution for the holidays as well as providing more than 300 meals to food insecure persons. Students helped with Food Baskets to be distributed as well. New Horizons Presbyterian Church allowed us to have our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner by opening their doors to our students and community supporters. Our toy drive for Christmas was a success offering toys to at least 50 families. Additionally, we distributed hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, and other supplies to more than 75 households.

The members of the WWF Board continue to be consistent in prayer and concern for the students as well as for me. Other Campus Ministers have been quick to offer support and encouragement considering the recent racist and other threatening events targeting people of color. We therefore solicit prayers for strength and continued fortitude. Our prayer is that things will get better in the world as well as in our individual lives.

*–Joy Denise Carrington*

## BOARD OF LAITY

Since March of 2020, we as the church have been in a season of transformation. Some may choose to say this time has been filled with more trauma or disruption than positive change. Others may focus on the grief of a lost sense of normalcy or on the anxiety of having to reimagine the ministry of the church moving forward. Whether we personally sense the days ahead filled with excitement or trembling, church as we know it has been permanently transformed. All of us, laity and clergy, are called to embrace new ways of being church in the world. More than ever, we laity are being summoned to reclaim our role as ministers, each called by our baptism to bear witness to the good news of God in Christ through our holiness of heart and life. That is the power of the laity to transform lives, not just the ministry and mission we call "church."

Just as each congregation is being transformed, the Board of Laity is in a time of transition. District Lay Leaders and Associates have begun to build stronger communication networks over this last year which will impact how we learn and serve together. In October 2021, a retreat of the District Lay Leaders, Associates, and District Superintendents was held virtually. The retreat was the first step in building a new culture of communication and support between the District Lay Leaders and District Superintendents, especially as we live into the context of the District Initiative. In preparation for the retreat and in response to numerous questions about the roles of Local Church and District Lay Leaders, members of the Board of Laity assisted with development of a Lay Leader Handbook. The handbook is available on the VAUMC website under the "Ministry of the Laity" section.

In January 2022, a time of conversation and learning between Bishop Lewis and the District Lay Leaders and Associates began that we are calling the Lay Council. This time together will: (1) enhance communication, (2) support our efforts to share vital information with the local churches, and (3) provide opportunities to learn directly from Bishop Lewis, the Connectional Ministries team and other Conference staff. Meetings of the Lay Council will be held on the second Monday of the first month of each quarter (January, April, July and October). It is the goal of the Lay Council meetings to strengthen the connection between the annual conference, districts and local churches. This regular communication with Bishop Lewis will allow Board of Laity meetings to transform to a more adaptive leadership focus on how district lay leadership can support the work of Lay Servant Ministries, Scouting, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Men.

The Board of Laity continues to be represented on the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Reconciliation and Justice. We eagerly anticipate the inclusion of laity in teams from the Board of Ordained Ministry trained to work with congregations receiving

cross-cultural/cross-racial pastoral appointments.

Our Conference Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) team offered virtual Lay Servant Academy (LSA) trainings in August 2021 and February 2022. In August, a total of 138 individuals registered for eight course sessions. This LSA included our first orientation to Certified Lay Ministry. In February, more than 130 participants attended one of six course sessions. The next training session will be a hybrid event on August 5-6, 2022. Several districts offered training sessions during the last conference year, with some dates already scheduled for this fall. The “Learning on Demand” program available through BeADisciple.com is an excellent source of online courses. As we prepare for future training opportunities, help is needed to build a list of potential instructors. Please share the names of laity and clergy who are willing to be instructors or assistants with Richard Speirs, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries (richard.speirs@yahoo.com). We offer praise to God for all the laity who have participated in Lay Servant Ministry courses. Certified Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers continue to fill and support pulpit requirements across the conference. Others who have taken part in this vital training serve in leadership roles of all types in the local church. Lay Servant Ministries are vital to developing strong, equipped leaders for the church in this time of constant change. The LSM catalog available on the Discipleship Ministries website (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>) offers descriptions of approved courses and information about roles and requirements for Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers.

As our denominational and conference UMC Scouting Leadership Teams continue to address how best to structure The UMC’s relationship with scouting over the long term, it is important to share some of the positive impacts of Scouting Ministries over the last year. There are five Girl Scouts of the USA Councils and eight Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Councils serving youth in the Virginia Conference. Along with a connection on the General Church level with Big Brothers Big Sisters (Amachi Partnership for children of incarcerated parents) and CampFire USA, these agencies offer a unique opportunity for the church to be in ministry to and with young people. The Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) organization is small in numbers but great in strength to Scouting as well as to the local churches. P.R.A.Y. is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth serving agencies. This program is available to the local church whether or not you have scouting programs. Five scouting leaders from Virginia offered leadership in late April for a mission team to work on renovations for the Protestant Chapel at Philmont, the BSA high adventure camp in New Mexico.

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

– Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

*1 Corinthians 12:12 – 14; 27 - 31*

### Unity and Diversity in the Body

*12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[d]? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.*

In the above passage, Saint Paul was writing to his church at Corinth—a church which he had established—a church that he loved—but a church that had problems. So Saint Paul wrote, giving them guidance—to get them on the right path again.

One of their problems was spiritual pride—Paradigms. Each of the various Christians in Corinth had different gifts—different talents—and some of them were acting as if they were more important than the others because of their gifts and talents.

The various gifts and talents seemed to be giving the greatest problem between the people of Corinth. We are faced with several issues today. We are facing the challenge of moving to 8 District Superintendents. With the combined districts, we as the VAC UMM are faced with new District Officers. We are asking Each fellowship to discuss the nomination of new combined District officers. The timely transition of will allow the new officers time to modify the Bylaws so that we as a Unit will be better prepared to focus on Advocacy, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within the VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN specifically and the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in general.

The Virginia Conference of United Methodist Men are answering the call of the Bishop to form cluster groups and Men’s Ministry Teams for those churches who have limited UMM membership or financial support. To partner with them to establish and or strengthen their Men’s Ministry Team.

We have taken a good hard look at the overall Methodist Church during this post COVID time frame. We have particularly looked at the UMC’s in the rural areas. Many of these smaller churches in rural areas are unable to have active Men’s Ministry Team fellowship, yet they still wish to be part of their community and VAC UMM.

The Officers of VAC UMM are recommending that these small Methodist churches {or UMC’s with very few members in their

UMM}, in a proximity to each other. form “Cluster Groups” and that these Cluster Groups be called ‘Men’s Ministry Teams’.

These clusters maybe made up of local Methodist churches or UMC branches, and or various other church denominations in the local area.

These UMC branches which would include the Pan-Methodist groups. Encouraging a relationship with African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion and Christian Methodist church’s to be part of these cluster groups. Sharing many gifts and talents in Christian fellowship within these cluster groups.

The next few paragraphs are from an article written by Robert Longworth published in The Beacon. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men believe in The Power Of WE as we focus on Advocacy, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men.

The Methodist Church is also made up of many body parts and many tongues.

The health of the Church is dependent on the health of **all** of its parts. When your Church is hurting, your Church’s other body parts hurt. It is **not ONE whole Church**.

Therefore, we the Church should share each other’s’ sorrows and rejoice in each other’s’ joys—because we, the Church, are all **ONE BODY**.

But all the pieces fit together to form **ONE BODY**—meaning the **Church**. Every part of the body needs every other part, and if one-part hurts, they **all** hurt.

Many other Church’s / denominations are also made up of many other parts. Yet they all are **ONE Church**.

There isn’t a single Methodist denomination. It’s comprised of different denominations. Different “Body Parts.” **BUT ALL ONE Church** – right?

There are seven World **Methodist Council denominations** in the United States: the **African Methodist Episcopal Church**; the **African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**; the **Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**; **Church of the Nazarene**; **Free Methodist Church**; **Wesleyan Church**; and the **United Methodist Church**. And did you know there is a church called **Primitive Methodist Church** – a small branch of Methodism.

If there is only one Methodist Church in the area – then we are asking UMM’s to reach out to those neighboring churches of other Christian faiths - Presbyterian; Episcopalian. Lutherans, etc. To form a ‘Christian Men’s Ministry Team’. Again sharing Christian fellowship with each other.

We would then have active UMM fellowships serving various communities, and other faith churches. All sharing their ‘gifts’ and ‘talents’ with one another. Each UMC’s and other Christian denominations would then be **one united faith body** and with a ‘gift’ or ‘talent’ for each other.

Forming Men’s Ministry Team clusters so we can share the many spiritual gifts, diverse talents and tongues each one has. **One Body – One Church of Christian faith**. You are the Methodists; someone else is the Presbyterian; someone else is the Episcopalian. Other body parts include Lutherans and Baptists & other denominations.

Saint Paul said to the Corinthians, “we were all baptized into **ONE body**—Christ’s body—the church. We are all part of **ONE** another. Therefore, let us not lord it over other Christians because of our gifts. Instead, **let us rejoice together over each other’s gifts**.” The church’s **one** foundation. Rejoice as **ONE Church** with many **gifts**.

– Albert S. Weal Jr., President

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women is moving forward with the rest of the Conferences in the United States. We are embracing the “New Wineskins” of Mark 2:21-22 by not pouring new wine into old wineskins, but rather, pouring new wine into new wineskins.

Throughout the history of United Methodist Women since 1869, change has occurred and so have the women of our organization, for we are resilient, courageous, forward-thinking women. Our history shows that we recognize when something needs to change. Our world, our nation, and our church is changing, and so are we. It is exciting and exhilarating to be looking forward to new programs, new resources, new initiatives, new energy. Because of the recognition that who we serve is paramount, our commitment to women, children, and youth is steadfast.

Adjusting to Zoom meetings in 2021 is just one example of our willingness to keep our eyes on the prize, and yet not to endanger our members by meeting in-person. We are ever diligent about the health and well-being of our members.

We successfully held not only organizational Zoom meetings, but the Spiritual Life Retreat, Annual Conference Brunch, Mission Encounter, Young Women’s Event, and the 49th Annual Meeting. We have faithfully continued to support with deed and finances our United Methodist Women missions. We have honored commitments and reached beyond ourselves to serve faithfully to those in need.

We are a community of women; we know what God expects of us. We follow Jesus and are in fellowship with each other and with those we serve. We are ever willing to support women, children, and youth near and far. We have a new name; we are now United Women in Faith. Thanks be to God.

– Nancy Walsh, President



## COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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

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

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

– Neil W. McLaughlin, Chair

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

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) is called to advocate for the full and equal participation of all ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Annual Conference, to make their concerns known to the church, and to guide the conference in its fight against evil in all of its forms, including racism. Our mission is to be a voice for those who cannot or do not speak to make sure that each voice is heard.

In our monthly meetings, focus groups, and ongoing work, we represent and listen to the voices of:

- ❖ African-American Ministries,
- ❖ Asian-American Ministries,
- ❖ Native American Ministries,
- ❖ Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR),
- ❖ Methodists Associated for the Cause of the Hispanic-American (MARCHA),
- ❖ Hispanic-Latino Caucus, VAUMC's Latino Clergy Caucus

As we transition into new leadership, we have been reviewing the charge given us by the *Book of Discipline* (§ 632)

- a) Keeping the vision of ethnic local church concerns before the annual conference;
- b) Providing guidance and resources to churches in the annual conference as they minister with and to ethnic constituencies;
- c) Coordinating annual conference strategies related to ethnic local church concerns including general church emphases and initiatives;
- d) Providing a forum for dialogue among the ethnic constituencies, as well as with annual conference agencies;
- e) Providing training for annual conference and congregational leaders;
- f) Promoting and interpreting ethnic local church concerns to the annual conference; and
- g) Working with annual conferences to identify and nurture leaders, lay and clergy, of ethnic communities.

In this time of heightened consciousness about the sin of racism in America and the global community, we are praying for guidance from the Holy Spirit moving across the church to a new awakening to that fundamental challenge. The United Methodist Church in Virginia is uniquely positioned to catalyze consciousness and reconciliation, given its institutional resources and membership that crosses racial and cultural lines and includes grassroots and elites in its congregations. Conference leadership, CEMCA, and the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCOR) have responded to the need for difficult conversations and resources for local churches to come to terms with our history, the current wave of white supremacy, and the mobilization of people of faith for justice.

Commission members have had our own training in the intercultural competency that the conference is offering to congregations with cross-cultural, cross-racial churches and are working in focus groups to discern our mission in the conference and the world. We have participated in Bishop Lewis's Call to Action initiative, provided a voice for racial and ethnic concerns at the Common Table, and assisted with the Diversity Kitchen project to educate church members about the blessings of our multiple cultures. We continue our conference monitoring efforts yearly in collaboration with CoSROW, to ensure that all voices are heard, present, and represented in our annual conference deliberations. We are in a strategizing place, trying to discern the best way to educate and mobilize our local churches and congregants, complement larger cultural discussions of justice (e.g., heritage months and political discourse around race), and listen to God's guidance.



The various ministries CEMCA represents and advocates for have been thriving this year. One highlight has been a series of meetings with Bishop Lewis, who has been listening and responding to concerns, especially of pastors; she has also suggested participating in town halls to talk about injustice and racism in the conference. Increased efforts to prepare both pastors and congregations for cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments has been an important step toward racial reconciliation and healing in the conference. CEMCA members worked with the General Commission on Religion and Race to develop a race and reconciliation curriculum and participated in intercultural competency training.

Our conference is hosting Southeastern Jurisdictional meetings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) and Methodists Associated for the Cause of the Hispanic-American (MARCHA). African American clergy have been meeting about every other month for fellowship and discussion of mutual concerns. BMCR celebrated its 50th anniversary. Asian-American clergy have regular meetings as well and hosted an orientation for people with a call to ministry. Native American Ministries held a successful “Virtual Family Camp,” based on a tribal gatherings tradition in the culture, to build community and provide support. The Hispanic-Latino caucus and Latino Clergy Caucus had a well-attended retreat that included the bishop, is supporting undocumented immigrant members sensing a call to ministry, and trying to facilitate a broader membership that includes laity.

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

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

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) encourages participation of all women in the full life of the United Methodist church. We believe it is important to find women to work in all areas of the church. There should be at least one woman on every committee of the church, if not a more balanced representation. Women are called to be Lay Servants. Remember that as young women and girls see women leading in the church, you are inspiring future leaders.

At each Annual Conference, COSROW works with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) to observe and record the participation of women, minorities, youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church. This data collection continues at Annual Conference 2022.

At the 2021 Annual Conference, COSROW and CEMCA worked together to collect demographic data on Lay members of the Conference. (Statistics on Clergy members are published by the Office of Clergy Excellence.) Approximately 1,300 Lay members attend Annual Conference each year. Here are the results of our survey:

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

Year	Completed Surveys (#/%)	Women	Men	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino/a	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Youth	Young Adult	Adult	Older Adult	75+
2021	513 (40%)	70%	29%	90%	5%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1.5%	6%	39%	53%	no data
2020	264 (20%)	62%	37%	85%	7%	2%	2.3%	.4%	0%	1%	5%	37%	43%	15%
2019	462 (35%)	64.5%	35%	90%	4%	1.3%	2.3%	1.8%	.22%	4%	4%	36%	39%	

In 2021, we received 513 survey responses from 1277 registered lay members, or about 40%. Surveys were completed anonymously and requested basic demographic information: Gender, Ethnicity, and Age. Over time, we strive for more ethnic diversity and more delegates in the 18-34 age range.

Of the 513 people responding, 70% were women, 29% were men. Under Ethnicity, 90% were White (Not Hispanic or Latino/a), 5% were Black or African American; 1% were Hispanic or Latino/a; 1% were Asian; 1% American Indian. In 2020, we added a 75+ age range. Respondents were 1.5% under 18; 6% age 18-34; 39% age 35-64; 53% age 65-75+.

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

COSROW members also worked to monitor the Annual Conference online. There were not enough observation reports received. We have no report at this time.

We commend to you the book, *Nevertheless She Preached: The Story of the Two Earliest Methodist Clergywomen in Virginia* by Rev. Margaret T. Kutz. Rev. Marg Kutz has researched and written a book about Rev. Lillian Russell and Rev. Mildred Long, the first two women to be ordained in the Virginia Annual Conference and appointed to serve churches in and near Petersburg, VA. See our display this year for more information and a copy of the book.

### Resources

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

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

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

COSROW holds two - four meetings per year in-person and by Zoom. Meeting dates are announced at [www.vaumc.org/cosrow](http://www.vaumc.org/cosrow) and on Facebook.

As I step down from my service, I give thanks and praise to God and to the Conference for your guidance, help, and support. It has been my honor to lead this Commission for the past eight years

– Mary Dadisman, Clergy Chair



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

## CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION

We are excited to share that Camp Rainbow Connection will return this year after a hiatus due to Covid-19 and will be held at Richard Bland College in Petersburg, VA July 16-22, 2022. The staff and volunteers of CRC are dedicated to providing a wonderful and enriching summer program for each camper, along with a week of respite for families and caregivers.

Campers participate in a variety of activities including Bible class, music, science, arts and crafts, games, dancing and special activities. Our mission is one of healing and acceptance towards all God's people. Because we are a ministry of the Virginia Conference of the UMC, participation of people of all backgrounds, ability levels, heritages and faiths is encouraged. Our theme this year is Cruisin' with Christ and we can't wait to experience the love of God with each other while we're "at sea!"

–Julie Bryant, CRC Core Leadership Team Chair & Stacy Roberts, Camp Coordinator

## EMBRACE—A CENTER FOR COMMUNITY

There's no better time to embrace hope than now. Thanks to the generous support of congregations and individuals across the Staunton District and the Virginia Annual Conference, the people of Embrace – A Center for Community in Waynesboro are doing just that as we extend the compassionate embrace of Christ to thousands of people in our community and beyond. Founded in 2018 as a district-level experiment in repurposing congregational facilities, Embrace is a mission and ministry outpost, laboratory, and incubator. Thanks to your support during 2021-22, we:

- ❖ **Gained recognition as an Advance Special Partner of the Virginia Annual Conference.**
- ❖ **Expanded and strengthened our community garden ministry** through deeper engagement with community partners like Virginia Cooperative Extension, Allegheny Mountain Institute, and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. As a result, we will be able to supply more fresh produce to our sister food pantry at Main Street UMC while launching a produce delivery ministry, offering neighbors the opportunity to cut and share fresh flowers, expanding our cooking classes for underserved populations, adding new educational opportunities, and developing health and wellness classes in conjunction with the gardens. We also extended our production to include fruit with the planting of the first trees in our orchard, and broke ground on a community pumpkin patch and sunflower field.
- ❖ **Welcomed a new not-for-profit partner to our campus.** Sin Barreras ("Without Barriers") advocates for and provide legal services to members of the Hispanic and Latino immigrant community. After recognizing a sharp increase in service requests from Waynesboro and Augusta County, this Charlottesville-based organization opened an office in our building to better serve our neighbors. As part of this partnership, Embrace is working with Sin Barreras to launch a cultural festival, health and wellness events, a financial assistance program, and a community health work program.
- ❖ **Announced the launch of free Mobile Health Clinics** in conjunction with Augusta Health and Sin Barreras. These on-site clinics are staffed by health care professionals from our local hospital system and provide access to clinical services for persons regardless of income or residency status. Through our community health work program and in conjunction with CHWs

from Augusta Health and the Central Shenandoah Health District, we will provide linkage to wrap-around services for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

- ❖ **Expanded our Green Hanger Project clothing ministry** to include providing clothing for government agencies (ie Valley Community Service Board and others) and stocking closets in low-income residential care communities. We also strengthened our partnership with our area school systems by providing clothing for their back-to-school events, expanding our pandemic-response clothing care package ministry for middle- and high-school students, and preparing for the re-launch of our in-person Secret Boutique clothing distribution events in fall 2022.
- ❖ **Launched a series of district level volunteer workdays and service workshops** where groups can get hands-on experience with our ministries and programs and take what they learn back to their communities for possible implementation.

Embrace welcomes visitors and the opportunity to share what we have learned with other congregations and groups. For information, to schedule a visit, or plan a workshop contact Rev. Jenelle Watson, Embrace Director: [JenelleWatson@vaumc.org](mailto:JenelleWatson@vaumc.org) or (540) 649-7149.

–Jenelle Watson, Director

## GRACEINSIDE

### United Methodist affiliated GraceInside staff:

#### **Chaplain Michael Blythe**

Greensville Correctional Ctr., S-1 Cluster  
Greensville Work Center  
Halifax Correctional Unit

#### **Chaplain Donna Smith**

Greensville Correctional Ctr., S-2 Cluster

#### **Chaplain Paul Ritter**

Keen Mtn. Correctional Ctr.  
Marion Correctional Treatment Center

#### **Chaplain Daniel Theiben**

Restorative Housing Chaplain, Red Onion & Wallens Ridge State Prisons

### Methodist Representatives serving on GraceInside's Board of Trustees:

**Rev. Marilyn Heckstall**, Liaison to Bishop Sharma Lewis (Virginia Conference UMC)

**Ms. Wenda Singer**, Member at Large (VAUMC, Huguenot Road UMC)

In 2022, GraceInside celebrates 102 years of mission ministry to incarcerated men and women. Our ministry brings the transformative love of Jesus Christ to inmates in the facilities of the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC). By offering the GRACE of Jesus Christ through our Chaplains, we endeavor to transform lives INSIDE the prisons. Our ministry is only possible with the continued support of our valuable partners such as the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. The VAUMC support is a lifeline for our mission field. Through our partnership with the VAUMC, GraceInside ensures that essential resources are available for our 34 Chaplains as they minister to the 25,000 inmates in the 42 prisons of the VADOC.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended the structure and nature of faith-based activities throughout the VADOC. A 16-month lockdown of all facilities ended in July 2021. During the lockdown, Chaplains and religious volunteers were denied admittance to the prisons. By the Grace of God, the Chaplains were allowed to telework, maintain email contacts with inmates at their assigned facilities (free of charge), and conduct crisis/pastoral care phone calls in emergencies. When obstacles arose, Jesus Christ tore them down and made a way when there seemed no way! Finally, in July 2021, the Chaplains were readmitted into the prisons and religious activities resumed.

The pandemic has not gone away, however. The surge of the Omicron variant has also impacted prisons and resulted in a fresh wave of lockdowns at those facilities where infection rates soared. So far, GraceInside's Chaplains have been allowed to remain on duty, most at their own request. Their dedication has come at a cost: to date five of our 34 chaplains (5% of our prison-based workforce) have tested positive for this new form of COVID-19. Please know that it will take more than a virus to deter our Chaplains from bringing the Word and Presence of Christ behind prison walls. With the VAUMC's support, we follow the injunction of the writer of Hebrews: "Let mutual love continue... Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them (3:1-3)." Again we thank you for your many years of support and for walking with us in an often forgotten mission field.

Our 2022 report would be incomplete if we did not honor the ministry of a veteran Chaplain that we lost during the Christmas season. Rev. Robby Burke served as GraceInside's Chaplain at Augusta Correctional Center. He combined unique gifts of caring, compassion, wisdom and humor in his ministry to the nearly 1,300 incarcerated men that made up his "flock" at this large state pris-

on. During the 16 long months that COVID-19 shut our chaplains out of the state prison facilities, Robby labored away, doing his best to provide “ministry from a distance” to the men at Augusta. He spent endless hours writing and sending emails to the inmates. These outreach efforts were not in vain. Letters from inmates at Augusta reveal that many hearts, once formerly hardened, were softened from stony to spiritual.

In the days before Christmas, Robby underwent an emergency quadruple coronary bypass surgery. Within days, insurmountable complications appeared. He passed away on December 30, 2021. Though sorely missed, Robby loved Jesus Christ, and his ministry was part of a great circle of God’s love that started in Heaven, brightened this world for a time, and returned Home. Indeed, “Will the circle be unbroken...by and by Lord...by and by.”

Again, many thanks for your generous support and the priceless gift of your prayers.

– J. Randy Myers, President

## JOY HOUSE RVA

### Mission

*Joy House RVA provides stable housing and comprehensive support services for single unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness so they may secure a permanent home.*

Joy House RVA is grateful for the grant provided by the VAUMC for the 2022 year.

Joy House RVA provides transitional housing for previously homeless single women along with skills taught to maintain independence.

As Joy House RVA grew we recognized the need to provide the expertise of a social worker to guide our volunteers and the women at Joy House. We needed a trained, consistent presence to guide the day-to-day progress of each unique woman.

On faith, Joy House hired a part-time social worker in November of 2021. Alyssa B. has been a very valuable asset in working with each woman to evaluate her strengths, weakness and needs as each one makes a plan to move toward independent living. Thanks to this Common Table Grant, we are able to offer her a competitive wage and she is an integral part of our team.

Joy House is currently looking for additional housing for the women, and Alyssa has been helpful in planning and looking for housing.

Joy House just completed a Silent Auction and lunch on March 27, as we continue to explore ways to stay financially healthy.

–Barbara Lester, President and Catherine Jones, Treasurer

## SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Over the last 42 years, the Virginia Conference has been an important partner in the work of the Society of St. Andrew. In that time, you’ve helped SoSA grow from a home-based intentional Christian community to a nation-wide gleaning and food recovery network that has engaged more than a half million volunteers in simple hands-on service to feed hungry neighbors. Thank you for being part of this ministry from its inception, for sharing with us a vision for a world without hunger, in which faith and stewardship meet God’s abundance—and good food is shared with people in greatest need every day.

In 2021, 290 congregations of the Virginia Conference provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. 26 congregations and more than 2,000 Virginia United Methodists took part in “crop drops” or field gleaning.

Through the Virginia Gleaning Network and the Potato & Produce Project, 209 feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, emergency food assistance programs, food pantries, and large food banks) across the state received more than 2.8 million pounds of nourishing food to share with their clients—providing more than 11.2 million servings of health and hope to our hungry brothers and sisters. The Seed Project (a “hand up” endeavor that provides seed potatoes and vegetable seeds to poor, land-owning Appalachian families) shared an additional 3 million servings of good food with hungry Virginians. All this is work made possible because you care.

Nationwide, 46.5 million pounds of food (186 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2021 through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 910 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 21,660+ individuals. The Board of Directors is actively working to build the capacity in both funding and partnerships with farmers and feeding agencies to expand SoSA’s work into new areas over the next few years. United Methodist congregations across the United States will be integral to SoSA’s growth, and the Virginia Conference has paved the way for relationships that now extend across the continent.

We’re grateful for all the Virginia Conference congregations that join with the Society of St. Andrew through its spiritual life programs, including seasonal devotional materials, Vacation Bible School curriculum, and Bible studies. In 2021, 24 VAUMC congregations participated in SoSA’s “Abundance Orchard” VBS; 253 congregations used SoSA’s Advent devotional resources, and 219 congregations utilized SoSA’s Lenten devotions or Good Friday Fast programs. As COVID finally wanes, we look forward to bringing back SoSA’s longstanding Harvest of Hope mission workcamp program in 2023.

The Society of St. Andrew’s mission fields are just that, fields and orchards. The need for volunteers throughout the year is

great, and the opportunities are plentiful. Congregations that partner with SoSA have found the partnerships transformative, spurring deeper faith, greater support for local missions, and an abiding concern for those our Savior called “the least of these.”

– Lynette Johnson, Executive Director

## VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY (VICPP)

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

### Policy Highlights

Below is the policy work from the 2022 General Assembly, although much of the work to achieve the victories was done throughout 2021.

- ❖ **Affordable housing.** As this report is being submitted, the final budget numbers for affordable housing through the Virginia Housing Trust Fund are not available because the General Assembly adjourned without having finished the budget. VICPP activists have been pushing to increase the money for affordable housing. The final number will likely be between the House figure of \$110 million and the Senate figure of \$300 million. This will provide approximately thousands of extra affordable housing units. Your advocacy mattered.
- ❖ **Solitary confinement.** The final bill created a study group process to look at how Virginia can safely limit the use of solitary confinement to no more than 14 days. Although we were disappointed not to establish the limits this year, we are optimistic that with continued education and advocacy we can make the needed changes next year. Your advocacy mattered.
- ❖ **Unconscious bias training for healthcare workers.** This bill was carried over to next year and assigned for more work to a taskforce. We generated enormous bipartisan interest in the importance of this education. Your advocacy mattered.
- ❖ **Paid sick days.** Even though we got two great paid sick day bills out of the Senate, they were both killed in the House. Given the current House leadership’s adamant opposition to any core standards, including paid sick days, we will be exploring other ways we might expand paid sick day coverage for workers in Virginia. More ideas to come. Your advocacy kept the issue alive, but we have a lot of work to do on this issue.
- ❖ **Defended past gains.** Despite proposals to reinstate the death penalty, halt the minimum wage, and remove the prohibition on guns in worship, none of these bills moved forward. In addition, there was only one effort to roll back all the wage theft enforcement reforms we passed in the last few years. So even though it is more exciting to go forward, defending past gains is important too.

### Organizing and Congressional Highlights

- ❖ **Supporting UMC advocacy.** VICPP again had the honor of supporting the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, which was virtual. We also had quite a few United Methodists involved in our Day for All People week-long virtual advocacy program.
- ❖ **Campus Advocacy Day.** VICPP hosted its second campus advocacy day, with 105 young advocates registered. UMC Chaplain Rev. Katie Gooch was one of the planners. VICPP has just hired an organizer, Terri Erwin, to work more with seminarians and college students. Please email Terri@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Living Wage Certification programs.** VICPP continued throughout 2021 to build its living wage certification programs in Richmond, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and Alexandria. A statewide certification program was also launched to accommodate businesses that wanted to be certified in other locations. To learn more about these programs or help with one of the local committees, email Jase Hatcher at Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Recruiting Congregational Liaisons.** VICPP continues to recruit Congregational Liaisons to better help connect congregations with VICPP. VICPP has liaisons in 16 United Methodist Congregations (up from 8 the previous year – yeah!!) If you’d like to serve in this role, email Sheila Herlihy at Sheila@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.
- ❖ **Racial Equity.** VICPP uses a racial equity lens for all its policy work. VICPP is also providing educational tools and resources to assist congregations in looking at racial justice and what faith communities can do to address the inequities caused by racism.
- ❖ **Strategic Plan.** The VICPP Board of Directors led a strategic planning process that resulted in a strategic plan for work from 2022 through 2026. Visit [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org) for a copy of the plan.

### **Recommendation:**

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



2) Individuals are encouraged to sign-up to get VICPP action alerts so you can be an effective advocate. Sign up at [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org).

– Kim Bobo, Executive Director of VICPP

## WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

### Program Update:

The Wesley Community Service Center (WCSC) has grown immensely in the past few months in our ability to effectively serve more individuals and families in Portsmouth, Virginia.

The WCSC is proud to provide low- and extremely low-income individuals in our community with nutritious food to mitigate food scarcity and improve health outcomes. To this end, we were fortunate to become the Food Bank hub for Portsmouth which included funding to improve our Food Pantry. The expansion of our Food Pantry also included the hiring and onboarding of a new Food Pantry Manager who has been incredibly helpful in terms of our food distribution program. We have also become a site for healthy cooking classes in partnership with the American Heart Association. This partnership has allowed us to reach a highly vulnerable population with education about how to care for themselves through cooking healthy and nutritious meals.

Education continues to be a focus of the WCSC. In 2021, we were selected to become the Head Start site for Portsmouth (pending grant approvals). In this process, we will also look to renovate our education wing in 2022, which will include installing ADA-approved bathrooms and elevators, a sensory room, administrative offices, classrooms, and other essential needs which will allow us to best serve students through education programming.

### Outcomes:

#### Food Distribution

*Anticipated:* Serve 810 people per month via our weekly food distributions, Meals on Wheels and emergency food services. 80% of those served will self-report decreases in household hunger

*Actual:* Served 817 people per month via our weekly food distributions, Meals on Wheels and emergency food services. 11% of those served self-reported decreases in household hunger

#### Mental Health Services

*Anticipated:* In partnership with Life's Journey, connect 15 people per month to critical mental health services.

- 60% of those served will self-report improved access to mental health services

*Actual:* In partnership with Life's Journey, connected 17 people per month to critical mental health services. 48% of those served self-reported improved access to mental health service. Some of the individuals we referred were placed into inpatient treatment. We have found that tracking these outcomes is difficult. Because of this, we may discontinue the tracking of this outcome.

#### Community Clothes Closet

*Anticipated:* Provide 62 people per month with essential donated, gently used clothing items.

- 80% of those served will self-report increased confidence due to ability to access appropriate clothing

*Actual:* Provided 108 people per month with essential donated, gently used clothing items.

- 87% of those served self-reported increased confidence due to ability to access appropriate clothing

#### Summer STEM

*Anticipated:* Serve 25 children per summer with STEM education programming and resources.

- 75% of those served will self-report increased information retention due to ongoing summer programming

*Actual:* Serve 25 children per summer with STEM education programming and resources.

- 75% of those served self-reported increased information retention due to ongoing summer programming

#### Virtual Tutoring Program

*Anticipated:* Serve 110 children per academic year with ongoing tutoring and educational support services.

- 75% of those served will self-report increased skills in math, reading, and English.

*Actual:* Served 127 children per academic year with ongoing tutoring and educational support services.

- 92% of those served self-reported increased skills in math, reading, and English.

–Renyatta Banks, Director



## THE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TEAM

Steven J. Summers, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Martha E. Stokes, *Conference Lay Leader*

*Monitors:*

Neil McLaughlin, *Commission on Disabilities*

Mary Dadisman, *COSROW*

Eduardo Carrillo, *CEMCA*

*District Representatives:*

Alexandria – John Meeuwissen

Arlington – Ki C. Lee

Charlottesville – Mary Jeffries

Danville – *vacant*

Eastern Shore – Greg Duncan

Elizabeth River – *vacant*

Farmville – Kenneth Thrasher

Harrisonburg – Kevin Poeckerg

James River – Leticia Borden

Lynchburg – *vacant*

Rappahannock River – *vacant*

Richmond – Scotty Doyle

Roanoke – Joanna Paysour

Staunton – Beth Christian

Winchester – Jill Ryan

York River District – Angie Hoen

### NOMINATIONS

#### **Board of Church and Society**

*Clergy:*

JP Hong

Jason Stanley

Randy McMillen

*Lay:*

Amanda Holmes

#### **Church Development Team**

##### Nominations Team nominations

Randy Duncan

Tim Tate

##### Bishop nominations

David Jimenez-Cardenas

#### **Board of Discipleship**

*Clergy:*

Robin BeMiller

Jim Wishmyer

#### **Older Adult Council**

David Edinger

Louise Miller

**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries**

Kate Dotson  
Youtha Hardman-Cromwell  
John Wright

**Missional Ministries Board**

*Clergy:*

Kendra Grimes  
John Woodburn  
Jacob Sahms

*Lay:*

Talina Beck  
Tysha Chambliss  
Rich McGimsey

**Commission on Archives and History**

*Clergy:*

W. James Athearn  
Michael Browder, President  
Carlton Casey D.  
Robert T. Casey  
Linda E. F. Crabbs  
Roger Dowdy  
Raymond Edmonds Jr.  
Carl Ennis  
William R. Freeman  
Kendra Grimes  
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.  
Jerry John  
Seonyoung Kim  
Margaret Kutz  
Barbara Lewis  
Dr. John (Jack) T. Martin, Jr.  
Patrick Pillow  
Wayne Rickman  
Douglas Sasser  
James (Jim) Smith  
Dr. Arthur (Art) D. Thomas  
William (Bill) Wade  
Daniel Wray  
Gary A. Ziegler

*Lay:*

Mary Ashton Athearn  
Kelly Blosser  
Robert S. Brock  
Ann Callendar  
Thelma Crowder  
Linda Ennis  
Jesse Fanshaw  
Nina Frederick  
Queen Green  
Ann Keeling  
Audrey Lewis  
Myra P. Lindsey  
Marianne Martin  
David Meyer  
Margaret Mock

Brenda NeSmith  
William Olson  
Laurie Preston  
Marilyn Riddle  
JoEllen Fulk Smith  
Betty Ann Spiers  
Bobby Spiers  
Linda Stead  
William Stead  
Marc Thompson  
Jon D. Vrana  
Kathi Hughes Wise

**Conference Board of Communications**

*Clergy:*

Bert Cloud  
Sean Gundry

*Lay:*

Laura Summers Maher  
Julianne Rosas

**Commission on Disabilities**

*Clergy:*

Fred Brockhausen  
Kendra Powell

*Lay:*

Martha Daggy

**Equitable Compensation Commission**

*Clergy*

Deborah Porras

**Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy**

*Clergy:*

Fred Okello

*Lay:*

Barbara Gail Mabe

**Council on Finance and Administration**

*Clergy:*

ReNe'e Teague

*Lay:*

Erin Hickman  
Mark Mancuso

**United Methodist Foundation**

Malcolm White  
John Jones

**Committee on Rules**

*Lay:*

Roger Petersen

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

Denise Childers

**Conference Trustees**

*Clergy:*

Clyde Nelson

*Lay:*

Walter Beales

Sue Lewis

**Bishops' Foundation**

*Lay:*

Charles Sullivan

David Bates

**Society of St. Andrew**

Jean Bernius

Lauren Lonnes

Steve Moore

**Randolph-Macon College**

Mark D. Hale

Richard M. Hamrick III

Robyn Diehl McDougale

Matthew Pulisic

Michael R. Roberson

R. Randolph Weis

**Shenandoah University**

Susan Carroll

Steve Frederickson

Jessie Hooker-Bailey

Anne Lewis



## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

2021

	Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
Alexandria	35,373	179	-10	19	237	32	194	35,098	-275	-0.8%	9,869	132
Arlington	27,501	178	-92	42	66	44	145	27,374	-127	-0.5%	11,306	174
Charlottesville	12,089	41	22	1	149	18	144	11,842	-247	-2.0%	3,109	44
Danville	9,564	41	13	-19	745	39	156	8,659	-905	-9.5%	3,602	22
Eastern Shore	6,150	22	-3	1	76	8	92	5,994	-156	-2.5%	2,537	18
Elizabeth River	28,517	100	28	30	127	118	302	28,128	-389	-1.4%	10,414	100
Farmville	11,072	41	-82	-21	195	13	197	10,605	-467	-4.2%	4,189	39
Harrisonburg	16,670	58	-89	-52	486	63	234	15,804	-866	-5.2%	5,578	54
James River	16,999	70	4	-17	539	50	220	16,247	-752	-4.4%	4,891	72
Lynchburg	15,174	49	-23	15	593	24	245	14,353	-821	-5.4%	4,717	40
Rappahannock River	17,721	76	7	-10	277	55	155	17,307	-414	-2.3%	6,013	67
Richmond	38,589	140	19	-32	714	48	329	37,625	-964	-2.5%	9,125	112
Roanoke	19,311	60	-135	-7	209	21	209	18,790	-521	-2.7%	6,439	57
Staunton	11,626	46	9	-13	474	5	181	11,008	-618	-5.3%	3,770	22
Winchester	17,573	70	-9	1	241	265	187	16,942	-631	-3.6%	5,241	75
York River	24,549	80	31	-9	534	68	301	23,748	-801	-3.3%	6,030	59
Totals for 2021	308,478	1,251	-310	-71	5,662	871	3,291	299,524	-8,954	-2.9%	96,830	1,087

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

### FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT

#### Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2021 Virginia Conference

Apportioned Funds	Receipts 12/31/2021	Receipts 12/31/2020	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Pd 2021	Pct. Pd 2020
<b>Conference Apportionments</b>					
421 Priority 1	20,473,286	20,223,575	249,711	89.51%	88.37%
422 Priority 2	1,977,799	3,138,281	(1,160,482)	39.85%	36.64%
<b>Total Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>22,451,085</b>	<b>23,361,856</b>	<b>(910,771)</b>	<b>80.66%</b>	<b>74.28%</b>
<b>Non-Apportionment Receipts</b>					
<b>Advance Specials</b>					
GBGM	757,955	527,065	230,890	2021	80.65%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	84,200	72,531	11,669	2020	74.28%
<b>Special Days</b>					
Human Relations	4,338	8,629	(4,292)	2019	84.39%
One Great Hour of Sharing	31,921	39,818	(7,897)	2018	88.13%
Native American Ministries	8,553	6,977	1,576	2017	89.91%
Peace with Justice	4,216	4,386	(170)	2016	87.05%
World Communion	11,591	9,269	2,322	2015	85.85%
UM Student	4,044	4,799	(755)	2014	87.70%
<b>Other Funds</b>					
Youth Service	150	200	(50)	2013	88.57%
Samaritan Fund - Pinnacle Living	20,619	7,425	13,194	2012	87.26%
UMFS	44,447	79,170	(34,723)	2011	86.83%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	6,245	6,921	(676)	2010	84.40%
Annual Conference Offering	88,629	41,248	47,381	2009	85.92%
Other	72,908	20,130	52,778	2008	90.08%
<b>Total Non-Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>1,139,815</b>	<b>828,568</b>	<b>311,248</b>	2007	92.03%
<b>Total Church Receipts</b>	<b>23,590,900</b>	<b>24,190,424</b>	<b>(599,524)</b>	2006	93.16%
				2005	93.87%
				2004	94.79%
				2003	95.58%
				2002	97.08%
				2001	96.33%
				2000	96.43%

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

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b><i>Current Assets:</i></b>		
Cash	5,858,613	2,881,799
Investments	4,158,104	6,400,628
Receivables	1,873,948	1,945,613
Prepaid expenses	18,077	74,537
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>11,908,742</b>	<b>11,302,576</b>
 <b><i>Fixed Assets:</i></b>		
Land	793,019	793,019
Buildings	5,132,247	5,132,247
Furniture & equipment	1,118,322	1,187,420
Accumulated depreciation	(3,111,583)	(2,995,303)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3,932,006</b>	<b>4,117,384</b>
 <b><i>Other Assets:</i></b>		
Francis Asbury Education Fund	1,327,705	1,302,458
Loans receivable	127,728	129,728
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>1,455,433</b>	<b>1,432,186</b>
	<b>17,296,181</b>	<b>16,852,146</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</b>		
<b><i>Current Liabilities:</i></b>		
Accounts payable	3,574,234	3,789,831
Accrued expenses	94,672	8,657
Note payable (PPP loan)	-	682,160
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,668,906</b>	<b>4,480,648</b>
 <b><i>Net Assets:</i></b>		
Net assets without restrictions - reserves	3,451,264	3,531,922
Other board designated & board restricted	10,176,011	8,839,577
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>13,627,275</b>	<b>12,371,499</b>
	<b>17,296,181</b>	<b>16,852,146</b>

**Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**  
**Statement of Changes in Conference Reserves**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2021**

<b>Beginning of Year Balance</b>		3,530,346
<b>Income (Expenses) charged directly to reserves:</b>		
Net gain on investments held at the Foundation	469,334	
Dividends and interest	38,142	
Miscellaneous income	14,313	
		521,789
<b>Conference Apportionment Closeouts</b>		
Conference Mission & Ministries	(190,729)	
Conference Services	(316,416)	
District Superintendents Fund	(79,385)	
Equitable Compensation Fund	(14,342)	
		(600,872)
<b>End of Year Balance</b>		3,451,264



**401 - Conference Mission & Ministry**  
**Financial Summary**

12/31/2021

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
10-01400	Conference Benevolence Grants	144,235	-	-	144,235	144,235	-	-	-	-
10-01410	CT Special & Sustaining Grants	45,077	-	30,000	75,077	80,050	(4,973)	4,973	-	-
40-04500	Emerging Funds	72,107	-	6,461	78,568	22,651	55,917	-	-	55,917
10-01500	Campus Ministry	721,133	-	-	721,133	811,219	(90,086)	-	90,086	-
10-01600	Bishop's Discretionary Fund	18,380	-	-	18,380	4,682	13,698	-	(13,698)	-
Sch 1	Program & Board Administrative	1,051,869	-	-	1,051,869	1,161,237	(109,368)	109,368	-	-
		<b>2,052,801</b>	-	<b>36,461</b>	<b>2,089,263</b>	<b>2,224,074</b>	<b>(134,812)</b>	<b>114,341</b>	<b>76,388</b>	<b>55,917</b>
<b>Schedule 1 - Program &amp; Board Administrative</b>										
10-01200	Common Table	2,699	-	-	2,699	1,479	1,220	(1,220)	-	-
10-01110	Connectional Ministries Office	50,479	-	-	50,479	30,613	19,866	(19,866)	-	-
Sch 3	Board & Agency Administration	34,514	-	-	34,514	19,582	14,932	(14,932)	-	-
10-01100	Personnel Costs - Common Table	939,026	-	-	939,026	1,076,856	(137,830)	137,830	-	-
10-01170	Video Production	7,211	-	-	7,211	4,762	2,448	(2,448)	-	-
10-01190	CT Contingencies	17,940	-	-	17,940	27,945	(10,005)	10,005	-	-
		<b>1,051,869</b>	-	-	<b>1,051,869</b>	<b>1,161,237</b>	<b>(109,368)</b>	<b>109,368</b>	-	-
<b>Supporting Schedule 3 - Board &amp; Agency Administration</b>										
10-01205	Board of Church & Society	4,598	-	-	4,598	10	4,588	(4,588)	-	-
10-01210	Missional Ministries Board	4,598	-	-	4,598	173	4,425	(4,425)	-	-
10-01215	Board of Communications	5,851	-	-	5,851	30	5,821	(5,821)	-	-
10-01220	Board of Higher Education	2,246	-	-	2,246	10,575	(8,329)	8,329	-	-
10-01225	Board of Discipleship	6,391	-	-	6,391	7,937	(1,547)	1,547	-	-
10-01230	Church Development Team	1,526	-	-	1,526	-	1,526	(1,526)	-	-
10-01235	Board of Laity	5,958	-	-	5,958	856	5,102	(5,102)	-	-
10-01235	CEMCA	1,360	-	-	1,360	-	1,360	(1,360)	-	-
10-01245	COSROW	907	-	-	907	-	907	(907)	-	-
10-01250	Commission on Disabilities	1,080	-	-	1,080	-	1,080	(1,080)	-	-
		<b>34,514</b>	-	-	<b>34,514</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>14,932</b>	<b>(14,932)</b>	-	-





402 - Conference Services  
Financial Summary

December 31, 2021

Project #	Project Name	Apportionment Income	Transfer to/ (from)	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	Receipts	Closeout	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
							Over/(Under) Expenses	to Conference Reserves		
<b>Funds that Close to Reserves:</b>										
10-02100	Treasurer's Office	366,645	-	143,360	510,005	551,202	(41,197)	41,197	-	-
10-02110	Computer Services	107,075	-	-	107,075	314,386	(207,311)	207,311	-	-
10-02120	Annual Conference Session	218,626	-	155	218,782	251,162	(32,380)	32,380	-	-
10-02130	Conf Publications Committee	6,717	-	-	6,717	16,830	(10,113)	10,113	-	-
10-02140	Council on Finance & Admin	1,782	-	-	1,782	294	1,487	(1,487)	-	-
10-02150	Board of Trustees	898	-	-	898	765	134	(134)	-	-
10-02160	Committee on Episcopacy	1,782	-	-	1,782	1,753	29	(29)	-	-
10-02170	Historical Society	3,563	-	-	3,563	1,570	1,993	(1,993)	-	-
10-02180	Assistant to Bishop	49,076	-	-	49,076	28,598	20,478	(20,478)	-	-
10-02190	Cabinet Discretionary Fund	8,923	-	-	8,923	6,725	2,198	(2,198)	-	-
10-02200	Pastor Relocation Transition	6,692	-	-	6,692	10,490	(3,798)	3,798	-	-
10-02210	Episcopal Residence	-	-	10,000	10,000	21,149	(11,149)	11,149	-	-
10-02230	Conference Liability Insurance	16,064	-	-	16,064	17,502	(1,438)	1,438	-	-
1002240	Audit	40,153	-	-	40,153	58,960	(18,807)	18,807	-	-
10-02250	Human Resources	-	-	-	-	18,229	(18,229)	18,229	-	-
10-02290	Contingencies	4,461	-	-	4,461	15,900	(11,439)	11,439	-	-
10-02295	CFA Discretionary	-	-	18,856	18,856	-	18,856	(18,856)	-	-
10-02300	Printing Postage & Phone	38,372	-	2,846	41,218	23,884	17,334	(17,334)	-	-
10-02400	BOM Personnel Costs	191,858	-	-	191,858	214,225	(22,367)	22,367	-	-
10-02410	Clergy Excellence Admin.	12,935	-	-	12,935	8,566	4,369	(4,369)	-	-
10-02420	Board of Ordained Ministry	62,460	-	-	62,460	28,833	33,628	(33,628)	-	-
10-02430	BOM - Ministerial Support	22,307	-	-	22,307	18,786	3,522	(3,522)	-	-
10-02450	Committee on Investigation	-	-	-	-	1,675	(1,675)	1,675	-	-
		1,160,391	-	175,218	1,335,609	1,611,484	(275,876)	275,876	-	-



**CFA Designated Funds with Carryover Balances**  
**Financial Summary**

December 31, 2021

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
<b>CFA</b>										
40-04000	Property & Equipment Fund	0	0	(650)	(650)	184,728	(185,378)	0	4,117,384	3,932,006
40-04010	United Methodist Center	156,166	0	133,750	289,916	273,339	16,577	0	17,945	34,522
40-04020	Building Maintenance Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000	200,000
40-04030	Legal Expenses	178,473	0	0	178,473	181,301	(2,827)	2,827	0	0
40-04035	BSA Survivor Trust Fund	0	0	0	0	20,000	(20,000)	0	0	(20,000)
40-04040	Race and Race Relations	0	0	0	0	7,679	(7,679)	0	16,361	8,682
40-04050	Funds Held for Future Benefits	0	0	80,311	80,311	0	80,311	0	92,104	172,415
40-04060	Employee Moving Fund	0	0	0	0	3,105	(3,105)	0	3,559	455
40-04070	Archives	17,846	0	16,000	33,846	17,188	16,657	0	(7,064)	9,593
40-04080	Sustentation Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000
40-04090	Bishop Strategic Collaboration	0	65,521	0	65,521	65,521	0	0	0	0
40-04100	District Support Fund	0	281,000	0	281,000	102,477	178,523	0	0	178,523
40-04110	CFA Contingency	0	0	786,187	786,187	14,242	771,945	0	0	771,945
40-04180	United Merriment Committee	0	0	0	0	285	(285)	0	0	(285)
		352,485	346,521	1,015,598	1,714,604	869,865	844,740	2,827	4,455,289	5,302,856
<b>Common Table</b>										
40-04600	Advocate legacy funds	0	0	0	0	3,000	(3,000)	0	61,645	58,645
40-04620	Wesley Foundation Cap Improvements	90,134	0	0	90,134	157,370	(67,236)	0	76,882	9,646
40-04622	Wesley Foundation Maint Funds	54,080	0	0	54,080	23,323	30,757	0	50,400	81,157
40-04624	Wesley Foundation Proceeds	0	0	0	0	12,111	(12,111)	0	116,556	104,445
40-04630	All God's Children Camp	0	0	29,721	29,721	20,769	8,952	0	20,745	29,697
40-04632	Safe Sanctuaries Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,052	2,052
40-04640	Lay Servant Ministries	0	2,500	3,690	6,190	550	5,640	0	5,623	11,263
40-04650	Camp Rainbow	0	0	11,232	11,232	4,340	6,892	0	20,673	27,565
40-04652	Commission on Disabilities	0	0	340	340	1,400	(1,060)	0	8,495	7,435
40-04660	Voices of Youth	0	0	115	115	69	46	0	1,504	1,550
40-04664	UMVIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,691	19,691
40-04670	Caretakers of God's Creation	0	0	1,272	1,272	0	1,272	0	4,648	5,920
40-04700	Five Talent Academy - Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,849	3,849
40-04705	Fresh Expressions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,809	6,809
40-04715	Small Church Pastors	0	0	316	316	1,027	(710)	0	0	(710)
40-04720	Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	0	0	134	134	0	134	0	69	203
40-04725	Large Church Lead Pastors	0	0	117	117	0	117	0	0	117
40-04730	Clergywomen's Coaching Init.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	274	274
		144,214	2,500	46,937	193,651	223,959	(30,308)	0	399,916	369,608
<b>Board of Ordained Ministry</b>										
40-04210	Licensing School	0	0	575	575	2,126	(1,551)	0	0	(1,551)
40-04220	Order of Elders	0	0	0	0	0	9,277	0	0	9,277
40-04225	Order of Deacons	0	0	463	463	175	288	0	3,477	3,765
40-04240	Welcome Meal at AC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	450
40-04245	Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	854	854
40-04250	Spouse Retreat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,213	1,213
40-04255	Seminary Scholarships	0	0	26,681	26,681	27,647	(965)	0	0	(965)
40-04260	BOM Training Events	0	0	1,611	1,611	106	1,506	0	4,315	5,821
40-04265	Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	0	0	65,000	65,000	34,500	30,500	0	0	30,500
40-04270	Calling 21	0	0	7,000	7,000	8,877	(1,877)	0	19,712	17,835
40-04275	AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,738	2,738
40-04280	Minster's Convocation	0	0	0	0	750	(750)	0	17,180	16,430
40-04290	Pilgrimages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,946	2,946
40-04295	Cross Culture/Cross Racial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	667	667
40-04300	VA Clergy Leadership Program	17,846	0	0	17,846	(1,500)	19,346	0	98,333	117,679
40-04305	Candidacy Summit	0	0	828	828	3,474	(2,645)	0	543	(2,102)
40-04310	Creating a Culture of Renewal	0	0	32,000	32,000	0	32,000	0	0	32,000
		17,846	0	134,159	152,005	76,153	75,852	0	152,427	228,279
<b>Total</b>		<b>514,545</b>	<b>349,021</b>	<b>1,196,694</b>	<b>2,060,260</b>	<b>1,169,977</b>	<b>890,283</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>5,007,632</b>	<b>5,900,742</b>



Donor Designated and Miscellaneous Funds  
Financial Summary

December 31, 2021

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
<b>Minterial Education Funds</b>										
40-04200	Ministerial Education Funds	102,957	-	1,561	104,518	85,997	18,521	-	512,913	531,434
		102,957	-	1,561	104,518	85,997	18,521	-	512,913	531,434
<b>Church Extension Fund</b>										
60-06000	Church Extension Fund	689,135	-	175,772	864,907	535,832	329,075	-	1,309,791	1,638,866
		689,135	-	175,772	864,907	535,832	329,075	-	1,309,791	1,638,866
<b>Donor restricted</b>										
60-06100	Disaster Relief Fund	-	-	6,165	6,165	12,161	(5,997)	-	72,897	66,900
60-06110	AC International Disaster Relief	-	-	38,291	38,291	38,049	242	-	-	242
60-06200	Partnerships of Hope	-	50,058	2,880	52,939	38,197	14,742	-	38,197	52,939
60-06205	POH - Mozambique	-	9,399	-	9,399	7,000	2,399	-	7,582	9,981
60-06210	POH - Brazil	-	9,399	-	9,399	5,000	4,399	-	28,091	32,490
60-06215	POH - Cambodia	-	9,399	-	9,399	-	9,399	-	18,406	27,805
60-06220	POH - Native Americans	-	11,000	-	11,000	2,000	9,000	-	-	9,000
60-06225	Haiti Missional Support	-	-	23,875	23,875	23,500	375	-	9,973	10,348
60-06230	Russian Initiative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,144	11,144
60-06300	Francis Asbury Education Funds	-	-	7,378	7,378	25	7,353	-	1,318,777	1,326,130
60-06305	CEMCA-Hispanic Aid Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,617	9,617
60-06310	Bishops' Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,289	1,289
60-06320	Youth Service Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,191	1,191
60-06325	Peace with Justice Sunday	-	-	2,108	2,108	-	2,108	-	21,850	23,958
60-06330	Native American Awareness Sunday	-	-	4,277	4,277	-	4,277	-	21,476	25,753
60-06335	Treasurer's Discretion	-	-	515	515	922	(407)	-	2,671	2,264
60-06340	Pandemic Relief Fund	-	-	-	-	11,362	(11,362)	-	13,074	1,712
60-06345	CFA Pandemic Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	420	(420)	-	250,954	250,534
60-06500	Annual Conference Offering	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-
		-	89,255	135,488	224,744	188,636	36,108	-	1,827,190	1,863,297
<b>Miscellaneous Connectional Funds</b>										
90-06800	Richmond Area Episcopal office	23,670	-	79,834	103,504	102,885	619	-	116,842	117,461
90-06810	Bishop's John Wesley Sevice Fund	-	-	2,259	2,259	630	1,629	-	3,470	5,099
90-06900	ARMS	-	-	5,130	5,130	4,123	1,007	-	19,890	20,897
90-06910	Heritage	-	-	4,076	4,076	2,089	1,988	-	5,030	7,018
90-06920	Cabinet Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	45
90-06930	Virginia FOCUS 2020	-	-	7,500	7,500	14,009	(6,509)	-	12,486	5,977
90-06940	Clergywomen's Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,685	2,685
90-06950	Scouting Ministries	-	-	-	-	1,605	(1,605)	-	13,907	12,302
		23,670	-	98,799	122,469	125,341	(2,872)	-	174,354	171,482
<b>Total Donor Restricted and Miscellaneous</b>		23,670	89,255	234,288	347,213	313,977	33,236	-	2,001,544	2,034,780

<b>Council on Finance and Administration</b>						
<b>SECTION I - Proposed Conference Budget for 2023</b>						
	<b>Sch.</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>Inc./ (Dec.)</b>	<b>% Chg</b>
<b>Conference Apportionments</b>						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	2,670,000	2,797,000	10.09%	127,000	4.76%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,889,000	1,992,000	7.18%	103,000	5.45%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	1,342,000	1,095,000	3.95%	(247,000)	-18.41%
404 - Equitable Compensation		200,000	210,000	0.76%	10,000	5.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		900,000	900,000	3.25%	-	0.00%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		336,000	336,000	1.21%	-	0.00%
<b>Total Conference Apportionments</b>		<b>7,337,000</b>	<b>7,330,000</b>	<b>26.43%</b>	<b>(7,000)</b>	<b>-0.10%</b>
<b>Clergy Benefits Apportionments</b>						
407 - Active Clergy Health		10,000,000	10,000,000	36.06%	-	0.00%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		6,000,000	6,000,000	21.64%	-	0.00%
<b>Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments</b>		<b>16,000,000</b>	<b>16,000,000</b>	<b>57.70%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>						
410 - Episcopal Fund		865,000	865,000	3.12%	-	0.00%
411 - World Service		2,150,000	2,150,000	7.75%	-	0.00%
412 - General & Interdenominational Fund		325,000	325,000	1.17%	-	0.00%
413 - Ministerial Education		675,000	675,000	2.43%	-	0.00%
414 - Black College Fund		315,000	315,000	1.14%	-	0.00%
415 - Africa University Fund		70,000	70,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
<b>Total General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>		<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>15.87%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Apportionments</b>		<b>27,737,000</b>	<b>27,730,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(7,000)</b>	<b>-0.03%</b>

**Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries**

	2022	2023	% of Budget	Inc./ (Dec.)	% Chg
<b>Common Table Directed Ministries</b>					
A. Program & Board Administrative (see below)	1,331,000	1,417,000	5.11%	86,000	6.46%
B. Benevolence Grants	160,000	160,000	0.58%	-	0.00%
C. Special & Sustaining Grants	50,000	50,000	0.18%	-	0.00%
D. Conference Programs	80,000	80,000	0.29%	-	0.00%
E. Campus Ministries	825,000	850,000	3.07%	25,000	3.03%
	<b>2,446,000</b>	<b>2,557,000</b>	<b>9.22%</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>4.54%</b>
<b>Other Ministries</b>					
Wesley Foundation Maintenance	85,000	85,000	0.31%	-	0.00%
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>2,551,000</b>	<b>2,662,000</b>	<b>9.60%</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
<b>Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>119,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>0.49%</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>13.45%</b>
<b>Total 401 Apportionment</b>	<b>2,670,000</b>	<b>2,797,000</b>	<b>10.09%</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>4.76%</b>

**Supporting Details for Line Items Above****A. Program & Board Administrative Expenses**

1. Common Table	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration	50,000	58,000	0.21%	8,000	16.00%
3. Agency Administration	38,000	42,000	0.15%	4,000	10.53%
4. Personnel Costs	670,000	695,000	2.51%	25,000	3.73%
5. Communications	270,000	280,000	1.01%	10,000	3.70%
6. Outsourced Graphic Design Services	6,000	6,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
7. Video Production & Documentation	8,000	8,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. Information Technology	266,000	300,000	1.08%	34,000	12.78%
9. Contingency	20,000	25,000	0.09%	5,000	25.00%
	<b>1,331,000</b>	<b>1,417,000</b>	<b>5.11%</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>6.46%</b>



**Schedule B - Apportionment 402 - Conference Services**

	2022	2023	% of Budget	Inc./(Dec.)	% Chg
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	386,500	411,500	1.48%	25,000	6.47%
2. Annual Conference Session	245,000	245,000	0.88%	-	0.00%
3. Treasurer's Office	439,000	450,000	1.62%	11,000	2.51%
4. Human Resources	35,000	45,000	0.16%	10,000	28.57%
5. Computer Services	120,000	120,000	0.43%	-	0.00%
6. Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.10%	-	0.00%
7. Pastor Relocation & Transition	7,500	7,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
8. Archives	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
9. Council on Finance and Administration	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
10. Historical Society	4,000	4,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
11. Board of Trustees	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-	0.00%
12. Telephone Service	10,000	10,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
13. Insurance	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
14. Postage & Printing	33,000	33,000	0.12%	-	0.00%
15. Building Operations & Services	175,000	175,000	0.63%	-	0.00%
16. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
17. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
18. Legal	200,000	250,000	0.90%	50,000	25.00%
19. Audit	45,000	52,000	0.19%	7,000	15.56%
20. Episcopal committee	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
21. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	95,000	95,000	0.34%	-	0.00%
	<b>1,889,000</b>	<b>1,992,000</b>	<b>7.18%</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>5.45%</b>

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.1%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	14,500	14,500	0.05%	-	0.00%
6. Personnel Costs	250,000	275,000	0.99%	25,000	10.00%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	70,000	70,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
	<b>386,500</b>	<b>411,500</b>	<b>1.48%</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>6.47%</b>

**Schedule C - Apportionment 403 - District Superintendents Fund**

1. DS Salaries & Pension	1,222,000	925,000	3.3%	(297,000)	-24.30%
2. DS Travel & Meetings	100,000	100,000	0.4%	-	0.00%
3. DS Continuing Education & Other	20,000	20,000	0.1%	-	0.00%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	-	50,000	0.2%	50,000	0.00%
	<b>1,342,000</b>	<b>1,095,000</b>	<b>3.95%</b>	<b>(247,000)</b>	<b>-18.41%</b>

**SECTION II - Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches****A. Total Recommended Apportionment Levels:**

The Council of Finance and Administration (CFA) recommends that the amounts apportioned from the General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conference be apportioned to the districts as follows:

**2023 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments**

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	2,797,000
402-Conference Services	1,992,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	1,095,000
404-Equitable Compensation	210,000
405-Church Extension & Development	900,000
406-Virginia Education Fund	336,000
407-Active Clergy Health	10,000,000
408-Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
410-Episcopal Fund	865,000
411-World Service	2,150,000
412-General & Interdenominational Fund	325,000
413-Ministerial Education Fund	675,000
414-Black College Fund	315,000
415-Africa University Fund	70,000
	<b>\$ 27,730,000</b>

**B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:**

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

**401-Conference Mission & Ministries**

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

**402-Conference Services**

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

**403-District 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 **\$336,000 for 2023**. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the Fund is proposed for 2023:

**Virginia Education Fund Allocation**

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

**Report on 2021**

- As set out in the Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in the Apportionments that impact Conference Reserves. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy. Below are the stated Apportionment Shortfalls for 2021.

	<b>Shortfall</b>
401 Conference Mission & Ministries	351,111
402 Conference Services	275,634
403 District Superintendents	303,073
404 Equitable Compensation	42,200
	<b>972,018</b>

**SECTION III — Apportionment Procedures****A. APPORTIONMENT FORMULA:**

- **All Apportionments except for the Active Clergy Health Benefits**  
Apportionments are calculated using the last year of available statistics of each local church (i.e. 2023 apportionments are calculated using 2021 statistics). The formula is based on total net paid expenses which are the total expenditures of the church minus expenditures for benevolent causes, apportionments, capital improvements, and payments on loans and mortgages. The apportionments for each church are sent to each district based on decimal calculations from the formula below:

**Individual Church Net Paid/Total of all Conference Churches Net Paid = Church Decimal**

- **Active Clergy Health Benefits Apportionment Formula**

The costs of the active clergy health benefits will be apportioned using a two-tier calculation. The first tier will consist of a fixed dollar amount (\$5,500) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2022 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 (2021 for 2023 apportionments).

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

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

- Effective January 1, 2017, for a Renewal church location as determined by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church will be treated in the same manner as a newly chartered church.
- Effective January 1, 2020, Ecumenical (multi-denominational) churches will be direct billed for health insurance when they are served by an eligible United Methodist pastor and will not be subject to the 407 apportionment.

**B. REPORTING GUIDELINES:**

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

**C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:**

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

**SECTION IV - Annual Conference Special Offerings**

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2023:

- United Methodist Family Services. It is recommended that December be designated as United Methodist Family Services Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund). It is recommended that the period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day be designated in support of the Pinnacle Living (Samaritan Fund), and that local church offerings collected during that period be dedicated to this ministry.
- Heart Havens. It is recommended that February be designated as Heart Havens Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Partnerships of Hope. It is recommended that September be designated as Partners of Hope Month and that each church promote an offering during this time for this purpose.
- Annual Conference Offering. CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

**SECTION V - Policies****A. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS 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 \$95,000.
  - 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 Superintendents’ costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

**B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES**

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

- The mileage reimbursement rate is set at 50 cents for Conference staff. The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers is set at half the IRS rate for volunteers (currently 29 cents) for those serving boards and agencies of the Conference.
- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$35 per 24-hour period. (Breakfast on the date of departure from home/office is not accepted; dinner on the date of return is not accepted, except when the arrival to home/office is after 7 p.m.).



- Reimbursement for daily room charges is set at \$200, if the travel incurred extends to a period over three hours prior to the starting time of 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.
- Spouse expenses are not part of allowable expenses.
- To encourage stewardship in this area, CFA suggests: (1) that advance reading materials be provided for study prior to meetings; and (2) that there be use of teleconferencing, where feasible.

**C. INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Provided for and managed as follows:

- Each charge is responsible for the expenses of both the clergy and lay members (including diaconal ministers) from that charge to the annual conference, working out its own plan of compensating for actual expenses.
- Persons not covered through local church appointment shall receive annual conference reimbursement not to exceed \$200 a night for mileage, meals and lodging; the Conference treasurer shall reimburse the claimant through voucher of approved expenses. Coverage under this section extends to:
  - (a) retired clergy who retired with pension under one of the Disciplinary options and who are not serving full-time;
  - (b) clergy on medical leave;
  - (c) clergy on sabbatical leave who are members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
  - (d) retired diaconal ministers who served at least eight years in the Virginia Conference and who are granted a retired relationship by the Conference;
  - (e) persons expecting their first appointment;
  - (f) members of the conference who have been appointed to attend a theological school;
  - (g) those serving as chaplains in Armed Forces;
  - (h) deaconesses under appointment;
  - (i) furloughed missionary members of the Virginia Annual Conference;
  - (j) those on loan to other annual conferences, whose expenses are not otherwise provided for; and
  - (k) clergy returning from an approved leave of absence receiving local church pastoral appointments.
- Each district is responsible for the expenses of its district superintendent, youth members and members-at-large.
- Each board, agency or committee is responsible for the expenses of its chairpersons, if that person is not a clergy or lay member whose costs are covered by their charge or district.

**D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS**

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

- The Council monitors the Conference Reserves to ensure the ability to cover future contingencies including,
  - a) Reserve funds for emergencies and catastrophic needs related to the maintenance of Conference property held by the Conference trustees, and include: (1) Virginia United Methodist Center; (2) Wesley Foundation buildings; and (3) the Episcopal residence. [The total value of these properties is estimated at more than \$15 million.]
  - b) Reserve funds for cash flow purposes.
  - c) Reserve funds for economic and financial downturns.
  - d) Council on Finance and Administration has the authority to utilize reserves in excess of the minimum to preserve the Conference’s financial stability.
- The Council has set the following target for Conference Reserve Funds:

Core Reserves:	
A. 20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,220,000
a. 401 – Conference Mission and Ministries	
b. 402 – Conference Services	
c. 403 – District Superintendents Fund	
d. 404 – Equitable Compensation Fund	
B. 15% of Invested Assets	<u>624,000</u>
	<u>\$ 1,844,000</u>

At December 31, 2021 the Annual Conference had reserves greater than the target amount.

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

#### **E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND**

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by fulltime clergy appointed to their charge as pastor may request reimbursement on the following schedule for an incoming pastor, if the previous pastor served two years or less in the appointment to their charge:
  - One-year appointment – Seventy-five percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 reimbursement.
  - Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 reimbursement.
3. No moving expenses will be reimbursed that are not in compliance with the Virginia Annual Conference Guidelines for Moving Expenses as printed in the Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference.
4. Payment will be made at the end of the year based on a pro-rata share of the apportionment receipts from the churches.

#### **F. CONFERENCE JOURNAL**

The 2022 Journal, as sections are finalized, will be posted on the Virginia Conference website ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) as a PDF file. Please note that going forward the Journal publication will only be printed through Amazon rather than the conference accepting print orders. It will still be available for free on the conference website. When the whole publication of the Journal is completed, notifications will be sent out to the conference and conference members as well as posted to [www.vaumc.org/AC2022](http://www.vaumc.org/AC2022) about when and where to order a print copy.

#### **G. AUDIT REPORTS**

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

#### **H. IRS REGULATIONS**

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

#### **I. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING**

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

**J. FINANCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**K. LEGAL EXPENSE POLICY**

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

**SECTION VI – A Church in Mission**

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

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

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

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

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

*William H Talley IV, President*

## BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

As the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Virginia Conference, we seek to enable individuals and churches to hear the call of God upon their lives to be in ministry in their communities for the transformation of the world. In the fall of 2021, the Board and Cabinet met with Rev. Rachel Gilmore, an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Coach. After taking the IDI, a cross-cultural assessment, each Board member and Cabinet member had one on one opportunities with a coach to build cultural competency across the conference. The Board also enabled several conference leaders and Board members to be trained as IDI Coaches. These coaches are available to local churches and districts to offer assessment and coaching for cultural competency. Contact the Center of Clergy Excellence for the name of IDI coaches. In March 2021, the Spirit Vitality Committee inaugurated “Simple Presence”- 20 minutes of scripture and silent prayer every weekday morning at 6 am. We pray for pastors, laity, candidates, conference leaders, local churches, and our world. Know that you have been prayed for during this holy time. The Spiritual Vitality also launched its first 3 day Clergy Soul Care Retreat in May at Richmond Hill Retreat Center with Margaret Benefiel, Executive Director of the Shalem Institute and author of the book “Crisis Leadership”. This was a time for clergy to rest and restore their spirits through worship, contemplative prayer, embodied spiritual practices, connection with each other, and spiritual direction. With funding from the Conference Church and Development Committee, the Board sponsored the 2nd Cohort of Creating a Culture of Renewal (CCR) for selected pastors and local churches and is preparing for Cohort #3. In the fall of 2022, the Board will sponsor the 6th cohort of the VA Leadership Institute. The Board continues to offer scholarships for Licensing School, Course of Study, Clergy Development, and Continuing Education for our clergy. The Board offered ethics training, training for all district committees on ministry (dcom), bi-annual candidacy summits, Licensing School, provisional mentoring and retreats, interviews of candidates - all to enable individuals to deepen/renew/remember God’s call upon their lives so they can grow in effective leadership in our local churches, communities and in the world. If you want to know more about any of these program, please go to the Center for Clergy Excellence on the VAUMC website.

The Board is grateful to the staff of the Center for Clergy Excellence who support and undergird our work and ministry: Rev. Jessie S. Colwell, Director; Rev. Crystal R. Sygeel, Associate Director for Call and Candidacy, and Ms. Sherry MacLaughlin, Administrative Coordinator.

– Tammy L. Estep, Chair

## TEAM JEREMIAH

*“... For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

This is a familiar passage of Scripture where Christians can take comfort in knowing that God has a plan for our lives regardless of our current situation. Also, Jeremiah 29:11 points out that God can work through any hardship to prosper and give us hope as believers.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, in recognizing the uncertainty surrounding issues of LGBTQ inclusion in The United Methodist Church, the challenges of a global pandemic and a further postponed General Conference, wanted to focus on the future of churches in the Virginia Conference by forming Team Jeremiah.

The goal of this group is to meet monthly to discuss proactive strategies and effects upon the Virginia Annual Conference in light of a postponed General Conference. The group began meeting on a monthly basis beginning in January 2022.

Team Jeremiah is composed of a total of 15 theologically and ethnically diverse clergy and laity within the annual conference. In addition, there are three resource members who will resource on an as needed basis.

### Members of Team Jeremiah

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis  
 Rev. Denise Bates  
 Rev. Tom Berlin  
 Rev. David Bonney  
 Rev. Kyungsuk Cho  
 Mr. David Dommissie  
 Ms. Jill Gaynor  
 Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez  
 Mr. Barry Hewett  
 Rev. Sarah Locke  
 Rev. Derrick Parson  
 Ms. Madeline Pillow White  
 Rev. Dr. Steve Summers  
 Ms. Martha Stokes

Ms. Josefa Bethea Wall

**Resource Team members:**

Mr. Bo Bowden, President, Virginia UM Foundation; Mr. Steven D. Brown, Esq, Virginia Conference Chancellor; Mr. Andrew White, Attorney for Virginia Conference Trustees

## UMC DISAFFILIATION TEAM

In 2022, Bishop Lewis also formed the UMC Disaffiliation Team in the Virginia Conference to discern and outline the disaffiliation process that the conference will utilize based upon the disciplinary paragraphs.

The members of this team include:

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis  
 Rev. Denise Bates, Dean of the Cabinet  
 Steven D. Brown, Esq., Virginia Conference Chancellor  
 David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer  
 John Fuller, Executive Director of VUMPI  
 Kathy Lutman, Conference Trustees  
 Carl Moravitz, Chair of the Conference Trustees  
 Rev. Dr. Steve Summers, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries  
 Andrew W. White, Attorney for Virginia Conference Trustees

## CALL TO ACTION WORK GROUP (CAWG)

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

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

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

From the moment we started until now we have implemented 16 different events to help better understand each other. One of these events is the Diversity Kitchen that explores other culture's foods and times of celebration.

On the conference website under A Call to Racial Reconciliation and Justice you can see all the activities the group has been working on over the past year. In 2022 our focus will be having an authentic conversation with the laity. We are finding that the more we learn and know about each other the more we have in common and less differences we have. We first must learn to be honest with ourselves and others to accomplish an authentic conversation.

– James Page, Convener

## COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

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

At the time of this writing the plans for a 2022 Jurisdictional Conference remain uncertain. If a Jurisdictional Conference is held

for the purpose of elections this year, the SEJ COE will assign bishops to their areas of service. Five bishops retired during 2021 and a sixth plans to retire in 2022. A committee of the SEJ COE and College of Bishops is considering how many bishops should be elected given potential changes ahead in the UMC. Information about these matters will be updated on the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church website ([www.sejumc.org](http://www.sejumc.org)).

– Tom Berlin, Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Virginia Conference Board of Trustees held their two regularly schedule meetings, virtually, in September of 2021 and March of 2022. In addition, Special Called Meetings were held to address proposed requests from churches to exit the denomination under *Book of Discipline* defined procedures. Further communications via conference calls occurred during the Conference year to follow-up on other issues.

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

The Board continues to review requests for exiting the denomination by way of a church closure under Paragraph 2549 of the *Book of Discipline*, together with a transfer of the local church property to a new, independent church corporation, in consultation with the Cabinet. In assessing the proposed terms of any property transfers, the Board considers, among other factors, the value of the subject property, and requires terms no less favorable to the Annual Conference than those provided for in a disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553, including the payment of the existing church's share of unfunded pension liabilities, unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, and an additional 12 months of apportionments, plus the Conference's attorneys' fees. As of this report, three church requests for exiting have been completed and three more have been approved and are in the process of closing, in each case involving a closure under the terms of Paragraph 2549 and transfer of property to the new church corporation. Certain others are under consideration at the time of this report. It is our prayer that General Conference scheduled for August 2022 can go forward so that these issues can be resolved, and an orderly process created to deal with property issues.

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

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

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

– Carl L. Moravitz, President

## THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

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

As an event-sponsoring or co-sponsoring agency providing funding for clergy and laity leadership development, the foundation supported in 2020, the 5 Talent Academy, and in 2022 Learning Ministries Office to support campus ministries. The Bishop's Foundation remains interested in supporting conference ministry programming that fosters opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching all generations. Grant application forms can be found on the conference website under the tab for Resources/Bishops' Foundation

– Andy Brock, Co-Chair

## UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

### Ferrum College

The 2020-2021 academic year demonstrated the Ferrum College community's resolve and determination to not only persevere, but to thrive in the face of daunting obstacles. The continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic presented the College with a



number of opportunities to explore new ways of working with our students.

Some of 2021's highlights include May 1, 2021, when the College's first graduate students received their degrees. The eight students received either a Master's of Science in Psychology or an Education Specialist degree in Leadership and Coaching. An additional pathway to advanced degrees was opened for our students through a partnership with the Appalachian School of Law, which permits students to enroll at ASL after three years at Ferrum College.

With adherence to safety protocols, the campus was able to resume athletics, and enjoyed a successful year with several of its teams. Both men's and women's wrestling teams participated in national championships; our basketball teams advanced to the ODAC semifinals; and our soccer teams qualified for the ODAC playoffs as well. In its very first year of NCAA Division III competition, our men's track and field team competed in at the NCAA championships. The College's Norton Outdoor Adventures became the first college-level recreation program in the state to be awarded a Virginia Wildlife Grant from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. The grant will benefit the Ferrum College Hunters and Anglers Group, and help our students connect to Virginia's rich tradition of outdoor sportsmanship.

Staffing changes and promotions included Dr. Kevin P. Reilly, who was promoted to Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Mrs. Laura Robinson, hired as the College's new campus minister. Additionally, Dr. Angie Dahl, was named Vice President of Student Development and Campus Life; Vanessa Stone assumed the role of the Dean of Students, and Mrs. Jill Adams transitioned to Campus Life and Title IX Coordinator. Justin Muse, '05 was named the chair of the Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

To better meet the needs of our student and campus community, we have increased the availability of mental health services and programming. Faculty and staff participated in training to help identify students in crisis. The College received a grant to support these efforts from the Jed Foundation to fund mental health training and awareness for the next four years.

Academic program changes and enhancements include the opening of the College's Internet of Things Laboratory, funded by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The lab hosts an array of robotics, sensors, and other advanced computer technology. The Division of Nursing enrolled its first two cohorts in January and August of 2021. The next step for this program will be construction of new educational space in the lower part of Vaughn Chapel, to begin in spring 2022.

The College's strategic plan, Fulfill the Promise, set the course for the next five years with this promise: "At Ferrum College, we have one priority - to fulfill the promise of college by providing pathways to meaningful work, making education attainable, and staying connected for a lifetime."

The College's first to second year retention rate has increased, and initiatives to increase overall retention are ongoing, including the formation of a Persistence, Retention, and Completion Committee, which will oversee advising, student engagement, outreach, college processes, and technology needs. We look forward to sending graduates into the world to pursue their dreams and build their lives, and we look forward to welcoming a new class of Panthers for fall 2022. Each year provides new opportunities to live out our motto, "Not Self, But Others", a motto that resonates with the grace and power of the spirit of Wesley.

## Randolph-Macon Academy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

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

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

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

*Power of Rise*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDl4puLJJu8>

*Rise Above*

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

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

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

God bless you and God bless America.

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

## Randolph-Macon College

Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon College is a selective, co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia, just north of Richmond and 90 miles south of Washington, D.C. The college achieves its mission of “developing the minds and character of each student” by balancing rigorous academics with individualized attention between our exceptional faculty and students. Though classes were offered in a mix of formats due to the pandemic, the school maintained a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1 and average class size of 14 students. The college has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

The College is now in our 192nd year, and welcomed a class of 353 freshmen this year. The College has experienced significant growth in our student body in recent years and is more diverse than at any point in our history. The 2021-22 academic year opened with 1501 students from 28 states (including the District of Columbia) and 32 countries. Of these students, 55% are female and 45% are male.

R-MC prides itself on an exceptional sense of responsibility for student success and offers a Four-Year Degree Guarantee, which pledges in writing that freshmen who meet all necessary requirements will graduate within four calendar years. If not, Randolph-Macon will waive tuition costs for R-MC courses needed to complete the degree.

Randolph-Macon celebrates our strong alumni giving record. This year, we were ranked #23 in the nation for the percentage of our alumni who give back to the college. The generosity of our alumni has allowed us to continue improving and expanding the campus. This winter, students and faculty will begin using our Center for the Performing Arts, which now includes two theaters as well as new studio and rehearsal spaces. We are also underway with construction on Duke Hall, which will be home to our Masters in Physician Assistant Studies program as well as new facilities for our athletics teams.

Diversity, and creating a culture of belonging, is in focus this year. Senior administration has received, and is acting on, 31 strategic recommendations from the Racial Equity and Opportunity Commission, appointed in 2020.

R-MC has been educating Christian clergy throughout its history. Randolph-Macon College currently has more than 240 living alumni who are clergy, two-thirds of whom are United Methodist Clergy. We are proud of our pre-ministerial program that includes Bailey Scholars, Pre-Ministerial Grant recipients, and others. A Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program was established in 2004 to support students who express an interest in ordained ministry in the Christian tradition. Students awarded this scholarship receive half-tuition for the first two years and full tuition for the junior and senior years. The program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. There are 12 recent pre-ministerial graduates in seminaries across the country.

Randolph-Macon values youth ministry across the Virginia Conference and was honored to host a Va Conference Youth Rally in December 2021. We are also supporting Duncan Memorial UMC’s new Connections program to help area youth groups come together, making use of resources on the college campus. 2021 was the final year of our leadership, diversity, and call youth event known as *Valuing the Voices in the Church*. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we completed our fifth year and are continuing to offer our summer event: *Convergence: A Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science*. We also are excited that *Pathways to Science* (an opportunity for rising sophomore Hispanic girls to meet scientists and explore STEM related activities) continues to be a significant program in our summer schedule.

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

– Robert Lindgren, President

## Shenandoah University

From its inception, John Wesley instilled into the Methodist movement a permanent passion for education.[1] This commitment to educating minds and nurturing spirits manifested itself through Methodism’s denominational offshoots, establishing numerous colleges and universities. Founded in 1875 by the Church of the United Brethren, Shenandoah University is proud to inherit that rich heritage. We are driven by a mission 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, a nation, and the world.” I am grateful to report great strides in advancing this mission, a number of which I believe will be of interest to the people of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Thanks to the dedicated work of our students, faculty, and staff, Shenandoah University was fully open for in-person operations since summer of 2020. Case counts of COVID-19 have remained low throughout our student body, and we continued to utilize innovative testing strategies developed by our School of Pharmacy. I can now report that, in partnership with Valley Health professionals, over 70,000 COVID-19 vaccines were administered in our Wilkins Athletics & Events Center to members of the community. At our peak, we administered more than 3,000 shots per day! I expressed hope in the past of hosting sessions of the Virginia Annual Conference in this facility on our Winchester campus in years to come. Experiencing God using us to bless our Northern Valley community through this mass vaccination effort renews my conviction that our campus community is more than ready to welcome VAUMC delegates in a future year.

We progressed toward making college more affordable and accessible through expanding discounted J-Term and Summer Term course offerings. Students can make progress on their degrees during breaks between semesters at a rate of \$495 per class – a discount of 80% and less than community college classes! We served 2,407 students in the Summer of 2021, and we served 359 students during our 2022 J-Term. In addition, we opened the opportunity for rising high school seniors to take summer courses online so they can earn transferable college credit at this discounted rate while immersing themselves in the rhythms and requirements of college coursework.

We welcomed 22 youth from across Virginia and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region into the final cohort of the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUYTI) last summer. During this immersive program, students learned how current Christian vocation calls for participation in sustainability efforts, embracing religious pluralism, and celebrating diversity – all while earning college credit. Throughout its existence, SUYTI walked alongside 71 youth from 48 congregations across four cohorts, and many of this program’s alumni continue to discern calls to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. To that end, our first student to enroll in our 3+3 partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary (WTS) has completed his coursework at Shenandoah and started work on his M.Div. at WTS.

Our Office of Spiritual Life serves our university community through meaningful and impactful worship celebrations and opportunities for scriptural study and service in mission around Winchester, the country, and the world. It is a hub for spiritual formation for persons of all faiths, embracing a commitment to celebrating religious diversity which is rooted in our United Methodist heritage. We opened a dedicated prayer room on campus for Muslim members of our community, assisting them as they live out and practice their faith. Spiritual Life not only serves our primarily Christian students, but also helps strengthen student-led Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu communities on campus. Lastly, I am happy to inform you that I appointed Rev. DeLyn Celec to the role of Interim University Chaplain to provide oversight and leadership for this office. She brings with her fourteen years of experience serving the student body here at Shenandoah, and she possesses invaluable gifts and graces for leadership that will serve her and her team in this new role. To deepen partnerships across the Virginia Annual Conference, she can be reached at [spirituallife@su.edu](mailto:spirituallife@su.edu).

I remain grateful for the support and prayers for Shenandoah University by the Virginia Annual Conference, along with its districts and congregations. We are the “Big Little University Rising”, with a passion for education rooted in our shared Wesleyan heritage

– Tracy Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., President

## Virginia Wesleyan University

Virginia Wesleyan University was proud to offer in-person instruction for the 2021-22 academic year. While COVID-19 has affected every aspect of campus life, we continue to offer courses, opportunities for student engagement, and intercollegiate athletics in the safest way possible during these challenging times.

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

Since our 2017 transition to University status, we have added new graduate programs and several thriving online programs. Academic programs have been expanded to include a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with Sentara College of Health Sciences and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) online, which will begin in the fall of 2021 and continue to grow. The University will add a Leadership concentration to the online Master of Business Administration program in 2022.

Despite all the challenges of the last two years, the University was able to finish several projects on campus. Thanks to a grant, Clarke Hall was given an overhaul of its spaces with new technology added for enhanced teaching and learning. Brock Commons, which was completed in February 2022, has been added to the Boyd Dining Center to finish a multi-year modernization project of all dining spaces on campus. The original academic building on campus, formerly the Fine Arts Building, is now Susan T. Beverly Hall. Beverly Hall’s renovation was completed and the building was dedicated in September 2021. DeFord Manor, the president’s residence, was constructed throughout 2021 and completed in December. The building is named for longtime benefactors and Trustees Bob and Nancy DeFord. The locker rooms and restrooms in the Trinder Center of the newly named Tassos Paphites Soccer Complex were updated. The Betty S. Rogers Track and Field Center added a new digital scoreboard.

Our Greer Environmental Sciences Center and highly selective Batten Honors College, both opened in 2017, continue to be national niche programs. The Greer Environmental Sciences Center has enhanced prominence in the natural sciences programs and has earned multiple accolades, including 2018 Conservationist of the Year from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and recognition from the Elizabeth River Project for Sustained Distinguished Performance at the River Stars Model Level again for 2021.

The Batten Honors College welcomed its fifth class in fall 2021 and continues to operate at full capacity with 160 students. In December 2021, the University announced the Louis and Prudence Ryan Research Symposium and Excellence in Research Prize to enhance the Batten Honors College. This new program will begin in Spring 2023.

A third national-niche program of VWU is the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom which was renamed the Robert Nussbaum Center in April 2020 for the Center’s founding visionary. The center aims to create a civil society through education, respectful dialogue, and mutual understanding, and it equips students and community members to address difficult and urgent problems. We are dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and named the University’s first chief diversity officer in early 2020. In fall 2020, we

became an inaugural member of the Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance (LACRELA).

Religious life on campus is vibrant as Marlin Ministries serves students of all faiths, interests, and backgrounds. Socially-distanced ecumenical services are offered weekly in the Monumental Chapel and Beazley Recital Hall and in-person and virtual gatherings are held each week for students, faculty, and staff with various interests and journeys in their faith. Due to changes in financial support from the Church, our Chaplain, Marie Porter, is serving in a part-time capacity while also directing youth ministry at a local church. VWU students, faculty and staff are active members of the congregation at that local church. The donor-funded Boyd Fellows program provides opportunities for student leaders to assist with the administrative, visionary, and programmatic aspects of religious life on campus. Agreements with the Boston University School of Theology, Candler School of Theology at Emory University and the Duke University Divinity School provide early assurance opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in the ministry.

– Scott D. Miller, Ph.D., President

## RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

Retired Clergy Housing Corporation (RCHC) has been serving clergy and their families since 1932 by providing housing following retirement for those who qualify.

This has been a year of blessings for RCHC. First, The Virginia Annual Conference accepted RCHC as an Advance Special which gives us more visibility throughout the Conference. Second, The Virginia Annual Conference awarded RCHC a grant from the Conference Benevolences Fund which will give the opportunity to update some properties. Third, RCHC received a bequest from a very special friend, supporter, and former board chair, James Hodges, Jr.

I would like to thank Les “Burk” Hershey for his 14 years of leadership and service to our Board of Directors. I would also like to welcome to our Board of Directors, Mrs. Mary Jeffries, member of Mount Vernon UMC, Charlottesville District; Rev. RJ Jun, Associate Director of Serving Ministries, Virginia Annual Conference; and Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer, Virginia Annual Conference.

As exciting as the above information is, RCHC was greatly saddened by the death of Rev. Dr. Tom Coffman. Tom served as the Executive Director of RCHC for over 27 years. He and his wife, Nancy, have been vital to the work of RCHC. Their love and dedication for all retirees and especially those participating in RCHC shaped this ministry into what we have today. Tom’s wisdom and guidance will be greatly missed.

Through the Covenant of Gratitude, you are able to support retired clergy and their families who have given so much to the local churches and now reside in RCHC housing. The Covenant of Gratitude requests a commitment of a \$1 minimum per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference session. We appreciate the past support of our Covenant of Gratitude family, but we are asking those who can, to do a bit more! If you are a current Covenant of Gratitude supporter, or if you have never supported our ministry before, please consider a gift to \$2, \$5, or even \$10 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference. Your donation will help offset basic operations and unexpected repairs. We also invite you to make RCHC a part of your estate planning. If you are interested in learning more about how to support this mission, please contact Rev. Charles Wickham at 804-474-8724 and he will be happy to meet with you.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you in advance for any assistance you give. What an honor and privilege it is to talk with the families we serve and hear them say, “We are all more than grateful for the comfort and security of this house...it is full of TLC! Thank you to the Board and persons who keep this ministry going!” Our clergy and their families have given themselves to the service of God and what an honor to now help support them with housing.

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

## THE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

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

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

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



- ❖ Helped more than two hundred churches secure first-round, forgivable loans totaling over 4.7 million dollars under the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that was part of the federal government's CARES Act.
- ❖ Also assisted a number of United Methodist related organizations, ministries, camps, and missions with PPP funding.
- ❖ Have begun the PPP Forgiveness process for all first-round funding.
- ❖ Is actively participating in PPP Second-Draw funding, with nearly two million dollars of additional church financial assistance as of February 15 this year.
- ❖ Offered quick issue, low interest emergency COVID loans and 0% interest on new credit card purchases for six months.
- ❖ Instituted "no-fee" credit card transfers, and an easy, "skip-a-pay" feature on all consumer loans for all members in good standing.

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

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

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

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

– Alvin J. Horton, Chair

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Again, the fall and the spring meetings of the Trustees of the Virginia Conference Historical Society have been held online via Zoom. The October 2 program was a video lecture on E. Stanley Jones by his granddaughter Anne Mathews-Younes.

In the February 28 meeting, Marg Kutz spoke about her recently-published book on the two earliest clergy women in the Virginia Conference. A memorial to Raymond Wrenn was presented by Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes. No one has done more to document, promote and subsidize the history of the Virginia Conference than Raymond. We will miss him.

The organizations that fall under the Historical Society continue to be very active as you can see from the following reports.

– Mike Browder, President

## Virginia United Methodist HERITAGE

First published in 1973, HERITAGE is the bi-annual scholarly journal of the Virginia Conference Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

This spring, we welcomed our new circulation manager, the Rev. Linda Crabbs, who will track subscriptions and process the HERITAGE booklets for mailing.

The Fall 2021 issue featured *William Duke: The Boy Who Studied More Than His Head Could Bear*, written by the late Fern Stukenbroeker. The story is about an early Methodist circuit rider who, in 1774, founded today's Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria. The issue also included an article called *George Arnold: Asbury's Good Friend*. Arnold was the friend in whose home in Spotsylvania County Asbury died in 1816.

Our Spring 2022 issue will feature *The Rev. Dr. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn*, a short biography of our wonderful friend, Raymond Wrenn, who died in February at the age of 103. This bio was composed by the Rev. Levi Stroud and is based on Wrenn's memoirs. We will also feature Highlights of My UMVIM Journey, by the Rev. Dr. John T. "Jack" Martin, Jr., in which Jack discusses some of the many memorable events he has witnessed and been a part of while serving over 40 years in mission with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

The Spring 2022 issue of HERITAGE is targeted for mailing in early May. We advertised HERITAGE on ClergyNet and LaityNet briefly last fall and received a great response. We will again appeal to potential subscribers on these email groups in time for them to receive the Spring 2022 issue. We are currently unable to take subscriptions online and are looking for a new subscription portal on which to take those orders soon.

–Myra Lindsey, Editor

## Archives Committee

As discussed at the October 2021 VCHS meeting, the Archives Committee submitted a grant request to the Common Table for funds to support additional operating hours for the Conference Archives in 2022. This request was necessitated by the additional workload placed on the Archivist, Stephanie Davis, that includes ensuring the proper management and disposition of additional records due to closing churches, and merging districts, providing guidance to Conference historians and archivists, searching references and assisting requestors (with specific requests from members of the Conference History Book Committee), and responding to other requests within and outside of the Virginia Conference.

This grant request was denied and the Archives Committee was referred to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration for staff funding. The Committee is pursuing this suggestion.

Meanwhile the Committee has discussed various ways to most efficiently allot the Archivist's 15-hour work week. Suggestions include: prioritize request responses so that the most crucial record requirements of the Conference are addressed; set regular operating hours for researchers and ensure they understand that the Archivist is not available outside of these hours; and determine what how the jobs required by the *Book of Discipline* can be most effectively addressed within the time restraint. Currently the Archives will be opened on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with Thursday being reserved for researchers.

The donated church bench acquired from the Southeast Jurisdictional Museum will be transferred to the Conference Building in March. Dr. Jack Martin has prepared a short service of dedication to honor Cathy Morgan. This has been delayed due to COVID concerns. Once a date has been determined, Cathy's family and VCHS members will be invited to attend in person or via Zoom.

Stephanie recently participated in a podcast interview for the e-Advocate with Madeline Pillow White. In the podcast, Stephanie provided information about her job as Archivist, the importance of the Archives in the Virginia Conference, and items contained in the records collections, and described other archival-related topics. The podcast is available online at [vaumc.org/audioadvocate](http://vaumc.org/audioadvocate) and clicking on Episode 24, February 1. The Committee strongly encourages all members of the VCHS listen to it to discover more, and interesting, information about Stephanie and the Archives.

Laurie Preston, Associate Professor and Head of Reference, McGraw Page Library at Randolph Macon College and an Archives Committee member, is currently on sabbatical and is visiting various repositories of antebellum-era records of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors. While reviewing and inventorying the records, she will also identify those that should be transferred to and stored in the Virginia Conference Archives and has invited Stephanie to accompany her to local sites if time allows.

Stephanie continues to receive and process new records, provide guidance and assistance to researchers, answer questions from Virginia Conference Offices and churches about the proper maintenance and disposition of records, plus take on-line archival courses as time allows. The Committee continues to be pleased with Stephanie's accomplishments and commends her for her dedication to the Archives.

–Nina Frederick, Chair

## History Update Committee

Since the last report of this committee to the Trustees in October 2021, we have had two ZOOM meetings. The members of the committee have been preparing outlines and drafts of topics to be treated in the proposed historical update of the Virginia United Methodist Conference. The COVID-19 pandemic protocols continue to hamper research efforts in archives and libraries. However, we are continuing with our work.

Last October, we applied to the Conference Common Table Grants Committee for a program grant to assist with start-up funding of our project. The Committee approved a grant of \$5,000 for this year with the caveat that we could reapply for more funding when a more detailed budget is developed, such as the costs of digital/print publication and editorial services.

Our current thinking is that we would like to enlist several people to form an "editorial board" rather than to have a single general editor.

We welcome the interest and support of any who can join us in this enterprise in whatever capacity.

Selected listing of topics to be considered for the history update:

- ❖ A brief overview of 100 years
- ❖ 1939 union of the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South and Methodist Protestant Churches
- ❖ 1968 union of the Evangelical United Brethren, Methodist Church, Central Jurisdiction Dissolution
- ❖ Race and Civil Rights
- ❖ Theological Trends
- ❖ Spiritual Formation and Renewal
- ❖ Women's issues (ordination, full clergy rights, organizations for missions)
- ❖ Growing racial diversity – Asian, Latino/Hispanic, Native American
- ❖ The Church faces War – support, protest, peacemaking
- ❖ Social Justice Issues



- ❖ Reconceptualizing the mission of the church
- ❖ Christian Higher Education in the Virginia Conference
- ❖ Church and Community
- ❖ Ecumenical Relations
- ❖ Changing views of art, architecture, liturgy and music
- ❖ Evolution of thinking on pastoral ministry, appointment processes, etc.
- ❖ Historic churches that have survived (appendix)
- ❖ Archives and Historical Societies
- ❖ Historic sites and land marks in Virginia
- ❖ The Virginia Advocate
- ❖ Emerging issues, i.e. COVID-19 pandemic, church division
- ❖ Changing Conference structures and the impact on the mission of the church
- ❖ Notable Virginia Methodists

*–Jim Athearn, Chair*

## The Old Brunswick Foundation

The Old Brunswick Foundation (TOBCF) is a 501(c)3 tax -exempt, non-profit organization formed in 2004. While seeking to preserve and interpret key historical sites along the 18th and 19th century Methodist Brunswick Circuit, it shares its legacy of faith history and education with the public. TOBCF emphasizes this diverse local heritage by using the following sites as learning laboratories and cultural facilities for social interaction for all.

Ebenezer Academy Memorial Park—the site of the first Methodist school in America.

Canaan—The Dromgoole House—home of an early, Irish- born Methodist Circuit Rider, the Rev. Edward Dromgoole, later the home of his son, an early 19th Century US Congressman.

The Original Campus of Randolph-Macon College in Boydton, VA—the oldest Methodist- related College in continuous operation in the United States. After the college relocated to Ashland, the campus was opened in 1879 as Boydton Academy and Bible Institute, an impactful school for African Americans, educating several prominent Civil Rights Leaders during its 50-year History.

Significant accomplishments this year include receiving a grant in the amount of \$199,605, funded by in part by the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Services Department of Interior in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. The purpose of the Grant is two-fold and includes:

- \* Completion of the nomination process to have the Dromgoole House listed on the Virginia Historic Landmark Register (VDHR) and the National Historic Places (NPS)
- \* To obtain a Historical Structure Report of the Dromgoole House.
- \* To obtain an Engineering Assessment
- \* Stabilize the Chimneys
- \* Restore and/reinforce the foundation for preservation

The second part of the grant award (TOBCF) funds are targeted for the Randolph-Macon and Boydton Academy/Bible Institute site. These funds will finance work done by VDHR to contract for and manage a

- \* Historic Resource Survey and to
- \* Complete a National Registration of Historic Properties nomination to have this site and several other properties associated with the historical campus designated as an historic district.

### Other noteworthy activities in 2021

Through the efforts of Carol and Tom Corker a large 60' trailer home was purchased and installed on the Dromgoole site to serve as a tenant's home and gathering center. During a recent violent wind storm, a Tree fell on the trailer and damaged the roof. It is slated for repair.

Another significant project to the Randolph-Macon/Boydton Institute project has been the awarding of contracts to stabilize the Helensha Cottage, raise the building and facilitate a new foundation under it. The Cottage is slated to become a visitor/learning center/museum for the History of the site.

An important aspect of the Work of the OBCF is promotion and interpretation, sharing the story of the significance of these sites, such as the lecture by Bill Bynum archivist from the Library of the Virginia who gave a scholarly presentation for the Annual Meeting on the topic "Edward Dromgoole, Sr.- Emancipator& Enslaver on November 13,2021 an expansion on the topic by Dr. Art Thomas, Board Member and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.

The OBCF Publications Committee, led by Patricia Ellis with much help from Ann Keeling and Art Thomas, has regularly provided press releases on work being done by the foundation. These have been published in many local newspapers including Emporia News and Muhlenberg Sun. In addition, the OBCF was approached by the editor of Cooperative Living Magazine, a life style magazine published in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives reaching 580,000 customers to publish an article on the Dromgoole House in their March 2022 issue.

The official newsletter of the “OBCF” was initiated last year and is titled “The Cradle.”

We are grateful to Board Member Rev. Larry House for maintaining the ground around the Ebenezer Academy Site.

The entire Board of Directors of the OBCF have been in these projects, but special thanks to OBCF President Jim Mott, Ann Keeling, Tom & Carol Corker for outstands visionary service.

Final word of gratitude is given to Dr. Bill Olson and Walter Beales Board Members of the OBCF and their wisdom, determination and gratitude to move (OBCF) forward.

With their help OBCF did raise \$126,000 to support the new Helensha Cottage Restoration/Learning Center Project and it’s initial goals.

*Note: For more information about “OBCF”, visit the Virginia Conference website [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org).*

*–James (Jim) Mott, President*

## The William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation seeks to preserve and interpret the gravesite of William Watters, the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher, officially appointed to his first circuit in 1773. The William Watters Gravesite, United Methodist Historic Site No. 7 lies in McLean, Virginia.

With the continuing Covid epidemic, the William Watters Foundation once again held our annual meeting via Zoom, on September 19, 2021. Myra Lindsey gave a presentation about the Thomas Run Church/Watters Meeting House, a meetinghouse established by William Watters’ brother, Henry Watters, near Bel Air, Maryland. This was the site of the fifth annual American Methodist Conference, held in May 1777. At that conference, a committee of five preachers was selected to lead the American Methodist Movement if British preachers had to return to England or stop preaching due to the Revolutionary War. These five men were instrumental in sustaining the movement through the war so that we have a United Methodist Church today.

The foundation approved its board of directors at the annual meeting, and the directors were confirmed by the Virginia Conference Historical Society at its fall meeting on October 2, 2021. The officers were reelected at our first board meeting of the new year, also held via Zoom, on February 11, 2022.

We continue to care for the gravesite. In doing so, we welcomed two new volunteer lawncare providers last year: Brenda Royden, a resident of the neighborhood in which the gravesite exists, and Rudy Tucker, a retired Virginia Conference pastor who lives in the Manassas area. Also, Vice President David Meyers removed a tall leaning tree from the property last fall. Future projects include repairing the driveway and the fence surrounding the cemetery, as well as developing a deterrent to trespassers who walk down the driveway and cross through neighbors’ yards to access other parts of the neighborhood.

*–Myra P. Lindsey, President*

## The Old Stone Church Foundation

It has been a difficult two years for everyone due to COVID restrictions, including the membership of the Old Stone Church. We have limited to online meetings. Still, the Old Stone Church is open for business. We have maintained the property and any who would like to visit are free to do so. Additionally, brick orders will still be accepted for future expansions of our prayer walk. If all goes well we plan to return to our in-person annual meeting/dinner in September.

*–Ralph Carver, Acting President*

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

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

*Our values: Integrity, Connection, Excellence*

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

*Our mission: To serve, steward and minister in the spirit of Christ while focusing on achieving excellence in both customer ser-*

*vice and our fiduciary responsibilities.*

In 2021, the Foundation celebrated fifty years of financial service to the Virginia Conference. As of December 31, 2021, there are over \$87 Million in assets under management across 657 investment accounts. These accounts include churches, districts, the Virginia United Methodist Conference and United Methodist agencies. The \$87 Million is invested in five different funds: the Balanced Fund, the Balanced Plus Fund, the Stock Fund, the Bond Fund, and Charitable Gift Annuities. Our investment advisors include the Humphrey-Kelly Group, a designated institutional investment consulting team with Merrill Lynch's Global Institutional Consulting group with a focus on non-profit faith based organizations.

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

Since 2015, the Foundation's Grant ministry has awarded grants to Virginia United Methodist Churches and affiliated agencies across the Virginia Conference. The program's focus is on unifying mission, ministry and impact to better assist and equip ministries in their projects, as well as help them to build a future. Grants are given from three funds: Foundation Grants Fund, Dr. William J. and Frances Hanna Memorial Grant, and Micah 6:8/No Harm Do Good Endowment Grant. In October 2021, many different ministries across the Virginia Conference applied for a grant. After thorough consideration by the Grant Committee, the Foundation Board of Directors awarded grants to 21 ministries totaling \$59,100 in December 2021.

Throughout 2022 and beyond, our commitment to serving every local church and dedication to helping all God's children, both present and forthcoming generations, is steadfast. We stand ready to help your church or your members design a program that will grow and serve others.

*– Bo Bowden, President*

## **Virginia United Methodist Development Company**

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

DevCo loan services include new construction loans, facility expansion loans, capital improvement loans, debt refinancing, as well as loans for building purchase and land acquisition. As of December 31, 2021, the Development Company has 38 loans totaling approximately \$32 Million throughout the Virginia Conference.

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

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

*– Bo Bowden, President*