

## XII. HISTORICAL STATEMENT

The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church is the direct descendant of the original annual conference of the United Brethren in Christ and of one of the six original conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The present conference was formed in 1970, by the merger of the Virginia Conference, formerly Methodist, with the former Evangelical United Brethren Conference of the same name. It is the successor to 39 Annual Conferences of eight denominations. Since the oldest of these dates back to the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784, the 1970 session was declared to be the 188th session of the Conference (two “annual” sessions having been held in 1791 and 1841).

These 39 antecedent conferences are as follows:

### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Virginia (1784-1844), Baltimore (1784-1939), Philadelphia (1784-1869), North Carolina (1836-1844), Washington (1864-1939), Delaware (1864-1939), Virginia and North Carolina Mission (1864-1868), Virginia (1868-1906), North Carolina (1869-1939), Wilmington (1869-1939), East Tennessee (1880-1939), Holston (1906-1939), West Virginia (1906-1939), Atlantic Mission (1906-1912), Blue Ridge-Atlantic (1912-1939)

### THE CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Original (“Old” or “Mother”) (1800-1829), Hagerstown (1829-1830), Virginia (1830-1946)

### THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

East Virginia (1829-1834), Maryland (1829-1939), Virginia (1834-1870), North Carolina (1860-1939)

### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

Virginia (1844-1939), North Carolina (1844-1874), Baltimore (1866-1939)

### INDEPENDENT CONFERENCE

Baltimore (1861-1866)

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

Virginia (1939-1968), Washington (1939-1965), Delaware (1939-1965), East Tennessee (1939-1965), North Carolina-C.J. (1939-1965), North Carolina-Virginia (1965-1968)

### THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

Virginia (1946-1968), Central Pennsylvania (1948-1964), Susquehanna (1964-1968)

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Virginia-M (1968-1970), Virginia-E (1968-1970), Susquehanna (1968-1969)

Virginia was the scene of the ministries of many of the pioneers of the Methodist and United Brethren churches, most notably among them Francis Asbury, one of the first two Methodist bishops; William Watters, Methodism’s first Native American minister; Philip William Otterbein, bishop and leader in the founding of the United Brethren in Christ; and Christian Newcomer, United Brethren pioneer in Virginia and later bishop.

Twenty bishops of the denominations now comprising the United Methodist Church were born within the bounds of the Virginia Conference. They are: William McKendree, Enoch George, John Early, Samuel Hiestand, Beverly Waugh, David S. Doggett, William Taylor, John C. Granbery, William W. Duncan, James W. Hott, Collins Denny, William B. Beauchamp, Paul B. Kern, Paul Neff Garber, Edgar A. Love, Walter C. Gum, Carlton P. Minnick, Jr., R. Kern Eutsler, H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., and Timothy W. Whitaker.

### SOME LANDMARK DATES OF THE CONFERENCE

May 11, 1766: Earliest known property for a Methodist Church in America deeded to Methodist Society in Leesburg.

November 14, 1772: Missionary work carried on during 1772 in Southern Virginia by Robert Williams, William Watters and Joseph Pilmoor results in organizing, in Portsmouth, what is now Monumental Church, the oldest church now in existence in the Conference.

May 19, 1778: The Sixth American Methodist Conference held in Leesburg.

May 13, 1781: Harry Hosier preaches first recorded Methodist sermon by a Negro, at Fairfax Chapel in Falls Church.

May 1, 1785: First Session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at home of William Mason in Brunswick County.

1792: Virginia was the center of the first schism of American Methodism, led by James O’Kelley, a member of the Virginia Conference. It resulted in the formation of the Republican Methodists, now a part of the United Church of Christ.

September 25, 1800: First Session of the Original Conference of the United Brethren in Christ (later called the Virginia Conference) at the home of Peter Kemp, near Frederick, Md.

May 25, 1808: First United Brethren Conference to be held in Virginia, at Abraham Niswander’s home near Middletown.

March 31, 1816: Francis Asbury, pioneer Methodist bishop in America, died at the home of George Arnold, near Spotsylvania.

March 29, 1827: First native American itinerant, William Watters, died at his home in McLean.

May 1, 1846: First General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met at Union Street Church, Petersburg.

November, 1870: Virginia Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church merged with the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Lynchburg.

October 16, 1939: Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church organized, including all or parts of nine previous conferences, at Richmond.

June 10, 1968: Virginia Conference and North Carolina-Virginia Conference, formerly of The Methodist Church, are merged to form the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, at Richmond.

January 3, 1970: Present Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church organized at Madison College, Harrisonburg.

### THE NUMBERING OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The Virginia Conference was organized in May of 1785. That was its first session. It was one year old at its second session in 1786, and so on, so that its age would always be one less than the number of that year’s session. Then, two annual sessions were held in April and December of 1791 and in January and November of 1841, so that in 2022, the 240th annual session, the conference was 236 years old.

## SESSIONS OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

<i>No.</i>	<i>Place of Session</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1	Mason's, Brunswick Co.	May 1785	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
2	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co.	April 1786	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
3	Rough Creek, Charlotte Co.	April 1787	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
4	Petersburg	June 1788	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
5	Petersburg	June 1789	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
6	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co.	June 1790	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
7	Petersburg	April 1791	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
8	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co.	December 1791	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
9	Manchester	November 1792	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
10	Petersburg	November 1793	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
11	Mabrey's Greenville Co.	November 1794	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
12	Salem, Mecklenburg Co.	November 1795	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
13	Mabrey's, Greenville Co.	November 1796	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
14	Lane's Chapel, Sussex Co.	November 1797	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
15	Salem, Mecklenburg Co.	April 1798	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
16	Jones' Chapel, Sussex Co.	April 1799	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
17	Blount's Chapel, Isle of Wight Co.	April 1800	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
18	Drumgoole's, Brunswick Co.	April 1801	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
19	Salem, Mecklenburg Co.	March 1802	Bishop Asbury	Unknown
20	Olive Branch, Brunswick Co.	March 1803	Bishop Asbury	Alex. McCaine
21	Salem, Mecklenburg Co.	April 1804	Bishop Asbury	Alex. McCaine
22	Taylor's, Caswell Co., N.C.	March 1805	Bishop Asbury	Alex. McCaine
23	Norfolk	February 1806	Bishop Asbury	T.L. Douglas
24	New Bern, N.C.	February 1807	Bishop Asbury	T.L. Douglas
25	Lynchburg	February 1808	Bishop Asbury	T.L. Douglas
26	Tarboro, N.C.	February 1809	Bishop Asbury	T.L. Douglas
27	Petersburg	February 1810	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
28	Raleigh, N.C.	February 1811	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
29	Richmond	February 1812	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
30	New Bern, N.C.	February 1813	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
31	Norfolk	February 1814	Bishop McKendree	T.L. Douglas
32	Lynchburg	February 1815	Bishop McKendree	John Early
33	Raleigh, N.C.	January 1816	Bishop McKendree	M.M. Dance
34	Petersburg	February 1817	Bishop McKendree	M.M. Dance
35	Norfolk	February 1818	Bishop Roberts	M.M. Dance
36	Oxford, N.C.	February 1819	Bishop Roberts	M.M. Dance
37	Richmond	February 1820	Bishop George	M.M. Dance
38	Raleigh, N.C.	February 1821	Bishop George	M.M. Dance
39	New Bern, N.C.	March 1822	Bishop George	John Early
40	Lynchburg	March 1823	Bishop George	John Early
41	Petersburg	March 1824	Bishop George	John Early
42	Oxford, N.C.	February 1825	Bishop Soule	John Early
43	Portsmouth	February 1826	Bishop Soule	John Early
44	Petersburg	February 1827	Bishop Roberts	John Early
45	Raleigh, N.C.	February 1828	Bishop Soule	John Early
46	Lynchburg	February 1829	Bishop Roberts	John Early
47	Richmond	February 1830	Bishop Soule	John Early
48	New Bern, N.C.	February 1831	Rev. John Early	Wm. A. Smith
49	Norfolk	February 1832	Bishop Hedding	John Early
50	Petersburg	February 1833	Bishop Hedding	John Early
51	Raleigh, N.C.	February 1834	Bishop Andrew	John Early
52	Lynchburg	February 1835	Bishop Emory	John Early
53	Norfolk	January 1836	Bishop Hedding	John Early
54	Petersburg	January 1837	Bishop Waugh	John Early
55	Richmond	January 1838	Bishop Morris	John Early
56	Edenton, N.C.	January 1839	Bishop Andrew	John Early
57	Farmville	January 1840	Bishop Waugh	John Early
58	Lynchburg	January 1841	Bishop Morris	John Early
59	Portsmouth	November 1841	Rev. John Early	Jas. A. Riddick
60	Petersburg	November 1842	Bishop Waugh	John Early
61	Richmond	November 1843	Bishop Morris	John Early
62	Lynchburg	November 1844	Bishop Soule	John Early
63	Norfolk	November 1845	Bishop Andrew	Wm. A. Smith
64	Randolph-Macon College, Boydton	November 1846	Bishop Capers	John Early
65	Chlottesville	November 1847	Bishop Andrew	John Early
66	Elizabeth City, N.C.	November 1848	Bishop Capers	John Early
67	Petersburg	November 1849	Bishop Andrew	John Early
68	Richmond	November 1850	Bishop Paine	J.D. Couling
69	Alexandria	November 1851	Bishop Andrew	J.D. Couling
70	Fredericksburg	October 1852	Bishop Capers	J.D. Couling
71	Lynchburg	October 1853	Bishop Paine	J.D. Couling
72	Norfolk	November 1854	Bishop Pierce	J.D. Couling
73	Petersburg	November 1855	Bishop Andrew	J.D. Couling

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<i>No.</i>	<i>Place of Session</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
74	Richmond	November 1856	Bishop Early	J.D. Couling
75	Elizabeth City, N.C.	November 1857	Bishop Pierce	J.D. Couling
76	Portsmouth	November 1858	Bishop Kavanaugh	J.D. Couling
77	Lynchburg	November 1859	Bishop Early	J.D. Couling
78	Alexandria	November 1860	Bishop Paine	Paul Whitehead
79	Norfolk	November 1861	Bishop Andrew	Paul Whitehead
80	Petersburg	November 1862	Bishop Early	Paul Whitehead
81	Richmond	November 1863	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitehead
82	Lynchburg	November 1864	Rev. Wm. A. Smith	Paul Whitehead
83	Danville	November 1865	Bishop Early	Paul Whitehead
84	Norfolk	November 1866	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitehead
85	Petersburg	November 1867	Bishop Doggett	Paul Whitehead
86	Charlottesville	November 1868	Bishop Wightman	Paul Whitehead
87	Richmond	November 1869	Bishop Doggett	Paul Whitehead
88	Lynchburg	November 1870	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitehead
89	Portsmouth	November 1871	Bishop Paine	Paul Whitehead
90	Petersburg	November 1872	Bishop Paine	Paul Whitehead
91	Norfolk	November 1873	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitehead
92	Elizabeth City, N.C.	November 1874	Bishop Marvin	Paul Whitehead
93	Danville	November 1875	Bishop McTyeire	Paul Whitehead
94	Richmond	November 1876	Bishop Kavanaugh	Paul Whitehead
95	Lynchburg	November 1877	Bishop Doggett	Paul Whitehead
96	Petersburg	November 1878	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitehead
97	Norfolk	November 1879	Bishop Wightman	Paul Whitehead
98	Danville	November 1880	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitehead
99	Charlottesville	November 1881	Bishop McTyeire	Paul Whitehead
100	Portsmouth	November 1882	Bishop Pierce	Paul Whitehead
101	Richmond	November 1883	Bishop Kavanaugh	Paul Whitehead
102	Lynchburg	November 1884	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitehead
103	Petersburg	November 1885	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitehead
104	Norfolk	November 1886	Bishop Granbery	Paul Whitehead
105	Danville	November 1887	Bishop Key	Paul Whitehead
106	Portsmouth	November 1888	Bishop Granbery	Paul Whitehead
107	Richmond	November 1889	Bishop Wilson	Paul Whitehead
108	Lynchburg	November 1890	Bishop Hargrove	Paul Whitehead
109	Petersburg	November 1891	Bishop Keener	Paul Whitehead
110	Norfolk	November 1892	Bishop Hendrix	Paul Whitehead
111	Danville	November 1893	Bishop Granbery	Paul Whitehead
112	Charlottesville	November 1894	Bishop Haygood	Paul Whitehead
113	Richmond	November 1895	Bishop Galloway	Paul Whitehead
114	Lynchburg	November 1896	Bishop Duncan	Paul Whitehead
115	Danville	November 1897	Bishop Fitzgerald	Paul Whitehead
116	Portsmouth	November 1898	Bishop Hargrove	Paul Whitehead
117	Petersburg	November 1899	Bishop Wilson	Paul Whitehead
118	Norfolk	November 1900	Bishop Duncan	Paul Whitehead
119	Newport News	November 1901	Bishop Duncan	Paul Whitehead
120	Richmond	November 1902	Bishop Duncan	Paul Whitehead
121	Charlottesville	November 1903	Bishop Hendrix	Paul Whitehead
122	Lynchburg	November 1904	Bishop Wilson	Paul Whitehead
123	Danville	November 1905	Bishop Galloway	Paul Whitehead
124	Portsmouth	November 1906	Bishop Hendrix	S.S. Lambeth
125	Petersburg	November 1907	Bishop Galloway	S.S. Lambeth
126	Norfolk	November 1908	Bishop Wilson	S.S. Lambeth
127	Newport News	November 1909	Bishop Morrison	S.S. Lambeth
128	Richmond	November 1910	Bishop Wilson	S.S. Lambeth
129	Salisbury, Md.	November 1911	Bishop Kilgo	S.S. Lambeth
130	Lynchburg	November 1912	Bishop Wilson	S.S. Lambeth
131	Danville	November 1913	Bishop Denny	B.F. Lipscomb
132	Portsmouth	November 1914	Bishop Kilgo	B.F. Lipscomb
133	Norfolk	November 1915	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscomb
134	Richmond	November 1916	Bishop Kilgo	B.F. Lipscomb
135	Lynchburg	November 1917	Bishop Hoss	B.F. Lipscomb
136	Charlottesville	December 1918	Bishop Hendrix	B.F. Lipscomb
137	Richmond	November 1919	Bishop Hendrix	B.F. Lipscomb
138	Norfolk	November 1920	Bishop Hendrix	B.F. Lipscomb
139	Richmond	October 1921	Bishop McMurry	B.F. Lipscomb
140	Norfolk	October 1922	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscomb
141	Richmond	October 1923	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscomb
142	Norfolk	October 1924	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscomb
143	Richmond	October 1925	Bishop Candler	B.F. Lipscomb
144	Norfolk	October 1926	Bishop Denny	B.F. Lipscomb
145	Danville	November 1927	Bishop Denny	B.F. Lipscomb
146	Lynchburg	October 1928	Bishop Denny	B.F. Lipscomb
147	Richmond	October 1929	Bishop Denny	B.F. Lipscomb
148	Norfolk	October 1930	Bishop Beauchamp	B.F. Lipscomb
149	Lynchburg	November 1931	Bishop Mouzon	B.F. Lipscomb
150	Richmond	October 1932	Bishop Mouzon	R.M. White

XII. HISTORICAL STATEMENT

<i>No.</i>	<i>Place of Session</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
151	Norfolk	October 1933	Bishop Mouzon	R.M. White
152	Lynchburg	October 1934	Bishop Mouzon	R.M. White
153	Danville	October 1935	Bishop Mouzon	R.M. White
154	Richmond	October 1936	Bishop Mouzon	R.M. White
155	Norfolk	October 1937	Bishop A.J. Moore	R.M. White
156	Lynchburg	October 1938	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
157	Danville	October 1939	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
	Richmond (Organizing Session)	October 1939	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
158	Roanoke	October 1940	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
159	Lynchburg	October 1941	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
160	Richmond	October 1942	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
161	Roanoke	October 1943	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
162	Lynchburg	October 1944	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
163	Richmond	October 1945	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
164	Lynchburg	October 1946	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
165	Roanoke	October 1947	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
166	Norfolk	October 1948	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
167	Richmond	October 1949	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
168	Richmond	October 1950	Bishop Peele	R.M. White
169	Roanoke	October 1951	Bishop Garber	R.M. White
170	Norfolk	October 1952	Bishop Garber	R.M. White
171	Roanoke	October 1953	Bishop Garber	R.M. White
172	Richmond	June 1954	Bishop Garber	R.M. White
173	Norfolk	June 1955	Bishop Garber	R.M. White
174	Harrisonburg	June 1956	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
175	Roanoke	June 1957	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
176	Richmond	June 1958	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
177	Norfolk	June 1959	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
178	Fredericksburg	June 1960	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
179	Virginia Beach	June 1961	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
180	Norfolk	June 1962	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
181	Virginia Beach	June 1963	Bishop Garber	C.A. Tucker
182	Roanoke	June 1964	Bishop Garber	C.T. Boyd
183	Virginia Beach	June 1965	Bishop Gum	C.T. Boyd
184	Norfolk	June 1966	Bishop Gum	C.T. Boyd
185	Virginia Beach	June 1967	Bishop Gum	C.T. Boyd
186	Richmond	June 1968	Bishop Gum	C.T. Boyd
187	Norfolk	June 1969	Bishop Herrick	C.T. Boyd
	Harrisonburg (Uniting Session)	January 1970	Bishop Herrick	C.T. Boyd
188	Virginia Beach	June 1970	Bishop Herrick	C.T. Boyd
189	Norfolk	June 1971	Bishop Cannon	C.T. Boyd
190	Hampton	June 1972	Bishop Cannon	Edward H. Kyle
191	Roanoke	June 1973	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
192	Hampton	June 1974	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
	Richmond (Special Session)	December 1974	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
193	Norfolk	June 1975	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
194	Hampton	June 1976	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
195	Roanoke	June 1977	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
196	Hampton	June 1978	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
197	Roanoke	June 1979	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
198	Richmond	June 1980	Bishop Goodson	Edward H. Kyle
199	Hampton	June 1981	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
200	Virginia Beach	June 1982	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
201	Roanoke	June 1983	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
202	Virginia Beach	June 1984	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
203	Hampton	June 1985	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
204	Roanoke	June 1986	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
205	Virginia Beach	June 1987	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
206	Roanoke	June 1988	Bishop Blackburn	Reginald H. Potts III
207	Norfolk	June 1989	Bishop Stockton	Reginald H. Potts III
208	Hampton	June 1990	Bishop Stockton	Reginald H. Potts III
209	Roanoke	June 1991	Bishop Stockton	Reginald H. Potts III
210	Virginia Beach	June 1992	Bishop Stockton	Reginald H. Potts III
211	Hampton	June 1993	Bishop Stockton	Robert Watts
212	Norfolk	June 1994	Bishop Stockton	Robert Watts
213	Roanoke	June 1995	Bishop Stockton	Robert Watts
214	Virginia Beach	June 1996	Bishop Stockton	Robert Watts
215	Hampton	June 1997	Bishop Pennel	Robert Watts
216	Roanoke	June 1998	Bishop Pennel	Robert Watts
217	Norfolk	June 1999	Bishop Pennel	Robert Watts
218	Hampton	June 2000	Bishop Pennel	Robert Watts
219	Virginia Beach	June 2001	Bishop Pennel	Robert Watts
220	Roanoke	June 2002	Bishop Pennel	Robert Blinn
221	Roanoke	June 2003	Bishop Pennel	Robert Blinn
222	Hampton	June 2004	Bishop Pennel	Robert Blinn
223	Hampton	June 2005	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn
224	Hampton	June 2006	Bishop Kammerer	Robert Blinn

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225.....	Roanoke.....	June 2007.....	Bishop Kammerer.....	Robert Blinn
226.....	Roanoke.....	June 2008.....	Bishop Kammerer.....	Robert Blinn
227.....	Norfolk.....	June 2009.....	Bishop Kammerer.....	Robert Blinn
228.....	Norfolk.....	June 2010.....	Bishop Kammerer.....	Robert Blinn
229.....	Roanoke.....	June 2011.....	Bishop Whitaker.....	Robert Blinn
230.....	Roanoke.....	June 2012.....	Bishop Kammerer.....	Robert Blinn
231.....	Hampton.....	June 2013.....	Bishop Cho.....	Robert Blinn
232.....	Hampton.....	June 2014.....	Bishop Cho.....	Susan Reaves
233.....	Roanoke.....	June 2015.....	Bishop Cho.....	Susan Reaves
233.....	Roanoke.....	June 2015.....	Bishop Cho.....	Susan Reaves
234.....	Roanoke.....	June 2016.....	Bishop Cho.....	Susan Reaves
235.....	Hampton.....	June 2017.....	Bishop Lewis.....	Susan Reaves
236.....	Hampton.....	June 2018.....	Bishop Lewis.....	Susan Reaves
237.....	Roanoke.....	June 2019.....	Bishop Weaver.....	Susan Reaves
238.....	Richmond.....	October 2020.....	Bishop Lewis.....	Susan Reaves
239.....	Richmond.....	June 2021.....	Bishop Lewis.....	Joshua King
240.....	Hampton.....	June 2022.....	Bishop Lewis.....	Joshua King